



News Bulletin

Working Committee of
Peradeniya University Alumni

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1 OCTOBER 2013

Message from Working Committee

Hope you had an enjoyable summer with lots of outdoor activities. We also want to congratulate our kids who successfully gained entrance to higher education institutes of their choice and those who completed the higher studies.

We believe it is time to provide an update of where we are and where we are heading with our effort to build all encompassing Alumni Association for Peradeniya folks in Canada.

It is encouraging to see our contact list has grown to over 400, having started with about 40 in May last year. The tremendous enthusiasm we saw from alumni of different generations at every event, no doubt augurs well for this trend to continue. We believe in building a strong professional group with good energy and spirit to sustain our activities for the future. Given our huge diversity, this remains to be our key challenge but every time we meet we were heartened to see how Peradeniya spirit binds us together. Even the general public has begun to value our spirit and the standards we strive to uphold.

We want to thank over 300 people who attended 'Back to Hantana' in April 2013 and also would like to apologize for restricting tickets due to space limitations. From many positive feedbacks, we believe we managed to take you back to your most memorable Peradeniya days. We also learnt where we have to improve. You showed the 'Peradeniya Spirit' amply by being there on time. We salute you. No doubt your participation in numbers and happiness make our pains well worth.

Following the general meeting in October 2012, our effort to work collaboratively with the 'PeraCanadian' group continued. In mid July we attended the annual barbeque, organized by them as an outdoor family event. Collaboration is an important part of our work to build a strong professional group with good energy and spirit.

These efforts will continue with an open mind. Please look at 'What is Next' later.

Inside This Issue

- Message from the Working Committee
- Front Page News
- Back to Hantana'
- Making Connections
- Mano-Diga Get-Together
- Alumni Comes to Your City
- Inter-Alumni Cricket Tournament – 2013
- What is Next
- Summary of our Objectives

Your live participation and prompt response is the key to a successful Peradeniya Alumni association.



CONGRATULATIONS!
PERADENIYA ALUMNI CRICKET TEAM
FOR WINING INTER ALUMNI CRICKET TOURNAMENT - 2013

Working Committee Contacts

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Back to Hantana



'Back to Hantana' event certainly surpassed all our expectations. We were so pleased to see our efforts of bringing the alumni members together generating so much enthusiasm. Turning up in large numbers and being there on time showed your great commitment and spirit.

It was also our first attempt to recreate 'Peradeniya Days' and enable you to go back for a moment perhaps to the most memorable days of your life with your families.

We managed to find over 600 action photographs of university days of different generations. The contrast would have given you a good flavor of the evolution. Clips of 'Hantana Kathawa' would have taken you to the fun part of the Peradeniya life those days and we saw how quickly you got into the mood as you entered the hall. We wanted to sing in front of the Arts Theatre, sitting on the parapet wall, the same way we did in many evenings.

Participation from alumni members who travelled over 100 km, from the batches of early 1960's to 2010's representing all the faculties and brining your families said it all. There were so many Peradeniya couples with their children in attendance.

Though there were a few flaws, we believe the musical performances with the songs closer to your heart, accompanied by a narration of 'Campus Life' gave you some semblance of our times in the university.

In our program, we also wanted to preserve the diversity and tolerances we always learnt to respect. Inclusion of the three languages into the program was our way of respect and rising above narrow boundaries. We will continue them.

We were certainly encouraged by the positive comments and constructive feedback. We will put them to good use in our next initiatives.

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Photo Gallery



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Making Connections



Annual BBQ Organized by Pera-Canadians

PeraCanadians held the annual BBQ as a family get-together for the 10th time on July 14, 2013 in North York, Toronto, Ontario.

The event highlights included outdoor games for the kids and sports activities for the adults conducted in a very friendly environment to foster relationships.



Annual Outing Organized by Ottawa Chapter

We were also happy to send a representative group in late July to participate in the family outing of Ottawa Chapter, held at Patawawa Beach, Ottawa.

It certainly was a great opportunity to exchange thoughts and build strong connections. We thank the Ottawa Committee for the invitation and all the hospitality and warmth.



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Mano-Diga Get-Together

As most of you know, in May the talented and famous Peradeniya alumni duo, Jayalath Manorathna and Nissanka Diddeniya were in town with well known female artists Rathna Lalani Jayakody and Chandani Seniverathna to present 'Maya Devi'.

Thanks to the organizers, we got opportunity to felicitate them on behalf of Peradeniya alumni. They were so pleased and had a special word for our attempt to promote Peradeniya spirit particularly as they could not see Peradeniya alumni group in their previous visits.

Inter Alumni Cricket Tournament - 2013

Congratulations to Peradeniya Alumni cricket team, for successfully defending the championship for the second year in succession at the Sri Lankan University Alumni Cricket Championship - 2013.

Six teams participated in the event organized by the University of Colombo alumni, and Peradeniya will organize 2014 event. We also want to thank over 100 alumni joined us at Peradeniya University pavilion to boost Peradeniya spirit and particularly for remaining there till the end.

Peradeniya Alumni Comes to Your City

In the winter, we plan to visit your city to engage with you to expand alumni activities. We want to benefit from your wisdom and also have an open dialogue on our programs. We will organize an informal gathering in a convenient location and time.

We will request your participation and help to bring other alumni friends. We will look for volunteer hosts with no financial burden to them.

Priority Locations:

- Guelph + Kitchener + Waterloo,
- Milton + Oakville,
- Ajax + Pickering,
- London + Windsor



**Start Contacting Peradeniya
Community in your area today**



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Next BIG Event

The Interim Working Committee is planning to have the next BIG event within next 3-4 months.

The event has to be very entertaining, appealing and suited to your intellectual values. We also want to open the event to the public.

We hope that will help to generate the much needed funds for our future activities.

1

What is Next

(Our focus areas for next 3-4 months)

Hurry!

Please contact our committee to provide your thoughts

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2

Expansion of Alumni engagement

We plan to visit your city in the winter to reach out to all the alumni members to explain our program and get your thoughts (see page 4).

3

Employable and career advancement skills development

Launching a program to help the members improve employability and career advancement

4

Website

Basic structure is ready.

We want to activate the website to support the item 3 above and communications.

The interim organizing committee has worked voluntarily over the last 15 months to serve the alumni. We continue to look for your continuous support and active participation. We also need more volunteers not to burden only the current team.

Let us continue with the Peradeniya Spirit!

Summary of our OBJECTIVES

- Renewing university ties and foster networking, represent Peradeniya University and work collaboratively with other Peradeniya alumni chapters, promoting mutually beneficial networking with other Sri Lankan and Canadian university alumnus.
- Supporting academic goals of Peradeniya University, creating windows for postgraduate education opportunities and enhancement of standards of education, promoting University of Peradeniya brand
- Supporting professional and personnel development of the members, Peradeniya graduate newcomers, collaborate with other similar organizations
- Recognizing and felicitating outstanding achievements of Peradeniya alumni members and promote Sri Lankan culture.

In order to ensure sustenance of Peradeniya alumni work, we as Peradeniya University Alumni group, shall not engage or promote or participate in any political or religious activities or any social activity that can directly or indirectly lead to engagement, promotion or participation of any political or religious activity and/or in conflict of the above objectives. Any exception will be evaluated based on merits.

However this principle does not aim at restricting individual choices.

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