



News Bulletin

Working Committee of
Peradeniya University Alumni

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**Mrs. Lalitha
Sarachchandra**

Message from the Working Committee

With wishes for a great summer we present the summer edition of the News Bulletin.

Once again congratulations to the Alumni family children who completed their studies in high school and in the higher education institutes, at the beginning of summer 2014.

Firstly, we want to reflect on the first half of 2014. As you know, we focused our energy during this period to bring Sri Lankan master pieces 'Maname' and 'Sinhabahu' to Canada for the first time to coincide with the 100th birth anniversary of late Prof. Ediriweera Sarachchandra. We continue to receive very encouraging responses for this endeavour. In addition to helping us to promote Sri Lankan culture and Peradeniya University Brand, it enabled us to renew old university ties, foster network, promote networking with other University alumnus etc. Above all, the dramas provided a platform for cultural integration and the Sri Lankan society to advance their enjoyment with an intellectual flavor. Needless to say how proud we are as the interim committee and we thank you for all the support.

Looking ahead:

- The Tamil entertainment event presented by the old Peradeniya artists on Saturday 20th September from 6 pm at Winston Churchill CI, Scarborough
- Etobicoke-Vaughan Alumni engagement meeting on October 11th at 1780, Sismet Road, Mississauga ON L4W 1Y8
- Alumni gathering in November, 2014

Inside This Issue

- Message from the Working Committee
- Memories of Maname and Sinhabahu
- Sarachchandra Memorial Museum
- Obituaries
- Local Meetings
- Past Activities
- What's Coming Next



The famous Roborosa tree in the centre of 'Wala' was uprooted recently due to old age. The scene of this iconic tree which stood there over five decades was a part of the unforgettable memories of the Peradeniya alumni.



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Memories of Maname and Sinhabahu

In Canada, May 2014



"...And you Sinhasivali, my most lovely,
my innocent creature, my sweet daughter."⁴³

Having conceived the idea of bringing 'Maname & Sinhabahu' to Canada on behalf of Peradeniya Alumni and hosting it was a dream come true. It was a gigantic task no one has attempted in Canada before and hence we had hardly any precedence to go by. The entire process tested our thinking, abilities, emotions, patience etc but thanks to the resilience of the team and those who supported us we managed to host 'Maname and Sinhabahu' in Toronto and Ottawa.

The rewards that far exceeded our pains include:

We enhanced the image of Peradeniya Brand in the society.

We displayed unwavering Peradeniya spirit to the others;

We stimulated and advanced both the spirits and intellect of the Canadian Sri Lankan society;

We enabled different ethnic groups to interact and enjoy thro' a common medium;

We created a souvenir with many features of originality; and,

We learnt and showed the path to succeed against all odds.

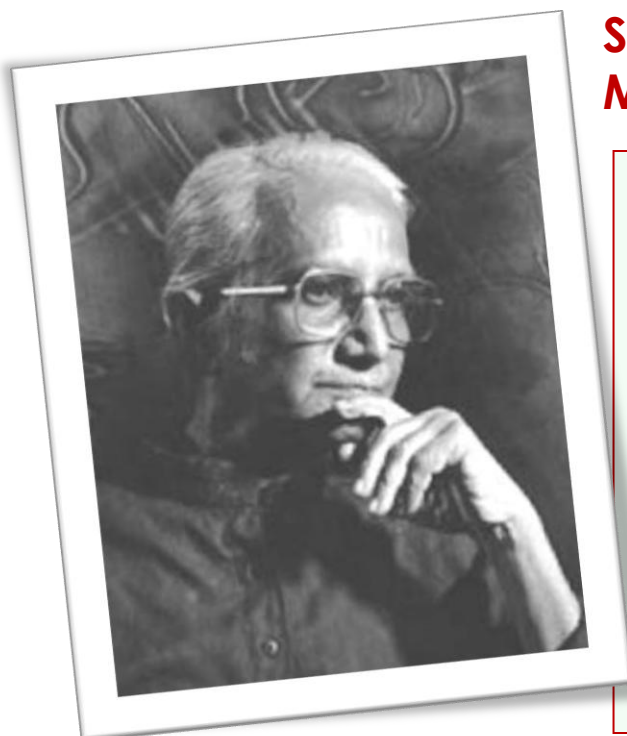
Thank you so much for joining us and inspiring others to join. A special thanks to the University of Peradeniya Alumni Association - Ottawa Chapter for joining to host the dramas in Ottawa. Enjoy the memories.

Nandana
The Great 'Maddal' Player



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Sarachchandra Memorial Museum

In May 2014, The Japanese ambassador opened a museum in a section of the University of Peradeniya main library in memory of the late Professor Ediriweera Sarachchandra.

Number of memorabilia depicting the late Professor Sarachchandra is now on display for public viewing.

It contains an array of articles and items relating to the life and times of Prof. Sarachchandra, the eminent academic, literary figure and dramatist including various forms of his attire, his literary works, drama manuscripts, articles and other literary contributions.

A museum in his memory was established at the Peradeniya University for the benefit of future generations.

Obituaries

PROFESSOR G.P. WANNIGAMA.



Professor Wannigama, Professor of Chemistry, University of Peradeniya expired on March 14, 2014.

The death of Emeritus Professor Gladwin Percy Wannigama has removed from the Academia of

this country one of the longest serving, dedicated and committed of University teachers.

Professor Wannigama commenced teaching chemistry at University of Ceylon then in Colombo since 1951, just soon after he graduated with a first class honors degree in chemistry and winning the coveted Khan Gold Medal for Chemistry and with it the Ceylon Government scholarship to enable him to proceed to the U.K. to do a Doctorate in his chosen subject.

Professor Wannigama had earned the high accolades he has received from those he taught and the recognition of his services to many generations.

Obituaries

PROFESSOR RANJITH AMARASINGHE



Professor (Emeritus) Ranjith Amarasinghe, University of Peradeniya, expired on Sunday July 27, 2014. He was 73 when he passed away.

Professor Amarasinghe was not a mere academic but a social activist without personal ambition. He performed his tasks, whether as an academic or a social activist as if he was bound to do that duty by destiny.

To his academic credit, Ranjith obtained BA (Ceylon), B. Phil (York) and PhD (London) before venturing into broader areas of studies, research and social engagement. He could not be considered a politically neutral or an apolitical person.

Professor Amarasinghe held positions of Head Political Science (1998 – 2008) and Dean of Arts Faculty (2003 – 2006), in the University of Peradeniya.

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Local Meetings



Setting the Tone

Local Meeting 3 Brampton and Mississauga

The Brampton Local Meeting was held on April 05th, 2014 at Gibson Recreation Center, in Brampton.

Approximately 125 **Peradeniya Alumni** and their family members were present at the meeting.

The event started with a brief semi-formal meeting which provided an update of the current status and future plans of the **Alumni**. At the end of the presentations, a brief discussion was held. Formalization of **Alumni** and the forthcoming "Maname and Sinhabahu" event were among the topics included in the discussion.

The meeting atmosphere was very friendly and familiar. Especially when the dinner and entertainment started everyone in the crowd went to "Peradeniya Mode" and after that, everything was spontaneous.

Asantha Vithanage, Nimal Dissanayake, Lalith Kumarasinghe and Yasantha Nawarathna organized the event.

Local Meeting 4 (Etobicoke – Vaughan)

Keeping in line with our effort to reach out to the widest possible University of Peradeniya alumni scattered in Canada, our next engagement meeting will be held in Etobicoke on **Saturday October 11, 2014 from 7 pm onwards**.

May we request those living in the area to keep this day free and encourage those who have not joined us before to participate? Await further details.



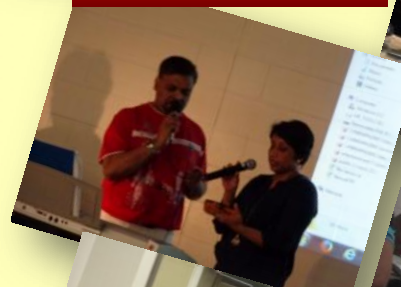
Gathering



Musicians



The Singers



Meeting went Little Too Late

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Past Activities

Annual BBQ and Family Gathering

Annual BBQ event organized by Pera Canadians was held on Saturday July 12, 2014 in Scarborough for the 11th time.

A considerable number of Peradeniya alumni were present with their kids. The day was full of joy and was a fantastic opportunity to strengthen the past memories of the university days.



Inter University Cricket Tournament 2014

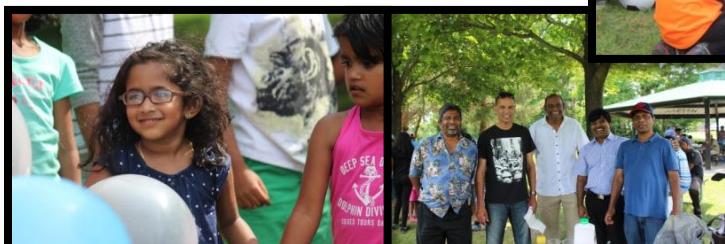
Inter University Cricket Tournament – 2014 was held from 8.30 am to 8.30 pm on Saturday, 9th August 2014 at Creditview Playing Fields 2 & 3. This was hosted by the Peradeniya University Alumni.

Six Alumni teams participated at the tournament. The day was filled with enthusiasm and spirit of each university, all of which last for life.

Each team and their supporters showed the full respect to other teams and mutual understanding.

Congratulations to University of Colombo Alumni, who became the Champions of this year. Peradeniya Alumni team was runners up.

Next year Tournament will be organized by University of Moratuwa NDT Alumni.



The Team



Best Batsman



The Match



Awards



The Music



Commentary and Scoring



Vote of Thanks

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What's Coming Next...

1

Pera Night - 2014

Tamil Musical and Entertainment Evening

Bi-annual Tamil musical and entertainment evening
Saturday 20th September 2014
6 pm onwards

Winston Churchill CI, 2239 Lawrence Ave E,
Scarborough ON

Event is organized by Pera Canadians.
All Are Welcome!

2

Next Local Meeting

Etobicoke – Vaughan

Next Local meeting and
Family get-together
Peradeniya University Alumni

Will be held
At 1780, Sismet Road, Mississauga ON L4W 1Y8
October 11, 2014
7.00 pm onwards

Keep the Date and Time Free.

3

Peradeniya University Alumni

General Meeting

November 2014

It is time to:

- review the past; and
- look at the next important steps.

Working committee is
currently planning the event.

Await Details.

Peradeniya Alumni

Summary of our Objectives

- Renewing university ties and foster networking representing 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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