



August 2015 (Volume 1; Edition 1)

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August 2015 (Volume 1; Edition 1)

Editor's Note

The Inaugural *Newsletter* Arrives!

The Alumni Association University of Peradeniya, Ottawa Chapter (AAUPOC) was established in 2012. During the past year, some discussions were held on publishing a *Newsletter* for the benefit of the members-at-large. Such a document would provide members with news on the completed annual activities and achievements of their association, projected programs for the future, activities of the Alumni around the world and those of the members and their families. This document also is expected to provide a platform to exhibit talents of the members and their families through stories, poems and articles related to their memories of the university, their motherland or in general, through expressions of human emotions which could inspire, bring philosophical insight, joy, humour or nostalgia to the reader. Undoubtedly, the success of the publication will depend on the contributions from the membership.

We invite your questions and comments, and encourage you to make this a forum to connect

with your fellow graduates across the globe.



It is our intension to present a biannual *Newsletter*, which belongs to all of us.

Let us make the most of it!



President's Message

Welcome to the inaugural edition of *Hanthana Pavura*, the much anticipated *Newsletter* of the Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya, Ottawa Chapter. I am delighted that this *Newsletter* has come into being and so very proud of the team effort of the alumni who made this a reality.

It is my hope that the *Newsletter* would be published at regular intervals and would serve several important purposes. First, it would be a medium of communication of happenings and events of the Ottawa Chapter. Second it would provide a forum for celebrating achievements and showcasing creative talents of our members, their families and their friends. Third, it would provide space for our well-wishers to advertise their products and services, which would enable us to use it as a tool for raising funds to help our *alma mater*.

So many of you were enthusiastically engaged in this project as designers and contributors, and as a result, we have a polished product that is rich in content and attractive in design. Thank you very much for making this *Newsletter* a great success. It would be remiss of me to not particularly thank *Kumudini Nicholas*, our editor extraordinaire, for her contagious enthusiasm, unparalleled devotion to the mission and exceptional editorial skills.

We hope you will enjoy the features and articles in this edition, and we encourage you to get involved and help shape the face and impact of the *Newsletter* in the years to come.



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PROJECTS THAT MATTER

(1) **Scholarship Program and Computers**

In 2013, in collaboration with the parent Alumni association at Peradeniya, and the sister associations in Colombo, Melbourne and Perth this project was completed to fund first year undergraduate students. Out of the 100 scholarships offered, 14 were funded by the AAUPOC and each was estimated at Rs.12 000 for seven different faculties. Out of the \$1,830 donated by members, \$1,400 was used for this purpose. The recipients were selected from seven faculties: Arts, Agriculture, Dentistry, Engineering, Medicine, Science and Veterinary Science. Four new computers were donated to *Ramanathan Hall*. President thanked the membership and other well-wishers who helped to achieve these milestones.

In 2014, AAUPOC was able to offer 16 scholarships worth of **SLR 212,000.00** for eight faculties. The committee was able to raise **\$2,415** at the *Hanthana Night 2014* (from donations alone) for the next year's scholarship program. The salient feature of this year's fundraising is the contribution from our non-member. The donations were well received by the selected under-graduates.



One of the letters of Appreciation from a Recipient(2015)

*Recipient's name deleted to protect identity,
Faculty Of Medicine,
University Of Peradeniya.*

09/06/2015

*Alumni Association
University Of Peradeniya
Ottawa Chapter
(AAUPOC)*

Dear sir / madam,

I am a first year student in faculty of medicine. I am honored to be one of the recipients of the AAUPOC studentship. This money will be very useful for me for my educational purposes. I really appreciate this job very much.

Once again I must say thank you very much for your great support for us.

Thank you,

Yours sincerely,

Recipient's name deleted to protect identity



"The people who get on in this world are the people who get up and look for the circumstances they want, and if they can't find them, make them" - George Bernard Shaw, play-write

(2) Book-Donation Program

300 books were donated to 6 faculty libraries in 2013. In 2014, AAUPOC received requests from Arts, Agriculture, Engineering, Health & Allied and Medical faculties. (Unfortunately, we didn't receive a request from the Science faculty). We collected more than 90% of the requested books with a cost of nearly **\$3,300**. All books were purchased by our members, Peradeniya alumni living in other Canadian Provinces or other countries.

Before purchase, AAUPOC obtained quotes from Sri Lankan bookshops (*Sarasavi, MD Gunasena and ExpoGraphics*), based on that information, all requested medical books were purchased directly from the *Sarasavi Book Shop* in Sri Lanka. All other books were purchased from *aazon.ca*. Both years, the donated books were appreciated by the receiving libraries.



A letter of Appreciation

*Dear Sir,
I hereby acknowledge the receipt of the following books which you have donated to the Library of Allied Health Sciences, University of Peradeniya.*

01. *Data Analysis & Statistics for Nursing Research by Denise F. Polit*
02. *CPS 2011: Compendium of Pharmaceuticals and Specialties - The Trusted Canadian Drug Reference for Health Professionals.*
03. *CPS 2012: Compendium of Pharmaceuticals and Specialties - The Trusted Canadian Drug Reference for Health Professionals*
04. *British Pharmacopoeia (2011)*

Your kindness in sending the above is greatly appreciated.

Thanking you. Senior Assistant Librarian



"In the end giving anything is about love. Your most important gift is not the cheque you write. Your most important gift is your openness to changing the life of the recipient, and thereby changing your own"

- Timothy Shriver, Special Olympics Chairman

AAUPOC Executive Committee- 2015/16

Name	Office
Sange De Silva	President
Nissanka Pussegoda	Vice-President
Ajith Samarajeewa	Secretary
Premaratne Tennakoon	Treasurer
Kumudini Nicholas	Editor
Asoka Vidyarthne	Director, Membership
Renuka Subasinghe	Director, Faculty of Agriculture
Susantha Mohottalage	Director, Faculty of Science
Harini Silva	Director, Faculty of Medicine, Veterinary Medicine & Dental Sciences
Sampath Hennayake	Director, Faculty of Engineering
Kanthi Dias	Director, Faculty of Arts



Unity + Diversity = Futuristic-Progress

“An association of men (sic) who will not quarrel with one another is a thing which has never yet existed, from the greatest confederacy of nations down to a town meeting or a vestry”

Thomas Jefferson, 1801 (After Revolutionary War), Elected President



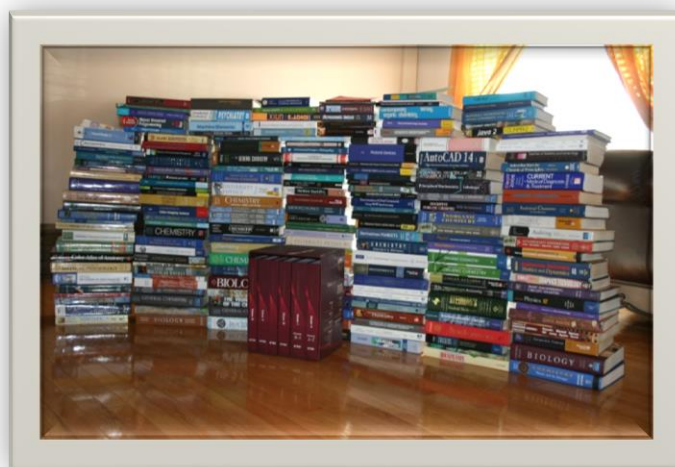
"A Picture is worth A Thousand Words"



2012 Speech by the President



2014 President Speaks



Book Donation Project: 2013/2014



Link to all photos: <http://operaalumni.com/gallery.html>

Message from the Editor- in-Chief

Greetings from Sri Lanka,

It is a privilege to contribute to the inaugural Newsletter of the Alumni Association of University of Peradeniya, Ottawa chapter (AAUPOC). The University of Peradeniya is probably the only Sri Lankan University having several chapters spread around the world, consisting of many active members who keep very close links with their Alma Mater in Sri Lanka, while contributing regularly in many ways.

The magazine *Hantana Vision*, which highlights the research component in the University, was launched recently. Many Sri Lankan Universities focus on teaching as the main objective therefore, has failed to maintain useful records of their research involvements. True, it is a painstaking task requiring hard work and dedication to establish a thriving research facility. Many do not have the basic requirements to embark on research activities. However, if there is a will, there is a way. In that

context, the University of Peradeniya has been blessed with pioneers who have paved the way to conduct quality research, leaving a legacy for the current academics. This path has generated great interests to move towards new areas of research, especially those related to issues nationally relevant, to find solutions to problems at hand. Thus, *Hantana Vision* was established to highlight the findings to the general public, to make them aware of the research conducted at the University, and its usefulness to society.

The objective of the magazine has been elegantly displayed in the first issue launched in May 2015. Contributions from researchers in all areas of sciences and those in the humanities as well as social sciences are included into this edition, demonstrating the rich diversity of research conducted in this university. Most of this research has been supported through grants from local agencies and those from the University research grants. The importance of a grant is two-fold: 1) it provides financial assistance for purchases, and 2) it contributes to a stipend to the post graduate researcher. Based on such assistance, we have observed an increase in the production of post-graduate degrees in Sri Lanka. Such outcome benefits

the country as it helps to retain graduates in the country, and circumvents the loss of those who leave our shores never to return. The International Research Centre has helped by providing research grants enabling more of our young academics to embark on projects which will no doubt help them to build their own research group.

In light of these observations, I list below the ways in which well-wishers may contribute to keep the research culture alive at Peradeniya:

1. Support a post graduate student with a stipend for a period of 3 years.
2. Donate cash or kind to support both the research and the student.
3. Generate collaborations with investigators to help keep abreast of the new technologies.
4. Conduct seminars and workshops to support ongoing research or to establish new areas of research.

I wish the AAUPOC a good audience and success in their efforts in keeping the Alumni updated on current news. Stay tuned for the second issue of *Hantana Vision* in November 2015.

Nedra Karunaratne Ph.D
Editor in chief,
Hantana Vision.



"Knowledge is the Eye unto All"

CREATIONS BY GRADUATES

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Memories from the late 1960's: *An account of four Engineering Students*

By Nissanka Pussegoda

A Graduate of Peradeniya University, Faculty of Engineering

We recollect some incidents that stood out during our time as students. The students had a very good working relationship with the Staff. Such partnerships were resulted from some unique activities/events that were successfully carried out during that period.



A Dinner hosted by the staff for the final year students (1970)

One such activity was to use the land next to the administration building as a paddy field. Prof. E.O.E Pereira, the Dean of the Engineering faculty, originated the idea to support the grow-more-food campaign by the government. All students and the staff, including the support staff, actively participated in the transplanting and harvesting. As a result of good cultivation practices the harvest was more than 100 bushels/acre.



Paddy Transplanting & Harvesting

The third year was unique. The male students were transferred to *Wijewardhena Hall* and the female students to a residence further down the *Galaha Road*, and the occurrences took place during the academic year 1968/69 were memorable. When the independence-day celebrations were held in Kandy that year, the Army Personnel were accommodated temporarily in the Gymnasium. Early in the evening when the soldiers returned from their 'afternoon out', the students surprised them with a typical 'University treatment'. This led to uncontrolled actions by all. The soldiers entering the Campus in armored vehicles fired to the air at barricades set by students. We witnessed the actions through the *Wijewardhena Hall* balcony. The next day, the University was shut down for all students.

Based on the Engineering program, the curriculum did not assign any exams at the end of the third term of the third year. This provided students ample time to run/manage the Hall meals within the budget, resulting in much better meals at *Wijewardhana Hall*, and generated good memories and good friendships with students from other faculties. Such networking led to the production and staging a Prof. Sarachandra's fame drama *Gajaba natakaya* in our final year.



Gajaba Natakaya

Perhaps this production was the result of the networking among students during our management of meals at *Wijewardhana Hall*, to detect and capture *Gajaya's*, which were well known to enjoy free meals. Good Times! Good memories!



Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR): A Novel 'Eye' to look at the Subterranean Water Resources

By Lakshman Galagedara

A Graduate of Peradeniya University; Faculty of Agriculture

GPR is the general term applied to techniques which employ electromagnetic (EM) waves, typically in the 10 to 1500 MHz frequency range, to map structures and features buried in the ground. Electromagnetic waves transmitted from the transmitting GPR antenna propagates through the soil can be subjected to reflection, refraction, scattering and attenuation due to different electrical properties in underground material. Such waves are detected by the receiving GPR antenna. The travel time and speed of waves and amplitude of the receiving signals can be used to identify and interpret the relevant sub-surface features. The GPR is a successful non-destructive technique applicable to agriculture, forestry and environment, geology and glacio-geology, civil and geotechnical engineering, mining and quarrying, archeology and forensic science, military and security and buried utilities.

Successful applications of the GPR technology in Sri Lanka:

The GPR technology was first introduced to Sri Lanka in 2006 and the first project was on “*Non-intrusive Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) for spatio-temporal variability of soil moisture, groundwater and preferential flows: application to field scale measuring and mapping*”. Currently under investigation are the following:

a) Estimations of spatiotemporal variability of soil moisture contents in raised bed agricultural fields cultivated with different crops under natural and irrigated conditions.

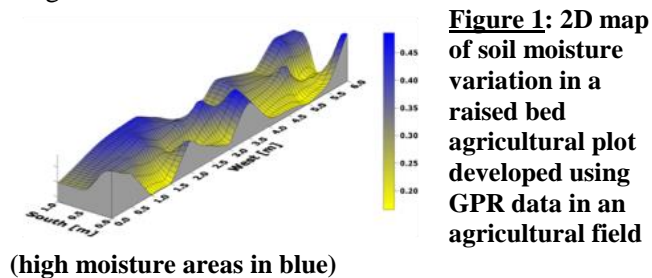


Figure 1: 2D map of soil moisture variation in a raised bed agricultural plot developed using GPR data in an agricultural field

b) 2D and 3D mapping of soil's wetting front and identifying potential preferential flow areas under uniform and non-uniform irrigation c) GPR was also applied to study the effect of electrical conductivity (EC) of soil water and subsurface contamination on attenuation of the GPR wave energy, groundwater contamination by landfill leachate and to investigate stratification of municipal solid wastes. d) Water use by natural and plantation forests in up country and low country wet zone in Sri Lanka was evaluated using the GPR method.

In addition this technique is applicable to (i) sub-surface investigation of a proposed landfill site in *Ampara*, (ii) locating a pipe line belongs to the shell gas for the *Keravalapitiya* power plant project in *Muthurajawela*, (iii) potential location of water leaking of Norton Bridge reservoir, (iv) mapping of graphite veins in *Naula* area, (v) mapping of gem bearing formations in *Rathnapura* area, (vi) subsurface investigation of construction sites, and (vii) foundation mapping of a *Sthuupa* in *Ampara*.

This technique is also applicable to civil engineering to structural health monitoring of concrete structures.

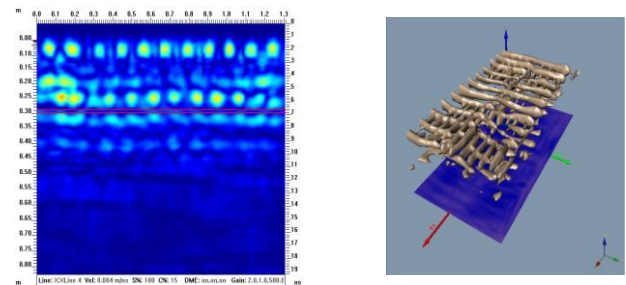


Figure 2: 2D & 3D mapping of concrete bars.

Currently, a new study is underway in Western Newfoundland to map the spatial and temporal variability of soil physical and hydraulic properties over larger areas, using GPR under managed and natural landscapes in this region, to better understand the soil's physical and hydraulic properties that are essential in sustainable management of land and water resources and maintaining ecosystem sustainability while increasing agricultural and water-Productivity.

ප්‍රතිසංගමය

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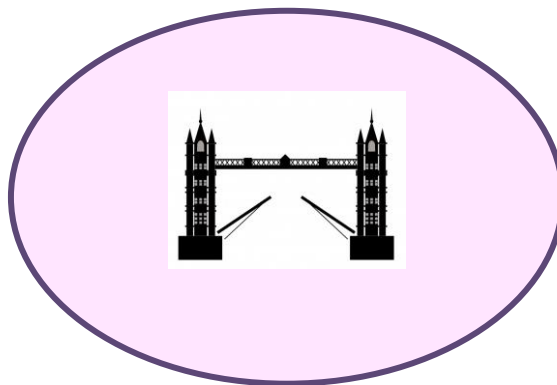
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**A Friendly Encounter of the AAUPOC
Editor with Veteran AAUPOC Member:
TURADEWA RATNAYAKE**

It had been over fifty years since Mr. Turadewa Ratnayake first walked through hallowed halls, sat in state-of-the-art lecture theatres and roamed the beautifully landscaped picturesque gardens in an 800 acre expanse, nestled beneath the lush *Hanthana* mountain range. He entered the second faculty of science of the University of Ceylon in 1963.



Editor: Did you get ragged by the seniors?

T.R.: Not in a very serious way. I was asked to give flowers to girls and sing songs. By the way, there were only five girls in my batch.



Editor: How was the life in student residence halls?

T.R.: I never resided there, but I visited them frequently. Interesting to know that curfew was imposed for visiting – 6 pm for the women and much later for men. The women complained about this discrimination to the Vice Chancellor (VC) (Prof. Sir Nicholas Attygala), and his response was: “*Are you asking me to build a maternity home*”?

Editor: Do you recollect any unforgettable incidents?

T.R.: Yes. It was 1964. Most students were disadvantaged by having to walk for over 30 minutes to the only student cafeteria. So, the Student Union included a demand, for a cafeteria closer to the lecture halls, among the twelve demands they presented to the Vice Chancellor, who ignored all demands. The Union personnel then blocked the entrance to the Lecture Halls and called for a general strike by students. An Aunt of a current prominent Cabinet Minister in Sri Lanka decided to break the picket-line along with the daughter of a professor. This escalated the conflict, and the police were called in, who clashed with the students. Unknown to the authorities or the police, a group of students were able to start a fire at the residence of the VC (faculty lodge). Pandemonium prevailed for several days. After an enquiry, the University autonomy was abolished and the VC was replaced.



After graduating from Peradeniya, Turadewa left Sri Lanka in 1967 for further studies. He assures that knowledgeable professors at the faculty of Science provided him a solid foundation in Education, and he remembers them with gratitude. Turadewa has continued to keep in touch with the university to amass knowledge and trivia about its beginning, growth and evolution, and to share information with those who arrived after him. Hats off to our veteran Alumni Turadewa Ratnayake!

Moonlight

A Digital painting

By *Deepani Waidyaratne*

A Graduate of Peradeniya University, Faculty of Science; Geology



In the middle of the night when the moonlight radiates through the darkness and brightens up the sky, it awakens the surroundings giving a new hope for tomorrow. This painting was created with the Corel Painter software. It was a tedious task as I used only a mouse instead of a stylus which is an appropriate tool for this type of work. Warm colors were selected to depict the colorful surroundings created by the moonlight.



REFLECTIONS ON 'RAGGING'

By Wimal Rankaduwa

A Graduate of Peradeniya University, Faculty of Arts,
Economics

Congratulations to the AAUPOC for launching its inaugural Newsletter (NL). My search for a topic to write to this NL ended when I received an unexpected telephone call from a senior alumna, whom I met nearly four decades ago during 'ragging'. Immersed in a deep sea of nostalgia, I began to reflect on my experiences as a first year undergraduate, and was able to write about those vivid memories.

In 1974 I entered the university from a remote corner of the country, where university education was still a distant reality for an average student. At the end of a most memorable night-long train ride through the hill-country from *Badulla* to *Kandy*, I reached the *Akbar-Nell* Hall where I was assigned to reside. It was mostly in the rooms, corridors, and common rooms of this Hall I faced 'ragging'.

Thanks to a group of seniors, ragging at this residence was an organized, well-coordinated and enjoyable project which was executed with a sense of responsibility and discipline. There was a 'rag-leader', and a leading group of seniors who adhered to a strict code of conduct, to prevent anyone from using offensive physical contact with the 'fresher'. The violators of the code were subjected to re-ragging in front of the newcomers. Every evening after supper, a 'common rag' took place in the dining hall. For that event, the Warden, Sub-Wardens and the faculty also were present. All ragging-acts were not pleasurable, but most of those depicting 'a theatrical-nature' indeed were joyful. I enjoyed the latter immensely. I was often asked to sing and play the 'lover' to another 'fresher' who portrayed a female partner. Other times I was requested to compose verses impromptu (*hitiwana Kavi*) which I happily complied.

The end of 'ragging' season, 'freshers' toured the other residence halls in a procession. There, water-buckets were used to receive the procession! I was placed to lead the procession (dressed up as a *pothegura* or *permuneralala*), carrying a poetic - message (*Sandeshaya*) and was asked to read out loud at each residence hall. The

procession ended at *Akbar-Nell* and a series of concerts were presented at the dining hall, by the 'freshers' to seniors and the faculty. As a conclusion, awards were presented to the cast by the Hall Warden, and a bitter cocktail was served to the participants and the attendees. The season ended with a massive 'bucketing' by the seniors to designate the 'freshers' as equals to the seniors: "*Jeshta Uththamayos*".

In my view, benefits of 'ragging' are multi-fold. It provided a sound beginning to the social, cultural, and the political life of new undergraduates, enabling them to surface their skills, talents and capabilities, which nudged them to experience a rich cultural life in the university and beyond. Also, it encouraged the development of a network of friends with a long-lasting relationship. Selecting me to play a leading role in a drama produced by a senior student, and choosing me as a candidate to run for the Student Council can be considered as personal benefits of 'ragging'.

With such initiations by seniors, I continued to engage in both the artistic and political endeavors. Although I did not pursue a career as an actor, dramatist, or a politician, the experiences gained through the undergraduate years helped me to live a productive, meaningful and enjoyable life, and proven those to be as invaluable assets in my current life as an academic and a teacher.

Unfortunately, with the passage of time, the style, and motives for 'ragging' have drastically changed. At times, the activities are described as nasty, criminal and even deadly leading to earn the wrath of the public. Thanks to those wonderful seniors, I still remember 'ragging' fondly. Thank you my senior alumni and thank you my university.



The Reunion

By *Don Susil Premaratne*

A Graduate of Peradeniya University, Faculty of Engineering, Mechanical

Mind flew back
in the river of time
bringing to our days
along the range of “Hanthana”
in the beautiful paradise
“U of Pera”

I remember
You came from afar beyond destination
Crossing “Elephant pass”
Some boys girls crossed
The beautiful bridges
“Bentara” and “Kalladi”
Yeh, lot crawled and slide
The “Kadugannawa” and “Hunnasgiriya”

You are the spider
in the Boreal forest
in the beautiful land of Canada
weaving our own glad and sad minds
trapping together by
your tiny silken threads,
drizzling in the sun shine
flowing through the tiny spaces
of spring buds and leaves

We rejoiced
in the different nooks and corners,
Anchored by frail strands
binding all of us
to make strong friendships again
at invisible silken treads

you may not aware
you are weaving
the treasured and the loveliest fabric
the curious creation in the globe
and the veil on natures’

not to build walls,
to create drizzling rainbow bridges
through the scattered clouds
to join hearts of *Hanthanians*



Science Leaps into Art

By Asoka Vidyarthne

A Graduate of University of Peradeniya; Faculty of Engineering

How RadioActive Rat derive Most Famous eqn
 $E = mc^2$

stationary (x,y,t) Rat sea Gain Kinetic Energy $\frac{1}{2}m_1v^2$

moving (x',y',t') Sea Chaos in (x',y',t') Emit Relativistic light loose Energy $E' = hv(1 + \frac{v^2}{2c^2})$

Rat Sea Chaos Emit light Loose Energy $E = hv$

Seas Gain Energy $\frac{1}{2}m_2v^2$

now balance Energy $\frac{1}{2}mv^2 - \frac{E' + EV^2}{2c^2} = \frac{1}{2}m_2v^2 - E$

Rearrange $\frac{EV^2}{2c^2} = \frac{1}{2}V^2(m_2 - m_1)$ mass change

By $\frac{E}{c^2} = m \Rightarrow E = mc^2$



A glimpse of Sri Lankan University Life during the Dinosaur years

By Chandre Dharmawardana

A Graduate of University of Ceylon; Chemistry Department

When the editor of the AAUPOC requested me to contribute to its inaugural *Newsletter*, I decided to write a note about my decade of involvement with University life back home.

Those of us from the dinosaur *era* knew of only one University, namely, the University of Ceylon, Colombo, with the arts faculty in Peradeniya. Sir Nicholas Attygala was the Vice Chancellor. The first science, engineering and medical courses were initiated in Peradeniya roughly around 1961-62. Some of us who were new assistant lecturers from time to time travelled to Peradeniya to deliver courses at the newly established faculties. Eventually, with the coming of new Universities such as Vidyodaya and Vidyalankara campuses, the University of Ceylon also spawned the Colombo and Peradeniya Universities.

I recall that the newly built chemistry labs in Peradeniya were very poorly ventilated. At one occasion, one or two female students fainted from the fumes in the lab, even with the fume hoods running and windows open! When Dr. Sultan Bawa, who was the professor in Chemistry department at the time, appealed to install exhaust fans in the first year lab, Sir Nicholas rejected his suggestion, as the understanding on the severity of inhalation of chemicals was limited at that time.

During those times, students happily sucked benzene from pipettes and smelled acrolein for spot tests; today all those chemicals are labelled as “carcinogenic”. It should be sobering that the chemical-stores keepers of those labs died of liver cancer and such illnesses. Nobody faulted the University. Today in Sri Lanka, with the current knowledge of the subject, we have gone to the other extreme to ban the use of the herbicide, which is freely available in any local Canadian Tire store.

Several years later, it was in France that I met Ven. Prof. Walpola Rahula, in his modest apartment at No. 3, Sq.

du Limousin, Paris 13. It was a tiny studio piled with books. A Gandhara Buddha looked over the study. Ven. Rahula had become the Vice Chancellor of the Vidyodaya University, and wanted all young academics to “*come back home and help*”. I agreed to go if I could keep my engagements in the West intact. He assured me three to four months leave every year during the long vacation, if I could find the money for my travels abroad. Based on this agreement, I joined Vidyodaya in 1968-69, for nine months annually. I also became a warden of a hostel, launched food technology, polymer science and Development studies (B. Dev.), and worked as a Director of the Leather Corporation, clocking 24 hours a day.

The decade saw us through JVP uprisings, the “rationalized” single university and the LTTE killing of Durraipappa in 1976. Eventually, I gave up on Sri Lanka and moved to the University of Paris, and three years later to Canada for a less hectic life. It had been a long time since I saw Peradeniya University, but I still remember its breathtaking natural settings and the grandeur of its building architecture.



SIMPLICITY AND DESIGN THINKING:

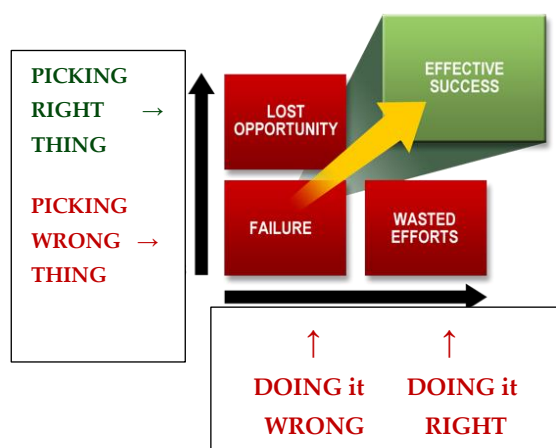
Applications for daily life

By Martin Nicholas

A Graduate of Colombo University; Faculty of Science;
Chemistry

Simplicity is a prerequisite for design-thinking. Recently, my workplace conducted training in “Design thinking” believing a human-centered approach enhances productivity – an innovation for a science-based department!

Simplicity is the Key: In *Simplicity*, author Edward De Bono teaches one how to bring simplicity into one’s increasingly complicated life. His ten rules of simplicity encourage one to breakdown the complex into simpler parts which are manageable and recognizable. The “beauty of simplicity” was a story which was published on the internet and circulated by email over 10 years ago. It was about Americans spending on R&D to answer the question: “How do you develop a pen that can write in space or zero-gravity?” In the interim, the Russians reframed the question and used pencils in the early 1960s.



Pick the right thing to do: The above graphic illustrates the value of design thinking which first asks whether one is posing the right question. Wrong questions lead to wrong choices. Doing a perfect job of the wrong thing is a *costly wasted effort*. Also, it would be a *lost opportunity* if one chooses the right thing to do, but, does it badly. Asking “WHY” repeatedly helps one pick the right thing to do. Only then is success possible.

The Art of Questioning: If one asks a designer, “How many designers does it take to change a lightbulb?” The response - “Does it have to be a lightbulb?” - could be surprising. Actually, the answer reflects the wisdom of design thinking which simply begins by questioning the conventional wisdom about how one currently does things. Yet, indiscriminate questioning will only create whiners. Luckily, designers use tried-and-tested methods to help them create new possibilities.

Practice: First, “thinking-laterally” teaches one to be open to new ideas. De Bono originated the term “lateral-thinking” which could trick one’s brains *into thinking outside-the-box*. Second, is how to *fail forward*? (See the **yellow arrow** in the figure). Designers know how to react to failure so that it takes them closer to the goal. They put problems in a visual form and never hesitate to ask seemingly stupid questions.

Research: These are only a few of the basic tools and principles used by designers which could be applicable to life situations. One can benefit from a designer’s mindset and methods to grapple with all the challenges and problems in one’s daily life. To learn more or if interested, add specific key-words to the phrase “design thinking” and then do a *Google* search.

Reframing Questions for addressing Poverty: Finally, here is an illustration of a designer’s mindset. Nobel Prize winner Muhammad Yunus founded the *Grameen Bank*, by capitalizing on the idea that communities are the key to building things which are beyond the resources of an individual or family. His innovation was not so much the idea of lending small sums of money to poor villagers in Bangladesh. It was about lending to small groups of women who could help *each other* make the best use of the loans and facilitate repayment.

May you see the beauty of simplicity, do lateral-thinking, reframe questions, and choose the right options or actions! May you act effectively for your good and the benefit of whom or what you consider as community!

Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler - Albert Einstein

THANKS TO PERADENIYA UNIVERSITY!

By *Ranjani Siriwardana*

A Graduate of Peradeniya University, Faculty of Science;
Chemistry

When the Editor requested me to write an article to the Peradeniya Ottawa Chapter inaugural *Newsletter*, I was flattered. I gracefully accepted the opportunity to express my gratitude to a great educational institute.

I grew up in *Kandy*. Therefore, I was familiar with the beautiful Peradeniya campus area and was very excited when I got selected to the Science Faculty. I still remember the first day. My wonderful parents accompanied me for the registration as they were worried about “ragging.” I was embarrassed when the seniors ordered me to worship my parents to show my gratitude for escorting me.

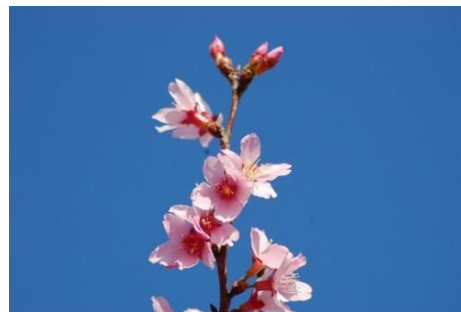
Dormitory life was one of the highlights of the 4-year stay at the university. I had great roommates and a wonderful group of friends. We enjoyed the freedom we had for the first time. It was joyful to participate in the social activities as a group and to have important discussions as teenagers during our night time tea hour. Living in a residence hall also gave us an opportunity to get to know the students from other programs.

In the second year, I was honored when I was selected for the Chemistry Special Program, as Chemistry was one of my favorite subjects in high school. The seniors informed that the prospect of getting a post-graduate degree and employment was excellent with a chemistry degree.

Although the 4-year program was rigorous, with yearly tests, lab work and a final exam covering three years of chemistry, thanks to the excellent professors, the chemistry knowledge we gained was incredible.

I left Sri Lanka in 1978 shortly after Graduating from Peradeniya. I felt sad to resign from an assistant lecturer post at the Chemistry Department and to leave Sri Lanka, but I was excited to start a new chapter in my life: pursuing a Ph.D. program in the United States (U.S.) while joining my husband, whom I met at the Peradeniya University. Although I was unaware of the impact of the undergraduate experience on my life at the time, while in the graduate school I was pleasantly surprised by the extensive knowledge I had been offered by the undergraduate program at Peradeniya. My husband who is a professor at West Virginia University received his undergraduate degree from Peradeniya in Engineering, and he also appreciates the strong background in Engineering he received.

Currently, I hold a Senior Research Scientist position at the U.S. Department of Energy. My research includes carbon dioxide capture from power plants to address the global warming issues. For my work, whenever I tackle chemistry problems or get recognition for the research publications and patents, I appreciate the high quality education I received at Peradeniya. My heartfelt gratitude is offered to Peradeniya University for the valuable and free education it provided, paving my way to hold enjoyable employment, which enabled us to educate our children in the U.S. My son is a professor at Harvard University, and my daughter is a Ph.D. student at the same. It has been 38 years since I graduated from Peradeniya University but the fond memories of this great institute still remain.



The Nature's Expedition

By Kumudini Nicholas

A Graduate of Peradeniya
University; Faculty of Science;
Chemistry

Wijerathne loved animals. Not only did he adore the four family owned kittens, but also any animal who visited his garden. Out of all animals he encountered, his favorite was a kitty named *Hinni Haamine*. He allowed *Hinni Haamine* to sit on his desk and drink from his mug. Sometimes milk and other times just plain water. The cat then joyfully curled into a ball and slept on his desk. *Wijeratne* enjoyed her presence while he worked at his desk. Their friendship grew stronger over the years, and with aging, *Hinni Haamine* depended on *Wijerathne* for her many needs. *Wijerathne* complied with pleasure.

On one misty day in October of 1975 a *Kingfisher* moved into a hole on the bank facing *Wijerathne's* home, and he thought "now I could have a 'pet bird', without having to keep it in the house", for he did not trust *Hinni Haamine* with a bird.

Wijerathne watched how the bird transformed the hole on the rugged bank to a 'home', by efficiently

furnishing it with feathery stands. From the bird's frequent visits to the 'home', *Wijerathne* expected a family to live in it soon.

Eventually, chirping was clearly heard. Then on, the *Kingfisher* relentlessly transferred food to the young. *Wijerathne* admired the caring nature she extended to her family. He fell in love with his new 'pet'.

The efficient chick-feeding by the mother-bird made a pile of tiny bones directly below the entrance to the 'Kingfisher household'. The



young eventually grew feathers, and the departure from the nest was imminent. Some successfully flew away, while a few joined the pile of bones at the bottom. By the time the Monsoon arrived in December, the *Kingfisher* declared her-self an 'empty-nester'. *Wijeratne* felt closer to the mother-bird more than ever as she continued to live in the 'hole' all by herself.

One December afternoon, *Wijerathne* returned from the local boutique. *Hinni Haamine* has

settled on his desk for her usual nap, but to his surprise, a pile of blue and red feathers were scattered around her.



Wijerathne was devastated. He gasped and fell to the ground holding his head on his palms. *Hinni Haamine* felt his anguish and jumped off the table. That was the last time *Wijeratne* saw her.

Wijerathne longed for *Hinne Haamine's* return for a very long time, but she never did. He questioned his losses. In the word question he found the word 'quest'. Eventually he realized that he and his pets were partners in a quest that nature has planned, and that his question has no answer. Seemingly, the human emotions have no control over nature's expeditions!!



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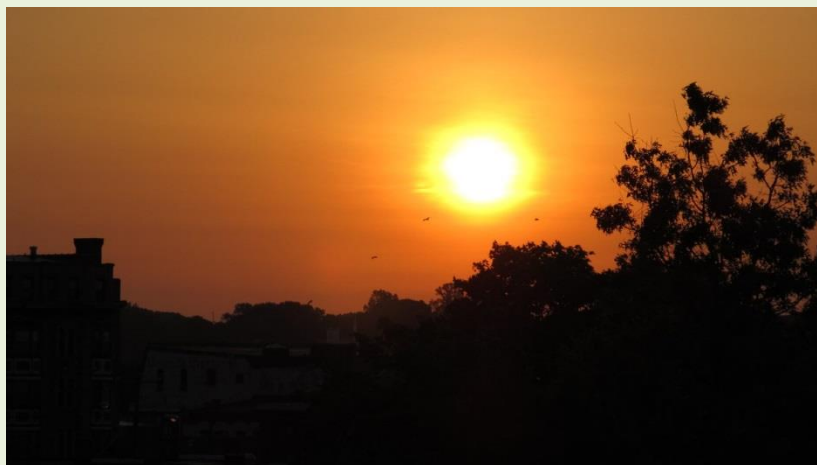
Creations by Our Next Generation

O' the Jungles

By Chantike Jayatilaka

Grade 6; Farley Mowat Public School

O' the jungles of the South
the tunnels connect to the caverns mouth
and the birds fly high and proud,
the streams run clear and without a sound
when daybreak fades to night
There is but one glint of light,
and this one glint was growing steadily bright
it became the sun and then the jungle burst into life,
And all was fun and right!



*Be daring, be different, be anything that will assert integrity of
purpose and imaginative vision against a play-it-safer..."*

-Cecil Beaton, Photographer

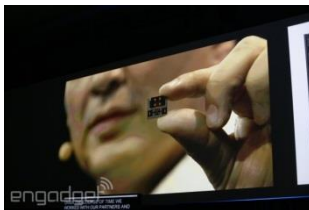
NO HANDS = NO WORRIES: The Newest Technology

By Niki Galagedara

Completed grade 11; Long field Davidson High school



We as humans have reached a time where swiping your finger across a glass screen is normal. You may never have to touch a screen again. It is known that the human hand is an ultimate input device. It is extremely fast, extremely precise, and it is very natural for us to use. Capturing the possibilities of the human hand has been an interest of technology for decades. But how can we develop a way to take this incredible capability, the finesse of human actions and the finesse of using our hands, but apply it to the virtual and technological world?



In 2015, Google introduced “Project Soli”, a new technology that enables users to move their fingers through the air to control various objects in the virtual world. An early prototype of the Soli technology has been showcased with impressive results. This technology shows how precise, fine motor skills, such as allowing your thumb and fingers to rub together at different speeds, or by simply pressing them together, could be used to control all sorts of things without actually touching them. With only 10 months of work, the Soli technology can already be compressed into a single fingernail sized chip. The hope is to incorporate this chip into electronic devices, such as phones and smart watches, for an easier way of accessing different elements within those devices.

The astounding methods of how the Soli technology works is simply through radar waves which can detect these precise finger movements. Radar is a technology which transmits a radio wave towards a target, and then the receiver of the radar intercepts the reflected energy from that target. Radars have been used for many different things, such as for tracking cars, big objects and aircrafts. However, this radar hardware is now being used to be transformed into a gesture sensor. Furthermore, this technology’s sole reason for being able to interpret so much from a single radar signal is through what is known as the full gesture recognition pipeline. The various stages of this pipeline are designed to extract specific gesture information from this one radar signal that is received. Radar is such a unique technology because it has a very high positional accuracy, which is what allows the tiniest motions to be sensed. Through this great advance, it is now possible to explore how well Soli may work, and how well it actually works in products. The Soli Project is clearly an innovative new way for humans to interact in the modern world and I personally am really looking forward to seeing how this technology is developed and how it changes the way humans think about the modern world they live in.



“CEEP: A Novel Approach for Environmental Trace Elemental Analysis” An Award-Winning High School Science Project

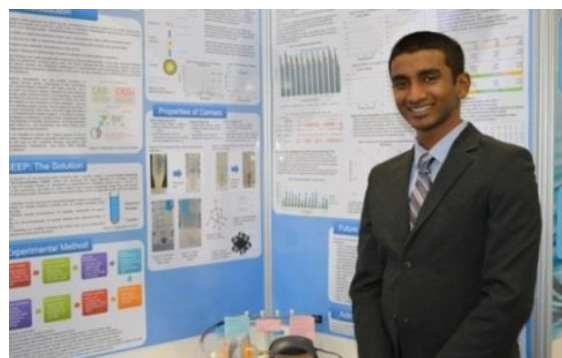
By *Gayashan Tennakoon*

A graduating student from *Colonel By Secondary School*

Trace elemental analysis involves the identification and quantification of substances that are found at very low concentrations. Certain elements, specifically Arsenic, Cadmium, Lead and Barium are highly toxic at trace level and they are known to cause a broad spectrum of medical conditions such as organ failure, cardio-metabolic and neurodegenerative diseases. The effects of trace-element- induced-diseases have manifested as worldwide medical epidemics, prevalent especially in developing countries. These include Chronic Kidney Disease of Unknown Origin, Arsenic Poisoning which accounts for 9,100 deaths annually in Bangladesh, and lead-induced cognitive impairment in children in South and East Asia.^{1,2} My efforts to develop a novel method for trace elemental analysis, titled as *Carrier-Enhanced Evaporative Pre-Concentration (CEEP)* was recognized as a new method to conduct research in this field, to address the issues at hand.

CEEP- A Procedure with Great Potential:

One of the two key issues facing trace elemental analysis is the transport of large volumes of liquid samples, e.g., drinking water, from the collection-site to the laboratory. However, as trace elements naturally are at low levels, typically close to, or even below the limit of detection of common analytical techniques, collecting a large sample is critical. By adding a carrier (a solid substance) into a large aqueous volume sample, it is possible to evaporate the sample completely where the carrier retains the trace elements of the initial sample. Washing the elements off of the carrier resulting in near 100% recovery is feasible. This procedure minimizes the amount of “un-measurable samples” that are received, as trace element concentration is significantly increased above detection limits, thereby facilitating easy transportation of samples from the field to the laboratory. In light of these results, this new method has raised commendable prospects for a better, simple, cost-effective approach to identify low levels of trace elements in drinking water samples.



National and International Recognition:

It was an honor to receive several national recognitions for my project at the 54th Canada Wide Science Fair, held in Fredericton NB. At this competition, I was awarded a silver medal. My project was identified as Canada’s Best Young Scientist Environmental Project, and was recognized by the *Ernest C. Manning Award Foundation*, for its ingenuity and significant potential in addressing the challenge to providing safe drinking water in developing countries. As a result, I was named a ‘Young Canadian Innovator’ by the Foundation.

Future Prospects:

I have been invited to attend the National Awards Gala of *Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation* in Saskatchewan, and was offered to become a member of this organization. I will also be attending the *World Water Week* conference in Stockholm, Sweden to share my work with other researchers, who face the challenge to provide safe drinking water to the global population.

¹**Luqueño, F.F., and Valdez, F.L. (2013).** Heavy metal pollution in drinking water - a global risk for human health: A review. *African Journal of Environmental Science and Technology* 7, 567-584.

²**Jayasumana, C., Gunatilake, S., and Senanayake, P. (2014).** Glyphosate, Hard Water and Nephrotoxic Metals: Are They the Culprits Behind the Epidemic of Chronic Kidney Disease of Unknown Etiology in Sri Lanka? *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 11, 2125-2147.

The Law

By Chandimal Nicholas

A Graduate of University of Toronto, Faculty of Law;
University of Ottawa, Faculty of Science; Biochemistry

The law is everywhere. Like the air we breathe and the sky above us, we see and feel the effects of the law our respective countries have crafted in every aspect of our lives. The law has a role to play in everything, from the everyday encounters: crime and punishment, family/marriage or our employment; to large worldwide interactions: international relations, war or border disputes. It is therefore prudent to embrace the law as an ally rather than consider it as a foe.

The laws of our country have been designed to serve us. With this understanding and proper representation by a good standing member of the legal-bar in our jurisdiction, the law can be used to benefit us. Fundamental responsibilities in our lives such as drafting a will or paying our taxes requires either an understanding of the law or the assistance of a lawyer to comprehend the law. Even those activities that would entertain us, such as sports, movies, fashion or music, all have laws to govern every aspect of the related industry. For example, the corporate commercial laws govern the structure of the companies in the industry and the contracts that companies must enter into to do business. The intellectual property laws protect the artistry, innovations and branding that allows the industry to make money. The court system adjudicates and mediates any disputes that arise within such laws. Thus, it should be apparent that the law is engrained in everything we see and do in our lives.

So what does all this mean for us? If you are a young person, trying to figure out what you want to do with your life, the law is an area that could be considered. Since the law covers all aspects of our lives, one will find an area of law that one is passionate about. I certainly did.

For an established organization or an accomplished business man, knowing a lawyer who can help one

personally or with one's business, either directly or assisting in finding someone who can help one is important.

Currently, the business of law is changing and law firms are focusing on access to justice and ensuring that the client will be best served by lawyers at a reasonable cost. A business or individual could: 1) take advantage of this market shift and find a motivated and entrepreneurial lawyer who can serve one's needs; 2) profit from the legal industry's renewed focus on cost-efficiency and customer service are beneficial to the client, not the lawyer; and 3) benefit from the fact that more lawyers are referring clients to other lawyers who are more reasonably priced to generate more contacts in an ever-growing *quid pro quo* market.

A lawyer can be one's conduit to a broader legal network and can act as one's agent to ensure one gets the right representation to address one's needs. A client has more power in the legal industry today than ever before. Therefore, one may take advantage, and find someone whom one can trust to represent the individual or the business.

If you are planning to start a career in law or looking to obtain legal representation, I wish you all the very best.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Sri Lankan Love Cake



Ingredients:

300g semolina, lightly toasted
125g butter
10 eggs, separated
400g sugar
¼ cup grated crystallized pumpkin (available at Sri Lankan grocers)
80g honey
185g cashews, crushed
40ml rosewater

¼ tsp nutmeg
¼ tsp cinnamon
Zest of 2-3 limes
Icing sugar, to serve

Preparation

Preheat oven to 200°C.

Place the semolina and butter in a tray. Place in an oven until the butter has melted. Meanwhile, whisk the egg yolks in a large bowl. Add the sugar and mix until combined. Stir in the crystallized pumpkin. Stir in the honey and cashews. Add the rosewater and stir to combine. Add the nutmeg and cinnamon and stir until the mixture is pale. In a clean dry bowl, beat the egg whites until soft peaks form. Fold the egg whites into the cake mixture. Stir in the lime zest. Add the semolina-butter mixture to the cake mixture. Pour into a tray lined with baking paper. Bake in preheated oven for 1 hour or until firm to touch. Remove from oven and set aside to cool slightly. Dust with icing sugar and cut into slices to serve.

කුලුබඩු-බෙහෙත් පෙට්ටිය



උලුහාල් - Fenugreek

විද්යාත්මක නාමය
Trigonella foenum graecum

කැස්සට ඖශධයක් ලෙස භාවිතයට ගනී. ආහාර රැවිය වඩවයි. මුඛ ඉන්සියුලින් ආදේශකයක් වන අතර රැබරයේ ග්ලූකෝස් මට්ටම අඩු කිරීමට උපකාරී වේ.

විස්තරය

මෙම ශාකයේ කොළ ඖෂධයක් ලෙස භාවිතයට ගන්නා අතර, ඇට කුලුබඩුවක් ලෙස භාවිතයට ගනී. උලුහාල් ලෝකය පුරා අර්ධ වියළි පලාත් වල හමු වේ.



Fun & Games

AAUPOC Cyber Quote Puzzle (<http://operaalumni.com/>)

You are challenged to use your skills to a code below. Each letter is uniquely and puzzle take a look at the example given with example of the following 7 word message:



discover the actual words GIVEN in randomly coded. Before solving the a 7 word message. Let's take the

I AM HAPPY THAT THE CELEBRATION WENT WELL.

Let's say we use the following code:

I=S, A=F, M=W, H=X, P=J, Y=K, T=Y, E=P, C=N, L=Q, B=U, R=M, O=Z, N=C, W=D.

Then in code the message would be the following:

S FW XFJJK YXFY YXP NPQPUMFYSZC DPCY DPQQ.

The AAUPOC Cyber Quote is given below using a unique code. You have to find the CODE to solve the following puzzle. A part of it has been taken directly from <http://operaalumni.com/> :

QYN QG WAN QPENDWBUNZ QG WAN XZZQDBXWBQY

BZ WAN GQRRQFBYH:

WQ HVBSN XYS XZZBZW WAN XRVOYB FAQ

AXUN MNDNYWRK DQOCRNWNS WANBM DQVMZNZ

THE YOUNGEST AAUPOC MEMBER **APSARA** & HER BUDDING 'GRADUATE' **AYUSHI**



සත්මිණි රැවන් කැට වැස්සක් ලබන වට
වැඩියෙන් අගෙයි මට දුවගේ සිනහ කට
නව ආලෝකයක් අප හද ජනිත කොට
පියවර ඔසවන්න පොඩි දුව ඉදිරි යට
කුමුදිනි නිකලස් 2015

Sing-Along...

“Hanthaanata Paayana Sanda”

Link to the writer explaining the story behind the song:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7u3iw1TLKcs>

Verse that Inspired the Song (the third verse in a song sung by *Sunil Edirisinghe*):

ආල වඩන අකුරු පහේ තේරවිල්ල	සකි
රැට නිදන පැදුරේ නැති සිහිනේකි	සකි
ආලේ බිඳුනු දා කුමකට කඳුලු හෙලනු	සකි
ආල වඩන යන තේරුම බෝසත් කම	සකි



Link to the Song

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nV43Kmnx4cE&index=23&list=PLrLPsSLiY7B6zYTraTYANxC87LMKE2sK7>

Editor's Sign Off

Dear Reader,

It was a great pleasure to embark on a journey to develop and complete this extraordinary project, which was entrusted to me by the AAUPOC executive committee. The journey has been gratifying, and for me, indeed it is a valuable educational opportunity. My sincere hope is that you will enjoy the finished product.

We requested your contributions for the inaugural *Newsletter*. Your resounding response transformed our first publication into a journal. I personally thank you for your efforts and time employed for the success of this edition: interesting articles, sketches, drawings, and photographs reflecting your thoughts, emotions, knowledge and expertise; participation for the name-selecting process; and encouraging words which nudged me to move forward, to see the light at the end of the tunnel. The AAUPOC collectively and thankfully acknowledges *Hari Parameswaran* for his willing participation to translate the Title from Sinhala to Tamil.

Your comments and constructive criticism to improve the publication will be greatly appreciated. Your enthusiasm to contribute to future Editions will facilitate its progress. Happy Reading!

Kumudini Nicholas

Editor/AAUPOC



The End