



Peradeniya Engineering Faculty Alumni Association

NEWSLETTER

Volume 28, Issue 1

February, 2019



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Editor's note

Welcome to another year with PEFAA.

PEFAA entered year 2018/19 in new spirit with cordial relationship among Alumni, students and staff of the faculty. PEFAA has a set of plans for the coming year with energy coming from its all enthusiastic new Executive Committee and the newly established Colombo Chapter.

Our main goal this year is to bring as many members together by updating the membership database. There will be many activities and communications through our webpage <https://pefaa.net>

Please send your comments, suggestions and member news to editor.pefaa@gmail.com

Executive Committee – 2018/19

President

Eng. Gemunu Ranasinghe

Vice President

Eng. Nuhuman Marikkar

Gen. Secretary

Dr. (Mrs.) Maheshi Dissanayake

Asst. Secretaries

Eng (Mrs.) Lekha Bakmeedeniya

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Asst. Treasurer

Dr. Samith Buddika

Editor

Dr. (Mrs) Shobha R. Herath

Ex. Officio:

Prof. G. B. B. Herath (Dean/Engineering)

Eng. Palitha Abeykoon

Dr. (Mrs) Waranatha Abeygunasekera

Faculty Board Representative:

Eng. Dr. Kamalanath Samarakoon

Committee Members

Eng. Prof. M. P. Ranaweera

Eng. Prof. S. B. S. Abayakoon

Eng. Bernard Perera

Eng. Sudath Ariyananda

Eng. Chaminda Weerakoon

Eng. Chanaka Vidyaratna

Eng. Nimal Thilakarathna

Eng. Randika Liyanage

Eng. Aruna Herath

Eng. Aravinda Pieris

Eng. Nandana Abey Suriya

(President, Colombo Chapter)

Dr. Parakrama Ekanayake

(Secretary, Colombo Chapter)

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New Dean of the Faculty

Prof. Gemunu Herath was appointed as Dean of the faculty in October, 2018.

He contributes a lot to the country and specially to the central region in the field of solid waste and waste water management. He was instrumental in coordinating the SATREP project and also serving in the university team which coordinates the construction of the new National Water Testing Laboratory in the premises of University of Peradeniya with the aids of Chinese Government.



We wish to carry out our services to the faculty and its students with his blessings.

27TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 27th Annual General Meeting of Peradeniya Engineering Faculty Alumni Association (PEFAA) was held on November 17, 2018 at E.O.E. Pereira Theatre with the participation of more than 150 members ranging from graduates from 1960s to 2010s.

The meeting was commenced after lighting the traditional oil lamp and followed by the National Anthem. The President, Eng. Palitha Abeykoon, delivered the welcome speech. Professor Gemunu Herath, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, addressing the gathering, explained the history and traditions of PEFAA.

Two major events were held in the faculty in parallel with AGM. The ceremonial opening of Department of the Manufacturing and Industrial Engineering new building was held in the morning of the same day. Many alumni members who were the major force behind the renovation of the Manufacturing and Industrial Engineering laboratory building which caught a devastating fire in 2016 were present at the occasion. A separate article gives features of newly opened laboratory.

PEFAA Activities at a glance....

Services to Students

Instrument lending programme

Needy Student Fund

Financing Society Activities

Studentships

Research Awards

Scholarships

Organizing training programmes/ workshops

Services to Faculty

Facilitating management of funds donated by Alumni groups and well-wishers to improve facilities in the faculty

Monitoring and participating in improving facilities in the faculty

Providing Financial support to organize Career Fair

Services to Alumni

Regional Gatherings (Out-station Executive Committee meetings)

Annual Gathering and Peduru party

Sharing Faculty News with Alumni and Alumni News with Faculty

Organizing entertaining events

Felicitation of Prof. Nimal Senevirathna

This was a major event at the 27th AGM. Dr. Jayaaleth Edirisinghe delivered the felicitation address which gave a glimpse of recipient's contribution to the faculty and to the country.

Apart from his numerous academic and research activities mentioned, participation in social gatherings, entertainment activities, excursions etc. were also highlighted.

He was a member of PEFAA from its inception. He was an active member who contributed to PEFAA irrespective of whether he was a committee member or not. He served as General Secretary of PEFAA in 1995 and 1996. Also served as a committee member in 2001. He is a regular participant of PEFAA annual trips and educational excursions, all the special events including evening gatherings. He played an instrumental role in establishing the largest ever fund (E 7075) of Rs 3.4 million in 2016 to provide support to students who take part in research and research conferences. Already four students have benefited from this project to travel overseas to present their research work.

Needless to say, as a humble academic, he only worked hard and never wanted to tell his achievements and contributions.

We wish Professor Nimal Senevirathna the very best in health and hope his contributions and associations with PEFAA will continue for many more years.



Raffle Draw



The PEFAA Raffle draw was held during the AGM and 13 lucky winners were selected.

Prize Ticket no.	Name of Prize Winner
1	670 Eng. Athula Chaminda Kumara
2	721 Mr. Dinesh Subasinghe
3	1206 Mr. Sisira Jayasundara
4	3061 Mr. S D D P Dharmasena
5	627 Eng. Athula Chaminda Kumara
6	2367 Eng. Nandana Abeysooriya
7	2258 Eng. Nisal Perera
8	3146 Mr. E M D P Ekanayake
9	3388 Ms. Hiranya Jayasuriya
10	1886 Eng. Wasala
11	3845 Mr. S A I T Subasinghe
12	4625 Mr. Indunil Senevirathna
13	424 Mr. Susil Rajapaksha

Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to all for contributing in the event by buying tickets.

Eng. Nisal Perera and Eng. Athula Chaminda Perera donated back the 5th and 7th Prizes. The 3rd Prize was sponsored by Mr. Ananda Bandara, Chairman, Grand Udawalawe Safari Resort.

E70-75 Awards: Scholarships to participate in international conferences or acquire research equipment

- 01.M.A.S.Ahamed E/13/007 (for Equipment)
- 02.M.H.M.Fatheen E/13/096 (for Equipment)
- 03.E.M.M.B.Ekanayaka E/13/090 (for Air ticket)
- 04.Samurdhi Karunaratne (EFAC 7075 Fund-Globecom Travel Grant)

Prof. S. Mahalingam Award Grant for an Applied Mechanics Project G.P.I.Palihakkara (E/13/247)

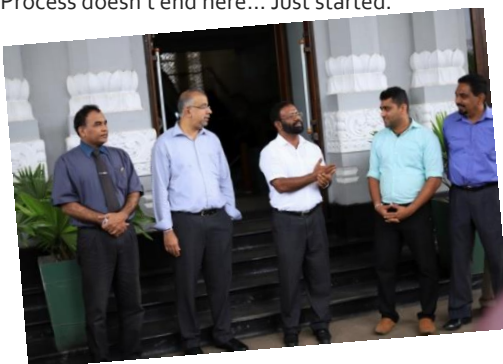


Tree Planting

In September 2018, during planning of AGM events, an idea was proposed by Eng. Dimuthu Lakmal, our energetic Assistant Secretary in 2017/18. Idea was to start a tree planting programme, in order to sustain our Green campus environment. After discussions with the University authorities it was decided to replant the Royal Palm trees along the entrance road to the faculty. Some information gathered during this project through faculty LBMC are posted here for information of the members.

1. Royal Palm trees usually have a long lifetime, sometimes even more than 100 years if conditions are good and there are no insect attacks.
2. The growth of palm trees is mostly affected by the nutrients available to the tree during different stages of its life. This is one reason why the girth of the trees changes at different heights.
3. If trees are old and have different heights replanting may be recommended. New palm trees were replanted at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya, while the old trees were still in place. It is an accepted practice.
4. Replanting the whole avenue with similar new plants is preferred to replanting only the trees with weak growth.
5. In replanting, care should be taken to plant all the trees in a straight alignment. Increasing the set back from the curb line and maintaining the area between the road and the line of trees as a lush green lawn is recommended.
6. For 5' tall new plants, a 2'x2' and 2'6" – 3'0" deep pits are recommended. The pit may be filled with top soil and dry cow dung (2:1) mix. Time to time fertilizer used for coconut trees is recommended.
7. Even if the soil conditions are not favourable or the area is rocky, a 3'0" deep pits should be able to handle the issue with differential growth. During the life of the trees, growth rates may be controlled using amounts of fertilizer used. This has to be a continuous exercise.
8. When the new plants are about 20'0" tall, existing trees may be removed. When the old trees are removed, new plants grow faster.
9. Care should be taken not to have the area water-logged.
10. New plants grow to a reasonable height usually in about 10 years.

Process doesn't end here... Just started.



What an enthusiasm from members..

Cost for a tree is Rs. 5,500 and no sooner the message went out, members from all ages overwhelmingly supported it.

E/69	5,500.00
E/74	11,000.00
E/77	88,000.00
E/80	5,000.00
E/81	100,000.00
E82	100,000.00
E/83	38,500.00
E/87	11,000.00
E/88	11,000.00
E/94	5,500.00
E/98	44,000.00

E/99	11,000.00
E/01	16,500.00
E/02	60,500.00
E/02A	55,000.00
E/03	27,500.00
E/04	11,000.00
E/04	16,500.00
E/05	55,500.00
E/06	27,500.00
E/07	11,000.00
E/08	27,500.00
E/09	16,500.00
E/10	16,500.00
E/10	5,500.00
E/11	11,000.00
E/12	11,000.00

A tree maintenance programme is also underway and a separate Tree Plantation fund was started with remaining fund from donations received for this purpose.



Studentships Awarded to first years in Year 2018

10 E/99 Studentships: Rs. 3,000 x 10 months

02 E/93 Studentships: Rs. 3,000 x 12 months

Bartholomeusz Studentship: Rs. 30,000

04 Pera-Zero Studentships: Rs. 2,000 x 10 months

10 UK Bursary: Rs. 10,000 each

Rathnapala Marasinghe Bursary: Rs. 10,000

Altogether 28 needy students benefitted from these studentships.

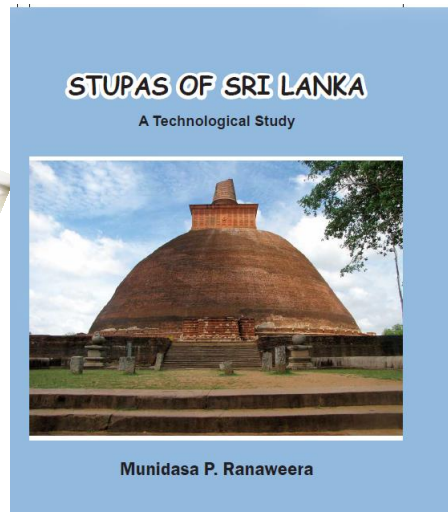
PEFAA addressed freshers (E/17)...

New batch has arrived on 26th November and PEFAA addressed them during the orientation programme.



Alumni News

Book by Prof. M. P. Ranaweera



Prof. M. P. Ranaweera has published a book about Sri Lankan Stupas with his long-standing association with restoration of Stupa's. Following is a brief description on his book given by him on our invitation. Book will be available at all leading bookstores.

Stupas are the most important structures associated with Buddhism and there are many books dealing with historical and religious

aspects of them. But hardly any book exist dealing with technological aspects of stupas. This book hopefully will fill that vacuum.

Since 1990, the author has presented many papers in conferences and given talks and presentations about various aspects of stupas of Sri Lanka, and this book presents some of that material in a coherent form. Major portion of the book is devoted to ancient stupas in Sri Lanka. However, some details of the modern stupa forms are also included. It is hoped that this book will be of interest to general public who wants to know something more than just religious and historical aspects of these important structures.

The book covers the following aspects; Development of the Sri Lankan Stupa, Stupa Architecture, Stupa Materials, Loadings and Stresses in Stupas, Stupa Construction, Stupa Protection, Restoration and Conservation of Ancient Stupas, and Modern Stupa Structural Forms.

Publishers: S. Godage & Brothers (Pvt) Ltd., 661 P. de S. Kularatne Mawatha, Colombo 10.

Book by Engineer Parakrama

Jayasinghe

A book compiled by Engineer Parakrama Jayasinghe titled 'Energy Resources of Sri Lanka Viewpoints of Sector Professionals' was officially launched on October 12th at the Techno 2018 Exhibition Seminar Room, Sirimavo Bandaranaike Exhibition Centre and also introduced at PEFAA AGM on 17th November, 2018.

The book has been compiled as a project of the Mechanical Engineering Sub Committee of the Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka (IESL) and with contributions from a vast number of professionals and resources persons in the industry.

Speaking on the book Engineer Parakrama Jayasinghe said that the book is an ideal resource to enlighten the industry stakeholders and future initiatives in energy and renewable energy industry in Sri Lanka whilst it also includes a series of lectures from industry professionals.

Jlanka Technologies sponsored the book

Faculty News

New MIE Laboratory is dedicated to Late Professor Sanath Ranatunga.

On July 3rd 2016, an accidental fire severely damaged the laboratory and main building of the Department of Production Engineering (now renamed as Manufacturing and Industrial Engineering-MIE). The department lost its computing center, several staff rooms and access to the facilities and working environment. Most of the expensive CNC machines were also water-damaged during the attempts to extinguish the fire. If not for the timely intervention of the fire brigade, students and several staff members, the building may have been destroyed completely.

Following this event, a group of alumni proposed an ambitious plan to restore the facility, not to its former status, but into a world-class facility. However, with limited government funding and lengthy administrative processes, this would have been an uphill, if not an impossible task.

Realizing the gravity of the problem early on, the project team comprising of staff and alumni, reached out to the faculty alumni located worldwide and leading local industries to garner their support for the project. The project aimed to focus on the upgrading work in parallel with the University commitment to rebuild the infrastructure. A project proposal was developed, several industries were visited, and fund-raising events were organized. PEFAA opened and managed an account for the purpose of collecting and disbursing funds in transparent manner for this project. After a two-year effort, the project team was finally able to achieve the funding goal of Rs. 18.6Mn and re-open the building on the 17th of November 2018. This was an extraordinary achievement. The new lab stands as a testament to the dedication and resolution of the project team.

The newly upgraded laboratory will act as a beacon for the entire faculty. It incorporates a state of the art learning and work environment and the latest fire detection and safety measures (courtesy of Ceylex Engineering). The laboratory also incorporates a 20kW Solar Panel installation (courtesy of Nikini Automation Systems) which provides renewable energy to the building. The new laboratory was dedicated to the late Prof. Sanath Ranatunga, a founding member of the department and a charismatic academic who was instrumental in molding and inspiring many past generations of engineers.

A permanent plaque is placed in the department Engineering, Special Issue 2018: to appreciate the main donors of the project. On Data Information Engineering, Volume 10, Issue 6, pp 183-192, Penerbit Manufacturing and Industrial Engineering would UTHM, Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia, like to thank all the alumni, industries and well-wishers who donated and supported the project 2018. doi:10.30880/ijie.2018.10.06.026. and especially, the project team and major partners of the project - Nikini Automation Systems, Ceylex Engineering, Brandix, MAS Holdings, and Ansell Lanka.

Dr. Chanaka Senanayake

Upcoming Event

An International Conference on "Advances in Concrete Technology, Structural Engineering and Design" is to be held at Faculty of Engineering, University of Peradeniya on August 13, 2019 in honour of Senior Lecturer Mr. Helarisi Abeyruwan who is due to retire this year. The organizers invite PEFAA members to fully support this event by being a resource person, technical supporter or a sponsor to make this memorable event a success. PEFAA web will update more news on this.

Achievements of Staff

For PEFAA call for achievements of Students/staff of the faculty, we received the following from Dr. Alawathugoda, Lecturer, Department of Computer Engineering who is also one of our Alumni.

Recent Paper publications

de Silva, R.; Navarathna, I.; Kumarasiri, M.; Alawatugoda, J. and Chuah, C.W. On Power Analysis Attacks against Hardware Stream Ciphers. in International Journal of Information and Computer Security (IJICS) to be published.

Alawatugoda, J.; Seralathan, V.; Peiris, N.; Wickramasinghe, C. and Chuah, C.W. Implementation of an eCK-secure Key Exchange Protocol for OpenSSL. In International Journal on Advanced Science, Engineering and Information Technology, Volume 8, Issue 5, pages 2205-2210, doi:10.18517/ijaseit.8.5.5046.

Chuah, C.W.; Samylingam, V.; Darmawan, I.; Palaniappan, P.S.S.; Foozy, C.F.M.; Ramli, S.N. and Alawatugoda, J. Analysis of Four Historical Ciphers against Known Plaintext Frequency Statistical Attack. In International Journal of Integrated

We are hoping to share more achievements of our staff, students and alumni in upcoming issues of Newsletter.

Alumni Management System

The Alumni Management System of the Faculty is now available on website and you can register and then update your achievements and contact details. Only your achievements will be public. The contact details are not public and used only for official purposes.

In addition to that you can create a profile page as a google document and link it to you record. This profile is public, and you can write everything about you so that other alumni can read and Alumni around the World is waiting to find about you.

Since google pages are external to the Alumni Management System, the Google profile pages are copied to the Alumni Wiki periodically. If you are a tech savvy you are invited to create your profile as a wiki page. For this you should use the simple syntax of Wiki documents. **You are kindly invited to help make this Alumni network building a success which is a long-felt need.**

Dr. Kamalanath Samarakoon

Link to update your data

https://pefaa.net/membership_management_system

Workshop on 'Effective Interview Process Development for Employment'

On the request of Final year students of the Faculty, PEFAA has organized a Workshop on 'Effective Interview Process Development for Employment' aiming the Career Fair which was held on 26th. January, 2019. Two workshops were conducted on 8th and 15th January and were very successful. Students were of the view that they benefitted a lot from the workshops and wished if it were conducted a bit earlier than this.

The resource person was

Lt Col Wasantha Pamunuwa

From SEGUE Consultancy service which promotes its slogan

'Learning, the only way to be ahead of others'



Innovation challenge organized by IEEE Sri Lanka section and groups from eight countries including Sri Lanka participated for the event. Students of the University of Peradeniya won the third place and it was the only winning team from Sri Lankan groups among the Universities.



Achievements of Students

Electronic product design organized by IEEE Sri Lanka section competition conducted in four Universities namely Peradeniya, Moratuwa, Ruhuna and Wayamba. Students for the University of Peradeniya won first and second places.



Events organized in year 2018/2019

Executive Committee at its first meeting has appointed 4 sub-committees to execute this year's activities.

1. Students' Affairs Sub Committee [Headed by Eng. Nimal Thilakarathne]
 - Provide loans for needy students in line with PEFAA regulations
 - Submit the Quarterly Report to EXCO (No. of loans provided, No. of loans recovered)
 - Provide Sponsorships for Students' and Departmental activities in line with PEFAA regulations.
 - Selection of nominees for Scholarships and Award the Scholarships (President & Secretary involve for the selection process).
 - Improve relationship between PEFAA and Students.
 - Identify students' requirements and organize programs for students in association with "Event Sub Committee" (improve soft skills, English language).
 - Coordinate with 'Faculty and Industry Interact Sub Committee' to uplift students' capabilities.
2. Faculty and Industry Interact Sub Committee [Headed by President Colombo Chapter]
 - Implement Faculty infrastructure development Projects.
 - Conduct programs to enhance Academic Staff involvement for PEFAA activities.
3. Publicity and Marketing Sub Committee [Headed by Eng. Nuhuman Marikkar]
 - Update membership directory and promote the use of Membership Management System.
 - Conduct programs to strengthen the members' relationship and promote membership.
 - Design and Implement Publicity and Marketing programs to build the image of PEFAA and Faculty.
 - Seeking of Financial support from the Industry to implement PEFAA activities.
 - Update the Web page in consultation with the Editor.
4. Event Sub Committee [Headed by Eng. Aruna Herath]
 - Organize all events related to PEFAA (AGM, Get together, Annual trip, Outstation meetings).
 - Implement PEFAA Fund raising activities.
 - Clear the stocks of T-shirts, Mugs, CDs and any other souvenirs
 - Assist to 'Students' Affair Sub Committee' to conduct their programs.

**Peradeniya Engineering Faculty Alumni Association
(PEFAA)**

Faculty of Engineering, University of Peradeniya

Prof. E.O.E. Pereira Mawatha, Peradeniya



PEFAA

*To register in PEFAA database, please visit
<https://www.pefaa.net>, go to members' corner and
follow instructions.*

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Web: <https://www.pefaa.net>