



Dear Pera Friends

We would like to take this opportunity to update our members on the ongoing and upcoming activities of our association. In the past few months, we have been actively involved in various activities that have benefited both the University of Peradeniya and its students at large. We are also planning this years' get together and continue with fundraising efforts. In a separate email, we have communicated some amendments to the proposed bylaws of the Association, where we asked you to review and provide feedback if any concern.

New Additions to the Executive Committee

We are excited to inform you the joining of three alumni to our Executive committee to strengthen the 2023 planned activities and fundraising efforts.

- Channa Bambaradeniya (MD) – PeraScience; 91-95 Batch
- Siva Nadaraja (NJ) - Pera Engineering; 92-96 Batch
- Ananda De Silva (AZ) – Pera Science; 80-83 Batch

Fundraising

We are happy to inform you that we have managed to raise **\$8988** by the end of last year from the September Get-together and direct contributions received via the website. Given below is the detailed breakdown.

Income

September Event Tickets Sale	\$16,600
Donations	\$3,960
Event Souvenir sale	\$150
Total	\$20,710

Final Budget Statement 2022

Income 2022	\$20,710
Expenses	\$11,722
Carry Forward from 2021	\$154
Net Amount in hand as of Dec. 31 2022	\$9142

Expenses

September Get together & Fundraiser.

Hall	\$5,000
Caterers	\$4,718
Projector	\$480
PayPal Expenses	\$403
Food Handlers	\$550
DJ	\$300
Cake	\$150
Ticket Printing	\$41
Miscellaneous	\$80
Total	\$11,722

We would like to thank everyone who attended the event, to make it a success and others who have contributed directly to the UoP fund. All the contributions to the Association is Tax Deductible and for those of you directly contributed to the UoP fund should have received a letter from Udaya Silva, our treasurer to help you with 2022 tax deductions. If you have contributed but have not received the supporting letter to claim your tax deductions, please inform Udaya (uopaa.usa@gmail.com).

Fundraising Continues

As you are aware these are difficult times in Sri Lanka, and by coming together as a community, we can make a difference in the University and Students. The funds raised from the Association will be used to support various causes in UoP and help those students in need. We hope that you will continue to work with UPAA-USA and contribute your part towards making a positive impact on our alma mater. Your donations are tax-deductible, and any amount contributed would be extremely helpful and appreciated. To donate: <https://www.upaa-usa.org/donations/>



Ongoing Projects with University

Studentship Awards (Funds for Needy Students)

We worked with the Alumni Association of University of Peradeniya (AAUP) and its student welfare group and transferred funds for NINE needy students, one from each of the nine faculties. Each student will receive Rs. 5000 per month for a 12-month period. These students were vetted by each faculty representative for their needs and list of names were provided to us by the AAUP. We plan to continue this effort throughout the year working with AAUP and respective faculties.

Wi-Fi Access to Residential Halls

Working with UoP Infrastructure and IT Network Management Team, we are looking to installing Wi-Fi routers in selected halls. Currently, all the academic buildings, faculty and staff offices in the University have Wi-Fi capabilities with good bandwidth, but no service available in residential halls. The objective of this project is to tap the Wi-Fi from faculties and extend the service to nearby residential halls by laying underground cables and installing routers/access points in residential halls. We have selected two residential halls a men’s and women’s – Akbar (which is next to Engineering Faculty) and Wijewardena (Near Science Faculty) as a pilot project. Given below is the cost estimate received from the University for the Akbar Hall. We are awaiting the cost estimate for Wijewardena Hall, and we expect it to be in the similar range. Since the funds in hand are not sufficient, we seek your contribution to this pilot project (especially from those of you lived in Akbar/Nell and Wijewardena)

Estimated Expenses for the WIFI project for Akbar Hall in SL Rupees.

Networking Equipment including installation	Rs.4,320,000
UTP Cabling including installation	Rs.300,000
Fiber Cabling including installation	Rs.2,705,000
Total (approximately \$25000)	Rs.7,325,000

Funds to the Physics Department – Help Upgrade Physics Teaching Labs!

The Physics Department of Peradeniya University is in dire need of help to purchase much-needed teaching aids/materials. Many instruments are either broken or completely outdated, making it difficult for the faculty to provide quality teaching. To help address this issue, we are calling on all Physics alumni and others to lend their support and contribute toward purchasing new instruments and materials. With your help, we can ensure that students receive a quality education.

Most of what that department requested were demonstration kits and Oscilloscopes (14) for the electronics lab. The Department maintains a webpage https://sci.pdn.ac.lk/physics/docs/notices/donations_2021.pdf showing the details of the current donation drive. We are planning to ship all these items by mid – April. Please support us with this drive, you can access the sign-up sheet to order the items. [Sign-Up Sheet](#) [UoP Physics Dept Project](#) Alternatively, if you would rather make a cash donation, you can do so via our website <https://www.upaa-usa.org/donations/>

Annual Get-together 2023

Based on your feedback after our last get together, you have indicated that the Annual Alumni Get Together is an important event for alumni to stay connected and keep in touch with each other. It provides a platform for alumni to share their experiences and learn from each other. We are excited to announce that **this year get-together will**

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be in the Washington DC area on the Labor Day weekend as shown below. Please mark your calendar. We will communicate detailed information in due course.

Date: Saturday September 2, 2023. **Time:** 5 pm to Midnight

Venue: The Atrium Banquet Hall, 3 Research Ct, Rockville MD 20850

The banquet hall is attached to the Rockville Hotel Ramada by Wyndham <https://silkparties.com/maryland-1>

We are grateful that more than 15 UoP MD and VA area regional alumni have come together and shown their support for organizing this get together to ensure that the event will be a successful and enjoyable for everyone attending.

Planning for Higher Studies in USA: A Webinar Series to the University of Peradeniya Students

We are planning a series of information sessions for the undergraduate students in all the nine faculties at UoP who are interested in pursuing higher education in the USA. In these sessions, which includes a panel discussion with experts, we plan to provide information how to choose between a PhD and a master's program, application process and requirements, how to select a university and a research group, application preparation, completing aptitude tests, details about financial support, and how to maximize the chances of getting succeeded in the process. We hope to conduct the first session in late April 2023. We are looking for resourceful volunteers from each of the nine faculties to help here sharing their experiences. Please reach us at email below.

Meet the Pera Alumni Entrepreneurs

Calling all UoP Alumni Entrepreneurs to be part of the interactive session (via Zoom) that we are organizing to recognize our alumni entrepreneurs who started or owned companies/business in the USA. The event is planned during the summer, and we would like to showcase your innovative technologies and services offered to fellow alumni via a Teams call. Please get back to us, and we will work with you on the logistics.

Regional Gatherings

We believe, regional alumni gatherings are a great way for individuals to build connections, expand their professional network, and stay connected with people in the same field or industry. These events also serve as a platform for alumni to get together and share their experiences from the past. It allows them to reminisce about their time in college and create new memories with their former batchmates.

Working with regional alumni, we plan to have several regional gatherings in different parts of the USA such as Washington DC area (in preparation for upcoming get together), the West Coast, the Midwest, and Northwest regions. We plan to host these gatherings this Spring/Summer, so please be on the lookout for related information. If you like to help us organize an event in your area, please contact us at email below.

As always, if you have any comments, suggestions, and feedback, please let us know.

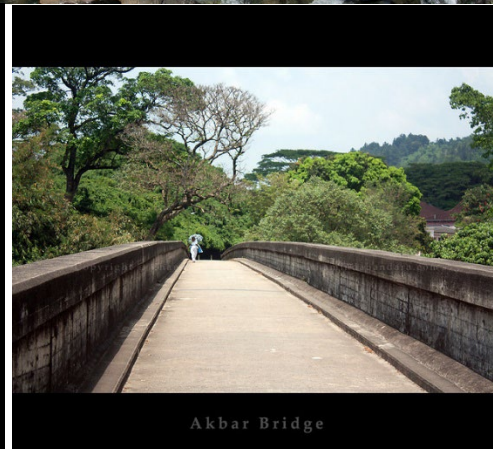
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