

# HARTLEY COLLEGE



**PAST PUPILS ASSOCIATION - COLOMBO BRANCH**

## NEWS LETTER

Newsletter of Hartley College  
Past Pupils' Association - Colombo Branch  
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EDITOR : Mr.K.K.Canagherajah  
Address : 10/4, Rudra Mawatha, Colombo 06  
Telephone : 2360001

**LET THERE BE LIGHT**

# University education in Sri Lanka, Neighbouring India & Singapore

Now, more than ever before, students of higher forms and their parents, are hell bent on seeking admission to the University the highest seat of education. In Sri Lanka ( then Ceylon ) this was an exclusive preserve of the elite in general and of the leading Schools in the Capital & the Provincial Capitals. With the advent of "free education" and shift in prominence of Indigenous Languages over the alien Language, despite the preponderance it holds in the Globe, the rural children & their schools are vying with the urban children and succeeding in filling most of the admissions.

With the advent of rural children in their numbers to the cosmopolitan cities they bring in the wake, the unforeseen & unexpected problems to the University hierarchy. The most important being the indiscipline of a new dimension, resulting in deaths in most barbaric way of ragging, and another equally important problem being the total lack of English knowledge. Unlike in schools where subjects are taught from text books of renowned authors for different subjects, University education does not restrict to text book education only. This is a seat where new theories are expounded and research carried out mostly in Science & Technology. If not for the Scientist produced by famous universities, the vast stride made in transport, technology, space exploration, the study of ocean volcanoes earthquakes and even ozone zone is not possible.

Will all these be possible in vernacular languages at the University?. The Professors, Deans go on their sabbatical leave to further their knowledge to other countries for which English is a must. Even the Physicians & Surgeons travel to U.K. or USA to update their knowledge in their respective discipline, for all of which English is imperative. After setting the clock behind by as many years by depriving children of English education, a rapid revision of a year or two will not equip the students the sufficient knowledge to undertake any worthy higher studies. Turning around unproductive arts graduate in large numbers is just wasting large funds and much required space for the students. Instead a well planned vocational training at secondary school level could be provided for. Another way out is to divert students according to their aptitudes to Technical education. Even carpentry, masonry,

welding are in great demand in an expanding city like Colombo, but they are hard to find.

At the beginning under Sir Ivor Jennings there was only one University that of University of Ceylon Peradeniya, & the Law College and Medical College located at Colombo. In order to cater to the increase in demand for University admissions with the resurgence of rural areas Universities were set up almost in most Provincial Capitals save a few provinces. The mode of selection is based on a competitive GCE (A/L/) examination. The best students are chosen to the Colombo & Peradeniya Universities in that sequence & the last in order of merit gets the latest University which obviously will not have the cream of academic staff. But when the finals results are announced for a particular course lasting four years, in the same field the student who was lower down in the list & went to the latest University obtains a First Class where as the best student who went to Colombo just manages a Second Lower. Unless there is a dramatic change in the performance of the student which is highly unlikely, the examinations must be centralized and all the papers corrected at Colombo, to remedy awkward situation. The medical graduates passing out of Jaffna and other places are similarly on a bad wicket compared to their Colombo brethren as their final MBBS is not recognized outside Sri-Lanka. But this inequality in status of their final degree is attached to some unfortunate students despite the fact all get through the same entrance examination.

The First Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew has stated in a press interview that he put Singapore firmly on the world map after cessation from Malaysia by continuing with English as the " Working Language " while continuing with Chinese Malay & Tamil for the respective ethnic group in their schools, but English is compulsory for all. This negates the use of any translators and children can face the world with courage & confidence whilst acquiring all the benefits of Technological & Industrial advancement, which is home to English speaking countries and other European countries. The National University of Singapore is a world recognized University, and the Hospitals at Singapore are second to none in South- East Asia.

A visit to our neighbouring India would convince us to the excellent standard maintained in the Medical Colleges & the famous Institutes of Information Technology. The same standard is maintained even in the private hospitals where lots of Sri Lankans take wing for medical attention. In a huge mass of land and a population exceeding 1.3 billion with as much as 14 major languages, similar to Singapore they maintain English as a link language and for the Universities, which is the only way they can be abreast of developed countries. They endeavour to break the isolation with the rest of the world in particular the developed world. In fact they are striving hard to secure a place in the Security Council with the all time great 15 nations from the original 7. In India & Singapore strikes are unheard of. In India even private Medical Colleges are affording plenty of opportunity to qualify augmenting the supply by Government Medical Colleges. The Hospitals especially the private managed, are well equipped & manned by renowned Physicians, Surgeons & Paramedical Staff and are second only to Singapore.

The University graduates of varied fields were fountain of knowledge in the yester years, due to creative thinking they were encouraged to do at University level, unlike the present day

counterparts. In order to encourage creativity the environment conducive to pursue creative thinking & analytical mind must be provided in the University. On the contrary every other month the Universities are crippled by futile strikes, in Sri Lanka, which is largely engineered by arts graduants who visualize rather late that there is no scope at the end of their University career.

With globalization the presence of Foreigners either to invest or as consultants are ever increasing and how can our educated youths interact with them without a sound knowledge of the International Language. Gone are the days when one country could keep aloof, now in one or other way, each country is drawn into the world forum or Regional Bodies, which again demands a sound & comprehensive knowledge in English to understand, deliberate & take concerted decision on world affairs.

We do not have our own expertise and the resources to develop the country and more the reason we need to have universities which will turn out worthy scholars capable of preparing blue-prints for the development of the country with the limited resources available.

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## Report on AGM 2007.

The Annual General Meeting of the Past Pupils' Association of the Hartley College Colombo Branch was held on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2007 at Global Towers Hotel Marine Drive Wellawatte Colombo-06, with the incumbent President in the chair. The Principal of the College who is also the Patron Ex-Officio graced the occasion. There was the assemblage of youthful and old faces at the fellowship from 9.00 to 10.00 A.M. Amongst the older people majority are Executive committee members & some were accompanied with their spouses & children. However the youthful members stole the show in their numbers which is a recent trend observed in the AGMs'. for the past few years. Although one such member is now the Treasurer, others show reluctance to shoulder responsible positions, partly due

to being engaged in pursuits to better their social standing/venturing Overseas and the other being their inadequacy in the English Language.

The meeting commenced at 10.00 A.M.. After lightning the traditional oil lamp by the President & few others, the soul rendering College song followed. Thereafter all stood in silence & observed two minutes silence in remembrance of our members who had departed from us during the last year up to the time of the AGM. President made the welcome speech followed by Patron's report on School activities Secretary's report for the year under review was read out which was proposed & seconded and adopted with a few corrections. The Patrons presentation was acclaimed by those present as a good effort & all were in unison that in the footsteps

of the earlier remarkable Principals the current Principal would glorify the College and usher in the Theivendrarajah era.

As pointed in the last two issues of the Newsletter guest Speakers which were an outstanding feature in the yesteryears AGMs' are conspicuous by their absence now, mainly due to the dearth of Speakers, and the other being the time constraint, to hand over the Hall within a stipulated time. Guest speaker like late Mr. K.B. Ratnayake was par-excellent in delivering speeches both in English & Tamil interspersed with hilarious anecdotes which made the audience break into laughter which reverberated in the Hall

The National anthem marked the end of the AGM and members dispersed to have their appetizer while the ladies and few members joined the sumptuous lunch. The day's proceeding came to an end with the draw of the raffle of the lunch tickets and there were ten lucky winners. Hampers for all winners were donated by Mr K.Mathivanan. The following were elected Office bearers for the ensuing year2007/2008.:-

President :

Mr. V. Rajanayagam.

Immediate Past President:

Mr. S. Balachandran.

Vice Presidents:

M/s K.K.Canagherajah—Also Editor,  
S.G.Deva,  
V.Jeyarajah,  
K.Mathivanan,  
T. Ragunathan,  
K.B. Rajalingam,  
M.Raveendrakumar,  
M. Thiruneelakandan,  
N.Vishnukanthan,  
Dr. M. Ramajeyam,

Secretary:

Dr. T. Kathiravetpillai,

Asst Secretary:

Mr. S. Selvendra  
( in place of Mr. Kanendran who  
left for overseas)

Treasurer:

Mr. R. Manoranjan,

Asst Treasurer:

Mr. V. Balasurendran.

Committee Members:

M/s P. Anpalagan,  
S. Balaindran,  
D.R.Arumainayagam,  
R. Jananthan,  
K. Kaneshyogan,  
S. Ranjan,  
Siva Krishnamoorthy,  
R.Shri Sivaya,  
M. Sunthar,  
R. Suntharanathan,  
M. Thayaparan,  
S. Yogendranathan,  
S. Janakan,  
N. Suganthan,  
S. Selvendra.  
( Since elected as Asst Secretary)

Names of Patrons & Vice Patrons are as follows:-

PATRON:

Mr. V. Theivendrarajah –  
Principal –Ex-Officio

Vice Patrons :

Capt S. Chinniah  
Mr. Chella Padmanathan,  
Justice.S.Anandacoomaraswamy,  
Mr. V. Mahathevan,  
Mr. M. Ganeshan.

( Vice Patrons hold office for a period of three years. )

# Presidents Address at the AGM.



Unlike in the past years, the AGM of 29<sup>th</sup> July 2007 was marked by the absence of an outgoing President & an incoming President as the Executive Committee wanted the incumbent President to continue & he also gracefully accepted it. The keynote of his speech was that he would endeavour to do his best to promote the activities of the Association & he is also of the opinion that there is always room for improvement.

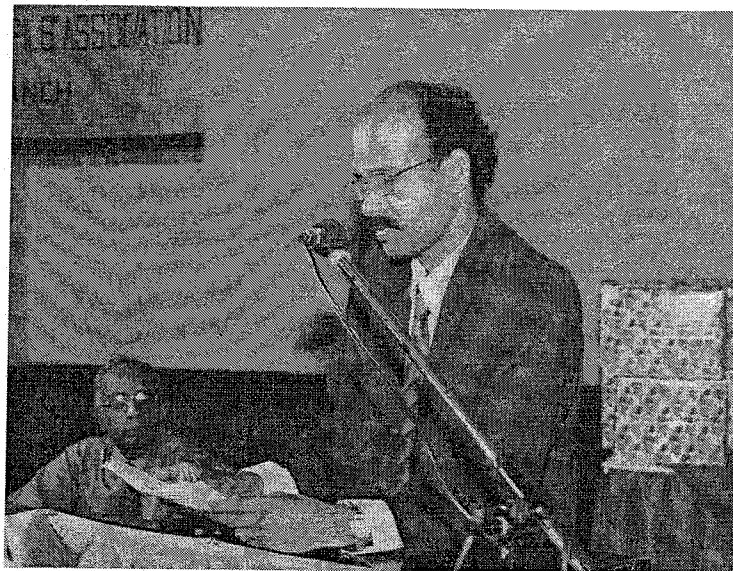
The Past Pupils Association are playing a pivotal role in providing infrastructure to certain schools like building a swimming pool in one of the Colombo Colleges (Thurstan College). On our part there are some scholarship funds donated by well wishers & from the interest generated needy students are assisted. The PPA coordinates with the Principal and help in furnishing books & sporting materials. The new President said he would take a keener interest in all these matters and will be in constant touch with the Principal to sort out problem. He also stressed the fact that there are so many young Hartlyites

who are in Colombo & well employed but yet they are not members of PPA. Another aspect is that those students who are benefiting from the various scholarships on completion of their different courses must do more active work for the betterment of the School.

The President also subscribes to the view that there is always room for improvement. This concept will energize the members not to sit on their laurels but strive hard to improve further on their achievements. This applies equally to students, executive committee members, the Principal & his dedicated team of Teachers. This theory is behind most of the scientific inventions the fruits of which we enjoy.

He concluded his short speech with a brief note of certain events during his teacher days & as Asst Director of Education.

## Patron's address at the PPA Colombo Branch on 29th July



The most awaited item on the agenda of the A.G.M. was the Principal's Report and the Principal of Hartley College Mr. Theivendrarajah commenced his presentation by addressing President H.C PPA, Members of the Executive Committee, Patron President & Secretary of Matale Science College, members of the PPA, ladies & gentlemen and went on to deliver his speech covering the under noted subjects:-

The Schools received new curriculum stressing not where we are today but where we will be tomorrow? Not retaining the known but revising the known. Not bearing the pre-determined but exploring what are not determined. Not constructing what is, but constructing what might be. Based on the afore-stated four points the schools are required to give a comprehensive & competency education. The overall result on the students will be enhancement of knowledge, formulating correct attitude, development of skills and affording opportunities to practice their skills. The Principal stressed that the accomplishment of the above-stated goals requires in no small measure total commitment of the dedicated staff, which fortunately Hartley is complimented with.

He later dealt with in detail the results of G.C.E. ( O/L ) & G.C.E. ( A/L ) which subject was covered in our "News letter" of June 30<sup>th</sup> 2007. He also profusely thanked the Jaffna zonal Director for helping with the year end examination papers for O/L, which was a real blessing for the students. For A/L students the

Staff guild proposed & introduced a "merit card" system which will enable the students to collect 6 merit cards before they complete their studies, provided they score more than 65%, which is a sure indicator of the chances of the student to enter the University. Under co-curricula activities the Chess competition was covered in the last issue of the "News Letter" so with the Staff at the College.

The study of English is being given utmost importance as the Jaffna students finding themselves fish out of water, when they come to the Metropolis, equally without any spoken knowledge of Sinhala. More than anything else English serves as the Link Language between the two communities. From grade 6 to grade 10 there are students following in the English medium, and the academic staff are able to coach them up.

After covering in the first part- the vision of the college, he went on to the second part of the "Mission" of the School. This is covering the aspect of the Students. We would steadfastly endeavour to fulfill the aspirations of the students, by providing a comprehensive, competitive and innovative education in a friendly environment by a competent & motivated staff. The fruition of the mission would ensure the fulfillment of the "Vision" He appealed to the members of the PPA to provide permanent staff for the teaching of Information Technology & English. The importance both English & computer literacy cannot be overemphasized in the context of globalization & Foreign Universities opening vistas for students of other Countries.

### **Photographic Society.**

Principal has established a photographic society with the view to developing inherent talent in certain students. This is a skilled thriving industry. Dr. Nithy Chinniah donated a video camera worth more than one & a half lakhs sometime back which is being used now by the students. Mr. Kugan of the "Kugan Studio" also donated some cameras & other accessories. Mr. Kugan went a further step and gave practical training to the Society members. Principal is keen on this project as this will lead to some students involved in private entrepreneurship.

### **Library development program**

In addition to the College library, a children's library has also been established. The owner of Sithamparapillai book depot Nelliady, Mr. Sivam donated three big library tables & book shelves. The novel idea behind it, is to catch them young to cultivate the habit of reading.

### **Monthly General Knowledge competition.**

This is held every month & encourages students to learn outside their text books & listen to talks over the radio & T/V and read newspapers.

### **Newsletters**

The Teachers, students & past pupils all discuss about the newsletter and gather knowledge as to how some are donating generously for the betterment of the Alma-Mater and also thrilled to learn about the distinguished past pupils of Hartley College.

### **Mission for the Academic Staff.**

Staff members are treated as Partners for institutional betterment persuading them to achieve a set goal by team work. Simultaneously they are offered opportunities to improve their personal academic achievement, whilst recognizing & rewarding those delivering highest level of academic service. There are quality circles for various development programs such as library, laboratory, sports, school maintenance, & annual school programs. All the teachers are advised to do their post graduate studies. He adopts Management principles which enable the teachers to work independently towards their specialization. There is transparency in his dealings & he adopts open management approach.

### **Mission for the Society.**

Due to the behaviour of teachers & students they are respected by the Society at large. On the part of the College they will contribute to the cultural, educational, ecological, economic & social development of the area. The "Body Language" approach is slowly but steadily being implemented as practiced by the distinguished Principal Late Mr. Pooranampillai, such as to face interviews, communication skills etc.

### **Field work Centre.**

Similar to field work center at Thondamanaru, a field study centre was set up at the College at the instance of the Education department, and all students from Vadamardchy participated.

### **Memorial Lectures.**

In a befitting manner to revere the past pupils who excelled in studies & brought honour to the Alma-Mater, it has been decided to have memorial lectures. The inaugural lecture will be held on Late Professor Alagiah Thurairajah, who was the Vice-Chancellor of Jaffna University at the time of his demise. The lecture will take place on 10<sup>th</sup> November the birth day of the late Professor.

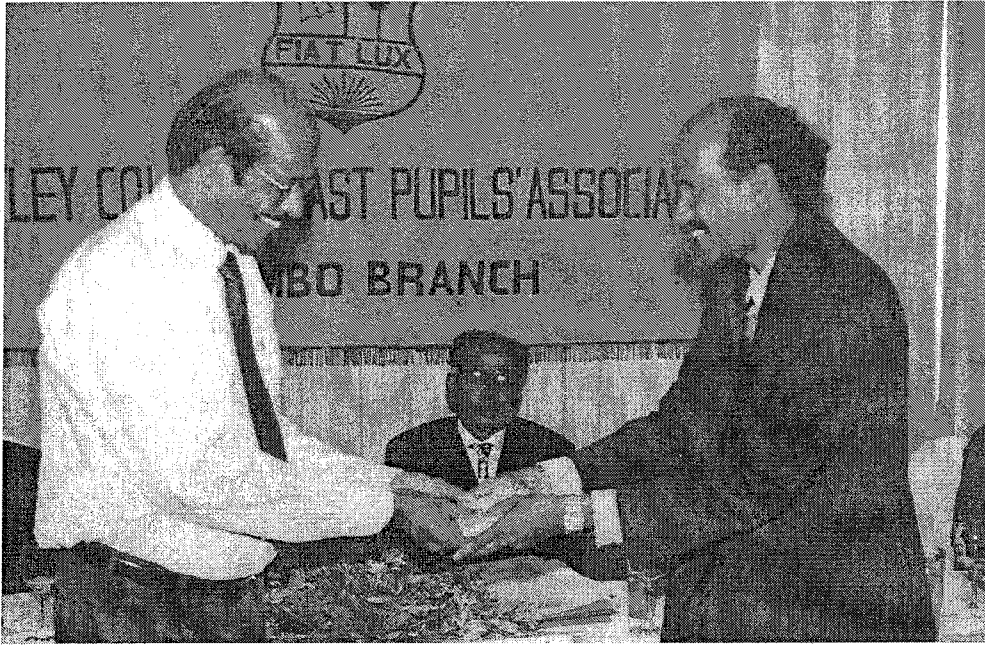
In conclusion he thanked the PPA Colombo Branch for giving a number of scholarship for deserving students who have lack of resources to pursue their higher studies. The scholarship is possible due to some benevolent members or as a collective effort.

### **Shanthi & Vasanthi Pooranampillai.**

At the request of the Principal both the above-named readily acceded to give a bursary to one student who is reading at the University of Jaffna. Ms Vasanthi also gives a once & for all award to a student entering Medical Faculty every year. Although they studied at the HSC for two years, their zeal for the College is amazing!

In keeping with the concept arrived at the conference on the subject of 'Millenium Goals in Education for all by 2015' held in BANGKOK, the Principal will work towards achieving this end, with his dedicated Staff.

## Mr. Bandara's act of gesture.



Mr. Bandara who is the Patron of Matale Science College, made short but spell bounding speech at the AGM. In his cool and composed manner he delivered his speech enunciating about the greatness of Late Mr. Ratnasabapathy, which the audience listened in rapt attention.

It was a sheer beauty when he spoke in detail how he could not pursue his A/L studies due to domestic consideration. However Late Mr. Ratnasabapathy had other ideas about Mr. Bandara when he was lad, due to his scoring 98% at the College admission Examination, for Mathematics, Late Mr. Ratnasabapathy's & Mr. Bandara's favourite subjects. With the view to put an end to school career and seek employment Mr Bandara had attempted earlier to get his school leaving certificate, without success. On the other hand he was reprimanded by Late Mr. Ratnasabapathy for trying to leave the school.. On the reopening day for the fresh academic year, when Mr Ratnasabapathy was delivering a key note address to the students of how the students should commence the A/L class and study there after, Mr Bandara was also there patiently listening, with no intention of continuing his higher studies only waiting to get his school leaving certificate.

.Like a bolt from the blues, when the address was over, a peon delivered at his desk new books required for his A/L. studies, which Late Mr. Ratnasabapathy has bought for him, without even whispering about it any time prior to this event. Because of Mr. Bandara's brilliant performance in the Math's paper Late Mr. Ratnasabapathy had decided that he should continue his higher studies.

After enunciating about Mr. Ratnasabapathy's greatness, he read a sentence from the "Newsletter" June 2007 edition as follows. "Mr Ratnasabapathy took the principalship on the stride, and the library and the laboratory were his heaven" "The library was reduced to ashes as a result of onslaught of Sri Lankan forces" Mr. <sup>Bandara</sup> Ratnasabapathy was highly moved by this statement he promptly donated a sum of Rs. 50,000/= ( Rupees Fifty thousand ) to the PPA to replenish the Library with useful books. The President accepted the donation and thanked him profusely. We also wish to put on record that his gesture is very much appreciated and it is a sure sign to strengthen the bondage existing between the two schools Hartley College & Matale science College.



# PROFESSOR ALAGIAH THURAIRAJAH



With the fervent desire to inspire young Hartleyites – would be renowned Mathematicians and engineers – we reproduce a memorial oration delivered at the Uduppiddy American Mission College hall on 11<sup>th</sup> June 207, by Prof M.Nadaraja sundaram Dean of the faculty of Management, University of Jaffna.

Principal, President Past Pupils Association, members of the school community, respectful citizens of the area, colleagues, students, ladies and gentlemen.

I consider it a great honor to have been given this opportunity to deliver this years Prof. Thurairajah memorial lecture.

Born on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November 1934 in the village of Imayanan in the Jaffna District, Professor Thurairajah had his early education in the two American Mission Colleges in Uduppiddy. He had a brilliant academic record at Hartley College, Point Pedro to which he had moved to obtain his secondary education. Professor Thurairajah entered the faculty of Engineering, University of Ceylon in 1953 and graduated with First Class Honours in 1957. His performance in the first degree examination won him a scholarship to do postgraduate research work at the prestigious University of Cambridge. At Cambridge he worked with an eminent researcher in soil mechanics, the late Professor K.H. Roscoe. Their pioneering work in their properties of soils led to the

development of a new model of the Simple Shear Apparatus for soil testing and this work culminated in the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy to Professor Thurairajah in 1961. After a brief period of employment as a soils engineer in London, Professor Thurairajah returned to Sri Lanka to accept an appointment as a lecturer in Civil Engineering at the University of Ceylon in July 1962 and remained in the academic field until his demise on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June, 1994. During this period he rapidly climbed the academic ladder and became the Professor of Civil Engineering at Peradeniya Campus of the University of Sri Lanka in December 1971. Whilst on the staff of the Peradeniya Faculty Prof. Thurairajah held appointments as visiting Professor at the University of Waterloo (1969 to 1970) and at the University of British Columbia (1977/1978) when he was on sabbatical leave. He also served as the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Peradeniya for two terms. In April 1985 he moved over to the Open University of Sri Lanka to take the chair of Civil Engineering and became the Dean of the newly established Faculty of Engineering Technology in April 1987. In September, 1988 Prof. Thurairajah was appointed as the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jaffna. He readily accepted this appointment which provided an opportunity to serve his people although under very trying circumstances.

Professor Thurairajah took an active interest in research while at the University of Peradeniya, the Open University of Sri Lanka and University of Jaffna which led to the training of a large number of research students.

His research in the field of Geotechnical Engineering both in the basic and applied aspects resulted in several publication in national and international journals. He also presented his research finding at various international conferences. Professor Thurairajah was accepted as a leader in his field and was appointed as consultant for several project in the public and private sectors. He served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Janasaviya Trust

Fund and as a member of the Tertiary and vocational Educational commission.

In recognition of his expertise in his field, Professor Thurairajah was elected as a fellow of the institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka and as a fellow of the Institute of Civil Engineers, London. He was also founder member of the National Academy of Science Sri Lanka. Professor Thurairajah held the post of the President Institute of Engineers Sri Lanka (1989/90) and the post of the President of the Jaffna Science Association (1991/92).

Professor Thurairajah's service as the Vice-Chancellor of the University of the Jaffna extended over a period of six years when the University and region was experiencing great difficulties. He was able to keep the University functioning against many odds. During his stewardship several developmental programs were instituted at the university and a number of courses started. He was instrumental in the establishment of (i) the Vice-Chancellor's fund for helping the needy students. (ii) the research fund to encourage young academic staff in research and (iii) the publication fund to help the staff to publish their research findings. The worker education programme, the extra mural studies programme and the external degree programme of the university were commenced with his encouragement and help. The faculty of Agriculture and the Ramanathan Academy of fine arts were upgraded to a Department of Study during his period of service. He worked indefatigably towards the establishment of a Faculty of Engineering and was successful in making a start with the appointment of Professor of Civil Engineering.

In addition to rendering valuable service to the University Professor Thurairajah was engaged in several community development project. He served on the committees of several non governmental organizations. He was the president of the "Ootru" organization for several years. Professor Thurairajah was humble and human person interested in the upliftment of the weaker section of the community and

worked hard to improve their living standard. With accolades, and acclaim coming from all quarters, he never lost his humility.



(Oration Delivered by  
Prof M. Nadarajasundaram )

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## **Prof Thurairajah's Consultancy work & Publications**

(For the benefit of Research Students)

### **Consultancy Experience**

- i) Carried out site investigation, Laboratory testing and preparation of report for a number of foundation problems in Sri Lanka.
- ii) Worked as a consultant for the construction of Heen Ganga Project at Kantalai which consists of an earth dam, Flood protection bundsspilway and irrigation channels, for Sri Lanka Tobacco Industries Corporation.
- iii) Worked as soil consultant for the foundation works of the urea fertilizer Plant at Sapugaskanda for State Fertilizer Manufacturing Corporation.
- iv) Worked as Foundation Consultant for a housing scheme built on the slopes of Hantane hills in Kandy.
- v) Served in Technical Committees of the Ministry of Local Government Housing and Construction, monitoring the progress of the construction of many high rise buildings.
- vi) Foundation Consultant for a housing scheme built on marshy lands at Crow Island, Mattakuliya.
- vii) Soil Consultant to the National Building Research Organization, Sri Lanka.

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34. Thurairajah, A. (1988) "Education and Training of Engineers in Sri Lanka" First World Congress on Engineering Education & Training, November, 1988. Nepal.
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## Nesamany Mahesan Memorial scholarship Fund.



Mr. M. Ganeshan an Engineer by Profession and a retired Project Director of Asian Development Bank Manilla, donated a sum in Rs.1,000,000/=(Rupees One million only), in memory of his mother for the above-stated Scholarship Fund. The fact that the Trust Deed has been well received by both the "Settlor" & "Trustees" is ample testimony of the good work done by the three Lawyers.

The object of the Trust is to meet, attend & provide the necessary requirements for the advancement of social welfare as may be conducive to the interest & well being of the past and present pupils of Hartley College Point Pedro.

. Amongst others, the following important points have been incorporated in the Trust, which is a joint effort of Attorneys -At - Law, M/s N.Vishnukanthan, Mr A.Gnanathan & Mr S. Mandaleswaran.

The salient features are as follows:-

1 The income generated from the investment will be utilized to pay monthly allowance of .1,500/= each.

1 B - The duration of the scholarship shall be the duration of the course.

2 The amount may be increased depending on the income generated & the sustainability of the Trust Deed

3 This is to come in to effect from 2007-2008, on the results of 2006 A/L/Examination

4 To begin with one scholarship, but to be increased depending on the availability of income generated.

5 Selection to be based on academic performance coupled with co-curricular activities.

6 Scholarship will be terminated, if recipient ceases to be undergraduate or intrusion to his study.

6 B The trust Property disbursed should not exceed 80% of the net income.

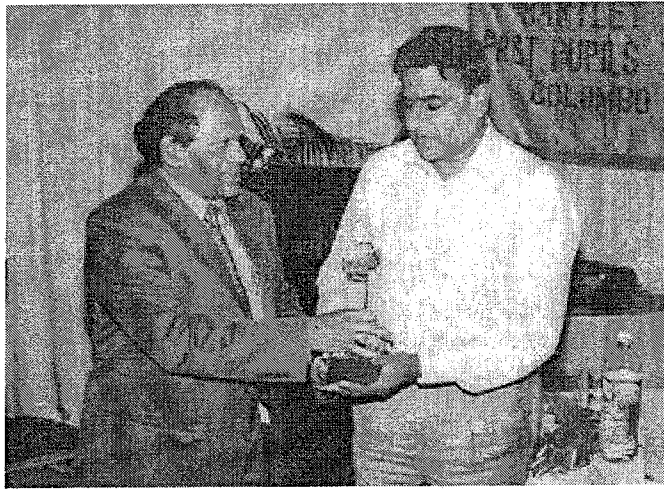
6 CA five year cash flow projection is to be used as guidance for the consideration of the awards.

7 Proper accounts must be maintained of all disbursements, & income generated.

8 In the event of committing a breach of the trust, the trustees are liable to make good the loss.

9 in all other respects the trust is irrevocable.

## FELICITATION CEREMONY - Mr. K.MATHIVANAN



The PPA had felicitation ceremony to only a handful, namely Mr. Anandacoomaraswamy on his appointment as a Supreme Court Judge, Mr. T. E. Anandarajah as IGP and Late Mr. S.Mahendran as a President's Counsel. All the afore-stated were for academic distinction. On account of Sports activities the Executive Committee decided to have felicitation ceremony for Mr Mathivanan for the honour he brought to the Alma- Mater on account of his contribution to National Cricket..

On Mr. Mathivanan's appointment, first to the interim committee of the Cricket Board of Sri Lanka the proposed ceremony did not take off the ground, mainly due to the non-availability of Mathy to attend the function. He is no ordinary man, although he has not lost touch with whom he moved hitherto, but with his multi-varied functions, time is hard to come by. The honourable Minister of Sports has now appointed him as the Secretary to the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri-Lanka, and unlike yester years matches are played round the year, which means he is pre-occupied with them. How about his booming business for which he has to take important policy decision, and exercise effective control, in addition to meeting the Principals abroad. He is also one time the President of the Colts Cricket Club and now in the management committee.. With all these crowded program he has only 24 hours a day like any others!

Some how or other, he found four hours of his valuable time on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2007, to grace the much awaited felicitation ceremony, which was held at Global Towers Hotel at Marine Drive Wellawatte, Colombo-06, which was attended

to by past pupils of Hartley College of different walks of life and in some cases with their spouses.

The noteworthy feature of this ceremony was a presentation of a Plaque to Mr Mathivanan, by the Chairman of the organizing committee Mr. Vishnukanthan. The latter had done a commendable job in getting the plaque made, and it is more than evident that his experience as Chairman of similar committees in the past has stood him in good stead. In the plaque was written that the souvenir is given for the memorable work done for National Cricket.

As most of the youths who would be taking over the reigns of the PPA Colombo Branch sooner or later, are not well informed about Mathy, an introductory speech about Mr. Mathivanan was made by Mr. D.R. Arumainayagam and Mr. M. Thiruneeakandan. Mr Armainayagam dealt in detail about his school days activities, family background, educational performance his insatiable aptitude for the game of cricket. His liking for the game was so much that he would be the first to come to the grounds and the last to leave. Even on term holidays at 3. 30 P.M he was in the grounds coming in his by-cycle which cannot be called such in any sense of the word as it was devoid of breaks, bell, mudguard and the stand. This bi-cycle carried him eight miles up & down every day. He traveled from "Thunnalai" a hamlet or backwoods four miles to the South of Point Pedro. A solid exercise indeed! For the good fortune of Hartley College he did not get through the 5<sup>th</sup> standard scholarship, as he was learning to ride a bi-cycle as his father promised him a new bi-cycle if he got through the examination.

Mr Arumainayagam later dealt with his present position where he is the owner of a very flourishing and booming business and he attributed this mostly to his better half (Luxhmi) & the only child Sharkshini who have brought the windfall.

Mr Thirunelakandan mainly dealt with his association in the class and playing during intervals & at the grounds. He also said that he was in the forefront of the sports activities together with

Mathy. In terms of Mr. M.Thirunelakandan the greatest quality of both these gentlemen is their intuition of knowing what their capabilities are, and did not waste their time in University entrance and traveled to the Capital and established themselves on a sound & firm footing. The ceremony came to end with the vote of thanks proposed by Mr. K. K.Canagherajah and the National Anthem, and the gathering dispersed to have sumptuous lunch, thanks to the Hotel Management.

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## DR. THAMBIPILLAI KATHIRAVETPILLAI—PRESIDENT LIONS CLUB.



We extend our congratulations to Dr. T. Kathiravetpillai on his being elected the President of the Lions Club of Inner Colombo for the year 2007-2008. Having the foundation at School various Associations and with the expertise our members gain from being in the Association, they hold sway wherever they assume position of importance

For Dr. Kathiravetpillai, his lions club activities started in 1981 when he was at Point Pedro, when he had the good fortune to come under the influence of that great Teacher transformed Chartered Accountant and a champion of the under privileged masses late Mr A Somasunderampillai. The distinctive feature in the lions club is that individuals of social importance and of the same frame of mind group themselves together to be of meaningful assistance to the down trodden masses and to uplift their standard of living. They undertake many social projects like campaigning for Medical Camps and improving their eye sight. They also create an awareness of the silent killer disease "diabetes"

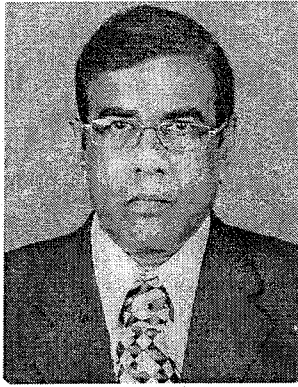
They are organizing inflow of funds from donors in prosperous countries. And also getting hospital equipment & clothing items for disabled persons. In the North due to the scarcity of cement they could not undertake some infra-structure work and with the ground situation not conducive for activities of the nature.

After moving into the Capital with his transfer, he joined the present Lions club in 1993. Here they are running a school for the mentally retarded children at Dehiwela and activities at elders' home and actively identifying themselves with UN activities like white cane day, rabies day etc.

Dr. Kathiravetpillai who is a graduate of the University of Ceylon in Veterinary Science in 1972, was at Hartley from 1955 to 1965. He gained a FAO scholarship in 1987-1988, and having served in the North & upcountry rose to the position of Director ( Animal Breeding ) in the Ministry of Livestock Development.

Now he is a much sought after Veterinary Surgeon in the Colombo South, and with his popularity growing high we could expect a still better deal from the Inner Colombo Lions Club.

## Retirement of Mr Siva Krishnamoorthy.



Hartley which had illustrious Principals also contributed from its alumni teachers who became principals or their deputies, at other leading Colleges. Mr Siva Krishnamoorthy is one such who became a vice-Principal at a leading Colombo College that of Bambalapitiya Hindu College.

He joined Hartley College as a Teacher from 1979 to 1989. He showed signs of leadership even when he started as a teacher. He was a good Tamil debater & Speaker and he adorned the Urban Council Point Pedro for seven years. Due to his organizing ability he was appointed to the Committee headed by Professor V.K.Ganehalingam of shifting Hartley College to another location in South of Point Pedro ( Hamlet called Puttalai ) due to the volatile situation in the place where the College is originally located. He served under the tutelage of Late Mr. W.N.S. Samuel & Mr. P. Balasingham. became He took an active interest in Paulpillai House which became champions for three consecutive years.

He moved to Colombo Hindu College in 1989, and gradually ascended the ladder as Sectional Head & Vice-Principal. He had the distinction of working under four Principals, all of whom held him in high esteem and consulted on important school administration matters. The experience he gained stood in good stead in assisting the heads of school.

The hallmarks of his teaching career are diligence, perseverance, sincerity & integrity. In accomplishing any project he will not be contented unless it is brought to fruition. In no small measure did the peace & harmony at home enabled to him to be very successful in public life. His unblemished personal life radiated in all his College endeavours. At school he was acclaimed for his oratory and used to win over students by his articulate speech in his mother tongue dispensing the need for admonishing the students. This is a rare tribute as the present day students are of a different culture who rarely respect Authority, unlike of the students of the years gone by.

Another noteworthy aspect was that he always had time for anyone who wished to meet him despite the call of his varied official duty. His guidance & advice was always available to all the students & young Staff members. For all what he has done to the College & students God has granted mercy to him and all the children are well settled in life, in different pursuits.

For a long time to come his fragrant memories will linger at Hindu College, Bambalapitiya.



# Chess Tournament

Two Chess teams from Hartley College participated in the National Tournament conducted at Issipathana College Colombo-05. Both the teams initially did well but as the tournament progressed they could not compete with some of the leading Colombo Colleges due to their lack of exposure to the digital clock. Arrangements are afoot to get this equipment from Singapore, thanks to M/s K.Mathivanan & Ragnathan. The students must adopt the latest methodology & technology in taking part in National Tournament.

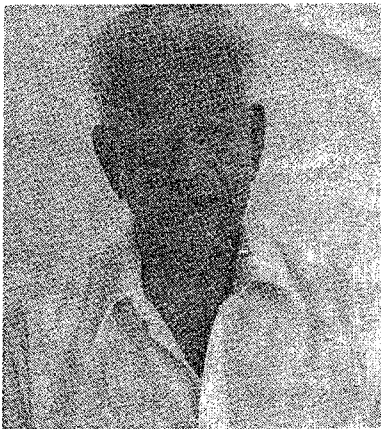
The Participants were hosted for a sumptuous dinner at Hotel Western by some Executive

Committee members. At the Executive Committee which preceded Mr K. Mathivanan gifted each player with a token of Rs.1,000/= each player, again showing his generous quality.

On their way to Jaffna, it is learnt that late Mr. K. B. Ratnayake's daughter hosted all the students coach & the Principal for a grand dinner. The hospitality is greatly appreciated by the Principal, Coach & the students especially when everything was arranged at short notice. We also express our gratitude to her.

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## APPRECIATION--ARUNACHALAM SOMASUNDERAMPILLAI-



The death occurred of the late Mr. A. Somasunderampillai of Hartley College Teaching Staff of the late forties & early fifties on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2007. He was probably the last of the doyen of teaching staff of that era, who placed premium in education in the North. The students who studied under him, of an earlier decade, recall with nostalgia that he had been a teacher, an invaluable friend & a confidante. It is an undisputed fact that he was a teacher par excellence. The writer was told that he had the ability to bring a certain infectious vivacity to the subjects he taught, that made students to await eagerly the next lessons. Mostly these lessons were interspersed with anecdotes, that made ready assimilation of what he taught. .

He was born into a family, where the father himself belonged to the noble profession of teaching, who were revered then by the whole society, as the beacon of light. All his brothers & sisters gained admission to the highest seat of Learning and became Authorities in their different disciplines. He had his secondary education at Hartley and proceeded to St. Joseph's College Trichchy, as he was under aged to enter the University of Ceylon. He won a gold medal at the final examination & Right Honourable Srinivasaga Shastri Gold medal for Oratory in 1948 from the University of Madras (Economics.). Incidentally the latter was the first to be conferred the Knighthood in the East by the British Government & he was considered by the Englishmen as a Master of the English Language.

Due to his spontaneous liking to Accounts, he left teaching and joined the then famous Chartered Accountancy firm of Satchithananda, Schokman & de Silva & Co..and served articles.and passed out as a Chartered Accountant in 1957. He was then attached to the Ceylon Printers limited as the Chief Accountant, till 1968. It was at this stage of his life that a dramatic change took to the better of his life, when he decided to go to Jaffna which brought him into Public life.

He set up his own Accountancy & Auditing firm at Jaffna which was a blessing to the Jaffna businessmen, Corporate bodies & Associations. All the expertise which he gathered at the Capital he put to best use, and to the contentment of all those who approached for a service. The noteworthy feature was that his aim was solely not pecuniary but to be of service to his fellow beings. In recognition of his wealth of knowledge and introducing successfully accounting principles to a larger clientele which was hitherto conspicuous by its absence, the University of Jaffna appointed him to the Advisory Committee of the University. He played a prominent part in the Financial Committee & sports activities in particular during the 13 years when Professors Vidhyananthan, Thurairajah, Gunaratnam & Balasunderampillai were Vice-Chancellors. In all he attended 150 such committee meetings, which speaks of his total commitment. Due to this and his service to the people at large, which subject is dealt with below, he was conferred an Honourary Doctorate, by the University of Jaffna. He had given suggestions in many ways to raise funds for the University and was in the forefront for all prize-giving ceremonies.

He is mostly remembered & revered by the masses of Jaffna for his noble ideals that the homeland of Jaffna Tamils must be self-sufficient and must produce their own requirements. With this end in view he targeted the fisheries industry for which in Jaffna there is lot of potential. He released a book explaining in detail how this subject should be handled for the betterment of all. The shallow water fish has a particular delicacy over the deep sea fish. He underlined that for sustenance of Jaffna man the resources in the sea & cattle farming are equally or more important as tilling the toil.

There was always a simple directness about him which endeared him to most people. For him the love of his People was a top priority. In the same vein he loved his religion too. He was a very concerned human being. His services to the religion was, in helping maintaining & developing Temples although he did not subscribe to all the rituals & customs.

The Sivan Temple was his abode, so was the temple at 'Muravil' the hamlet of his better half. He released a book of stanza on the greatness of Lord Shiva of Puloly Sivan Temple, composed by Madurai Tamil Sangam Pandit Sri Pathmasini

for which the prose was compiled by the renowned Tamil Scholar Dr Manonmani Shanmugathas (Ph.D). At the official launch of this book at the Jaffna University Kailasapathy Hall, all the sale proceeds were donated to Thirunelvelly Hindu Orphanage.

The last of his many faceted life is relating to his philanthropy. Service to lesser privileged & orphanage were his priorities. Among the beneficiaries of his benevolent deeds are Educational Institutions like Vada Hindu Girls College, Methodist Girls College, Uduppiddy American Mission Girls College, literary & cultural association like Sampanthar Kalagham & Orphanages like at Thinnavelly & Elders' Home at Kaithady.

He found himself at solace and bliss in orphanages & "Ashramam" & pooled contribution to make "Thali" for marriageable girls, himself contributing a lion share. At a time when goods were dear in Jaffna and services could not be obtained, the benevolent acts of late Somasunderampillai speak in silence of his humane nature, especially in the present materialistic world.

He was a man of sterling qualities, a dignified human, endowed with refinement in speech and behaviour and above all his steadfast commitment in the values he believed in. His love for the Traditional Homeland of Tamils knew no bounds, as he firmly stood to his principle of not moving from Point Pedro, amidst untold misery firstly in the advent of Indian Forces succeeded by the onslaught of Sri Lankan forces, despite packing his family lock stock & barrel out of Jaffna peninsula. According to his wishes he breathed his last at his home town. A great soul indeed who loved his land, people, language & Religion

To the bereaved we express our profound sorrow, and confirm that they are not alone in their suffering in silence, and we cherish the memories of this outstanding man.

# Congratulations

**MR. S. SHANMUGANATHAN**  
Director at Lake House.

We congratulate Mr Shanmuganathan on being appointed as a Director at the Lake House. He will be overseeing the financial management & banking aspect of the Establishment. A Chartered Accountant by profession, he was also a Banker. Since of late he was managing his own business.

He is also the Chairman of the Hartley College Trust.

**Mr C KATHIRGAMAR.**

We extend to Mr. C. Kathirgamar, our heartiest congratulation on having won the Singles & Doubles championship in the Veterans Division National Tennis Tournament 2007. Results of the matches are as given below:-

Singles Winner – Mr. C. Kathirgamar –  
Opponent injured during final encounter.

Doubles:- M/s C. Kathirgamar & Priyal  
Rodrigo,  
Beat  
M/s –Merwin Fernando & Sarath  
Jayathilake.

Presentation of awards took place on 26<sup>th</sup>  
August 2007.

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## Leaving for overseas of Mr. S.Kanendran

### On of our active members

Undoubtedly one of the youngsters who did a yeoman service to the PPA is Mr. S. Kanendran, who took flight to Botswana in early part of this year. Easily the single individual who canvassed and enrolled more number of past Hartleyites is Mr. S.Kanendran. He has an appealing manner like his late father Mr. Shanmuganathan and sporting a smile & greeting people. This attribute alone won him many friends vis-a-vis membership for PPA.. He has

the rare stamina to work untiringly towards a set goal. Even in updating the members directory his contribution is immense. With the Secretary pre-occupied with professionalism it is Kanendran who does the spade work.

Although his venturing overseas is a tremendous loss for the well being of the Association, on behalf of the Association we wish to extend to him all the very best of luck in his pursuits overseas.

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## Sponsorship

Mr.M.Thiruneelakandan is sponsoring the publication of this issue of the News Letter ( 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2007 )This is the fifth consecutive year He is sponsoring the publication. Our greatful thanks are to him. With the increase in postage charges of Rs 24 per inland letter and about 60Rs per overseas letter , the postage alone will come to a tidy amount. Further the printing charges are also increased , bringing the total to approximately 18 thousand rupees .So for an Year any person sponsoring will have to spend 36 thousand rupees. The Association is requested to consider ways and means of meeting this expenditure, and not to tax one individual always.

# Compilation of the Colombo Branch PPA s' Directory.

The compilation of the Colombo-branch PPA directory necessarily gets protracted. This is due to more than one reason. The present senior members when they were in their youthful days, there was no frequent necessity to change their place of abode, directly in contrast to present day situation. Moreover there is a quest for constantly attempting to improve their image for the present day youths, which drives them to explore better prospects in life including venturing overseas. All these activities keep them occupied with little or no time for the activities of the Association, so that no feed back is received from them, in respect of their change of address. The casualty in this situation, is the Association, unable to forge ahead as far as the membership drive is concerned and updating the available information.

Notwithstanding the two Committees appointed for the dual purpose has succeeded to a great extent and now the list of the local members has been completed. Yet this is always a changing process, as most do not own their dwelling places. Some of the members living in Foreign soil have expressed their desire to be members of this Association while being members of the Association in their country of domicile. A special word of thanks go to Mr. Selvendra who has aptly filled the vacancy created by Mr Kanendran who took the wings to Botswana. These youths have become masters in the latest technology holding sway in the Metropolis, that of Information Technology, which enables to update information electronically and at incomparable speed & accuracy.

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## OBITUARY.

### 1) Mr. A. Sandrasegaram

We record with profound sorrow the passing away on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2007 of late Mr. A. Sandrasegaram loving father of Mr Shan Shanmuganathan, the Chairman of the Hartley College Trust. He had the distinction of passing out as the first & the youngest graduate from Trincomalee in 1937 and he retired as the head of the Education Department at Trincomalee, ( Education Officer ) Long before his demise, he had the satisfaction of seeing that all his children are embellishing in modern public life in their chosen fields. We extend to the bereaved members of the family our heartfelt condolence.

### 2) Mr R. Sivarajah.

We regret to record the death of Late Mr. R. Sivarajah on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2007. . At the time of his death he was a retired Assistant Director of Customs. He is survived by his wife & two sons. We extend to the family members' our deepest sympathies.