



**THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY
COMMEMMORATIVE PUBLICATION OF
THE
DEPARTMENT OF LAW**

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Message from the Vice Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya



It is with great pleasure that I write this message on the occasion of celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Department of Law in the University of Peradeniya. This Department was established in 2009 under the Faculty of Arts. If we revisit the history in legal education for undergraduates in Peradeniya, it began at the then University of Ceylon (Peradeniya) in the late 1940s. Thereafter, the Department of Law moved to Colombo in the 1960s. And it was after many decades that legal education came back to Peradeniya in 2009.

I understand that the Department of Law has introduced a very modern law degree programme which is inter-disciplinary in nature, based on a strong social justice orientation. It offers new and innovative courses for its students over the years. In the year 2019, a new curriculum has been adopted with the aim of further enhancing the overall quality of legal education offered at the University. I am confident that this novel change would increase the demand in legal studies at Peradeniya. English being the medium of instruction, the LL.B. Degree plays a primary and significant role in building confidence in young professionals with a more global outlook.

I am proud to note here that teaching of law has been facilitated by a committed staff consisting of specialized senior and junior academics,

visiting professionals with legal background over the past decade. Further, the Department of Law has received certain achievements in moot-court competitions, sports and numerous other activities where the students have been able to contribute to enhance the image of this University.

In celebrating this important milestone by the Department of Law, I take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude to the staff for their untiring efforts and contribution in producing excellent legal professionals to this country. I fervently believe that the Department of Law would be able to develop more opportunities for knowledge seekers in the field of legal studies. While appreciating the enormous effort made by the staff of the Department of Law in the University of Peradeniya, I wish this event a great success.

Prof. Upul B. Dissanayake
Vice Chancellor

Message from the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya



It is with great pleasure and honour that I express a few words to congratulate the Department of Law at the 10th anniversary of the Department of Law, Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya, and introspect upon the difficult journey thus far. Legal education in Sri Lanka commenced in late 1940s with the establishment of a Department of Law in the Faculty of Arts of University of Ceylon. The functions of the Department of Law commenced in the premises of the College House, Colombo and moved to Peradeniya in 1950. Sir Ivor Jennings, a prominent constitutional expert, succeeded Sir Robert Marrs, as the Principle of University College in Colombo, who was later appointed as the first Vice Chancellor of University of Ceylon. In 1965, the Department of Law was shifted to the Faculty of Arts in the University of Colombo and upgraded to a Faculty of Law in 1967.

From 1965 to 2008, the University of Peradeniya did not have the privilege of offering a legal education study programme due to many reasons. In 2009, the Department of Law was established under the Faculty of Arts with a LL.B. degree programme. The Bachelor of Laws degree programme was designed after a series of intense debates for the programme to be an intellectually rich study programme that provides advanced knowledge, skills in laws and legal systems that have been embedded in the principles of social sciences and humanities. It is also offered in the English medium only. The degree programme has also embedded aspects of soft skills and critical and creative work in the legal profession. I would like to point out here that the vision of the law study programme in Peradeniya appears to have been grounded

on a long felt need as postulated by legal scholars in Sri Lanka since the 1950's. For instance, writing to the University of Ceylon Review (1956), Nadaraja argued that;

“in the complicated economic and social conditions of modern society, the conception of the lawyer as primarily an advocate and of case law as the typical source of law has become outdated. Legislation has now become the prominent instrument for law making and in many countries only a comparatively few members of the profession now engage in trial practice or appellate court work. Other functions of lawyer, such as counselling, planning, negotiating and drafting, which involve quite different mental aptitudes and skills, and new subjects unknown or at least not common-place a generation or two ago have assumed an importance for the lawyers of the present generation which they did not have for their predecessors. Further, lawyers today are often called upon to advise clients on matters on which other disciplines besides law impinge – for example, economics, politics, sociology, or psychology; and law schools in other countries have agreed that they must attempt to do something about the integration of law with the other social sciences ...”

It is not an exaggeration to state here that this kind of a vision in legal education of Sri Lanka has not seemingly materialized for the most part of post-independence legal education, until it was taken seriously in the inception of the legal studies degree programme in Peradeniya. This kind of a multidisciplinary approach was exactly what the legal experts along with the academia of the Faculty of Arts of the University of Peradeniya believed when developing the curriculum of the study programme in law in Peradeniya. As a result, the LLB degree programme in Peradeniya can be considered as one of the most successful legal education programmes in Sri Lanka.

While confronted with limited human and physical resources, the Department of Law has been able to maintain the highest possible standards in undergraduate legal education that has started to pose a significant challenge to the entire legal education system in Sri Lanka. This has been possible as prominent legal practitioners and scholars have been a part of the legal education team of the Department of Law since its inception to deliver the programme. The graduates of the Department of Law have excelled nationally and internationally in the sphere of intellectual as well as practical aspects of the legal professions. Within a short period of time, our graduates have started to excel in the world of work bringing reputation to the University of Peradeniya.

The challenge for the Department is to embark on various omitted and emerging fields of legal education and diversify with a holistic vision of serving humanity. Our graduates should be able to become global citizens while positively contributing to overcoming the serious problem of a lack of legal scholars in the profession in Sri Lanka.

While commending the excellent work of the Department of Law thus far, I wish the Department of Law a very memorable 10th anniversary and fervently hope that they will continue to excel in the field of legal education and legal scholarship in Sri Lanka while contributing to the advancement of legal education.

Prof. O.G. Dayaratne Banda
Dean – Faculty of Arts

Message from the Head of the Department of Law, University of Peradeniya



This 10th anniversary gives us an occasion to formally memorialize and acknowledge the achievements and dedications of numerous people who have worked to bring the Department of Law at the University of Peradeniya to its current successful state over the past decade.

I have had the honor of being the fourth Head of this Department from 2016 January to date. After intermittent covering up for the Head of the Department, initially, I was reluctant, when the Dean of the Faculty requested me to accept the official headship of a Department in an area of study that I was alien to. This was due to the fact that Prof. Deepika Udagama, then Head of Department, had to assume duties as the Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka. Given Prof. Udagama, the only senior academic at the time, was going to be away and given the scarcity of senior permanent academic members in the Department (there were only two probationary lecturers in addition to Prof. Udagama on the permanent staff), I accepted the Headship.

One main reason for me to accept this challenge was the dedicated support and commitment of all the staff members of the Department; especially, Prof. Deepika Udagama's guidance and direction in attending to the work of the Department. Her assistance was not limited to subject-related work, visiting the University every week for lectures even amidst her busy schedule as Chairperson of the HRCSL. The Department was also assisted by the non-academic staff as well. Mr. Rohana Rajapaksha, who has been working at the Department

from its inception, has been a great strength to all at the Department.

The second reason was the inter-disciplinary nature of the programme in which students are expected to take courses in sociology, economics, political science, psychology and management studies. Moreover, this year, the Department was able to launch its first revised curriculum developed with the intention of further widening the future horizon for a Peradeniya law graduate.

The Department benefited greatly in this regard from a review of the LL.B. degree programme conducted by one of Sri Lanka's foremost legal scholars, Prof. Savitri Goonesekere, on the request of the Chair of the Standing Committee on Legal Studies of the UGC. The pioneers of this program have had a vision to develop a programme different from conservative and stereotype legal studies programmes found in this country and to meet the global demand that nurtures a lawyer who is sensitive to their surroundings.

My initial challenge was to increase the permanent cadre of the Department because under the prevailing setting, I visualized that there was no long-term sustainability for the Department. It is to be noted that only a limited number of cadre positions were initially approved by the UGC, and those were filled. However, within a couple of months, after I assumed duties as the Head of the Department, I was able to convince the cadre commission, of the desperate need of the Department to have additional cadre for its smooth functioning.

As a result, in 2017, the Department was able to recruit two young, highly capable, holders of a Doctor of Philosophy degree (Ph.D.) and Master of Laws degree (LL.M.) as academic members to the Department. And this year, through the normal process, the Department was able to recruit another two Peradeniya law graduates, one with an

LL.M. and another who left for LL.M. studies on the US Fulbright scholarship. Currently, the first two probationary lecturers that joined the Department are in the process of completing their Ph.D. degrees in Australia.

At the same time, the Department has been getting the continuous support from a dedicated body of visiting lecturers, which includes academics and practitioners in the field of legal studies who have helped in bringing the Department to the limelight in the legal arena within a short period of ten years. The Department of Law is greatly appreciative of the endless backing and guidance received from all the Vice Chancellors, the Deans and administrative staff of the Faculty of Arts.

The Department has been able to survive very gusty winds without falling apart. The great people who have worked diligently to establish and uplift this Department can be proud about the heights the Department has reached. The outlined future of this Department is vast and there is already a strong structural base established to fulfill all future endeavors necessary for the establishment of a Faculty of Law at the University of Peradeniya. I wish all the success to the Department.

Dr. Samanmala Dorabawila
Head – Department of Law

2. THE JOURNEY OF THE LAW DEPARTMENT

A brief introduction to the Department of Law

The establishment of the Department

The academic teaching of law in Sri Lanka has a considerably long history, which dates back to the early beginnings of higher education in the country. When the University of Ceylon came into existence in 1942, there was discussion about whether a distinct Faculty of Law should be established; even though the final result was the establishment of a Department of Law in 1947, which had an independent existence.

From the late 1940s, the Department of Law was based in Peradeniya until it moved to Colombo in the late 1960s and transformed into the Faculty of Law of the University of Colombo. Four decades later, legal education at the undergraduate level returned to Peradeniya. In 2009, a new Department of Law was established under the Faculty of Arts. The Department of Law commenced its academic activities in October 2009.

About the LL.B. Degree Programme

The Department of Law offers a full-fledged four-year Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) degree programme. It is a modern and unique law degree programme that combines cutting-edge developments in the law with a strong social justice orientation. The LL.B. degree has an inter-disciplinary approach towards legal education. With its strong social justice orientation, the LL.B. degree focuses on the interaction between law and society, whereby undergraduate students would be provided with an understanding of the role of law in addressing social problems.

The Department of Law undergraduate curriculum has been designed in a manner that would achieve this objective. And in keeping with modern trends in legal education, the curriculum of the degree programme which is inter-disciplinary, includes several novel core courses on the law. In addition to a large number of law courses, the students are provided the opportunity to study courses in logic, political theory, sociology, psychology, history, economics and management studies, so that students are able to study the law in its larger social setting. Legal Writing and Research, Mooting, Legal Clinic and Sociology of Law were some of the new courses that the Department of Law offered when it commenced offering the LL.B. degree in 2009.

A new curriculum was adopted in 2019, with further new core courses in law introduced by the Department in order to foster greater practical and analytical skills among its undergraduates. In the first year of their study, the undergraduate students would obtain an understanding on foundations of law and thereafter substantive areas of law would be covered in their second, third and fourth years of study. In addition to the above, law students must also submit a 10,000 word dissertation in order to complete the degree requirements.

An inter-disciplinary law degree

Law is not a discipline that can, or should, be studied in isolation. Law interacts and intermingles regularly with a vast number of other disciplines and fields, making it essential for law schools today to provide a more comprehensive knowledge of the many dimensions of the law to students. Thus, the LL.B. degree programme offered by the Department of Law is inter-disciplinary in character. Students are exposed to a variety of modules offered by other departments of the Faculty of Arts of the University of Peradeniya. These include

courses offered by the Departments of Sociology, Political Science, Psychology, Philosophy, Economics and Statistics (of the Faculty of Arts), as well as the Faculty of Management.

English as the medium of teaching

The LL.B. degree programme is offered only in the English medium. The University of Peradeniya adopted that policy conscious of the need to impart legal education in an international language, so that its law graduates would have the capacity to become confident young professionals with a global outlook, while at the same time possessing the capacity to address local issues with social sensitivity. The policy on the medium of instruction is equally aimed at providing equal professional opportunities to all its law graduates as they enter the world of work.

A vibrant student culture

The Department is keen to promote a vibrant student culture, and has created an enabling environment for student initiatives, particularly those undertaken in the public interest. Students are also actively encouraged to pursue extra-curricular activities because of our firm belief that the ultimate goal of education is the molding of a sensitive and empathetic human being and a responsible citizen.

Practical training

A special feature of the LL.B. Degree programme is providing practical training through courses such as Mooting and Clinical Legal Education. Thereby undergraduate students will not only have a thorough understanding about legal concepts and theories but would

also be equipped with practical skills required for a professional career. This practical training is further enhanced given the introduction of internships as a mandatory component of the degree for final year students, under the new curriculum. As mentioned above, the LL.B. degree programme aims to provide the student a legal education with a strong social justice orientation. To realize its broader objectives and intended learning outcomes, the programme and the relevant courses which are offered seek to impart both a theoretical as well as practical knowledge of the law, with the expectation that the student will proceed to be an independent, responsible, and critically thinking graduate committed to the promotion of social justice, rights and the rule of law.

The Making of the Law Department

Reflections of Prof. Kamala Liyanage, Emeritus Professor in Political Science, and the first Head of the Law Department

As the Department of Law, University of Peradeniya embarks on its 10th year commemoration (2009-2019), I feel privileged to have been invited to share my experience as the founding Head of the Department and the initiatives taken to build it.

The three major challenges faced when building an institution such as this, were identified as finding human, financial and physical resources, requisites for the effectiveness of an important project. Hence the University of Peradeniya was not in favor of repeating or copying other LL.B undergraduate programmes available in Sri Lanka and the vision was to introduce a 4 year new academic programme based on the inter-disciplinary approach towards legal education in the country. A contemporary study course which suits the legal administration of the country was carefully designed, introducing practical training to develop skills of law undergraduates through this programme.

Prof. Deepika Udagama, an eminent scholar, undertook this difficult task and committed her work to prepare the academic course and curriculum for all 4 years. For more than 6 months she had the burden of traveling between cities with every 3 to 4 days a week spent in Peradeniya, working and having interviews with experienced Professors of Law, lawyers, students at various levels, and also educational policy makers to get their views regarding the intended LL.B. course, while also working with the Dean/Arts and Head/Law on her draft programme and curriculum. A remarkable academic programme which focused on the interaction between law and various

other disciplines such as sociology, political science, logic, economics, psychology and management was the final outcome.

A vital role was played by the then Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Prof. Tudor Silva in approving this LL.B. programme. This was the main reason for getting this approved promptly, and he added his valuable suggestions to improve the programme and the curriculum.

However, there was ambiguity regarding the importance, the difference between the existing similar courses in Sri Lanka, contents of the courses, its relationship with other disciplines, human and other resources needed to run the programme etc. when the paper was presented at the Senate. Being a political scientist cum the Head/Department of Law, it was a painful feeling of distress for me to understand that there was not enough sustenance from the academic staff in getting consequences straightened.

Being invited by the then Vice Chancellor Prof. H. Abeygunawardena and the Dean/Arts, Prof Deepika Udagama as the inventor of the programme managed to envisage and externalize the curriculum and the study materials, answering the questions raised by the Senate members. Her explanations were contextualized and very elaborative in terms of providing clear answers related to the LLB programme.

It was up to the University to find solutions to the issues pertinent to human, physical and financial resources. The proposals on the establishment of the Department of Law, introducing a new course to university applicants, granting new cadre positions, and other resources were mainly prepared by the Dean/Arts with the immense support of the Vice Chancellor. Similarly, the Minister for Higher Education, Prof. W.A.W Warnapala and the University Grants Commission's interest in

the programme and the assistance extended towards establishing the Department of Law should be appreciated.

Finding a physical space for the new Department, within the premises of the Faculty of Arts, was not an easy task. The Vice Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya with other senior decision makers had several discussions, finally deciding to allocate us the former lower-Hantane Guest House, located in a green surrounding and a tranquil environment but was abandoned at that time by the Maintenance division.

I went into a shock seeing the devastating condition of the building which nobody would ever believe belonged to the prestigious University of Peradeniya; the leaking roof, broken tiles, the fallen trees which blocked the entrance to the building inhabited by stray animals gave the entire premises a haunted and a dilapidated ambiance. My academic colleagues, Mr. Ranjith Dickwella, and Mr. Ranasinghe Banda, the office assistant bare witness.

However, my colleagues and the Maintenance Supervisor, Mr. Serasinghe were very positive and said the refurbishing would be done within 6 months, if the necessary materials were supplied. With much difficulty, but with the generous support of the Vice Chancellor and the assistance of the Engineer and the Supervisor of the Maintenance Division, a draft plan was drawn housing classrooms, offices for the Head and the lecturers, seminar room and restrooms.

The next challenge was finding physical resources, such as furniture, office equipment, other amenities for class rooms and lecturers' room. Prof. Udagama and I were advised by the Dean/Arts to prepare a list of such requirements and to submit it to the Vice Chancellor. We felt that both of us were going to occupy a new home and we included

household utensils since there was nothing except an empty building. The Vice Chancellor being unbelievably committed and flexible, had a discussion with the university bursar and funds were allocated to purchase all necessities.

Though I was exhausted due to the procedures, I continued to work making our dream come true by establishing the Department of Law in Peradeniya. Similarly, my obligation of contributing as an academic towards building an academic institution gave me immense satisfaction and content.

With much difficulties and hardships, however, the Department of Law was established in 2009. Thus, the conquest belongs to all of them who supported in various ways.

We already have come a 10-year long way, but there are still miles ahead. Therefore, it is our responsibility to take this institution to a perceptive future.

*Reflections of Prof. Deepika Udagama – Reminiscences of the
Beginnings of the Peradeniya Department of Law*

In May, 2009 I received an unexpected telephone call from Prof. H. Abeygunawardene, the then Vice Chancellor of UoP. The opportunity presented by the call was nothing short of serendipitous. As I pen these lines, I am still full of wonder about the mysterious ways of life.

I was then attached to the University of Colombo and was on sabbatical leave. At that time I was reluctantly, but seriously, reflecting on leaving the academic world. I was by then disillusioned with many aspects of academic life, the tedium of routine being the least of them. I needed the space to do something innovative that I passionately believed in. I needed to be able to put to good use my idealism. That call provided the answer. Prof. Abeygunawardana invited me to come in as a consultant to help set up a new Department of Law at the University of Peradeniya.

Over the previous years I had intermittently heard of plans by UOP to set up a new Department of Law. There was a lacuna in the academic disciplines offered by the University since the previous Department of Law had moved to Colombo in the 1960s. The Vice-Chancellor told me that a Committee in the Arts Faculty had been working on a blue print for the new Department. The new Department, to be attached to the Arts Faculty, was to commence its academic activities in a few months but most of the ground work was left to be done. The task appeared to be very urgent and enormous. But even before I had thought it completely through I had accepted the offer. It was certainly a big challenge, but a unique and exciting one.

In June I commenced work. Prof. Tudor Silva, Professor of Sociology, was the then Dean/Arts. He was a pillar of strength and support as I

embarked on my arduous task. I was informed that the curriculum already formulated had not met with the approval of the Heads of Departments of the Arts Faculty. Not only was it necessary to finalize the courses to be offered, but all syllabi had to be drafted. It was a lonely journey as at the time there were no other consultants or academic staff recruited to the Department. Unfortunately, the Faculty of Arts also could not provide me with minutes of the deliberations of or materials produced by the committee headed by late Prof. Ranjith Amarasinghe, Professor of Political Science. However, I was delighted when Prof. Silva delineated the broad contours of the envisaged LL.B. Degree Programme as the approach was very much in sync with my own evolving thoughts on legal education—eschew the black letter law approach, promote a social justice orientation and adopt an inter-disciplinary view of the law. The programme was to be offered only in English in order to afford equitable professional and life opportunities for the students. What could be more serendipitous? Even though pressed for time, the possibility of doing innovative work was exhilarating enough to take on the enormous task with much hope and enthusiasm.

I started by pouring through examples of innovative curriculum development in various comparative jurisdictions, mostly from the British Commonwealth given the Common Law tradition inherited by us. The best of Indian law schools (in particular the string of national law schools) were the most influential having adopted cutting edge reforms. The overpowering demand of the market to focus on corporate law had been addressed without compromising the opportunity to engage in critical legal studies. Reforms in USA, Singapore and Hong Kong law schools were also very instructive, particularly regarding methodology.

Eventually, the course schedule of the new LL.B. Degree Programme

was finalized, with the first year devoted more to the study of foundational courses from other social sciences such as political science, sociology and psychology with a few introductory courses on the law. The following three years of study concentrated on law courses with the later semesters offering an array of optional courses. We challenged ourselves by introducing core courses which have not been taught in law schools in Sri Lanka before such as Sociology of Law, Legal Clinic and Mooting (the art of advocacy in a simulated court setting). Optional courses offered a wide spectrum of subjects including ‘modern’ courses demanded by the market economy on corporate law, IT Law, Intellectual Property Law and the like. Also on offer were courses such as Humanitarian Law, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Forensic Psychology and Conflict Analysis. Students had to compulsorily offer either Human Rights Law or Environmental Law, or both if one wished to, with the objective of humanizing the study of law. Continuous assessment made it possible to use a wide variety of methods of assessment spanning library research and classroom quizzes to field research, report writing and presentations.

The next challenge was to develop the syllabi. They were developed in consultation with a panel of experts approved by the University Senate. The panel consisted of experts from both academia as well as the profession and included the likes of Prof. Savitri Goonesekere, Emeritus Professor of Law, University of Colombo; Prof. Lakshman Marasinghe, Emeritus Professor of Law, University of Windsor, Canada; and Mr. K. Kanag-isvaran, PC.

Obtaining approval for the curriculum was the major hurdle that had to be cleared. First, the curriculum was vetted by the University Academic Development and Planning Committee (ADPC) which consisted of senior academics from all fields of study offered by the UoP. I recall that the sessions with the Committee were very challenging; they

were probing and exacting. Lending credence to the value of interdisciplinary work, the scientists, mainly from the engineering and medical faculties, asked tough questions and also offered interesting perspectives. I was impressed by the high quality of discussions. Looking back, I think that those meetings had a lot to do with my decision to subsequently join the academic staff of UOP.

Finally, after obtaining Senate approval for the curriculum (which was equally challenging), the Department commenced its academic activities on October, 2009. The first batch of students consisted of fifty students. They came from far corners of the island and was, predictably, predominantly female in composition.

Ten years on, the Department of Law has witnessed the graduation of seven batches of students. Given the vast challenges faced in its establishment and also in subsequent years, I think we can be pleased with our Department's achievements. Of course, it is for others to assess the quality of our academic programme. Yet, for those of us who traversed the ten-year journey through all its ups and downs and who are intimately aware of the impossibly difficult hurdles we have had to clear to implement an experimental degree programme, our constant source of pride are our graduates. Our hearts swell with pride when we think of the many who have had to struggle so hard to learn the law in English and who have eventually graduated as confident and poised young men and women with hopes of a better future. Some have excelled in legal studies obtaining high honors and have displayed their versatility in various extra-curricular activities. The first (and thus far only) graduate to obtain First Class Honors is currently pursuing post-graduate studies in jurisprudence in USA on a Fulbright Scholarship.

It has certainly been an impossibly difficult but exhilarating journey. It has touched and moulded the lives of all of us who have been fellow passengers. Now we look forward to its future trajectory with hope and idealism.

The journey would not have been possible without the support and encouragement of so many, including many Vice-Chancellors, Deans of the Arts Faculty, fellow academics including visiting faculty and colleagues from the non-academic staff. The UoP community has been nothing short of supportive from the beginning. The Department also has immensely benefitted from the support of the official and unofficial Bar and so many other well-wishers many of who have donated books to the law collection. They have all contributed to a national cause, an investment for the future generations, and should be proud of the fact.

3. REFLECTIONS OF PROFESSIONALS AND ACADEMICS WHO HAVE TAUGHT AT THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW

Dr. A. Rohan Perera, PC

*Former Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations
and Legal Adviser of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

When the Department of Law was established at Peradeniya under the Faculty of Arts in 2009, it was in response to a growing demand for greater opportunities to engage in legal studies by the student population of this country. Over the years, it has grown into an institution, which has proved itself to be capable of meeting these student needs. Its tenth anniversary is a fit occasion for celebration. It was a privilege to have been associated with the Department as a visiting lecturer handling the Public International Law course a few years after its establishment.

As many are aware, the Faculty of Law existed in Peradeniya since the establishment of the University of Ceylon, until the early 60s, when it was shifted to Colombo. These, however, were different times in the socio-political history of Sri Lanka. They were more placid times; the student body was drawn generally from different strata of society and their needs and aspirations were different to those that we encounter in present times.

By the time the Department of Law was established in Peradeniya in 2009, Sri Lanka had undergone radical socio-political transformation. Consequently, student needs were different. In an age of technology, and changing senses of mobility, the study of the law could no longer be confined within exclusive precincts. The Department of Law filled this need for a wider dissemination and appreciation of International

Law. It attracted a wide and representative body of students, from a variety of backgrounds, all dedicated to the study of the law.

Looking to the future, it is important to ensure the continuing focus on issues of current relevance: the legal dimensions of international economic relations, climate change, and ocean governance, to name a few. It is imperative that present-day students are sensitized on such issues of contemporary relevance, in particular for developing countries. It is these countries that need the strength and inspiration drawn from multilateralism and respect for International Law. This is particularly so when multilateralism itself appears to be under increasing threat. It is in this context that wider dissemination and appreciation of International Law becomes vital. The Department of Law has a significant role to perform in realizing this objective.

Finally, a well-deserved tribute is due to Prof. Deepika Udagama (former Head of Department) for her commitment and guidance provided to the Department. She has also been well supported by a team of dedicated academic, as well as non-academic staff that gave her unstinted cooperation.

Dr. R.B. Ranaraja

Justice of the Court of Appeal (Rtd) and Financial Ombudsman

When the Founder and then Head of the Department of Law, University of Peradeniya, Dr Deepika Udagama offered me the opportunity of teaching Administrative Law to the third-year students in the second semester of the academic year 2011/12, I readily accepted the same for two main reasons. Firstly, having enjoyed the privilege of a three-year free education between 1958 and 1961, at the Faculty of Law of the then University of Ceylon, Peradeniya, which ranked within the two hundred and fifty best universities in the world, thanks due to the vision and leadership of its first Vice Chancellor, Sir Ivor Jennings, it was a rare chance given to repay a debt. Secondly, having had some experience in applying the principles of Administrative Law when hearing writ applications in my capacity as a Judge of the Court of Appeal, I felt confident enough to undertake that task. Having settled in, I have now the further satisfaction of also teaching Equity and Trusts.

Although one would naturally expect some changes to have taken over a period of fifty plus years, on assuming duties, the changes I encountered were stark. The student population had increased from eight hundred to twelve thousand six hundred, without a corresponding improvement in the essential facilities. The intake of law students had increased from the average of twelve per batch, restricted due to the requirement of a minimum of a credit pass in Latin at the Senior School Examination to qualify, to fifty per batch. The proportion of male students to female students which was roughly 80/20 then, had been reversed to 10/90. The dress code had undergone change not only among the students but also the teaching staff.

The most important changes had taken place in the curriculum. In the leisurely fifties, the Law Degree course of eleven subjects was taught over a period of three years, each year divided into three terms. Examinations were held in four subjects at the end of the first year and seven subjects at the end of the third year, with a few tutorials in between. The ample free time available permitted the more talented in sports and other extracurricular activities to express their prowess both on the campus and nationally. “Maname” and “Singhabahu” to name just two plays, were produced by Dr Ediriweera Sarathchandra during what some described that decade as the “Renaissance” period.

In contrast, the Law students at present have to follow a rigorous four year course of study, each year divided into two semesters while facing examinations in four to six subjects, both at the middle and end of each semester in addition to writing fortnightly tutorials. The curriculum has been revised comprising thirty nine compulsory and optional subjects, together with a course in English language, a compulsory legal clinic and dissertation.

The large stock of books on law in the main library was transferred to Colombo in the mid- sixties with the shifting of the faculty. Easy access to the internet has partly compensated the students for that loss. They have to make do with parts of a former guest house for visiting foreign professors as their lecture halls. Despite not having the advantage of having studied at primary and secondary school level in the English language, the great majority of the students of great resilience, has coped remarkably well with the heavy work load in that language, notwithstanding the added burden of the lack of other adequate physical facilities, which the founders of the University envisaged

would be provided to them. The most heartening feature however is that despite these difficulties, five alumni have been recruited to the academic staff of the Law Department Peradeniya and another to the Law Faculty Colombo, besides many others who have been admitted to follow post graduate studies in foreign universities, which is proof of excellence of the students.

In this context it is time that the Law Department regains its rightful status of a Faculty, which would enable it to obtain the necessary resources to develop as an independent unit. This is a matter, which the Alumni should discuss with the University Grants Commission.

Prof. Deepika Udagama

Professor of Law and former Head of the Department of Law

Teaching at “Peradeniya Law”—The First Few Years

When the Department of Law at UOP (affectionately known as “Peradeniya Law”) opened its doors to the first student intake in October, 2009, there was not much more than a newly minted modern curriculum and plenty of idealism.

It had shared premises in the venerable Arts Faculty building. The Department began operating with a Head of Department (first, Prof. Kamala Liyanage of the Political Science Department and then Prof. Sisira Pinnawala of the Department of Sociology), a Consultant (myself, on leave from UOC), Mr. Rohana Rajapakshe, Computer Application Assistant and Mr. Bandara, Peon. The Department commenced academic activities in great haste to accommodate its first intake of students. Recruiting permanent staff was still in the pipeline. The law collection in the library had moved in the 1960s to UOC with the previous Department of Law. Fortunately, the Sir Ivor Jennings collection and some other legal material remained. All in all, the beginnings of “Peradeniya Law” were very modest to say the least. But it had plenty of support and good will from the entire UOP establishment. All wanted the Department to succeed and leave its stamp on the legal education map of Sri Lanka and beyond.

The enormity of the challenge of teaching a complex inter-disciplinary curriculum, however, was not lost on us. But, there was no time to be despondent. Necessity, ambition and optimism were our biggest assets. Most of the courses offered in the first year of study were taught by Departments of Political Science, Sociology and Psychology. I taught the three courses on law. That year gave us time to begin the recruitment process and also improve the law collection in the library. The first batch of students came in with great apprehension. They did

not have senior students to guide them. The curriculum was novel and so, students from other law schools could not be of much assistance either. Learning the law in English was a difficult, if not frightening, proposition to many. We had to, therefore, spend quite a lot of time providing academic counseling to students to guide and reassure them. By the second year the students were so much more confident. Many who were computer illiterate when they came in, became adept at using IT for studies. By the third and fourth years of study they could engage in web-based research and were making power-point presentations in English. Debating and mootings in English also gradually caught on. It was heartwarming to see how the program was bringing out their potential.

The Department moved to its current premises only a year later. In the interim we shared the large classrooms in the Arts Block with large windows framing the beautiful surroundings. Once I recall teaching facing the venerable 'strike gaha' swathed in golden blossoms with some streamers cascading down. The beauty framed by those large windows was ethereal. I remember digressing from the law lecture and discussing student perceptions of the environment and aesthetics. On another occasion, due to an unforeseen clash in the timetable we were left with no lecture halls. So, I moved all students to 'Polonnaruwa', the beautiful outdoor space under the huge flamboyant trees, and taught my class seated on the stone pillars there. The discussion was more robust than usual. I could see how the students relaxed in that natural environment. Those were indeed very memorable moments. The library collection grew rapidly, thanks to generous donations of books, law reports and periodicals etc. gifted by well wishers. The donated collections include those gifted by Judge Christopher Weeramantry, Prof. Savitri Goonesekere (from the collection of eminent constitutional lawyer, Mr.RKW Goonesekere) and Solicitor Upali Jayathilaka.

Recruitment of the academic staff was slow at the beginning. Perhaps many potential applicants were apprehensive of joining a new law

school, and that too away from the metropolis of Colombo. However, as Head of Department at the time, I was not ready to compromise on quality. We were very fortunate to have some excellent Visiting Lecturers, from both the older and younger generations of scholars and practitioners. The Colombo-Kandy inter-city train had brisk business bringing in many of them! The Sri Lanka-Fulbright Foundation too was very generous in getting down from USA visiting professors and experts to teach the course ‘Legal Research and Writing’ and assist in language teaching. Today, the Department receives large numbers of applications for academic posts, many having post-graduate qualifications. All current permanent staff members possess post-graduate qualifications from renowned universities, with one pursuing post-graduate studies in the USA on a Fulbright Scholarship.

I have had to move away from attending to full-time duties in the past few years as an academic due to my appointment as Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka. However, I’ve been in touch and observe steady progress under the able stewardship of Dr. Samanmala Dorabawila, current Head of Department. The commitment of the academic staff continues to be our mainstay.

A major contributor to the success of this exercise is a quiet unsung hero. Mr. Rohana Rajapakshe, who manages the administrative affairs of the Department, has been a pillar of strength. Without him, we would not have been able to run a well-oiled administrative system that serves both students and staff well. His commitment to service, his kind and professional demeanour and his integrity can only be described in superlatives. A rare gem indeed.

It is gratifying and heartwarming to see the steady evolution of the Department from its modest and humble beginnings into a confident one. There is, of course, many a mile to traverse to reach our ideal standards. We are ready and optimistic.

Dr. Induwara Gunarathne

BDS (Peradeniya); MSc (Peradeniya); MPhil (Peradeniya); LL.M. (Washington College of Law); Attorney-at-Law; former Head of Forensic Medicine Department; Senior Lecturer in Forensic Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya.

It is with great pleasure that I write this short note on this special day when Peradeniya University Law Department celebrates its 10th birthday. Over the years, I have had close academic connections with the Department of Law at University of Peradeniya even before it commenced its academic programme. I was first involved with the law degree programme of the Peradeniya University as a Senate member of the University that engaged in discussions for re-initiating the LL.B. degree and then of course in discussing the curriculum as a member of the ‘Law Department Administration Committee’ appointed by the Vice Chancellor at the time, Prof. H. Abeygunawardena. This administration committee looked after the curriculum matters and administrative matters of the law degree programme before the Law Department at Peradeniya University was formally established.

I had the privilege of being a visiting lecturer to the Department of Law. I taught criminal law continuously for many years in the Department. The uniqueness as I see in the criminal law course at Peradeniya is that the students are exposed to the content of criminal law along with principles and practice of criminology. This means that the students at Peradeniya receive a broader perspective to crimes and criminality in addition to the substantive principles and practice of criminal law. This approach undoubtedly positions a law student to better understand the nuances that inherently entail any crime or response to a crime.

The Peradeniya law curriculum at present provides students with ample opportunities to engage in inter-disciplinary studies. The Law Department has successfully utilized the benefit of being in a

multi-disciplinary academic campus in engaging other academics and researchers to nourish the law students. I remember supervising several LL.B. honours dissertations where the students researched in forensic medical aspects. I also remember students engaging with other academic staff of medical, science, agriculture and engineering faculties to engage in collaborative research where some of the outcomes were published or presented in peer reviewed platforms. These opportunities provided law students to broaden their horizons and further grow as lawyers to contribute to the betterment of the society.

I enjoyed teaching law students. I was happy to see that I could assist them to comprehend difficult and complex criminal law principles. The cohort of law students I taught over the years were highly talented, enthusiastic, friendly and engaging. I remember stimulating them to engage in various debates to express themselves freely and with respect to each other especially on sensitive but controversial and timely topics. I am sure they gained wider experiences from those exercises. I was also able to attract many Peradeniya law graduates to study forensic medicine through a diploma course I introduced in forensic medicine designed for lawyers and judges through the Department of Forensic Medicine at Peradeniya University.

I have witnessed the growth of the Law Department over the years especially through the leadership of Prof. Deepika Udagama and other staff attached to the Department. It is evident now that the Department of Law at the University of Peradeniya has developed an important position in Sri Lanka's legal and scholarly community. I am sure it will continue to produce quality law graduates that contribute to shape the legal, political, social and economic landscape in Sri Lanka and beyond. I sincerely wish all the best to the Department and for its future endeavours.

Dr. Manjula Sandirigama

*PhD; M.Sc.; B.Sc.Eng; Attorney-at-Law, Senior Lecturer,
Department of Computer Engineering, University of Peradeniya; Sri
Lanka Intellectual Property Consultant.*

I am very much delighted, and I consider it a great privilege to write a few words on this occasion of the tenth anniversary celebrations of the Department of Law at the University of Peradeniya (UoP). I am attached to the Faculty of Engineering of UoP, but Prof. Udugama invited me to teach two modules, namely Intellectual Property Law and Information Technology Law due to my blended basic qualifications in Engineering and Law.

My bias was in Engineering, and it was the first time I taught students who are studying law. Due to the nature of the subject and with my engineering-based teaching experience, I was not very confident whether I could deliver well to the students. Prof. Udugama had given me the freedom to do my delivery as I wished, so I chose the delivery option of teacher – student interactive discussions based on the presentations I gave to students as assignments. While this exercise gave me a basis for the delivery, it proved to be a very effective and productive way of teaching.

I was very much impressed with the quality of the students in my sessions. They had all the fundamental knowledge, and their presentations were superbly done, citing other relevant resources. It was a pleasure to work with them.

The staff of the Department were very friendly, systematic and consistent. The Department was poorly staffed, but they carried out their daily routines quite well.

All these successes had been possible, most probably due to a strong foundation laid by the pioneers of the Department. The motivation of the staff and the students were incredible.

I am glad that UoP got this field of study after being shifted to Colombo many years ago. This was one of the main areas that was not available in the University, and the setting up of the Department was a great initiative. This made the University of Peradeniya a full-fledged university of Sri Lanka with all the areas of undergraduate/graduate studies, adding to it a cross-disciplinary nature.

I congratulate those who pioneered this Department and wish them all the luck in their future endeavors.

Ms. Shyamali Ranaraja

*Attorney-at-Law; Masters in Business Administration (Colombo);
Consultant to the ILO, the World Bank and the European Union.*

It gives me great pleasure to contribute to the 10th anniversary felicitation of the Department of Law, of the University of Peradeniya. The reputation of the Peradeniya University, is undoubtedly enhanced by having had the first Faculty of Law in Sri Lanka in its time as the University of Ceylon, until its relocation to Colombo in the 1960s. It is therefore fitting that the study of Law should feature again at Peradeniya, and the Department of Law has achieved much in this relatively short period of ten years to keep alive the traditions of its illustrious predecessor.

During my association as a Visiting Lecturer at the Department of Law, I have been impressed with the interdisciplinary approach of the Department to the teaching of Law and its focus on the interaction between law and society, providing an environment for its undergraduate students to explore and understand the role of law in addressing social problems. This focus I believe is extremely important, given the increasingly complex world which these students enter on completing their degree, where they will be called upon to interpret and apply legal norms in a very different context than ever before. The importance of this broad vision was apparent during the Constitutional Crisis that overtook the country in October 2018 when the students actively engaged in both understanding the nature of the crisis as well as in exploring the options available to challenge the wrongful decisions taken. It was impressive to receive emails at midnight from students seeking guidance on litigation proposed by them to challenge the change in status quo, and the initiative demonstrated was a validation of the more immersive experience of law encouraged at the Department.

In addition to all the features and facilities of the undergraduate programme in law at the University of Peradeniya, I consider the compulsory undergraduate research component required for the award of the degree to be a unique and vital aspect of teaching law and legal skills. As a legal practitioner, I have often heard my colleagues at the bar and in the corporate sector, bemoan the lack of research and writing skills of young graduates and newly-qualified attorneys-at-law. The dissertation programme, supervised by skilled academics and professionals in the subject –area chosen by the student, provides an opportunity for students to engage in research and writing at a superior level, thus acquiring skills that they are unlikely to develop in a standard lecture-and examination based programme. The research questions identified by students, after a stringent vetting process by the faculty to prevent duplication of previous research, have thrown up some interesting aspects of the application of laws and regulations that may be worthy of further research at a post-graduate level. Most importantly, the students are required to think analytically in developing research methodologies and in assessing the data collected, and in doing so, gain invaluable legal skills that will serve them well in the future whatever their chosen career path.

While there are improvements that are needed in terms of resources and infrastructure, these shortcomings are the results of chronic underinvestment in education, and have to be resolved at a national level to benefit all programmes and faculties. The faculty and its staff are therefore to be felicitated for the dedication with which they serve the students and the University despite those constraints, and the high standards that they have encouraged the students to achieve and maintain.

Ms. Lakmini Seneviratne

LL.B. (Hons.)(Colombo); LL.M. (Harvard); Attorney-at-Law; Legal Adviser, International Committee of the Red Cross

My dream of being part of the community in the University of Peradeniya came true in the most unexpected time. As a young adult, I was torn when I was selected to study the field I wanted but not in the University which inspired me to higher education and I had travelled past to school every single day for 13 years. When Prof. Udagama invited me to be a visiting lecturer in International Humanitarian Law (IHL) at the Department of Law in 2013, I immediately agreed. It was not only an opportunity to interact with undergraduates in this intellectually stimulating environment, but also an opportunity to bridge my role as a practitioner in the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) whose mandate is founded on IHL with a prestigious academic institution in the country interested in offering IHL as a course in its curriculum.

Over the academic year, along with my co-lecturer Ms. Samindika Elkaduwe, IHL was offered as an interactive course in keeping with the nature of the subject, often involving case study discussions, classroom quizzes, etc. Meanwhile, the Department's library benefited from a donation of IHL text books from the ICRC which contributed to widen the scope of material available for students to refer. This was complemented by the practical assignment system in the Department's curriculum, which forced students out of their conventional class room setting to venture into real world application of the law. This not only created opportunities to critique the law but also to seek ways of creatively using it as a tool for social reform. Meanwhile in co-curricular activities, the mooted team of the Department competed against other universities in the country to win the National Rounds of

the Henry Dunant Memorial Moot Court Competition in IHL (2016) organized by the ICRC and represented the country in the regionals.

Several years later, it is heartening to see the achievements of the Department as one of the youngest Faculties in the Island. Benefiting from the visionary leadership of its Head and a faculty of senior academics and legal practitioners, the Department now offers an interdisciplinary curriculum, has forged links with foreign universities and engages proactively with international organizations to offer a vibrant undergraduate legal education to its students. On the occasion of its tenth year, I wish the Department of Law, University of Peradeniya many more opportunities to excel in the academic world, while continuing to inspire generations of young lawyers to apply the law creatively and uphold it responsibly.

Ms. Kanchana Liyanapathirana

*LL.B. (Hons.) (Colombo); LL.M. (York); Attorney-at-Law; Lecturer,
Department of Law, University of Peradeniya*

As a little girl, I had a dream of being a student at the University of Peradeniya. But since I missed entering the Medical Faculty, I had to enroll myself at the Faculty of Law of the University of Colombo. Even though I missed my target as a student, I reached my destination in 2013, when I was able to join as an academic member in this newly established Department of Law.

It is correct to say that it was a turning point in my life. I began a new journey as an academic. I started to think very independently, tried to find new teaching methods, and started researching new areas of the law which ran parallel to the ideology of my Department. I am proud to say that we at the Department, as a family, were successful in producing a new culture in legal education. Our students are the best evidence for this.

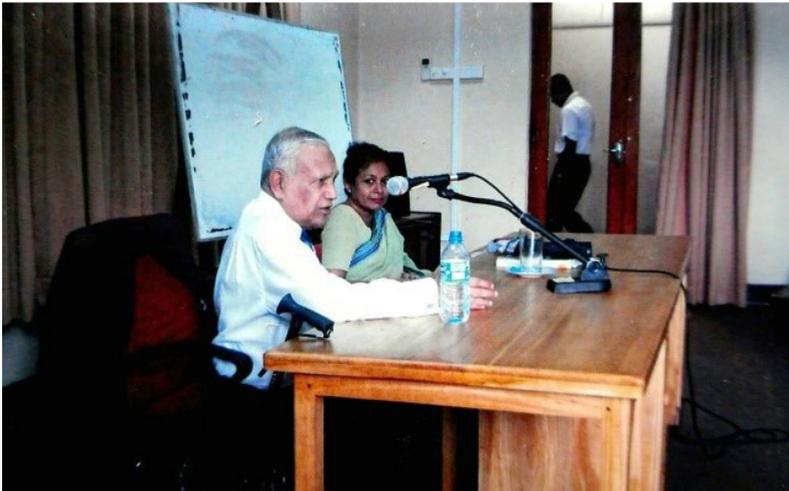
In 2015, I was lucky to be granted the prestigious Commonwealth Scholarship to follow an LL.M. degree at the University of York (UK). At present, I am reading for my Ph.D. (in the field of labour law) at the Queensland University of Technology, Australia. Right throughout this journey, I have gained the advantage of creative and critical thinking which I was exposed to as a young academic at the Department.

Finally, I want to wish the best for my Department. I am waiting to join my colleagues and continue working towards a new culture in legal education in Sri Lanka.

4. MILESTONES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW



Establishment of the Department of Law



*Visit of Justice C.G. Weeramantry
(Former Vice President, International Court of Justice)*



*The opening of Justice C.G.Weeramantry's
book collection in the Main Library*



*Visit of the Former Deputy Chief Justice of South Africa,
Justice Dikgang Moseneke*



*Visit of the US Ambassador to Sri Lanka,
Ms. Michele Sison*



*Visit of the US Ambassador to Sri Lanka,
Ms. Michele Sison*

Events of the Department of Law



Sinhala/ Hindu New Year Festival



The Freshers' Welcome Ceremony



The Annual Cricket Encounter of the Department of Law



“Neethi Padura” - The Annual Paduru Party of the Department of Law



*The Annual Graduation Celebrations ('Going Down')
of the Department of Law*



*The Annual Hike to the
Hanthana Mountain Range*

Special Events of the Department of Law



Public Interest Events of the Students of the Department of Law



Mandela Shield- Debate between Law students of the University of Peradeniya and Prison Inmates of Dumabara Prison (2016)



Public Discussion on the Proposed Constitutional Reforms (2017)



Legal Clinic Organized by the Bar Association of Kurunegala during the Law Week (2018)



*The Visit of the Students of the Masters Degree Programme on
Human Resources and Social Welfare Laws of the
University of Versailles, Paris*



*The visit of Professor Stephen Barnes from Penn State University
(The Penn State University offers Scholarships to students of the
Department of Law to pursue their LL.M. degree in USA)*

5. SELECTED RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS OF STAFF MEMBERS

Prof. Deepika Udagama

- Appointed as the Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka.
- Appointed as the Professorial Chair of the Law Department.

Dr. Kalana Senaratne

- Joint runner-up - Asian Society of International Law, Young Scholar Prize 2017 [awarded for the best articles published by a young scholar in the Asian Journal of International Law (Cambridge University Press)].

Ms. Kanchana Liyanapathirana

- The Commonwealth scholarship to pursue the LL.M. at the University of York, England.
- The NCAS- QUT scholarship to pursue a PhD at the Queensland University of Technology, Australia.

Ms. Kaushalya Madugalle

- The Commonwealth Scholarship to pursue the LL.M. at Birkbeck College, University of London
- University of New England International Post-graduate Research Scholarship (to pursue PhD studies)

Ms. Chetana Karunatilaka

- Selected as the young scholar to represent Sri Lanka at the IPBA Annual Conference 2016, Malaysia
- Best Paper Award at the Amity International Conference on Legal Dimensions of Environment, New Delhi, India 2017

Ms. Pamoda Jayasundara

- Received a Fulbright Master's Scholarship to pursue the LL.M degree in Human Rights and Comparative Constitutional Law at the University of Texas at Austin
- M.D. Anderson Research Fellow at the Institute for Transnational Law, the University of Texas at Austin
- Was awarded the Neelakandan Thiruchelvam gold medal for excellence in Constitutional Law (2016) while she was an undergraduate at the, Department of Law, University of Peradeniya

Ms. Ruvini Katugaha

- Received the Wong family full scholarship (2018/19) to pursue a Master of Laws in Human Rights (LLM HR) University of Hong Kong
- ASIANSIL South Korean Chapter Scholarship to present her paper at the 6th Biennial Workshop and Conference of the ASIANSIL Korean chapter, Seoul, South Korea (2017)
- Was awarded the Neelakandan Thiruchelvam gold medal for excellence in Constitutional Law (2015) while she was an undergraduate at the Department of Law, University of Peradeniya.

6. ACHIEVEMENTS OF STUDENTS: CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

• MOOTING



The first mooting team of the Department of Law was placed 3rd at the Henry Dunant Memorial Moot Court Competition (2015) and was selected as the first team ever to represent Sri Lanka at the Jean Pictet International Competition, France (2016)



11th LAWASIA International Moot Court Competition, Colombo (2016)



***Champions of the Henry Dunant Memorial Moot Court Competition,
Colombo (2016)***

- Award for the Best Memorial*
- Award for the Best Advocate: Ms. Agana Gunawardena*
- The team represented Sri Lanka at the South Asian Regional Rounds, Nepal*



***National Moot Court Competition (2017) organized by the Moot
Society of Sri Lanka Law College.***

- The team was awarded the award for the second best memorial*



The 12th LAWASIA International Moot, Tokyo, Japan (2017)



HV Perera QC Memorial International Moot Competition (2018)

-Award for Best Oralist (Second Runners-up): Ms. Piyumani Ranasinghe

-Award for Runners - up Best Memorial (Respondent)



*13th LAWASIA International Moot,
Siem Reap, Cambodia (2018)*



*Fourth Prof. Madhava Menon SAARCLAW Mooting Competition
and Law Students Conference, India (2019)*



First Runners-Up Henry Dunant Memorial Moot Court Competition (2019)- Sinhala medium

• **MEDIATION**



NLIU-INADR International Law School Mediation Tournament (2018) Bhopal, India

– the team received the ‘Spirit of the Tournament’ award

• DEBATING



Mandela Shield- Debate between Law students of the University Of Peradeniya -Prison Inmates of Dumabara Prison (2016)



Debate under the theme 'Law goes green' at the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo

ACHIEVEMENTS OF STUDENTS: SPORTS

Chandramali Wickramasinghe

- Captain of the Women's Badminton Team of the University of Peradeniya 2015.
- Member of the University Badminton Team- Represented the University of Peradeniya at National Level Badminton Championships 2013-2016.
- Represented Sri Lanka at World University Badminton Championship in 2014, Spain.
- Received Colours from the University of Peradeniya & Sri Lanka University Colours for Badminton.



Agana Gunawardana

- Captain of the Women's Chess Team of the University of Peradeniya 2016
- Member of the University Chess Team - Represented University of Peradeniya at National Level Chess Championships 2014 - 2016
- Received Colours from the University of Peradeniya



Yasas Gunawardana

- Captain of the Wrestling Team of the University of Peradeniya 2017
- Member of the University Wrestling Team- Represented University of Peradeniya at National Level Wrestling Championships 2014-2017
- Received Colours from the University of Peradeniya 2014-2017



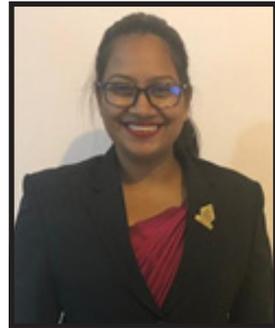
H.K.D.S. Rathnayaka

- Member of the University Volleyball Team – Represented the University of Peradeniya at National Level Volleyball Championships in 2018
- Received Half Colours from the University of Peradeniya



Dilmini De Silva

- Captain of the Women's Tennis Team of the University of Peradeniya 2019
- Vice Captain of the Women's Tennis Team of the University of Peradeniya 2018
- Member of the University Tennis Team- Represented University of Peradeniya at National Level Tennis Championships (2017-2019)
- Editor of the Sports Council of University of Peradeniya 2019.
- Received colours from the University of Peradeniya.



Prasadini Vithanage

- Captain of the Netball Team of the University of Peradeniya 2020
- Member of the University Netball Team- Represented University of Peradeniya at National Level Netball Championships
- Represented Sri Lanka at Fisuv World University Netball Championship 2018
- Received special colors from Sri Lanka University Sports Association
- Received colors from University of Peradeniya 2017-2018



M.D.U. Peiris

- Captain of the Women's Carrom Team of the University of Peradeniya 2019
- Vice Captain of the Women's Carrom Team of the University of Peradeniya 2018
- Member of the University Carrom Team-Represented University of Peradeniya at National Level Carrom Championships (2017-2019)
- Committee member of the Sports Council of University of Peradeniya 2018.
- Received colours from the University of Peradeniya



Gagana Gunasinghe

- Member of the University Carrom Team-Represented University of Peradeniya at National Level Carrom Championships 2019



Tharusha Deegala

- Member of the University Chess Team- Represented University of Peradeniya at National Level Chess Championships 2019



K.A.L.K.M. Rathnayake

- Member of the University Swimming Team-Represented University of Peradeniya at National Level Chess Championships 2019



Thivanka Ratnayake

- Member of the University Netball Team placed Second Runner-up Sri Lanka University Games 2013



Dilini Perera

- Captain of the Women's Hockey Team of University of Peradeniya 2014
- Member of the University Hockey Team represented the University at National Level Hockey Championships (2011-2014)
- Received University Colors from the University of Peradeniya 2010-2014



Erandi Hewawasam

- Inter University Karate Championship 2014 awarded Second Runner-up in the women Kumite event.
- Inter University Karate Championship 2014 awarded Second Runner-up in the women team Kata event.
- Awarded University Colours in 2016



Sudarshi Kulathunga

- Captain of the Women's Elle Team of the University of Peradeniya 2014
- Member of the University Women's Elle Team that represented the University of Peradeniya at National Level Championships 2012-2015
- Received University Colours from the University of Peradeniya 2012-2015
- Received SLUSA Colours Award by Sri Lanka Universities Sports Association(SLUSA)- 2015



7. TESTIMONIALS FROM ALUMNI

Ramya Marasinghe

LL.B. (Peradeniya); Attorney-at-Law

I had a dream when I was schooling; and I was able to achieve it after a long journey, graduating as an LL.B. holder.

Before the degree, English language was the biggest challenge to many of us, including myself. Luckily, the (then) Head of the Department was very understanding of our situation. So I started to work hard. Learning English and earning a degree at the same time was not easy. But I didn't give up on my dream; I got up early and studied to achieve my dream.

At the Department, I followed not only law related subjects but many other subjects of an inter-disciplinary nature (such as social sciences and psychology) which helped me to understand the clients' mind, the reason for their actions, the clients' cultural and social background, their behavior as well motivations. When I meet a businessman I know what s/he explains and the logic behind the matter due to the economics and management courses we followed. Mooting, presentation programmes and debates are vital to fulfill the tasks of a lawyer. Appearing before judges, presenting the case and making applications are all about skills that I learnt from the above mentioned subjects.

I was able to improve my English language skills when dealing with judges, senior lawyers, businessmen and could earn the degree due to the guidance given by the Department and nothing else.

From my childhood dream to becoming a lawyer in reality, the Department of Law of the University of Peradeniya was an educational ladder in my life.

Hibathulla Samad

*LL.B. (Peradeniya); Attorney-at-Law; Assistant State Counsel,
Attorney General Department*

Currently I am attached to the Attorney General's Department of Sri Lanka as a prosecuting counsel, and I have been prosecuting across the island. I would not have reached this level without the motivation, encouragement and inspiration of my lecturers of the Department of Law, especially our former Head of Department Prof. Deepika Udagama.

The best choice I ever made in my life was choosing the Department to pursue the LL.B. degree. In my view, it is the only law programme in Sri Lanka with a dynamic exposure to contemporary practical legal skills. The Department not only produces legal professionals, but also social engineers. The courses taught in the degree are not just law courses but includes many inter-disciplinary courses as well. Consequently, the LL.B. degree helped me to think critically and perform my day to day activities with a sense of social responsibility.

The encouragement and guidance received from our lecturers cannot be forgotten during our lifetime. All our lecturers were very interactive and friendly and they molded us into responsible citizens, with the needed intellectual capacity. They always guided us to follow our dream. I was a small town boy from a very rural school, without any legal or English background. I was unable to communicate either in Sinhala or English when I stepped into the Department on the first day of my University life. I could only speak in my mother-tongue. However, my dream came true when I was able to finish my law degree in English. Today, I am conversant in all three languages. It is all because of the skills and training, together with the guidance and encouragement received from the Department. I'm so grateful and blessed to be a part of the Peradeniya alumni, and I am ever grateful to the Department of law for what I'm today.

Mihiri Karunarathne

LL.B.(Peradeniya); Research Officer, Sri Lanka Judges' Institute

I entered the Department of Law, University of Peradeniya as a law student in August, 2009. Afterwards, until 2014, the academic and non-academic staff of the Department, my friends and juniors who represented different religions and areas of the country, became my family. We were the first LL.B. batch of the University and therefore, we had to face a number of obstacles in reaching our expected goals. Due to not having a specific place for lectures in our first year, we always had to find out a free lecture hall. In addition to that, due to not having sufficient academic staff, most of our subjects were covered by visiting lecturers. However, thanks to the commitment of Prof. Deepika Udagama and other lecturers, within a year, we got a building for ourselves which was a beautiful paradise to us. Furthermore, we were lucky to have lectures delivered by well-experienced local and foreign lecturers.

In my very first semester at the Department, I did not have sufficient English knowledge even to understand what the lecturer was saying. Because of not having a language choice in completing the degree, I was scared of entering the Department of Law, University of Peradeniya. Therefore, apart from the English Language Teaching Unit (ELTU), the gratitude should also be given to the effort of Prof. Udagama and other lecturers who improved our English knowledge by designing our degree program in the English medium, arranging special English classes with foreign lecturers, giving feedback on the language errors in our writings, etc. Even today, when I see the programmes conducted by Sri Lanka Judges' Institute to improve the English knowledge of judicial officers, I feel like we did not take the maximum out of the rare opportunity we got from our Department as law students.

Most importantly, I must state here that it is only because of the

Department of Law, I could develop into a researcher. Because of Prof. Udagama and the Department, I was aware that there is an area called 'legal research'. The subjects we learnt like Legal Research and Writing, Legal Clinic, Sociology of Law, as well as the independent dissertation coloured my research skills. It also encouraged me to increase the number of my research publications too.

According to my view, we received a comparatively different academic programme from the Department of Law. Rather than memorizing sections of statutes and judicial precedents, we were encouraged to critically analyze the applicability of the existing law. We were always taught that law is a social subject and lawyers are social engineers. Thus, we studied a number of inter-disciplinary subjects like psychology, sociology, economics, management, etc. I later came to know that our academic program is very similar to the academic programmes conducted by high ranked foreign universities.

Not being limited to my academic and professional life, the experience of being in the Department of Law really helped to shape my own independent ideas and attitudes. And also, the care and encouragement given by the Department helped me to overcome all challenges I had to face as a visually impaired law student. I wish the Department of Law a successful tenth anniversary!

Anuraddha Wanninayake

*LL.B.(Peradeniya); LLM (Queensland); Senior Case Manager,
Queensland Corrective Service*

I graduated from the University of Peradeniya's Department of Law in 2015 and completed my Master of Laws (LL.M.) from the Queensland University of Technology in 2017. When I first started my legal studies, we only had one senior batch that had gone through so much of difficulties, even without proper lecture rooms. However, we were blessed because we had the Law Department from our first day. I am proud to say that I was one of the members in the student committee when we first tried to establish the Law Students' Union and I became the President of Law Students' Union in 2015. As a batch and through the LSU we stood against ragging from the first day of our second year and I can proudly state that none of my batchmates got involved in ragging. We stood as a united front against ragging and protected out junior batch.

My husband and I relocated to Australia in 2017 and I was able to get a full scholarship to support my LL.M. degree. I am currently working as a Senior Case Manager in the Queensland Corrective Services. I never had any work experience in Sri Lanka, and it was hard to get into the job market without work experience. However my unique undergraduate curriculum and my contribution as a student union president helped me to get into my first job as a case manager. After six months into my employment I was asked by the management to apply for the Senior Case Manager post, which I thought I was not ready for, since it was a higher position and I had to go to the interview with 40 other experienced Australians who had been in the work force for more than ten years. Since English was my second language, I was anxious; however I performed well at the interview and was offered

a permanent position. I am proud to say that I am the only one in my office who had been offered a Senior Case Manager role within six months into employment. If I ever had the chance to study law in Sinhala, I would have done that without a second thought. However doing my undergraduate degree in the English medium helped me to get to the place where I am now. Further, I work with people with psychology, criminology, sociology and law backgrounds, and my basic studies in sociology and psychology plays a huge role in my day-to-day work. Moreover, being in the Law Department taught me to think outside the box, which is one of the reasons why I was hired for my current position, since I bring that uniqueness to the team.

I wish to thank all of my lecturers, especially the former Head of the Department Prof. Deepika Udagama and the non-academic staff for providing me with all the guidance throughout my university life and even today.

Piuni Denagamage

*LL.B. (Peradeniya); National Consultant on Gender Inclusion
(UN Office)*

I'm a community and social development professional experienced in working with multidisciplinary and international teams on sustainable energy, social development, gender inclusion, women empowerment and climate change mitigation/adaption. I am first and foremost a passionate Environmentalist. Having completed my basic degree in Law at the Department of Law, University of Peradeniya, I completed a Master's degree in Development Practice focused on sustainable development. During my career of 4 years I have worked in the development field in the private sector, with NGOs and foreign funded projects including FAO, UNDP, UN Women, IFAD. All experiences were made possible because of my education at the Department of Law, University of Peradeniya.

My passion as an environmentalist made me choose a different path from my A/L friends in Biology – I selected Law when all my friends pursued medicine or natural science related degrees. I thought Law will support my quest to become an environmentalist by becoming an environmental lawyer. Although that is not exactly what happened, my story during my time at the Department of Law, University of Peradeniya and beyond has enabled me to achieve well beyond the scope of my initial dreams.

When I try to recall my days at the Department of Law, the first thing that crosses my mind is the language – it was mandatory to do the degree in English medium and it definitely was a challenge. English was only a subject for 13 years of school education. I didn't have professional skills to use English to express myself in speaking or writing, but

now it was mandatory – you see my frustration! As I see it today, learning professional English was a life changing milestone for me. At that time, I was determined that I will be satisfied by completing my degree in English medium but I ended up representing the Department in its first moot team. The Mooting Team represented University of Peradeniya in the Henry Dunant Moot Court Competition, Sri Lanka and Jean-Pictet Moot Court Competition in International Humanitarian Law 2016, held at Evian-les-Bains, in France/Geneva, Switzerland. I’m able to effectively work with international organizations and consultants today, thankfully to the (irritating!) mandatory language requirement.

I wanted to become a lawyer – about which I had a ‘good’ understanding of what I need to learn and how to execute what I have learnt. But again, my experience with the Department of Law didn’t fit in this ‘good’ understanding. The Department exposed us to a multi-disciplinary environment including (but not limited to) sociology, Sri Lankan economy, management, psychology, history, etc. First I didn’t know when, where and how to use this knowledge – I was convinced it was a purposeless exercise. Now I understand that exposure to these different fields was my first step in the development field I’m in today. Later in 2016, I joined UN and all the “extra” knowledge I acquired during sociology, economics, management, etc. was relevant!

Research was a mandatory requirement that was embedded in all our assignments. We were given research skills in a core course as well. This background and skills in research gave me a greater advantage in my professional life as a development practitioner and in pursuing my Master’s. In 2018, I was awarded a grant by IFAD-Universities Win-Win Partnership where I did a study to analyze gender roles in agricultural value chains to develop an action plan and a monitoring

framework for an IFAD funded project in Bangladesh to eliminate gender constraints on women. This study was selected as one of the best 3 studies under IFAD-Universities Win-Win partnership in 2018/19 and presented at IFAD HQ, Rome in May/2019.

I recall my great joy in learning about constitutional rights, equality, gender equality and feminism. Today as a gender inclusion professional, I was inspired by these to search for the ways to include women in the (sustainable) development formula. My analytical skills in identifying gender concerns/challenges and suggesting solutions go back to my days in the Department of Law where we were trained to think critically which was exercised on a daily basis during lectures.

This is my story. I was not successful in achieving my initial ambition of becoming an environmental lawyer – but in the process I became much more. I’m a community and social development professional, gender inclusion specialist and an environmentalist for which I’m very much indebted to my alma mater, the Department of Law of the University of Peradeniya.

Thivanka Rathnayake

LL.B.(Peradeniya); LL.M. (Penn State); Attorney-at-Law; Legal Advisor-International Committee of the Red Cross

I entered the Department of Law, University of Peradeniya to become a lawyer. At Peradeniya, I was offered so much more than being a mere lawyer and shaped me into who I am today, a humanitarian. We were trained to look at the world with a humanitarian eye from the first year. Advanced courses such as Human Rights Law and Sociology of Law broadened the said perspective. I was highly motivated by the constant encouragement for social engineering and the opportunity for the pragmatic application of the legal knowledge at Peradeniya. Further, I am forever indebted to the Department of Law, University of Peradeniya for its multi-disciplinary curriculum. The knowledge I received on areas such as Sociology, Political Science and Psychology paved the way for me to analyze social issues in a pedagogical and critical perspective. Skills that I acquired by novel courses offered at Peradeniya such as Alternative Dispute Resolution and by conducting the final year dissertation assist me to date in my career.

The Department of Law is a profound institution not only for its remarkable curriculum, but also the co-curricular activities it offers. For example, the ample opportunity to be a member of the first moot team of the Department of Law was a turning point in my life. The exposure, networking opportunities, skills and knowledge I received by participating in different moot-related competitions have molded the professional I am today.

To have the opportunity to walk the hallowed corridors of the University of Peradeniya, such an esteemed institution and call it my alma mater, is undoubtedly a blessing and I am forever grateful for that.

Fathima Fazeeha

LL.B. (Peradeniya); Attorney-at-Law; Inquiry Officer, Human Rights Commission

Owing to my continuous efforts at the Advanced Level Examination I was endowed with the opportunity to be enrolled as a student of the prestigious institute; University of Peradeniya. The ball was in my court after I completed my Advanced Level Examination with flying colours, as my father had promised me to continue his assistance to pursue my higher education in a field of my preference, provided that I pass the aforesaid examination on the first attempt. I did not have an ambition to become a lawyer even though I was inspired to enter the University of Peradeniya. After deciding to pursue law, the University became my very own Hogwarts as it led me to find the magic of my life.

I did not have the confidence that I will succeed in completing my degree successfully as it was taught in English medium while the situation worsened after the first semester examination of my first academic year. Nevertheless, after one year I realized that I am doing reasonably well in a completely new area of study. It is immensely important to emphasize on the diversity of the curriculum of my degree, which was not merely based on legal studies but also on social science disciplines in ‘Introduction to law’. I still admire the fact that we have knowledge on multitude of subject areas such as sociology, social psychology, political science, economics and the principles of Management which were extremely useful not only for my profession but also for my personal life. The most significant feature of the curriculum is that it included English as a compulsory subject until the sixth semester. I must mention that I was able to improve my attitude towards law only because I was benefited from the English

courses and especially through the voluntary English class conducted by the English graduates of foreign universities from time to time in our Department. The course on Legal Writing and Research in the second semester has lifetime value for any kind of professional, which enabled me to review my mistakes throughout the period. During my final years, I was able to write a proper legal article using proper citation methods.

Moreover, the practical education, which involved us in field researches, debating, mootings, class presentations and court observations are priceless and have immensely contributed in my present success. Mooting, especially brought out my courage and confidence level and helped me to improve myself. In the final year, I chose to do a field research for my dissertation on “Juvenile justice system in Sri Lanka”, for which I was assigned with an excellent instructor who is a judge in the Additional District Court of Kurunegala. I would proudly say that my instructor praised my effort and said that he could see the Department of Law sowing the seeds of future social activists and I think I have followed his words.

Soon after the successful completion of my degree, I faced the Attorney-at-Law Examination. It was slightly challenging for me since I was not used to memorizing the answers for exams during my university days. However, I successfully got through the exams and gave oaths as an Attorney-at-Law in 2017. Meanwhile, I applied for an internship at the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka and was selected amongst hundreds of candidates. Subsequent to the successful completion of my internship, the Commission, appreciating my work, invited me to apply for a project conducted by them, in which, I was appointed as the Project Assistant. After one year of experience, and with my qualification as an Attorney-at-Law in addition to the LL.B.

degree, I was appointed as an Inquiry Officer in 2018 and continue working there up to date.

I have never hesitated to accept leadership and was strongly determined to continue working towards my goals during my academic life as well as the career despite failures and disappointments. As a daughter; a sister; a friend; a wife; a mother and most importantly as a woman, I play multiple roles in life which require enormous amount of courage and persistence which I learned from my lecturers and especially from my mentor Prof. Deepika Udagama. It is noteworthy to mention the guidance provided to me by Prof. Udagama since my first meeting with her and I am forever grateful to her for steering my academic and professional career in the right direction which subsequently motivated me to become the first lawyer of my village. Hence, on a concluding note I am proud to be a product of the Department of Law of the University of Peradeniya and grateful for the life-changing experience.

Pamoda Jayasundara

LL.B. (Peradeniya); Attorney-at-Law; Fulbright Scholar; Lecturer (Probationary), Department of Law

Having ranked 7th in Sri Lanka from the Advanced Level Examination, I chose the Department of Law at the University of Peradeniya for my undergraduate studies in 2013, which I think, is the best decision I have ever made. The Department was only in her fourth year after inception when I joined, and needless to say, many were not hesitant to express their uncertainties whether I had made the right choice. But four years later, I could prove them all wrong, thanks to the staff and students there.

I graduated in 2017 as the Department's first-ever First Class holder and with a Gold Medal for excellence in Constitutional Law. I was blessed with the best lecturers who had both the academic expertise and a vision for progressive change in the legal education of the country, led by Professor Nelum Deepika Udagama, who is my mentor to this date. Many of the courses offered were unique and well-focused to produce 'humane lawyers' that the society was asking for.

While I was an undergraduate, I was also a member of the Mooting Team which won the all-island championship at the Henry Dunant Moot Court Competition in 2016 and represented Sri Lanka at its regional rounds held in Kathmandu.

Apart from the mandatory research component of the degree program, I was also encouraged by the Department to intern at a number of governmental and non-governmental organizations including the Human Rights Commission and the Legal Aid Commission in specific areas such as gender equality, ethnic harmony and access to justice.

The richness of experience I gained through all these has immensely benefited me throughout these years and added color to my academic success. Soon after I ended my studentship at the Department in 2017, I rejoined her in a different capacity, as a Temporary Lecturer, and later assumed duty as a Probationary Lecturer in 2019. Moreover, I was awarded the Fulbright Master's Scholarship in 2018 and I am currently pursuing my postgraduate studies in the United States of America at the University of Texas – School of Law where I have also been awarded with a Research Fellowship at its Institute for Transnational Law.

I am only one of the hundreds of those who benefited from the Department, and many more success stories are yet to be heard. On the Department's 10th anniversary, I make this an opportunity to salute her, without whom none of these achievements could have been a possibility. The Department of Law at the University of Peradeniya is not just another institution for legal education, but an oasis that stands high and above with positive prospects for future in abundance. There is only so little that the physical resources can do in the face of a passion-driven human force. *vivet aeternum*, Department of Law!

Agana Gunawardena

LL.B. (Peradeniya); LL.M. (Penn State); Attorney-at-Law; Research Assistant to Hon. Justice Priyantha Jayawardena, PC (Judge of the Supreme Court).

Strolling through beautiful blue meadows, webs of green trees and blossoms of robarosia made my four years at Peradeniya unique and unforgettable which is a common sentiment shared by Peradeniya alumni. However, what I found most special about Peradeniya, was the education that I received at the Department of Law. I believe that the Department's interdisciplinary curriculum trained me to analyse an issue, not solely from a legal perspective but also from a social perspective thereby highlighting the relevance and impact of law on society.

Recognizing the importance of cultivating well-rounded graduates, the Department, via its academic and non-academic staff, fosters an ambiance where students could excel in not only academic studies but also extra-curricular activities. The invaluable support that I received from the Department assisted me to not only become a member of the mooting team that recorded the first victory for the Department in competitive mooting, but also to continue sports and become the captain of the University's women's chess team.

I am also grateful to the Department for instilling in me the discipline, the commitment and the work-ethic required to excel in a career in the legal profession. The training that I received while studying in Peradeniya, helped me enormously, even after completing my bachelor's, to not only self-study to pass the attorney's examination but also to get accustomed to the learning techniques adopted in the United States when studying for my LL.M. at the Pennsylvania State

University, which is a scholarship opportunity that I received via my alma-mater.

The Department also engraved in us the gravity of the investment the country has made by providing us quality higher education and in return the role we must play to contribute to the development of our motherland as law graduates. I am indebted to the Department for making me the person I am today, and I will strive my best to make mother Pera proud throughout my career.

In its decade-long existence, the Department has already performed an enormous service. I hope it gets the opportunity to continue to do so in perpetuity.

Kithmini Aviruppola

LL.B. (Peradeniya); Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo

At the time I selected the University of Peradeniya for my tertiary education, the Department of Law had a history of only three years. The University of Colombo was my first preference, although I was unable to get myself admitted to the Faculty of Law. Nevertheless, without any hesitation, I proceeded to apply to the University of Peradeniya as I was well aware of the great personalities who were behind the establishment of the Department of Law at the University of Peradeniya. That gave me confidence, and looking back I realize that the said decision was a turning point in my life. Even though it was freshly started, the Department was headed by one of the pioneers in the legal field, Prof. Deepika Udagama. The academic staff consisted of well trained and experienced lecturers as well as well-known figures of the legal field.

An efficient and an effective semester system was used to teach us and we were exposed to the practical aspects of the legal field by numerous ways such as mandatory court visits, group projects and moot court competitions. All the courses were offered only in the English medium. Therefore we were forced to improve our English which is a must if we are to advance further in this field. By the time I graduated, I had an in-depth knowledge of different areas of law enabling me to choose a career in academia, as well as the practical knowledge to practice as an Attorney-at-Law, in case I chose that path. However, as I had more interest in academia and pursuing postgraduate studies, I joined the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo as a probationary lecturer.

It has been a little more than a year since I started lecturing at Faculty of Law, University of Colombo. The theoretical knowledge I gained at

the Department of Law, University of Peradeniya has been immensely helpful for me as a lecturer. The confidence I have to lecture a class full of students and answer their numerous unpredictable questions stems from the practical knowledge I gained during my time at the Department. Further, having been taught in only English medium at the Department, today I'm able to lecture to both Sinhala medium and English medium students at the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo.

Looking back at my life as an Attorney-at-Law and as a lecturer, I'm forever thankful to the Department. As students of the Department, you can have full faith in being able to be successful in the legal field, given that you fully utilize the resources the Department offers you. While wishing all the students a bright future, I congratulate the Department on its 10th anniversary and wish the Department will continue its journey of success with pride!

Thakshila Jayasena

LL.B. (Peradeniya); Attorney-at-Law

Being a lawyer was not my dream, it's my destiny and the Department of Law, University of Peradeniya is the place where I changed my destiny. If you want to become a confident legal professional this is the best place to be. When I started my undergraduate life, I had no legal background being a student from the science stream. But this Department developed me into a fruitful alumna with knowledge, experience, qualities, skills and talents, and molded me into the best version of me. Credit goes to the Department of Law, especially the Head of the Department, lecturers, staff and my friends at the Department.

We may have a lot of educational qualifications. We have passed Ordinary, Advanced Level and many other examinations and received certificates. But, that is not enough to become a successful legal professional. We need skills. The Department of Law is the place where I learnt skills. The Department of Law gave me a big opportunity to be good at conversing in different languages because the degree programme is in the English medium. At the initial stages we were not familiar with it. But, all the strength and guidance were given by the lecturers and the staff to improve our language skills. Again, the Department of Law gave me a big opportunity to be confident, competent and flexible to face and accept any challenge, any positive or negative aspects in life and to be good at leadership positions because we had a lot of extra-curricular activities at the Department. Those are the incredible opportunities we got to learn something new from each and every moment in our University life. Finally, the Department of Law has shown us the miracles in our journey and taught us that nothing is impossible. That is the hidden secret of the Department. While extending a big 'Thank You' to all the pillars who gave strength to the Department, I wish the Department a happy and long journey!

Harsha Widanapathirana

LL.B. (Peradeniya); Attorney-at-Law

The Department of Law of University of Peradeniya is truly a place that has the potential to change a person into a productive person with sensitivity towards the society. The platform that is provided by the Department of law for a student in terms of education, sensitivity, empathy, awareness and the room or opportunity for a person to understand the interdisciplinary perspective of law with regard to diverse number of disciplines is truly notable and deserves appreciation. The tradition in terms of legal education within the Department of Law is revolutionary as a student is exposed to diverse number of disciplines which develops, not only a professional with high caliber, but a professional with humanness influenced by sensitivity and commitment under an umbrella of ethics and professionalism. It should be admitted that following the LL. B degree programme was quite challenging, but the learning experience is of high value which cannot be measured by grades or marks, which I personally believe should be the case in a system where marks are considered to be of greater importance than learning and development. I am truly grateful for the opportunity I got to pursue my higher education at the Faculty of Arts in the University of Peradeniya and hold undeniable gratitude towards the Department of Law for assisting and guiding me to become the person and the professional I am today. I wish that the Department would be able to mold more professionals with heart, who would make a positive difference in society for the benefit of both living and future generations.

THE JOURNEY AHEAD...



The Department of Law has evolved and expanded since its establishment ten years ago. The Department wishes to thank all those who have worked tirelessly in various capacities to make the Department a successful institution. It has moulded and shaped young legal professionals, and hopes to inspire more to become not just lawyers but responsible citizens who can contribute, nationally and internationally, to the promotion of greater social justice and in doing so ensure that the people around them lead a better life.