**FACULTY OF MEDICINE – UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA**

Dear Sir,

Our beloved Parents,

My dear Brothers and Sisters,

I found my self be honoured to deliver the welcome address on behalf of the senior students of the faculty of medicine. I take this opportunity to warmly welcome our younger brothers and sisters who are heirs of this prestigious institute. It says you have lucky to get selected to university in Sri Lanka. You are very lucky to get selected to University of Peradeniya and you are extremely lucky to get selected Faculty of Medicine, Peradeniya.

The University of Peradeniya is the heir to the oldest university tradition in Sri Lanka as the successor to the University of Ceylon, the first institution of its kind in the country. It was established in July 1942 as University of Ceylon at Colombo. In 20th April 1954 officially opened in Peradeniya. Sir Ivor Jennings was the founder and first vice chancellor.

Faculty of Medicine was established at 1961. Professor S.W. Bibile, Professor of Pharmacology who was elected Dean of this new Faculty of Medicine, was largely responsible for the establishment of the Medical Education in the Faculty. Soon it became one of leading institute in Medical education in Sri Lanka which produced brilliants such Prof Nimal Senanayake, Prof Shanthi Mendis and meny more. The faculty is currently headed by Dr Gamini Buthpitiya.

Academic structure consists of 15 departments under Pre clinical, Para clinical and clinical blocks. Faculty equipped with medical library, E library, ELTU, Research centres such as SACTRACT and Animal house.

It is important to understand that University education is very different to the way you used to be in you school. Teaching medium will be English and it’ll be worthwhile if you pay more attention to the language. ELTU will be helpful in this troublesome matter. And you will find that university education is student centred and teachers are there only to guide you. The library and e library will be the main resources. As medicine is a large field, you will find that you’ll unable to study and master the science and art of healing single handed. So study groups will be helpful.

As you may already heard there is sub culture inherited to the University. This included some manners of behavior

* + Respect to teachers
  + Respect to senior students
  + Don’t harm any property / Environment
  + Don’t disturb to other students

There is unique Language associated with sub culture

Kade, Hitch, Polonnaruwa,

The university possesses a fully equipped gymnasium and an international standard swimming pool. The sports council organizing sports programmes at fresher’s level inter faculty level and inter university level. Take part in these activities will relief your stress which you will encounter with academic stuff. There are also cultural activities which you can take part in. stage dramas in Sarachchandra open air theatre (WALA) and film festivals at Arts theatre are held in frequently.

The university comprises of multi religious population and they have complete freedom to practice their religious faith in the university. For this purpose a Buddhist temple, a Roman Catholic Church, a Christian church, a Hindu kovil and a mosque are located with in the university premises.

This is a place where the friendship begins, despite of what your religion & race is. That is the bond which will last forever, some thing eternal. Boys there will be new faces from all around the country, don’t miss it. And girls I know you will be having a great time seeing how these poor boys try desperately to hear you say ‘’yes’’. Our university is one of the most romantic places in the world, so I will not be wonder if you fallen love with some one very sooner.

We need to have attitude and behavioural change in order to succeed and in order to climb to the top. My dear brothers and sisters, your attitudes determine your altitude. You need to believe that you are one of the best minds in this country. Be humble but it’s the truth. You can’t have any division inside the premises. Keep your classes, religion, casts at Galaha junction as you enter the faculty. And if you can’t think that you are just another equal medical student you are not suitable for a holly work like medicine. You have enormous freedom here. So use your freedom wisely.

Do not try to judge a person by the way he talks or appears. Nobody is perfect but everybody has some thing nice. So learn it. Patients are not just a cases but human beings with emotions, respect it. You are the people who inspires the thousands of youth to look at and think about themselves. So behave in an exemplary way where you can inspire them.

At last I would say this is a place where you will learn skills which take your life to the top. A place, where you gain a state of dignity. But remember my dear friends if you make a bad decision, if you court in a trap, a place which you can ruin your life in a click of second. So always remember for what you have came here and your parents who sacrifice lot you to get enter here. Mind your foot so you will have a safe journey.

Thank You.

(Group 1A, 2005 - 2006)