

RENAISSANCE

Office of the Vice-Chancellor, University of Guyana

Vol. 4 No. 1, January - March, 2019

Turkeyen and Tain Talks 17: Information and Communication Technology ICT 4D

Pg 41



Lecturer attends the Caribbean Regional
Conference of Psychology

Pg 29

Quality Assurance workshop for academic and administrative staff

Pg 13

UG 2019 Track and Field Competition

Pg 59

**2nd Clive Thomas Distinguished lecture titled:
'Critical considerations for the Economic success
of Guyana in the context of the pending Oil boom'**

Pg 33

Let's preserve Mother Languages

Pg 9

UG judged best in the Caribbean

Pg 24



Turkeyen Open/Career
Day 2019

Pg 37



UNIVERSITY of GUYANA

Table of Contents

The VC Speaks	3
Editor's Note	5
Renaissance Scorecard I, II & III	7
Let's preserve Mother Languages	9
Visit by Dr Gillian Smith, new FAO Representative in Guyana	10
UG team in Aishalton for the Guyana launch of the International Year Of Indigenous Languages in January 2019	12
Quality Assurance workshop for academic and administrative staff held in January 2019.....	13
Assessment critical to teaching & learning outcomes	14
Visit by Dr Awil Mohamoud, Director of the African Diaspora Policy Centre in The Netherlands	15
Second Diaspora and Entrepreneurship Conference	15
Periodic meeting with UGSS student leaders to clarify issues and resolve problems	16
Session to plan resuscitation of the Guyana chapter the Caribbean Academy of Sciences	17
Consultation on the submission of student scripts and grades	19
Sister Noel Menezes Distinguished Lecture, delivered by Sir Hilary Beckles	20
Vice-Chancellor and Principal Ivelaw Griffith and UWI St. Augustine Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Brian Copeland paying a courtesy call on Director of the Department Of Energy Dr Mark Bynoe and his Advisor Mr Matthew Wilks	21
In January 2019, a visit by US university health sciences students on attachment in Guyana facilitated by Bridges Medical Mission	22
Symposium to launch two new degrees in Petroleum Engineering, in January 2019	23
UG judged best in the Caribbean	24
Luncheon hosted in honor of Sir Hilary Beckles and Professor Brian Copeland at Renaissance House in January 2019.....	25
A Culinary delight	26
CDC, UG partner to certify VERT Programme	27
Visit by Caribbean Airlines CEO Garvin Medera, Interim Guyana Country Manager Carl Stuart and Senior Marketing Manager Alicia Cabrera	28
Lecturer attends the Caribbean Regional Conference of Psychology	29
Turkeyen and Tain Talks 16 "Money Matters"	30
One of the Strategic Planning sessions	31

Media briefing on the bomb threats and the university's response	32
2nd Clive Thomas Distinguished lecture titled: 'Critical considerations for the Economic success of Guyana in the context of the pending Oil boom'.....	33
Symposium to launch Centre of Excellence for Teaching and Learning	35
Visit to Rice University in Houston, Texas	36
Visit by Dr Evan Ellis, Research Professor of Latin American Studies at the US Army War College	36
Turkeyen Open/Career Day 2019	37
Registry awarded 1st Prize	39
Turkeyen and Tain Talks 17: Information and Communication Technology ICT 4D	41
Visit by His Worship the Mayor of Georgetown, Pandit Ubraj Narine	43
Meeting with the leadership team of the UG Alumni and Friends organisation at Medgar Evers College, CUNY	44
PERSONALITY PROFILE: Ms Paulette Henry	45
Visit to the Houston, Texas campus of TechnipFMC, the subsea oil drilling giant that has already hired 27 UG engineering graduates	47
Eleventh Renaissance Lecture, delivered by Professor Evan Ellis of the US Army War College on Organized Crime and Regional Security Dynamics in Guyana and the Caribbean	48
Visit by South African government delegation led by Deputy Minister Of Minerals Hon. Godfrey Oliphant	49
Launch of the Forensic Psychology Sexual Offenses Special Training Programme	50
Visit by post-graduate students from Arizona State University as part of the Guyana Resilient and One (GRO) partnership	51
Stakeholder Consultation on Strategic Planning	52
Forum on Personal Stories on Child Abuse, UG in partnership with ChildLink	53
Ribbon cutting of the Geotechnical lab for the Faculty of Engineering and Technology, courtesy of Ministry of Natural Resources, GGMC, and Schlumberger	54
Symposium to launch the new degree in Food Science	55
Visit to the site of the Nand Persaud Soil and Disease Research Lab at the John's Science Centre in Berbice	56
VC Delivering the Keynote Address at the Guyana celebration of the International Day for Women and Science at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre	57
Town Hall meeting held at Turkeyen Campus on the matter of the bomb threats and security preparedness	58
UG 2019 Track and Field Competition	59

The VC Speaks

EMBRACING THE MAHATMA

“You can’t change how people treat you or what they say about you. All you can do is change how you react to it.” – Mahatma Gandhi

This edition of the *Renaissance* Newsletter clearly shows that Renaissance Dreaming and Doing continue powerfully with various initiatives and achievements, ranging from the Conversation on Law and Society, the Noel Menezes Distinguished Lecture, the CY Thomas Distinguished Lecture, the symposia to launch the new undergraduate and post-graduate degree programmes in Petroleum Engineering, Youth Work and Community Development, and Food Sciences, the Open/Career Day, the Turkeyen and Tain Talks, the Mother Language Day event, to the discourse about poet Egbert Martin, among other things.

The matters reported on in this edition are part of the change dynamic under the rubric of Project Renaissance. As a reminder, Project *Renaissance* aims to rebuild our University’s educational and economic enterprise and enable it to become a consequential national and international educational stakeholder. It is both a Dreaming project and a Doing project, with four main pillars or imperatives, which are: Capital Investment, Academic Enhancement, Economic Viability, Alumni and Civic Engagement.

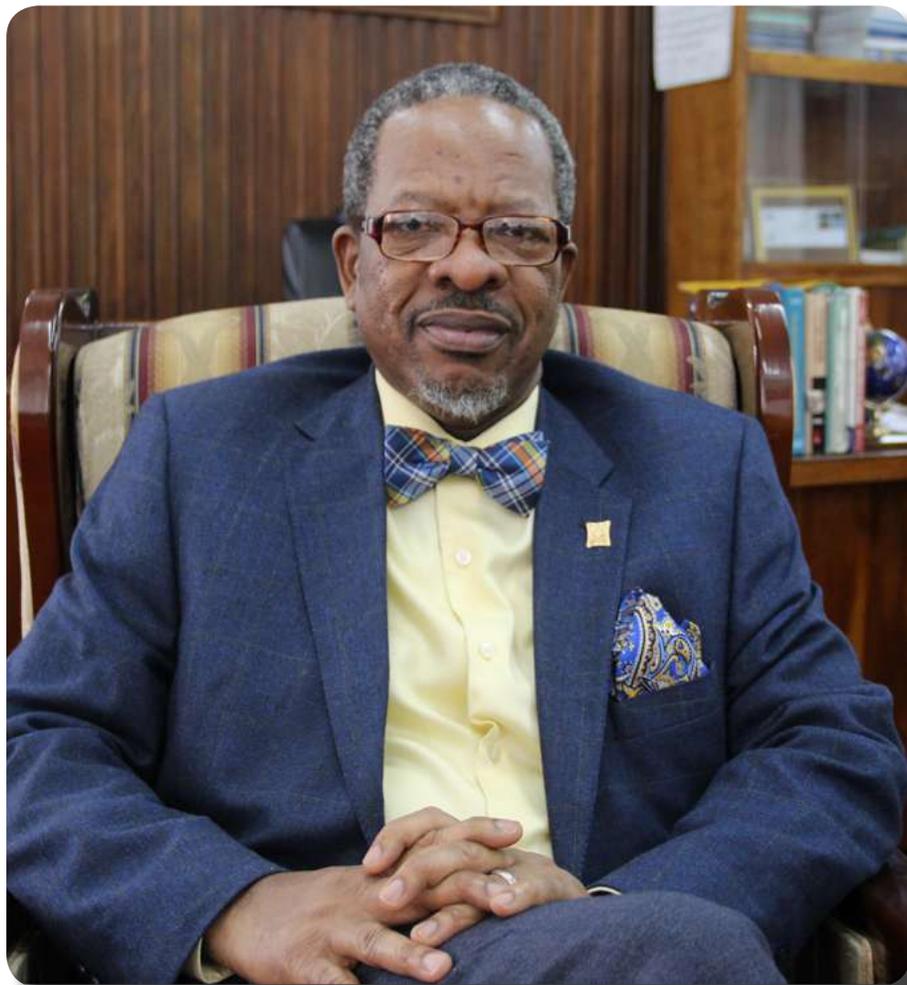
The change being pursued is disruptive in many respects, and for good reason. And, this disruption has manifested a good deal of individual and organised “push back” and personal maligning and institutional misinformation during the period under review. Yet, as the Mahatma’s words of wisdom above teach us, it often is futile to attempt to change how individuals and groups treat you or what they say about you, especially if what is said is devoid of constructive criticism and pregnant with maliciousness. Taking the high moral ground requires the reaction to maintain decorum and civility. My commitment to this remains high.

The Mahatma’s wisdom is both embraced and recommended to the multiple constituencies—both on-campus and off-campus—involved in the Dreaming and Doing involved in the transformation of our nation’s sole national university. Included here is the role of the media, which has a responsibility to clarify and report accurately rather than facilitate the circulation of maligning misinformation that could fuel the kind of actions and reactions that could undermine efforts to secure the kind of change that redounds to the benefit of our University’s students, staff, and the broader society.

Keep on keeping on!



Professor Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, PhD, C.C.H.
Tenth Vice-Chancellor



THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S JANUARY-MARCH QUOTE



Editor's Note

Dear Reader,

The University of Guyana welcomes you to Vol. 4, No.1 of the *Renaissance* Newsletter from the Office of the Vice-Chancellor. The *Renaissance* is a medium in which we share all the latest activities and events, as well as developments taking place at The University of Guyana.

As project *Renaissance* continues, The University of Guyana continues with its doing and dreaming vision of building a better institution. One such initiative is the establishment of a Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. This Centre seeks to improve its teaching and learning outcomes by assessing teaching techniques and analysing feedback. Such feedback will help to develop best practices for the teaching and learning environment. Also on the front burner is the preservation of all languages, among which are mother languages. In this regard, a forum was held to discuss the revival and preservation of cultural heritage in Guyana.

Among the many noteworthy events, UG was judged the best in the Caribbean at the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) Law Moot competition, the 2nd Clive Thomas Distinguished Lecture was held to assess critical considerations for the Economic success of Guyana in the context of the pending Petroleum boom and UG administration consulted on the matters of student grades and scripts.

Also in this edition, a lecturer participated in the Caribbean Regional Conference of Psychology in Jamaica and some highlights of the 2019 Track and field competition are provided.

On behalf of the Vice-Chancellor and staff of The University of Guyana, we invite you to follow the progress and achievements of the University through future editions of *Renaissance*, and to spread the word about these exciting developments.

Leisa Somrah



Editor



Editor

UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA
Vice-Chancellor's Fund for Strategic Initiatives
Giving to UG

WIRE TRANSFER INFORMATION

To make transfers directly to The University of Guyana, you will need the following information:

Beneficiary name and address: University of Guyana, Turkeyen Campus,
East Coast Demerara

Beneficiary account number: University of Guyana Foreign Exchange
Account 001-124-7

Bank name and address: Republic Bank (Guyana) Limited,
38 Water Street, Robbstown, Georgetown
GUYANA

SWIFT/ABA/Routing number: RBGLGYGG

IF INTERMEDIARY BANK IS REQUESTED

Corresponding bank: USA

Bank name and address: Bank of America, 100 West 33rd Street,
N.Y. 10001

ABA code: 026009593
SWIFT code: BOFAUS3N
Account number: 6550325990

Also, Cheques can be made payable to The University of Guyana and sent to the attention of Chief of Staff, Office of the Vice-Chancellor, The University of Guyana, Turkeyen Campus, Greater Georgetown, Guyana.



Professor Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, C.C.H.
Vice-Chancellor and Principal
The University of Guyana



Library Extension at the Tain
Campus



Undergraduate Research Conference



George Walcott Lecture Theatre



Students' Social Complex



ABOUT Project Renaissance

Project Renaissance aims to rebuild UG's educational and economic enterprise and enable it to become a consequential national and international educational stakeholder. It is both a Dreaming project and a Doing project, with four main pillars or Imperatives, which are:

- **Capital Investment**, which involves human, finance, physical and brand capital;
- **Academic Enhancement**, which entails improving instructional needs and credentials, curricula, teaching and learning, and introducing new educational programmes;

- **Economic Viability**, which re-quires fortifying the major existing revenue streams (government subventions and tuition fees) and expanding the revenue base through alumni and corporate giving, grants, and merchandising; and
- **Alumni and Civic Engagement**, which entails embracing alumni and business and civic partners within and beyond Guyana, celebrating their achievements, and inviting them to invest in the University and the society's human capital development, as well as rebranding.

WHAT HAVE WE DONE? The Renaissance Scorecards below highlight **40 plus accomplishments** of Project Renaissance during Years 1 & II (2016-2017 and 2017-2018). Some are small, others large, some are tangible while others are process and stage-setting as we journey along Renaissance Road. **They reflect the hard and dedicated work by academic and administrative staff, students, government officials, the University's Education Resource Ambassadors at home and abroad, business and civic supporters, and others.**

Renaissance Scorecard 1

- Secured the reaccreditation of the School of Medicine which had been lost several years earlier.
- Made the George Walcott Lecture Theatre & the Small Lecture Theatre fully air-conditioned.
- Partnered with GTT to offer Mobile Money to enhance services to students and held Race for PACE, which netted G\$4.1M for the Student Support Fund.
- Inaugurated the Distinguished Lecture Series to celebrate the work of Professor Clive Thomas, Professor Sister Noel Menezes, and Dr Ulric Neville Trotz.
- Used the VC Fund to provide G\$100,000 to each of 13 students and two staff members who were fire victims in Cummings Lodge in January 2017.
- Hosted the First Education Resource Ambassadors conference, where we established the Vice-Chancellor's Fund for Strategic Initiatives.
- Restored the Walter Rodney Chair and began efforts to revive History.
- Started promotion of the Arts, including the appointment of Keith Waithe as the first Distinguished Visiting Artist-in-Residence.
- Reorganised the senior leadership, with the creation of DVCs for Academic Engagement; Planning and International Engagement; and Philanthropy, Alumni and Civic Engagement; and an Office of Strategic Initiatives.
- Launched Turkeyen & Tain Talks as a bi-monthly series to facilitate discussions with the community on important subjects and the Renaissance Lectures for periodic discourse on crucial university issues.
- Created the Undergraduate Research Programme, and hosted successful inaugural student research conferences at Turkeyen and Tain.
- Formed the Alumni and Friends of UG in New York & New Jersey to rekindle alumni engagement and encourage support by non-graduates.
- Established the School of Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation (SEBI).
- Launched UG Press to help boost research and Scholarship by lecturers and students.
- Hosted the historic—for both UG and Guyana—First Diaspora Engagement Conference, which was attended by 260 persons.

Renaissance Scorecard II

- Successfully nominated Scientist Dr Dawn Fox for the OWSD-Elsevier Foundation Award for Early-Career Women Scientists in the Developing World.
- Improved Internet services across the University.
- Awarded the first Renaissance Scholarships to two Indigenous students from the Bina Hill Institute in the North Rupununi.
- Paid 2017 salary increases of 6 percent to UA staff and 8 percent to UB staff, totaling G\$117, 573,410 and an average of 4.5 percent for merit.
- Negotiated/signed Academic Collaboration Agreements focused on research, academic programmes and overall academic enhancement with external stakeholders.
- Completed the Agriculture and Forestry expansion, began work on a Student Social Complex, opened Tain library extension and broke ground for the new Math and Science Building at Turkeyen.
- Signed multiple agreements for technical and financial support for oil and gas, agriculture and forestry, foreign languages and the construction of a new library, as part of strengthening our international partnerships.
- Created the Conversation on Law and Society Series to examine issues of great importance to the society.
- Appointed Dave Martins as the second Distinguished Visiting Artist-in-Residence.
- Secured US\$500,000 from the Ministry of Natural Resources and GGMC to support Engineering and Technology and other units.
- Received \$400,000 for Jay and Sylvia Sobhraj Centre for Behavioural Science and Research; US\$250,000 for Nand Persaud Soil Testing Laboratory at Tain; US\$25,000 grant from Exxon towards the enhancement of Agriculture and Forestry.
- Received US\$500,000 worth of items including video equipment from Huawei; and US\$10,000 from Scotia Bank towards a smart Classroom for Natural Sciences.
- Held an Oil and Gas Consultation.
- Hosted a Consultation on Food and Nutrition Security and established a Feasibility Study Team to establish an Institute of Food and Nutrition Security.
- Held the successful Inaugural Conference on Entrepreneurship and Innovation; and hosted a rewarding Oil and Gas Local Content Forum.

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Professor Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, C.C.H.
Vice-Chancellor and Principal
The University of Guyana



Project Renaissance aims to rebuild The University of Guyana's educational and economic enterprise and enable it to become a consequential national and international educational stakeholder. It is both a Dreaming project and a Doing project, with four main pillars or imperatives, which are: **CAPITAL INVESTMENT, ACADEMIC ENHANCEMENT, ECONOMIC VIABILITY, ALUMNI AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT.**

The Renaissance Scorecard below highlights **some of the accomplishments** of Project Renaissance during **Year 111 (July 2018–April 2019)**. *The list reflects the hard and dedicated work by academic and administrative staff, students, government officials, the University's Education Resource Ambassadors at home and abroad, business and civic supporters, and others.*

- Commissioned the Jay and Sylvia Sobhraj Center for Behavioral Research and Science. The Centre houses undergraduate and post-graduate programmes in Psychology and Social Work; the Campus Medical Centre and other units.
- Conferred Honorary Doctorates for the first time in UG's 55-year history: to Edmond "Eddy" Grant for Excellence in Music and Civic Engagement; Yesu Persaud for Iconic Leadership in Business and Banking; Jairaj (Jay) Sobhraj for Excellence in Entrepreneurship and Philanthropy; and Laura George for Outstanding community Development and Advocacy.
- Repaired the roof, replaced floors and undertook other upgrades at the Turkeyen library (G\$33,877,841), and refurbished the Cheddie Jagan Lecture Hall (G\$16,136,890) with university funds and support from the Yesu Persaud Foundation.
- Built a new car park and resurfaced the UG Road at Turkeyen Campus in partnership with Ministry of Public Infrastructure, with the Ministry contributing the labour, equipment and technical support, and UG contributing G\$13.9 million for materials.
- UG won the prize for being the Best Academic Institution and declared runner-up at the Eleventh Annual International Law Moot sponsored by the Caribbean Court of Justice.
- Secured a grant of G\$4 million from Exxon Mobil to purchase a transmitter for The UG Radio station and commissioned a geotechnical lab worth G\$2 billion in the Faculty of Engineering and Technology with funds from Schulumberger, GGMC, and the Ministry of Natural Resources.
- Created one open Wireless SSID called 'UG Turkeyen WiFi' for the Turkeyen Campus.
- Established Alumni chapters in Georgetown, Berbice, Toronto and London; and launched the alumni website and UG#PPL Alumni Magazine.

- Paid 2018 salary increases of three percent to UA staff members and four percent to UB staff members, totaling G\$74,430,380. This payment was tax free.
- Hosted a symposium to launch the Centre of Excellence for Teaching and Learning and also launched new undergraduate and post-graduate degrees in Youth Work and Community Development, Petroleum Engineering, and Food Science and the Master's in Clinical Psychology.
- Established the University of Guyana Growth in a Resource-abundant Economy and Environment Institute.
- Sponsored students to present their research at conferences in the USA (Florida and Georgia), Germany, Aruba and Jamaica.
- Convened a Consultation on World Languages, to strengthen our offerings in Spanish, Portuguese, and French and consider the introduction of Dutch, and hosted a two-part Consultation on Writing.
- As part of preparation for First Oil, renamed the Faculty of Technology as the Faculty of Engineering and Technology and established a Department of Petroleum and Geological Engineering.
- Launched *Dynamics of Caribbean Diaspora Engagement: People, Policy, Practice*, the first book published by The University of Guyana Press.
- Raised G\$10 million for scholarships, awarded the inaugural Outar Perpetual Scholarship for Hinterland Students, and received US\$125,000 worth of microscopes for the Faculty of Engineering and Technology from the University of Toronto.
- Inaugurated the Dr Yesu Persaud Lecture Series with a symposium to celebrate the life and legacy of the iconic entrepreneur and civic leader
- UG was invited to join Conservation International, Arizona State University, and ExxonMobil Foundation to launch the Guyana: Resilient and One (GRO) Programme.



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Let's preserve Mother Languages

The 2019 International Mother Language Day celebration was organised by the Language and Cultural Studies Department, Faculty of Education and Humanities, University of Guyana and was held on February 21, 2019 at the Umana Yana. The purpose of the activity was to share experiences about mother languages and discuss ways to revive and preserve cultural heritage in Guyana.

Head of Department, Alim Hosein, during his greetings explained that we need to be enthusiastic in our approach to help ensure that languages in Guyana do not die. In Guyana we have Guyana creole; Essequibo, Berbice and Demerara Dutch and researchers have also found indigenous sign languages. He noted that there are approximately 5,700,000 indigenous people around the world, a small but significant amount of people. A life gate research shows that indigenous people safeguard 80% of the world's biodiversity.

He encourages cooperation among Guyanese people. We as a people need to be involved in the act and participation of all languages in an effort to preserve them. We have to respect and value all

languages because all languages are important. Recognition of people and culture are important, people should have a say about the past, present and



Dr Barbara Reynolds, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Office of International Engagement

the future. Sadly some languages have become dormant while others have been marginalised. We need to remove the negative space in order to progress, said Mr Hosein.



On left: Ms Charlene Wilkinson, Coordinator, Guyanese Languages Unit participates in a dramatic poem

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Dr Barbara Reynolds, spoke on behalf of Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ivelaw Griffith, and implored that we (society) should not wait until a designated time to celebrate languages. We need to cherish, use and preserve. Language portrays the spirit of who we are. The use of the word mother denotes care - care for who we are, care for elderly, young and family. Therefore mother tongue should be a vehicle of who we are. Similarly, we need to be cognisant and recognise that English, like other languages, is also someone's native tongue.

To preserve the Language, she encouraged 1. Pay attention to what the concepts



Ms Vanda Radzik, founding member, Makushi Research Unit

really mean, mixing and meddling 2. How we do invest in preserving and standardising the other languages - such requires investment 3. We need to use the languages and force others to recognise how important they are. She reassured that The University of Guyana stands ready to invest in all languages.



Dr Laura George, Amerindian Peoples' Association



Secondary school students attend the Mother Language Day Celebrations

Ms Vanda Radzik, founding member, Makushi Research Unit explained that one of the aims of the Makushi Research Unit (MRU) which was formed in 1995 is to preserve, promote and sustain the culture of the Makushi tribe. She explained that languages only work if the language is living. This unit seeks to keep Amerindian culture alive by working with the Ministry of Education to develop Makushi Language Teaching in schools.

The MRU plays an important role in understanding local knowledge systems and cultural affirmation. Currently there are an alphabet chart, booklets and posters in the Makushi language. One is titled: Let's read and write Makushi. Ms Radzik explained that there are over 130 words

for cassava in the Makushi language. She acknowledges The Bina Hill Institute for Research, Training and Development of North Rupununi which has approximately 50 students attending a two-year programme. The programme focusses on training of hinterland youth in the areas of Natural Resource Management, Forestry, Wildlife Management, Agriculture, Tourism, Business Studies etc.

Dr Laura George of the Amerindian Peoples' Association made a plea for policy to be put in place to address the issue of promoting and preserving mother languages as a unit. She explained that the formal education system causes erosion of culture. However, with a total approach systems can be put to incorporate these



Mr Gavin Mendonca performs a Medley of Guyanese folk songs

languages into the education system. She acknowledged lack of finances as a limitation as adequate financing is necessary to guide policy. However, it can still be done. But the teaching system must work with local communities so that the human resource with the knowledge can guide the process. Culture and language need to be supported through adequate political will.

Testimonies were given by Skeitha Thomas in Lokono, Neslina Samuels in Patamona and Enoch Allicock in Makushi. A dramatic piece titled Celebration of our Languages – the future in the past was done by Charlene Wilkinson, Coordinator, Guyanese Languages Unit and friends. A number of Guyanese folk songs were performed by Gavin Mendonca.

Visit by Dr Gillian Smith, new FAO Representative in Guyana, on February 6, 2019



THE UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA

invites **APPLICATIONS** for undergraduate and postgraduate programmes for the **2019-2020 academic year**



UNIVERSITY of GUYANA



APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE
from
March 1 to May 31, 2019

APPLY ONLINE @
<http://www.uog.edu.gy>

Click the Admissions link on the homepage

APPLY USING
APPLICATION FORMS

Only for persons in Regions #1, 2, 7, 8 and 9

APPLICATION FORMS

Application forms can be uplifted from the Regional Education Offices in Regions # 1, 7, 8 and 9.

In Region 2, application forms can be uplifted from the Institute of Distance and Continuing Education, Anna Regina Centre.



ABOUT THE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

Mature persons (at least 26 years of age) who do not possess the minimum University admission requirements, but have relevant work experience in their field of interest, and would like to apply to attend UG, must register to take the University of Guyana Entrance Examination (UGEE).



FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT

The Admissions Division, Turkeyen campus: Tel. #: 222-2740 | Cell: 623-8325 | Email: admissions@uog.edu.gy
Berbice Campus | Tain | Corentyne: Tel. #: 337-2298

UG team in Aishalton for the Guyana launch of the International Year Of Indigenous Languages in January 2019



Quality Assurance workshop for academic and administrative staff held in January 2019



Assessment critical to teaching & learning outcomes



*Ms Paulette Henry,
Director Designate, the Centre of Excellence
for Teaching and Learning*

The newly-formed Centre of Excellence, Teaching and Learning (CoETaL) seeks to respond to the underlying need to improve The University of Guyana's teaching and learning so as to produce a well-adjusted proficient graduate. One of the immediate plans of the centre is to commence a mentorship programme, explained Director Designate, Paulette Henry. She explained that the programme will address some of the concerns of students in relation to teaching styles and feedback mechanisms (between lecturer and student). This announcement was made at a CoETaL Retreat held at the Berbice Campus on March 27, 2019.

We need to enhance the success of our students, said Professor Michael E. Scott, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for the Office of Academic Engagement. In order to do so we need to assess the performance of our students as well as our own performance (faculty) to determine ways to improve the teaching and learning environment at UG. Failure is not an option for The University of Guyana. We have to examine the teaching principles and practices currently being used in order to improve our faculty. The critical pillars for the Centre for Excellence and Learning are continuing the process for orientation and preparation to improve teaching and learning by adopting restorative practices (requires training). In order to improve and repair we have to change the mindset of people. A holistic approach is needed.

Ms Paulette Paul, Advisory Board member and Public Relations Officer of The

University of Guyana, said analysis of the following are critical. 1) Are you (lecturers) teaching what you think you are teaching? 2) Are the students learning what they are supposed to be learning? We need to look for best practices and methods tried and tested in education. Experts say: a) it is necessary for teachers to have a deep knowledge of the subject area in order to teach relevant content. b) Teachers need to understand psychology to know how the human brain works to know what techniques to apply. c) Additionally, assessment is necessary to provide diagnostic feedback and suggest areas of improvement. It helps educators set standards for understanding, knowledge and evaluation. d) The evaluation process should relate to the students' progress. Through assessment, lecturers can motivate students to perform. She encouraged the lecturers to research ways to improve their craft. Ask yourself the question: How can I do better in order to help my students?

Presentations were made by Mr Rajkumar Sookraj, Lecturer, Faculty of Edu-



A section of the participants

cation and Humanities, Berbice Campus, who spoke about Items and Items for Writing and Testing. This included the advantages and disadvantages of multiple-choice and essay-type questions. Ms Shanomae Rose, Lecturer, Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences, spoke about the advantages of the Moodle Software and gave a practical demonstration of Moodle Supported Assessment, getting your Assessment fully on line with Moodle, Lenandlar Singh, Lecturer, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Advisory Board member did Teaching and Learning Scholarship, The quick 1, 2, 3.

Dr Leyland Thompson, Lecturer, Faculty of Education and Humanities, advised that the Blooms Taxonomy of learning which was established in 1956 by Dr Benjamin Bloom, Educational Psychologist, seeks to promote higher forms of thinking in education such as analysing and evaluating concepts, processes, procedures and principles rather than just remembering facts. Dr Thompson advised that Blooms Taxonomy can be used in all forms of Educational Assessment and can be used at UG. Blooms Taxonomy of teaching and learning is no longer limited to knowledge and comprehension to determine the effectiveness of teaching. It has been revised and revolutionised in 2001. It now includes creating, evaluating, analysing, applying, understanding and remembering in the three domains (cognitive, affective and psychomotor) of educational activity or learning. This is deemed more effective for the assessment process of students. He explained that classroom testing is important. It can identify the weakness of students and thus provide an avenue for improvement.

The retreat was organised by the Office of Academic Engagement and sought to examine ways in which to improve the teaching faculty of UG, as well as share information of good practices in teaching and higher education, share experiences in the teaching and learning environment, expose participants to evidence-based strategies and technologies, enrich the teaching and learning environment and use student learning experiences as a guide to improve classroom experiences. It comprised lecturers and other staff members of the Turkeyen and Tain campuses.

Visit by Dr Awil Mohamoud, Director of the African Diaspora Policy Centre in The Netherlands in January 2019, along with Dr Fitzgerald Yaw, UG Director of Strategic Initiatives



Second Diaspora and Entrepreneurship Conference is scheduled for July

The University of Guyana Diaspora and Entrepreneurship Conference is scheduled for July 21-25, 2019 at the Ramada Georgetown Princess Hotel. The 2019 theme, Cultural Diversity and Innovation: Engaging the Diaspora for an Enhanced Caribbean Competitive Landscape will touch on many timely issues including best practices in leadership, technology, entrepreneurship, innovation, economic growth, diversity and inclusion and the role of the Caribbean Diaspora.

Participants are invited from Guyana and the Caribbean, the Guyanese and Caribbean Diaspora communities, faculties and students of The University of Guyana, to participate by: registering and attending, submitting proposals to be presenters and keynote speakers and applying to showcase work and products

This conference seeks to generate new understanding about Diaspora engagement opportunities and to assist policymakers, NGOs, entrepreneurs and researchers to further integrate Diaspora voices in development conversations. Additionally, there will be opportunities for Hometown Associations and local businesses to showcase their work and products respectively, seek technical assistance and invite investment.

This conference is a collaborative effort between the Guyanese and Caribbean Diaspora and the University of Guyana with several members of the global Guyanese and Caribbean Diaspora playing leading roles on the conference planning committee.

In commenting on the conference, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ivelaw Griffith said that "The University of Guyana is committed to collaboration with the Guyanese Diaspora globally to implement programmes to facilitate engagement and entrepreneurship and to enhance our understanding of the ways in which skills within the Diaspora can contribute to the development of Guyana and the wider Caribbean."

The focus of the conference will be on entrepreneurial activity for youth, women, indigenous communities, and Diaspora populations, whose ideas and initiatives will serve as the foundation for new ventures and innovations. The conference is first and foremost about giving space for ideas to flow. Groups, institutions, and individuals are encouraged to participate. The opportunity for engagement will be available for persons working on projects and/or who have ideas which they believe could be usefully applied for community and national development.

Periodic meeting with UGSS student leaders to clarify issues and resolve problems, in January 2019



Session to plan resuscitation of the Guyana chapter the Caribbean Academy of Sciences, held on March 29, 2019



JOIN US

UG 50 and Beyond-Your Vision, Our Mission

A live Television programme aired on NCN, which aims to provide needed information to the public.

Registry

- Monday, May 13, 2019 at 17:30 h

Agriculture & Forestry

- Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 17:30 h

Earth & Environmental Studies

- Friday, May 17, 2019

Education & Humanities

- Monday, May 20, 2019

Engineering & Technology

- Wednesday, May 22, 2019

School of Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation

- Friday, May 24, 2019

Health sciences

- Monday, May 27, 2019

Natural Sciences

- Wednesday, May 29, 2019

Social Sciences

- Friday, May 31, 2019

Berbice Campus

- Monday, June 3, 2019

Institute of Distance and Continuing Education

- Wednesday, June 5, 2019

Consultation on the submission of student scripts and grades



Sister Noel Menezes Distinguished Lecture, delivered by Sir Hilary Beckles on January 25, 2019



Vice-Chancellor and Principal Ivelaw Griffith and UWI St. Augustine Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Brian Copeland paying a courtesy call on Director of the Department Of Energy Dr Mark Bynoe and his Advisor Mr Matthew Wilks, in January 2019



In January 2019, a visit by US university health sciences students on attachment in Guyana facilitated by Bridges Medical Mission



Symposium to launch two new degrees in Petroleum Engineering, in January 2019



UG judged best in the Caribbean



From left: Cassandra Jaikaran, Junior Counsel, Reon Miller, Senior Counsel; and Shameza David, Researcher

Students of The University of Guyana (UG) outshone several other teams from across the Caribbean to emerge the Best Academic Institution at the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) Law Moot competition.

Representing UG at the CCJ Law Moot competition were students, all of the Faculty of Law - Reon Miller, Senior Counsel; Cassandra Jaikaran, Junior Counsel; and Shameza David, Researcher. Former Chancellor of the Judiciary, Justice Carl Singh was the team's adviser.

"It's the first time in the competition's 11 years that UG has won Best Academic Institution," Miller told the Guyana Chronicle. In an emotional social media post, he explained that for about 10 long weeks, the team worked to prove to the Caribbean Community that UG is no 'back alley institution.' "From the 14-hour-long practice sessions and the constant feeling like our argument wasn't good enough, two second- and a first-year student beat the odds," he shared.

In addition to copping the best academic institution spot, UG took the runners-up spot for the Moot competition, losing only to this year's winners: The Hugh Wooding Law School. The Guyanese contingent competed against eight

teams from different schools across the Caribbean: Hugh Wooding Law School (Trinidad & Tobago); Norman Manley Law School (Jamaica); Faculty of Law of the Anton de Kom University of Suriname; Faculty of Law of the University of the Bahamas; Faculty of Law of the University of Technology (Jamaica); Faculty of Law of the University of the West Indies (Cave Hill); Faculty of Law of the University of the West Indies (Mona); and the Faculty of Law of the University of the West Indies (St Augustine).

Each of the teams was pitted against the other for one round, and Guyana faced the UWI Mona – Faculty of Law, where they emerged victorious. "...The Law Moot presents an opportunity for students from regional law schools and faculties to have hands-on courtroom experience at the CCJ," the CCJ's President, Justice Adrian Saunders explained to Nation News (Barbados).

"This allows them an opportunity to develop and present their arguments in front of a panel of CCJ judges, and to use our court management system (Curia). The Moot also promotes greater familiarity with the CARICOM Treaty and the Original Jurisdiction of the Court," he explained further.

Guyana Chronicle - March 26, 2019

Luncheon hosted in honor of Sir Hilary Beckles and Professor Brian Copeland at Renaissance House in January 2019



A Culinary delight

A culinary demonstration titled 'Training and Taste of Value-added Products from Rice and Milk' was held at the Johns Science Centre, University of Guyana Berbice Campus, Johns, Corentyne, on February 1-2, 2019.

Professor Gomathinayagam Subramanian (familiarily known as Prof. Gomes), Director, University of Guyana Berbice Campus, conceived the idea and organised the two-day demonstration. The first day was devoted to value-added products from rice and the following day, milk. On day-one 14 value-added rice dishes were prepared by the participants under guidance and instructions of Prof. Gomes. These dishes were Lemon Rice, Coconut Rice, Mango Rice, Tamarind Rice, Curd Rice, Tomato Rice, Pongal Rice, Sweet



Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ivelaw Griffith and participants showcase the process of butter preparation from milk.

Pongal Rice, Jeera Rice, Vegetable Rice, Sambar Rice, Dal Rice, Cook-up Rice and Carrot Rice. Eleven of the 14 rice dishes were named after the dominant ingredients used in the preparation of the dish and a variety of spices were added to enhance the flavour. Two of the dishes, the Pongal and Sweet Pongal rice were named after a spring festival, one of the most important festivals celebrated in South India. Day-two saw the preparation of table butter, butter milk and yogurt.

Twenty-one persons registered for this culinary demonstration, for which a Certificate of Participation was presented at the end of the workshop. Kelvin Chinapa, student, Department of Agriculture, Ber-



Professor Ivelaw Griffith, Vice-Chancellor, UG and Professor Gomathinayagam Subramanian, Director, Berbice Campus, with Coordinator of the workshop along with participants and staffers

bice campus, confessed that the experience was a little scary at first, having to try something new in the rice dishes. However it was a good experience. He said, "We in Guyana need to start thinking about mass production of some products we normally import. We have accessibility to raw materials right here in Guyana, as demonstrated at the workshop. Let's make full use of them. We have the capability to produce products such as cheese, yogurt, ice-cream, butter and milk. Our import bill is too high; it is important to create a spirit of entrepreneurial among Guyanese." Though more research and investments are needed to stimulate the growth of industry in Guyana, innovation starts with an idea.

He encourages secondary school teachers to give students research projects to create products with market potential. We also need to work on quality assurance. Quality of product and packaging are two important elements of focus, he said. He commends The University of Guyana for pushing the envelope of entrepreneurship and innovation through the School of Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation.

Among the guests at the first session were Major General Ret'd Joseph Singh, Pro-Chancellor, University of Guyana and his wife Mrs Caroline Singh; Ms Paulette Henry, Director CoTaLE; Mr Shafeak Ghanie, Coordinator, Division of Natural Sciences; Mr Owen Bovell, Dean, Faculty

of Agriculture & Forestry; Mr Imran Ally, Head Teacher, Winifred Gaskin Memorial Secondary School and Prof. Brij Tewari, Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Natural Sciences, UG, Turkeyen Campus.

The second day was attended by Dr Fitzgerald Yaw, Director of Strategic Initiatives and participants Ms Paulette Paul, Public Relations Officer, University of Guyana; Ms Leisa Somrah, Editor of the Renaissance Newsletter and Ms Bibi



A display of value-added rice products

Alli, staff member of the Public Relations Division, along with Ms Sherena Persaud and Ms Hemwattie Permaul of the Berbice Campus.

Certificates were presented to participants by Professor Ivelaw Griffith, Vice-Chancellor, UG, at the end of the workshop.

CDC, UG partner to certify VERT Programme

The Civil Defence Commission (CDC) and The University of Guyana (UG), on March 17, 2019 signed an agreement that will see volunteers from the Volunteer Emergency Response Team (VERT) receiving an Introduction to Disaster Risk Management certificate from the University.



This signing, which was done by Director-General (Ag), CDC, Lieutenant Colonel, Kester Craig and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic Engagement, UG, Professor Michael Scott, occurred at the conclusion of the launch of the VERT training programme for the first 41 volunteers held at Camp Madewini, Timehri which began on March 15. The CDC has started training a corps of volunteers in the area of disaster risk management to better augment its work should there be emergencies.

The three-day launch programme was done in collaboration with the UG, ExxonMobil and the Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Agency (CDEMA) with the aim of raising awareness of VERT programmes among volunteers and key partners, building capacity in core competency areas and building team spirit and morale among volunteers and key partners.

The Agreement will not only see volunteers receive certificates at the completion of their training but will also allow for UG students to obtain internship opportunities at the CDC. "This particular programme is more of

an advanced programme where volunteers will be trained in detail disaster risk management and primarily to support the communities and the regions but more importantly to support the Caribbean, responding to hurricanes and tsunamis in islands that are usually affected every year," Lieutenant Colonel Kester Craig said. Among the volunteers are doctors, lawyers, engineers, media workers and persons in technical professions.

The VERT training programme will last for one year during which time the volunteers will be exposed to both theoretical and practical training in damage assessment, search and rescue and oil spill responses, to name a few. "I want to commend and congratulate the leadership of the CDC and all the invaluable partners for their engagement in this process," Professor Scott said, while noting that the UG has started a process



of constructing a contemporary model for voluntary assessment performance in emergency and risk management. Among the goals, Professor Scott said is to focus on team building, risk assessment and practical activities.

Meanwhile, ExxonMobil's Public and Government Affairs Officer, Ms. Deedra Moe said the United States (U.S.) oil giant will contribute financially and technically to the programme. "We're happy to be a part of this Volunteer Emergency Response Team both con-

tributing financially and using resources from our expertise in oil spill response to have a comprehensive response effort," she said.

Participant Ms Maxy Ignatius from the Potaro-Siparuni Region (Region Eight) said it is her desire to become a



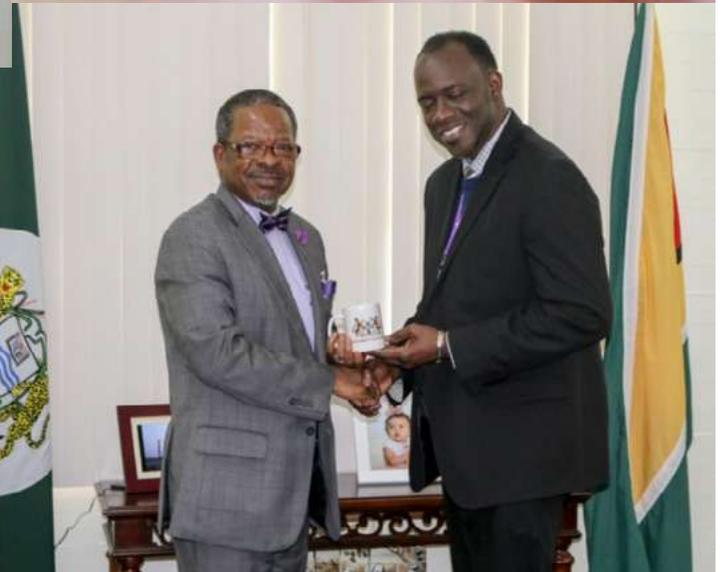
peer educator in her Region.

"It was very beneficial and I learnt a lot, things that I didn't know and I look forward to learning more new things and being able to execute them. When I return to my village, I plan to keep sessions with the villages nearby and go to secondary schools and giving information on the things that I learnt," Ms Ignatius said.

The goal of the VERT programme is to reduce Guyana's disaster risk through voluntary services. The training will begin on March 30, 2019 and will end on January 31, 2020. The CDC officially launched its Volunteer Corps in October 2012.



Visit by Caribbean Airlines CEO Garvin Medera, Interim Guyana Country Manager Carl Stuart and Senior Marketing Manager Alicia Cabrera, on February 6, 2019



Lecturer attends the Caribbean Regional Conference of Psychology

The biennial Caribbean Regional Conference of Psychology was held on November 12 – 16, 2018 at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, Kingston, under the theme ‘Transforming Psychology: Embracing Caribbean Realities’. The theme speaks integrally to the importance of highlighting the diverse nature of psychology with specific reference to Caribbean culture and context. The



Ms Kara Lord, Deputy Dean, Faculty of Education and Humanities makes her presentation at the conference

conference was graced with attendance from participants of the Caribbean Alliance for National Psychological Associations (CANPA) which includes over 10 member associations as well as the Caribbean Diaspora and international psychologists.

Ms Kara Lord, Deputy Dean, Faculty of Education and Humanities presented a paper on ‘Psychology at work: Unlocking the secrets to economic success’ which was well received and is being prepared for submission to the Caribbean Journal of Psychology to undertake the publication process.

The conference, she explained, provided an amazing opportunity for her to enrich and update her knowledge and background in psychological issues and perspectives. The diverse themes addressed during the conference included matters related to Clinicians in practice and covered topics which spanned the areas of educational, occupational, social, and counselling psychology. It was also an opportunity to network with psychology professionals from around the world, including several from



Members of the panel

the Guyanese Diaspora. She furthered explained, “I am pleased that this experience has forged links and connections which will benefit the future of psychology at The University of Guyana and in Guyana. I am pleased to report that I was able to attend a very beneficial half-day workshop session during the conference period on Grant writing.

“This workshop sought to edify colleagues on the intricacies of finding, writing, reviewing, and submitting grant proposals with tips on how to improve the likelihood of successfully winning grants regardless of the type and purpose of interest. I was fortunate to be a part of this workshop session and look forward to using this knowledge during 2019.



Turkeyen and Tain Talks 16 “Money Matters” held on February 7, 2019



One of the Strategic Planning sessions, held on February 7, 2019



Media briefing on the bomb threats and the university's response hosted on February 11, 2019



2nd Clive Thomas Distinguished lecture titled: 'Critical considerations for the Economic success of Guyana in the context of the pending Oil boom'

The 2nd distinguished Clive Thomas Lecture was held at the Herdmanston Lodge on February 28, 2019. Vice-Chancellor of The University of Guyana, Professor Ivelaw Griffith implored students to research CY Thomas. He is prolific and copious in all aspects of his work and life. You should know some of the work of our intellectual heroes he said. It will guide you in some of your own research. He pointed out that UG has produced a number of excellent scholars and giants who can give emphasis and guide research through mentorship, among whom is Professor CY Thomas.

Dr Roger Hosein, Senior Lecturer, Department of Economics, University of the West Indies, St Augustine Campus, made the presentation titled: Economic success of Guyana in the context of the pending Petroleum boom, in honour of CY Thomas. He explained that Guyana has a long road ahead in preparation for the pending oil boom (sustainable economic development). Economic wealth

its people and the economy now for the anticipated development the oil boom can produce. Booming talent can either generate positive results or problems, thus success will be determined by how the economy is managed, explained the Economist.

He admitted that the labour force in Guyana is currently not equipped to provide skilled labour for the foreseen market demands of the oil industry. It is very small and migration of skilled labour has been on the increase. By 2023 Guyana will need more than one hundred thousand workers he estimates. Therefore, he predicts labour will have to be imported. He said Guyana has to manage the migration strategy (by paying the taxes) and implement ways to facilitate policy development to monitor the migration issue. Some policy suggestions for development are: 1) Introduce hush money (promises) 2) Create a natural resources fund, but be careful with the oversight of fiscal resources. 3) Offer conditional



Dr Roger Hosein, Senior Lecturer, Department of Economics, University of the West Indies, St Augustine Campus

Additionally, this situation can be curbed if some of the oil money is used to increase Guyana's labour force participation rate to at least 75%. But moneys will have to be invested to improve all sectors of the country, of which the education plays critical role. According to a Bureau of Statistics survey the estimated labour force participation rate was 55.4% in 2012. The survey also showed that the unemployment rate was 12.5% in that same year and further decreased to 12.2 in 2017. A labour force survey of 2017 showed an estimated 48.3 % of working age people only have a primary education, while 9.9 % have no schooling. There is also a foreseen shift from other sectors to the oil sector (redirection of employment.) Therefore wages will have to rise in order to retain workers in all sectors. Workers will leave unless you force them to stay.

Policy-makers need to be careful of the judgment call of spending up front (consumption has a built-in emersion). For example, Trinidad and Tobago spent more oil money (hastily) -0.01% per annum, 4 billion in oil and gas equivalent and exhausted money without strategic diversification of the economy and therefore the oil resource depleted. We don't want that situation in Guyana Dr Hosein cautioned.



A section of the audience

is expected with the oil boom. However, strategic management is needed to sustain the economic success of the country. On this front, Guyana has to start preparing

cash transfers (create a backward-bending labour supply) by offering stipends for training programmes and link cash transfer to education.



From left: Dr Roger Hosein, Professor Clive Thomas and Mrs Thomas

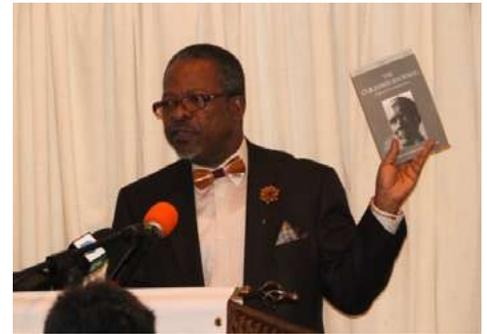
Also important is to be mindful of the spin-off negative implications oil wealth can bring and plan for those as well. Such developments can produce growth of gangs (persons who will fight for the money). This can affect production and productivity.

It is not a curse to get large inflows of revenue; Guyana has the potential to reach 13 to 15 billion barrels of crude oil. He,



A section of the audience

however, advised if you fail to plan ahead or adequately manage the process for the wider benefit for all Guyana now and in the future, development will not materi-



Professor Ivelaw Griffith, Vice-Chancellor, University of Guyana

alise or it will be short-lived.

The lecture was organised by the Office of Academic Engagement of the University of Guyana and was a part of the university's scholarship discourse, in the dreaming and doing vision of project Renaissance.



From left: Professor Michael Scott, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Engagement, Professor Ivelaw Griffith, Vice-Chancellor, University of Guyana, Dr Roger Hosein, Senior Lecturer, Department of Economics, University of the West Indies and Ms Sharon Roopchand-Edwards, Principal Academic Engagement Officer

Symposium to launch Centre of Excellence for Teaching and Learning on February 13, 2019



Visit to Rice University in Houston, Texas in February 2019



Visit by Dr Evan Ellis, Research Professor of Latin American Studies at the US Army War College, in February 2019



Turkeyen Open/Career Day held on February 15, 2019



THANK YOU

The Public Relations Division of The University of Guyana extends a special thank you to the following organisations for partnering with us for Open/Career Day 2019

Art Williams and Harry Wendt Aeronautical Engineering School, Banks DIH Limited, Esso Exploration & Production Guyana Ltd, Global Technology, Government Technical Institute,

Guyana Defence Force, Guybisco, Ministry of Business, Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Ministry of Finance, Strategic Recruitment Solutions Inc, The Public Procurement Commission

University of Guyana Astronomy Society, Eldorado

Offshore, Cacique Accounting College, Conservation International – Guyana, Demerara Distillers Limited, Guyana Beverages Inc.

Guyana Civil Aviation Authority, Guyana Energy Agency, Guyana Geology and Mines Commission, Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (Mines Division), Guyana Marketing Corporation

Guyana National Bureau of Standards, Guyana Telephone and Telegraph (GTT), Guyana Police Force, Guyana Post Office Corporation, Guyana Revenue Authority, Guyana Rice Development Board,

Ram and McRae/Accedo, Scholarship for Advanced Global Education (SAGE)



Registry awarded 1st Prize

The University of Guyana Turkeyen Campus Open/ Career Day 2019 Awards Ceremony for the Campus competition was held on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 in the Education Lecture Theatre.

The Registry Division was awarded the 1st Prize, 2nd Place went to the Faculty of Agriculture and For-

estry and 3rd Place, the Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences. A Certificate of Merit was awarded to Turkeyen Campus Library.

Congratulations to all the winners!”





Turkeyen and Tain Talks 17: Information and Communication Technology ICT 4D



From left: Dr Jennifer Britton, Deputy Programme Manager, Caribbean Community, Regional Integration, Mr Lance Hinds, Ministerial Advisor, ICT, Ministry of Public Telecommunications, Mr Norwell Hinds, Civic Engagement Officer, Philanthropy, Alumni and Civic Engagement, Mr Lenandlar Singh, Senior lecturer, Department of Computer Science, University of Guyana, Dr Marcia Thomas, Senior Subject Specialist and Innovation Technology Coordinator, NCERD, Mr Malcolm Williams, lecturer, Computer Sciences Department at UG, Ms Penelope De Freitas, Head, Computer Science Department, UG

It is important to talk about things that have impact and implications for Guyana, explained Professor Ivelaw Griffith, Vice-Chancellor of The University of Guyana, among which is the subject of '21st Century Guyana: Information and Communication Technology, (ICT) 4D'. ICT 4D refers to the application of information communication technologies towards social, economic and political development with a particular emphasis with helping poor and marginalised people and communities. ICT 4D was the topic of discussion at the 17th Turkeyen and Tain Talks held on March 28, 2019 at the Pegasus Hotel. According to the Vice-Chancellor, it is important to fix the things that are important to the stimulation of growth and development in Guyana. One such thing is the development of IC T.

Though important, he cautioned being mindful of technology and not let it alter our human interactions. Quoting Albert Einstein, "I fear the day when technology will surpass our human interaction; the world will have a generation of idiots". One must understand the technology in order to make full use of it (for



Minister of Public Telecommunications, Honourable Catherine Hughes

through human interaction. Such interaction builds partnerships, with civil society and government, which are necessary for development explained the Vice-Chancellor.

A Constructive conversation about ICT in Guyana is necessary said Minister of Public Telecommunications, Hon. Catherine Hughes. ICT plays a great role in the development of human capital. However, we have to be cognisant of some of the limitations we face in Guyana, she explained. There is the issue of human capital migration; there is also the issue of no internet connectivity in some areas around Guyana. Though we are faced with these limitations, we can still work to improve some aspects of our ICT sector. She noted that 170 primary and secondary schools currently have access to ICT and there are 173 ICT hubs around Guyana with access to internet. She sees this as an achievement for ICT.

Senior Subject Specialist and Innovation Technology Coordinator at the National Centre for Education Resource Development (NCERD), Dr Marcia Thomas, said that the Ministry of Education is on a mission to have every child learn on a level playing field with access to ICT. The aim is to have all secondary schools with internet connectivity and access. She explained that best practices, software, literacy and numeracy should be examined during research for ICT development.



A section of the audience

development). Technology can become detrimental if not used properly or misused. In order to fully utilise the technology for development, it must be used in an informed way and have appropriate engagement with fundamentals in the Sciences and Mathematics. Similarly, soft skills are necessary and are stimulated

Proper access and efficiency in ICT will make citizens ready for the world. But in order to be ready for the world, we must have access to: 1) Resources 2) Digital-literate teachers 3) Internet and



Vice-Chancellor of UG, Professor Ivelaw Griffith

connectivity to connect Guyana. 4) Children and teachers who are trained to use ICT effectively. The Ministry of Education will be revising its curriculum for Mathematics, English, Social Studies and Science. Smart classes are scheduled to be implemented through the Ministry of Education and with a projected total of 20. In addition, E-testing is scheduled to commence for CXC and testing will commence with Tutorial High School.

Lance Hinds, Ministerial Adviser on ICT at the Ministry of



Mr Lance Hinds, Ministerial Advisor, Information Communication Technology, Ministry of Public Telecommunications

Public Telecommunications commented on ICT, Private Sector and National Development. He said Guyana needs a structured framework for planning for the future of ICT and this framework must be incorporated into the national development strategy. In addition an ICT model needs to be created for Guyana. We need an evaluation of where we currently stand in order for us to know where we need to go. Educational reform and the delivery of education have to change to facilitate progress in ICT. We have to talk about the number of people who are ICT-ready and how we



A section of the audience

can get others ready. Modern legislation is necessary to stimulate growth and development of ICT in Guyana. We also have to be inclusive of all sectors of society in order for modernisation to occur. This cannot be done in isolation. It must include the Health, Education and all other sectors. Building an information society



A section of the audience

depends on how we utilise the ICT tools. Civil society, private sector, must all collaborate and work towards a national agenda.

Among the other presenters were Dr Jennifer Britton, Deputy Programme Manager, Caribbean Community, Regional Integration who made a presentation on ICT and the future of the Caribbean: Emerging Directions; Mr Norwell Hinds, Civic Engagement Officer, Philanthropy, Alumni and Civic Engagement, spoke on the topic of Democracy OS, ICT and Citizen Engagement, while Mr Lenandlar Singh, Senior Lecturer, Department of Computer Science, University of Guyana, talked about Developing Computing Education in Guyana and Mr Malcolm Williams, Lecturer, Computer Sciences Department at UG, noted the importance of Developing an ICT model for Guyana.



A section of the audience

The Turkeyen and Tain Talks are organised by the Office of Philanthropy, Alumni and Civic Engagement to facilitate an informed and respectful discourse on matters of public interest that have significant national, regional or international implications; to enable the University to serve as a public intellectual broker, allowing the academic, civic, business, diplomatic and other communities to listen to and learn from one another and; to offer meaningful evidence-based and policy-relevant engagement among UG students, lecturers, researchers, and alumni on the one hand, and the public and private sectors and the international community, on the other.

Visit by His Worship the Mayor of Georgetown, Pandit Ubraj Narine, on February 19, 2019



Meeting with the leadership team of the UG Alumni and Friends organisation at Medgar Evers College, CUNY on February 23, 2019



PERSONALITY PROFILE

Director of CoETaL: *Ms Paulette Henry*

The newly appointed Director for the Centre of Excellence for Teaching and Learning (CoETaL), Ms Paulette Henry looks forward with much anticipation to the inauguration of the Centre. She has been associated with The University of Guyana as a teaching faculty since she completed her Diploma in Social Work, capturing the Frank Pollard prize and subsequently pursuing a degree, emerging as Best Graduating Student within the Faculty of Social Sciences in 1998. That same year she was granted a Government of Guyana scholarship to pursue the Bachelor of Science Degree in Social Work at UG and won both the Sybil Patterson Award for Best Graduating Student in Social Work and the Allan Earp Award for Best Graduating Student. Following her Post Graduate Degree at UG, she attained her MSc in Sociology. She also has Certificate in Gender and Development Studies from the University of the West Indies Cave (UWI) Hill Campus. She sees her academic journey as preparation for leadership in and out of the University community.

She believes teaching and research are important variables, but recognises the challenges especially for a new faculty if not properly supported within an environment that promotes mentorship, collaboration and guidance for all faculties. It is for these reasons she wishes to contribute her knowledge and skills to support new



and current faculty in pursuing teaching and learning excellence, and at the same time engaging in research - a strategy which will contribute to both complementing and enhancing excellence across our University.

Her leadership has been demonstrated both at the Berbice and Turkeyen campuses where she served in several divisions and units as Coordinator for the Division of Social Science, Head of Department, of Sociology, the Interim Director for the Institute of Gender Studies, Coordinator of Undergraduate Research at the Berbice Campus and Assistant Director for Berbice Campus.



During 2018, she was exposed to two significant capacity-building opportunities which enhanced her skills in leadership in teaching and learning when she participated in the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) Training Programme on Women and Leadership in Online Distance Learning (ODL).

Ms Henry admits that her faith in God and love for people underscore the position of servant leadership which she espouses. Utilising her years of experience in both teaching and social work, she firmly feels that she has a mandate to work closely with colleagues to support the mission of UG to produce a well-adjusted, proficient graduate capable of transitioning seamlessly from the academy to the various productive sectors in Guyana. At this juncture of its history, the university has to be transformative and entrepreneurial. Therefore, it is indeed timely for the administration to put in place as part of our Renaissance framework, this Centre that would be instrumental in supporting our combined efforts to make our institution more attractive and visible to our consumers and multiple stakeholders locally and transnationally.

“We do have a responsibility to work towards maintaining our place as the leading national Higher Education Institution (HEI) in teaching and learning, research and enhanced scholarship.

Ms Henry has had critical leadership roles in initiating, piloting programmes through the decision-making structures of the university. These programmes which required feasibility studies, local and international collaboration, have all been sustainable and continue to redound to the advantage of the University. These include the Institute for Gender Studies (IGS) which has partnerships with York University, Anton de Kom University, University of the West Indies, UNICEF and the Women and Gender Equality Unit. In addition, the new Master of Social Work has evolved out of collaboration with UNICEF, York University and the Ministry of Social Protection. She also foresees UG offering the PhD in

Social Work in the near future. As a good team player, she will work closely with her colleagues in the Department of Sociology to make this another success for the Faculty and UG.

Anyone who knows Paulette Henry knows of her personal interest in the wellbeing of people. As a result, her research has sought to seek a deeper understanding of the factors which



impact the wellbeing of persons in varying social spheres. Her publications address issues such as suicide ideation and prevention, human rights, education and conflict management, child maintenance and family wellbeing, prison welfare, and gender and



land degradation. These publications make interesting reading on Google Scholar and ELSEVIER and are being used for teaching and referencing in undergraduate and post-graduate studies at UG. As a consultant she does work for local and international organisations on gender, child protection, health, programme evaluation and training development and professional standards. The Women and Gender Equality Commission has been using the Five-year strategic plan, commissioned by WGEC/UNDP. Similarly, the report on Child Neglect, commissioned by ChildLinK/EU which is another piece of her work, is in use.



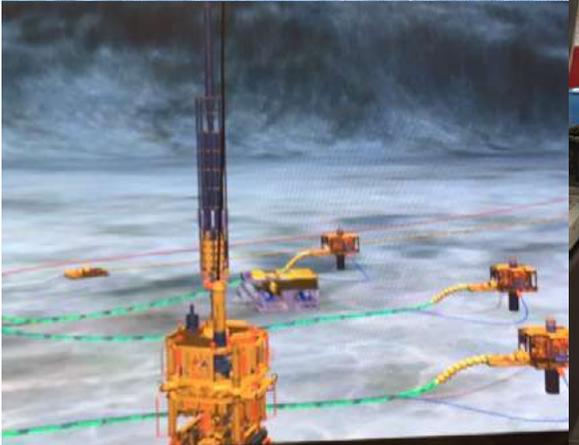
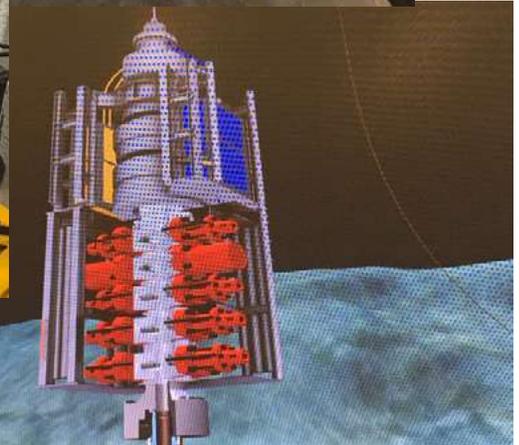
Ms Henry is a team player. She continually sought to ensure the one university principle which the Vice-Chancellor embraced is promoted across the campuses and centres. This principle remains a strong part of her work with CoETaL.

She is currently pursuing her Doctoral studies in higher education leadership. She feels that she is a very good example of a determined mature student having found the last two years of studying both demanding but exciting. She looks forward, by God's grace to completing her studies in 2019. This programme was recommended by a colleague to whom she shall always be grateful. The programme she feels is advantageous to be better prepared for CoETaL, the university's leadership and even more eager to be a part of the social and economic wellbeing of national higher education in Guyana and UG's Renaissance.

Paulette Henry's multiple engagements include organising the inaugural social work conference in Guyana in 2015, annual activities to end gender-based violence, chairing the Board for the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission and working with both government and communities on a range of social development issues.

In closing, it must be noted that Ms Henry had left the University for about nine years and returned after working with several communities e.g. UNICEF, USAID, US Peace Corp. She feels that the experiences gained push her to be a self-motivator and give her an enthusiastic feeling to pass on new skills and knowledge. Further, it is recognised that past achievements become relevant only when they are used as a foundation for addressing multiple future scenarios. I have a passion for supporting personal as well as professional growth of my colleagues. CoETaL, seen through her eyes is an avenue for sustained growth of our university. She asserts that all hands must be on board as each and every one of us has something to offer. She looks forward to reaching each faculty and unit at UG and strengthening ties with our external partners. Best wishes for 2019!

Visit to the Houston, Texas campus of TechnipFMC, the subsea oil drilling giant that has already hired 27 UG engineering graduates, in February 2019



Eleventh Renaissance Lecture, delivered by Professor Evan Ellis of the US Army War College on Organized Crime and Regional Security Dynamics in Guyana and the Caribbean, on February 20, 2019



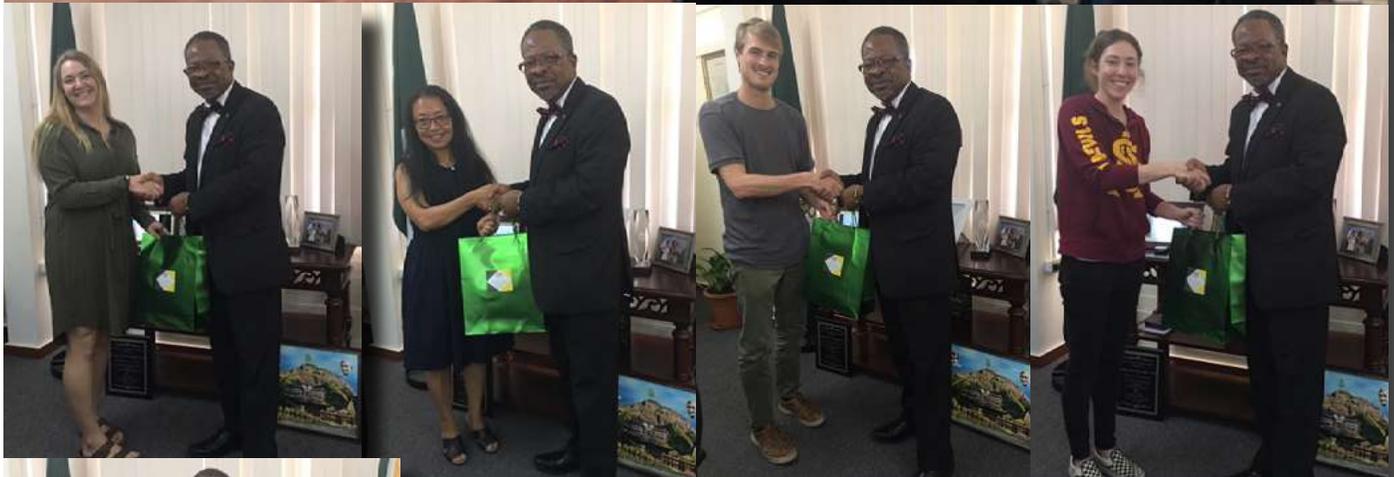
VISIT BY SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT DELEGATION LED BY DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINERALS HON. GODFREY OLIPHANT, ON MARCH 1, 2019



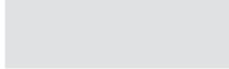
Launch of the Forensic Psychology Sexual Offenses Special Training Programme, on March 5, 2019



Visit by post-graduate students from Arizona State University as part of the Guyana Resilient and One (GRO) partnership, on March 6, 2019



Stakeholder Consultation on Strategic Planning, held on March 20, 2019



Forum on Personal Stories on Child Abuse, UG in partnership with ChildLink, held on March 26, 2019



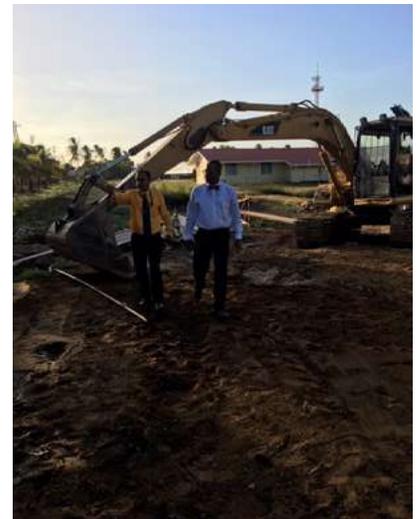
Ribbon cutting of the Geotechnical lab for the Faculty of Engineering and Technology, courtesy of Ministry of Natural Resources, GGMC, and Schlumberger, done on March 27, 2019



Symposium to launch the new degree in Food Science, in January 2019



Visit to the site of the Nand Persaud Soil and Disease Research Lab at the John's Science Centre in Berbice on March 27, 2019



VC Delivering the Keynote Address at the Guyana celebration of the International Day for Women and Science at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre on February 11, 2019



Town Hall meeting held at Turkeyen Campus on the matter of the bomb threats and security preparedness, held on February 11, 2019



UG 2019 Track and Field Competition

The 2019 Track and Field Competition was held on March 22 at the Guyana Defence Force Ground, Camp Ayanganna. The 1st Prize was awarded to Faculty of Health Sciences with a total of 194 points, 2nd Prize was awarded to Faculty of Natural Sciences with a total of 186 points, while the 3rd Prize went to Faculty of Education & Humanities with 185.5 points. The Faculty of Education & Humanities had the largest contingent on Parade

and was also adjudged the Most Uniformed and Best Banner.

The champion male and female athletes are Osafa DosSantos and Ruth Sanmoogan from Faculty of Education & Humanities and Faculty of Health Sciences respectively. The sprint king and queen are Daniel Williams of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Ruth Sanmoogan from the winning Faculty.





TRANSITION
ISSUE 44 2017

EVELINA SINGH

BIOLOGICAL POSITIVISM: EVOLUTION, DEVELOPMENT
AND CONTEMPORARY APPLICATIONS

HECTOR EDWARDS
MICHAEL SCOTT

EQUITY THEORY AND DOPING IN CYCLING

DIANNA DASILVA-GLASGOW
ROGER HOSEIN

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF SPSS AND
TBT MEASURES FOR INCREASING FOOD AND
AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS FROM GUYANA

DUANE EDWARDS

CORRUPTION AND STATE CAPTURE UNDER TWO
REGIMES IN GUYANA: A PLURAL SOCIETY
APPROACH

HECTOR EDWARDS
DIANA GOBIN

MOTIVATION AND DOPING: A META-COGNITIVE
FRAMEWORK FOR UNDERSTANDING ATHLETES'
ATTITUDE AND BEHAVIOUR

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For our next edition we invite you to submit news items, short articles, poems and high resolution pictures of activities related to the national agenda and consistent with the development trajectory of UG. Share with us how UG has contributed to building industry and livelihoods for citizens both at home and abroad. Do share Renaissance with at least ten of your friends and send us their email contacts to facilitate direct mailing of future editions. We thank you for being part of this transformative initiative.

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