



UNIVERSITY of GUYANA

RENAISSANCE

Office of the Vice-Chancellor, The University of Guyana

Vol. 3 No. 3, June - September, 2018



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UG launches two new books *pg 15*



and More...

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The VC Speaks

Brains, Hearts, Values

"It is vital that when educating our children's brains that we do not neglect to educate their hearts, a key element of which has to be the nurturing of our compassionate nature."

-- Dalai Lama

Our university, like most universities, is an educational and economic enterprise where the pursuits revolve around fulcrums of teaching, research, and university and community service. This edition of the Renaissance Newsletter highlights some of the teaching, research, and service engagements of our students, faculty, and other stakeholders. The engagements captured here indicate clearly that the Renaissance Dreaming and Doing continue in inspirational ways.

But the proposition by His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama is a powerful reminder of the importance of having an admixture of brains, hearts, and values as we pursue our teaching, research, and service endeavors. In relation to values, I recommended the embrace of six core values when I joined the university community in June 2016, and the passage of time since returning to Guyana has reinforced the importance of articulating them and advocating for their pursuits, particularly the values of Excellence, Integrity, and Respect.

These three values have university-wide and society-wide resonance. But in relation to students, my counsel is that as you work towards your certificates, diplomas and degrees, you should pay keen attention to them. As regards Excellence, in all that you do, never settle for less than the best. Remember the advice of the Greek philosopher, Aristotle: "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, it is a habit." You should embrace the habituation of the pursuit of the best possible outcome every time and all the time.

Integrity also is important. You must earn your excellent grades and your successes, and not buy them or cheat to get them. You must resist the temptation provided by technology to buy your papers or plagiarize, or to take away from campus items that are not yours. And, remember Respect: for yourself, the academic and other staff, your classmates, and your environment—your classrooms and labs, dorms, and the campus grounds and facilities generally.

However, securing positive outcomes of leveraging the combination of brains, hearts, and values requires efforts for advocacy beyond students. Thus, I have established a broad-based Values Committee to help design and implement a Values Campaign. The Values Committee, which I lead, has two Vice Chairs—Head of the Department of Law, Justice Carl Singh, and University of Guyana Student Society (UGSS) Social Sciences student leader, Mr. Max DeFreitas. I thank them for the willingness to serve in this vital project, and I look forward to working with them and the rest of the Committee to plan and execute the Values Campaign from next semester.

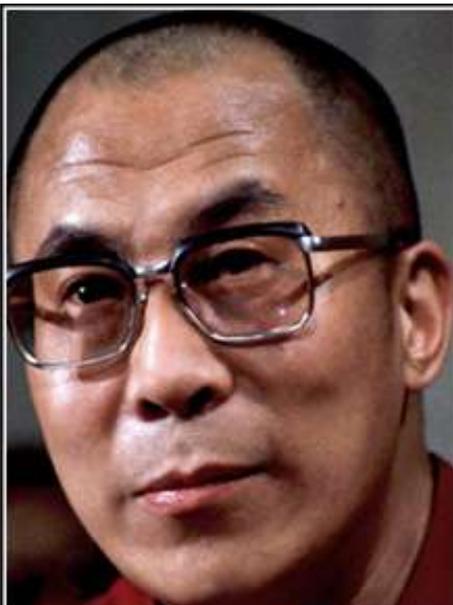
Keep on keeping on!



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



THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S JUNE - SEPTEMBER QUOTE



Modern education is premised strongly on materialistic values. It is vital that when educating our children's brains that we do not neglect to educate their hearts, a key element of which has to be the nurturing of our compassionate nature.

— Dalai Lama —

Editor's Note

Dear reader,

The University of Guyana welcomes you to Vol. 3, No.3 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.

Through its *Renaissance* initiative, the university's leadership is on a mission of rebuilding a stronger and better institution. In this edition of the newsletter, you will read about a number of activities and initiatives undertaken by the university. The university has adopted a strategic approach to development, by recognising the important role structural and infrastructural development plays in academic development, some of which you will read about in the VC's two-year reflections, from 2016 to 2018, also, opportunities have been created for University Undergraduate Research projects to be commercialised.

In addition, the university continues to connect with Alumni and Friends of the university through the launch of the Guyana Chapter of the Alumni Association and other chapters around the world. Moreover, the institution has begun to examine language programmes so as to improve curricula, noting the importance of writing across the curriculum. It has also begun to examine foreign language programmes in tandem with changing economic trends in Guyana, you will read about these and more in this edition of the newsletter.

Other notable mentions are: the annual ceremonial opening for the 2018/2019 academic year where the university continues to create educational opportunities for thousands of Guyanese and other youth from the region and around the world. With Nelson Mandela's vision in mind, The University of Guyana illustrates that "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." As a lecturer advances studies that will boost online learning programmes and contribute to the continuous development of the Faculty of Education and Humanities.

Cognisant of changing developmental needs of Guyana's economy and the advent of First Oil and Beyond, new programmes are scheduled to be offered this academic year 2018/2019, you can read about these and more much in this and other editions of the newsletter.

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

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.



Renaissance Scorecard II

June 2017- July 2018

This Scorecard highlights some of the pursuits and gains of Project *Renaissance* during Year II. Some are small, others large, some are tangible while others are process and stage-setting as we journey along *Renaissance* Road. Yet, all are significant, in that they complement and reinforce earlier and other efforts to rebuild and rebrand the University. They re-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.

“My vision is to make UG into a dynamic, nationally relevant, world class University and to do it as quickly as possible. This requires a *Renaissance*.” - Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith

- Successfully nominated Scientist Dr Dawn Fox for the OWSD-Elsevier Foundation Award for Early-Career Women Scientists in the Developing World; hosted the milestone inaugural meeting of the Editorial Board of the University of Guyana Press and successful Second Annual Undergraduate Research Conferences at Turkeyen and Tain; and sent several student delegations abroad, including to Trinidad, and Oklahoma, Georgia, and Massachusetts.
- Improved Internet services across the University, including in the Registry, PACE, Personnel, Institute for Gender Studies, Senior Common Room and NBS Dorms. The new "UG Turkeyen WiFi" and the "Government Free WiFi" wireless networks now provide Turkeyen with free WiFi almost throughout campus, and Tain is fully covered by the free "UGBC WiFi" network.
- Increased 2017/2018 enrollment over 2016/2017 by 3.16 percent; awarded the first Renaissance Scholarships to two Indigenous students from the Bina Hill Institute in the North Rupununi; and launched new diplomas in Psychology and Land Management Administration, with the support of UNICEF and the Commission on Lands and Surveys.
- Paid 2017 salary increases of 6 percent to UA staff and 8 percent to UB staff, an average of 4.5 percent for merit, and allowances for traveling, entertainment, academic materials, study leave (salary and housing for three months), sabbatical leave (salary and housing for 12 months), leave passage, and responsibility allowances for Coordinators, Heads, and Deans.
- Hired a Business Development Manager to boost the entrepreneurial pursuits of the University and create and strengthen corporate partnerships, and a Supply and Logistics Officer to improve and streamline the University's procurement system.
- Negotiated/signed Academic Collaboration Agreements focused on research, academic programs and overall academic enhancement with external stakeholders, including Guyana Defence Force, Power Producers & Distributors Inc., Guyana School of Agriculture, Guyana Police Force, Guyana Lands and Survey Commission, Macorp, and Citizens Security Project.
- Created the UG Guyana Broadcast Trust to manage the University's Broadcast Licenses in support of teaching Broadcast Journalism; created a database of 20,000 potential partners; created and implemented an 'I love UG' Alumni campaign; and launched the University of Guyana Alumni Association, with Chapters in Berbice and Toronto (and London).
- Completed the Agriculture and Forestry expansion, which provides for student recreational space, new offices, a fire escape and sanitary block (\$26.2 Million); began work on a Student Social Complex (initial cost, \$30.3 Million); opened Tain library extension (\$18.5 Million); and broke ground for the new Math and Science Building at Turkeyen, to cost \$66 Million.

June 2017—July 2018

- 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. The partners include: UWI, University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT), Anton De Kom University of Suriname, the University of French Guiana, Amapa University of Brazil, GT&T, the Embassy of China, the FAO, and the CDB.
- Provided laptops and projectors for Berbice Campus (\$2 Million); and engaged contractors for: rehabilitation in Education & Humanities (\$1.8 Million) and construction of three shade houses for Agriculture and Forestry (\$ 4.1 Million); rehabilitation of the Biodiversity Centre (\$1.4 Million); and for the Library at Turkeyen, which is still ongoing (\$10 Million plus).
- Appointed the first set of Academic Advisors to enhance student success; improved the timeliness of grade sub-mission; celebrated the successful completion of the first year of operation of the School of Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation (SEBI); and hosted a Consultation on Writing to begin efforts to improve the writing proficiency of students.
- Created the Conversation on Law and Society Series to examine issues of great importance to the society. Justice Courtney Abel of Belize, Justice Adrian Saunders, President of the Caribbean Court of Justice, Jurist-in-Residence Carl Singh, and Professor Karim Al Zubaidy, President of the University of Trinidad and Tobago, were among the notable speakers.
- Appointed Keith Waithe and Dave Martins as Artists-in-Residence, with events held in different parts of the country; named retired Chancellor of the Guyana Judiciary Carl Singh as the inaugural Jurist-in-Residence (and later as Head of the Department of Law); and appointed Dr. Vincent Adams as inaugural Distinguished Visiting Engineer-in-Residence.
- Secured, among other things: US\$500,000 from the Ministry of Natural Resources to support Engineering and Technology and other units; US\$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.
- 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; renamed the Faculty of Technology the Faculty of Engineering and Technology; hosted a Consultation on Food and Nutrition Security and established a Feasibility Study Team to establish an Institute on Food and Nutrition Security, supported by a US\$50,000 grant from the FAO.
- Hosted Professorial Lectures at Turkeyen and Tain (first time), delivered by Professors Michael Scott, Paloma Mohamed and Gomathinayagam Subramaniam; held the successful Inaugural Conference on Entrepreneurship and Innovation; and hosted a rewarding Oil and Gas Local Content Forum.

ABOUT Project Renaissance

Visit us at: uog.edu.gy

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 programmers;

- **Economic Viability**, which requires 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.

UG's Ceremonial Opening



Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ivelaw Griffith interacts with audience

On August 27, 2018, The University of Guyana held its annual Ceremonial Opening for the new academic year (2018-2019) at the Turkeyen Campus to welcome first-year and continuing students.

Dr Nigel Gravesande, Registrar of The University of Guyana, congratulated and welcomed the students saying, "We have been waiting and preparing for your arrival." He noted that they had been selected from more than 5,000 applicants and highlighted the diversity among the student population this year, with students from 35 countries around the world.

"It's time to take responsibility for your future," he implored those gathered. "[This is] a time for learning, but most importantly a time for discovery. Don't sacrifice the hallmarks of critical thinking. This journey marks the beginning of your life and association with The University of Guyana." He



A section of the audience

encouraged students to be dedicated, disciplined and committed.

Then University of Guyana Student Society President Norwell Hinds urged the students present to embrace and enjoy the experience – for which,



Administrative Staff of The University of Guyana

he said, "there is no substitute". The institution, he noted, will provide the necessary tools for your career, it is a place where, he added, "you can discover yourself."

Audience members held hands in solidarity as they repeated Vice-Chancellor Professor Ivelaw Griffith's motivational mantra: "I am what I am, I am who I am." During his keynote address, the Vice-Chancellor quoted philosopher Aristotle, saying: "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then is not an act, but a habit." On this note he motivated students to work hard,

even in times of failure, as nothing will ensure success more than practice; to embrace the values of excellence, integrity and respect; do not plagiarise "but earn with honesty."



A section of the audience

He announced that the University of Guyana will be collaborating with other universities and organisations to offer new programmes, as well as expanding other programmes, but also highlighted the importance of the social aspect of university: "Relationships are important for a successful university life: get involved in extra-curricula activities, join clubs, get involved in

sports ... The University of Guyana is not just about academics."



A section of the audience



THE
UNIVERSITY of GUYANA
PRESS

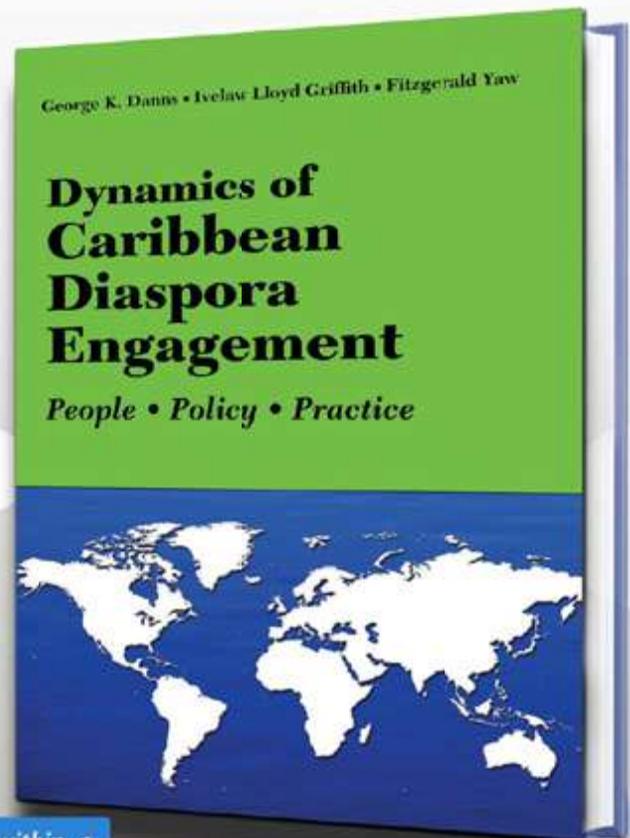
The University of Guyana Press (UGP)

Announces its First Publication

Forthcoming book on the
proceedings of the
**First Diaspora
Engagement Conference**

held in Guyana, July 23 - 28, 2017

**Dynamics of
Caribbean
Diaspora
Engagement:
People, Policy, Practice**



"The Caribbean nation-building project was conceived within a development discourse that sought to eliminate political boundaries that kept citizens apart. It has not fulfilled its potential. Now, a new discursive leadership is emerging within academia that shows how diaspora is to be deposited in the heartland of the nation in terms of both policy and praxis. This is the key to unlocking a new Caribbeanness in energetic and innovative ways. Our editors, Danns, Griffith and Yaw have given us a text that serves as the manifesto for the mission." – Professor Hilary Beckles, UWI ★★★★★

Scheduled to be Launched
December 13, 2018
17:30 h

**Education Lecture Theatre
University of Guyana, Turkeyen Campus**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Call us at (592) 222-4932

Whatsapp: (592) 623-0926

Email us at info@ugpress.com

UG launches Alumni Association



Professor Ivelaw Griffith, Vice-Chancellor, UG

The Office of Philanthropy, Alumni and Civic Engagement (PACE) of The University of Guyana launched the Guyana chapter of its Alumni Association under the theme: 'Proud Legacy: Prosperous Destiny' on June 1, 2018, at the Education Lecture Theatre, Turkeyen Campus and on June 27 at the Berbice Campus. Further chapters were subsequently launched in England, Canada and America.



Professor Paloma Mohamed, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Philanthropy, Alumni and Civic Engagement

As outlined by The University of Guyana's Guild of Graduates Constitution, the goal of the association is to connect with graduates, past faculty members and staff of The University of Guyana in a reciprocally beneficial relationship of investing, nurturing, fundraising, mentorship and development.

At the Turkeyen Campus launch, Professor George K Danns said that an alumni association is "an organised, cohesive network that can enable developmental benefits to enrich the learning process." However, he cautioned, it would take some work to convince graduates to join the association: "In order to motivate alumni participation, there should be an aggressive membership campaign, it should be advertised as a major public event."

"Thousands of our graduates are starved for an alumni association," said Professor Paloma Mohamed, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, PACE. "There are approximately 35,000 alumni in various countries around the world," By coming together, she added, alumni can build mutually beneficial rela-

tionships and create opportunities for the development of the university.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ivelaw Griffith, said: "This is a special moment in our Renaissance journey. The University of Guyana has suffered neglect and our development can't be left to one set of stakeholders ... Alumni should give back in some form or another, especially to those who have contributed to their development." He also encouraged donations from the diaspora and friends of the University who may not even be graduates of UG or Guyanese, but just want to contribute time, talent or financial support.

He continued saying there is a great need to re-energise and reconnect with graduates to help rebuild trust and bring back pride of the university: "Pride does not just happen, we have to work on it. We have to bring back pride by building back The University of Guyana in every possible way."

In a message from Chancellor Nigel E. Harris, read by Pro-Chancellor Major General (Rtd) Joseph Singh, he expressed that "The launch is one of the more important milestones of the university and it is imperative for alumni to celebrate the institution which has given so much to them; the university which has provided the tools for students' access to successful careers and greater lifestyles."

According to The University of Guyana's Guild of Graduates Constitution, the objectives for its Guild of Graduates (Alumni Associations) are as follows: a) To support the development efforts of The University of Guyana; b) To support fundraising, talent acquisition, research and the recruitment of staff and faculty members; c) To promote The University of Guyana as an intellectu-

al as well as cultural centre for excellence locally, regionally and internationally; d) To engender and propagate the values of The University of Guyana in the wider Guyanese society, regionally and internationally e) To provide opportunities for continued international engagement and educational, training and recruitment opportunities f) To provide mechanisms and opportunities for connecting, fellowship and sharing, networking, and professional growth; g) To stimulate and encourage philanthropy and investment in UG, its faculty and students amongst alumni, students (as prospective alumni), businesses and organisations benefiting from UG's human resources, as well as all others; h) To lend guidance on matters pertaining to the general welfare of the university, which can be of interest to administration, academic board or council.



A section of the audience

The event was chaired by Ms Michella Abraham Ali (class of 2008), with the welcome remarks given by Vice-Chancellor Professor Griffith (class of 1980 and 1981). The keynote address was delivered by Professor Danns (class of 1975); memory moments and reflections by Mr Sherod Duncan (class of 2011 and 2014); a presentation by Professor Mohamed (class of 1992 and 2000), who highlighted some elements of the Alumni Association Charter.



Professor George K Danns addresses audience

Evolution of Undergraduate Research at UG



Dr Troy Thomas, Director of Undergraduate Research, The University of Guyana

Traditionally, University of Guyana students were exposed to research in preparation for their final-year projects. However, research has evolved at The University of Guyana over the years. In 2016, an Undergraduate Research Programme was formulated to allow students the opportunity for their work to be presented, acknowledged and recognised by the university community and beyond.



Ms Carrington interacts with student

Through the Office of Undergraduate Research, an Undergraduate Research Experience in Focus session was held at the Education Lecture Theatre, Turkeyen Campus, on September 19, 2018. According to Director of Undergraduate Research Dr Troy Thomas, the purpose of the event – three of which were held last year – was to “cultivate and nurture undergraduate research and research oriented activities, as well as create a culture of research on entry to The University of Guyana.”

“Through this process,” he added, “the programme will train, mentor and disseminate research results to industry and other researchers.” The

intention is to have university students gain the necessary recognition for their work, as well as create an opportunity for them to be published.

Another opportunity for undergraduate research projects to be commercialised is Guyana Innovation Prize, launched in April 2018. Facilitated through the Guyana Economic Development Trust, an independent U.S. philanthropic organisation, the prize is overseen by Guyanese diaspora members in the United States, including Chief Executive Officer Ms Oslene Carrington.

The prize is due to be awarded annually and aims to promote and support research and ideas of students, staff and alumni of the university in the areas of technology and agro-processing. The ultimate goal is to create commercially viable and sustainable businesses that will boost the private sector and enhance the economic development of Guyana.

Applicants are required to participate in the Trust’s year-long mentorship programme in which each is paired with a mentor from either Guyana or the US who will give regular advice and guidance on how to grow and develop their business ideas. The inaugural batch of applicants comprises five alumni of the university.



Professor Leyland Lucas, Dean, School of Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation



Ms Oslene Carrington, Chief Executive Officer, Guyana Economic Development Trust

At the Undergraduate Research conferences held from April 11-13, 2018, Ms Carrington noted “there is true genius at The University of Guyana, the type of research I see is really impressive.” Undergraduate research at UG, she continued, can be equated to PhD level at other universities. But she lamented that some projects were just going to be filed away as no presenter at the conference said they would turn their research into a business. She envisages opportunities for projects to be commercialised, noting: “I see tremendous opportunities working in collaboration with School of Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation.”

She called for technical and business support in terms of

financing, marketing and sustainability to ensure that the projects have business potential and real-world application. “It is necessary and important to have a technical conversation about business in order to commercialise your research.” In the long term, the prize aims to contribute to the economic development of Guyana by supporting the formation of companies, the launch of products, the creation of jobs, revenue from exports, the securing of business loans and investment, and a Guyanese or regional stock exchange.

“Do not see your work as a mere project,” advised Professor Leyland Lucas, Dean of the School of Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation (SEBI), during his opening remarks. “There is value in your work and it’s important for you to realise that value.” He also noted the importance of students interacting with their colleagues from SEBI to develop a network to understand what it takes to transform their projects into an item of commercial or societal value, adding “You need to understand that there are dollars and cents associated with what you do.”

Student Excellence Celebrated



Awardees

The Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences held its annual awards for the 2017/2018 academic year on July 12, 2018, at the Education Lecture Theatre, Turkeyen Campus, in recognition of academic excellence, volunteer work and general contribution to faculty development and sports. The award ceremony, which started in 1993, initially recognised final-year students of the degree programme in Environmental Sciences. However, it has evolved over the years to include other categories.

Awards were presented to seven students in the following categories: Best First-Year Student was Ms Bonita Bernard, Best Second-Year Student was Ms Nikita La Cruz, Best Third-Year Student was Ms Benita Davis, Best Fourth-Year Student was Ms Afeefa Richardson, Best Final Year Student was Mr Romanio Hastings, Best All-Round Student was Mr Lakeram Singh, and Best Graduate of 2017 was Mr Jefferson Jaikissoon.

In recognition of their volunteer work, five students were given medals, namely: Ms Alana Norville, Ms Nikita La Cruz, Mr Nkofi Hodge, Ms Madhavi Indajeet and Mr Lakeram Singh. Two students were also recognised as the best sport personalities: Mr Jabari Joseph and Ms Keziah Austin.

The keynote address was delivered by former student of the faculty and Acting Principal of St. Stanislaus College Ms Fazia Baksh, who encouraged the students to set high standards: "Success is important to our lives and it's important to ensure continuous development on this progressive journey ... progress will not happen naturally and continuous success will equip you for a range of jobs."

Dean of the Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences Dr Paulette Bynoe said: "It is an honour to stand and acknowledge the achievements of our students and recognise youth talent ... they have embraced the morals and values of our faculty with discipline, compassion and zeal for knowledge."





UG launches two new books

The University of Guyana continues to celebrate great writing by recognising books and the authors of books. On August 27, 2018, two books were launched at the Education Lecture Theatre, Turkeyen Campus. Vice-Chancellor Ivelaw Griffith noted: “At The University of Guyana, we are not only in the business of teaching, we are in the business of scholarship, art and creative works” – and quoted the words of Albert Einstein: “Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts.”



Scott Ting-A-Kee hands over a copy of his Book, *Red Hibiscus* to Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ivelaw Griffith

“We need to shine a light on one of the things that count, we need to celebrate great writers,” he continued. “Additionally, we need to find books and other papers to publish through The University of Guyana Press. Scholarship matters – these are the things that count.”

The two books that were launched are *Creole Chips a Compilation of Writings: Short Fiction, Poetry, Drama and Essays*, a collection of works by Edgar Mittelholzer edited by Dr Juanita Cox, and *Red Hibiscus* by Scott Ting-A-Kee. *Red Hibiscus* is the first novel of Mr Ting-A-Kee who is passionate about the interdisciplinary study of literature and comparisons between the literature of the East and the West. He also won the first prize in the Guyana Annual inaugural poetry competition in 2018.

Mr Ting-a-Kee is of Chinese heritage and explained that the book is a celebration of his ancestors, showing the yin/yang balance between the forces of good and evil in the universe. He noted that the Chinese experience is often unrepresented in Caribbean literature, and questioned how integral Chinese culture has been in the shaping of the region.



A section of the audience

Dr Juanita Cox, meanwhile, is passionate about discovering and sharing the works of Mr Mittelholzer. In 2014 she presented a Mittelholzer memorial lecture entitled Edgar Mittelholzer’s Creative Genes(is) and the Geni(us) Behind It. She has published various articles including ‘Music and Symbolism of Edgar Mittelholzer’s *The Life and Death of Sylvia*’ (Guyana Arts Journal 2009) and the introduction to republished edits of Mittelholzer’s *Corentyne Thunder (2009)* and *The Life and Death of Sylvia (2010)*. Dr Cox is also the co-founder of Guyana Speaks, a UK-based, monthly forum which offers distinguished speakers and performers the opportunity to share their knowledge for and passion of all things Guyanese.

As well as readings from both books there was a question and answer segment, which facilitated audience participation. At the end of the session, copies of the books *Creole Chips* and *Red Hibiscus* were presented to The University of Guyana and the National Library.



Dr Juanita Fox hands over a copy of the book *Creole Chips* to Professor Ivelaw Griffith

UG Press Logo Competition: Judges' Report



From left: Jamal Goodluck receives the 1st prize on behalf of First Prize Winner Hemendra Bhola, along with Professor Ivelaw Griffith, Vice-Chancellor, University of Guyana

A logo designed by student Hemendra Bhola was selected as the winner of the UG Press Logo competition on August 30, 2018. The decision was made by the panel of judges – Alim Hosein (Chair), Treina Butts, Winslow Craig, Rayann Darrell and Dwayne Hackett – in the boardroom of the Vice-Chancellery, University of Guyana Turkeyen Campus.

The panel considered the 60 entries that had been submitted by 40 entrants. Their report follows:

We were pleasantly surprised and heartened by the large number of entries. Equally, we were impressed by the high quality of the work done by the individual designers. Only 2 entries were of a quality that was difficult to reproduce properly.

With one notable exception, all the entries related well to the theme and purpose of the competition.

Some entrants misunderstood the scope of the competition and submitted designs that are more relevant to the wider academic function of the university. A few interpreted the concept of a “press” to be mean “public relations” or “media”.

In terms of design, the entries were of three kinds: some were elegant graphic designs, featuring mainly words and shapes; some were more pictorial, and some incorporated local heritage or University of Guyana motifs and references. As expected, many of the entries incorporated references to academia, while some were more general in their motifs and designs.

We were pleased to see the effort that the designers took in trying to meet the criteria of the competition. Most of the artists gave clear descriptions of their work on their entry forms and elsewhere.

Judging

The judges had the opportunity of viewing the images of the entries online in the days prior to our meeting, and we had the

printed versions of each entry available on the day of judging.

When we met, we reviewed the materials available for the exercise: the entries, the assessment criteria, the statements of the mission and goal of the UG Press, the competition regulations, and the completed entry forms, and we discussed and agreed our working procedure.

We agreed on 4 criteria for the assessment. Three of these were explicitly stated in published regulations of the competition: relevance, originality, aesthetic quality. We added one more criterion - adaptability – since this was an important characteristic of a logo that has to be used in various forms of communication, as indicated in the competition advertisement. The panel discussed the criteria and agreed that they should be equally-weighted.

In selecting the winners, the judges applied these criteria to each of the entries, consulting the artists' description of their work, the competition regulations and the vision and mission of the UG Press as necessary. Based on this evaluation, each judge compiled an individual shortlist of five entries ranked from first to fifth. Points were awarded on a descending scale, with five points awarded for a “first” place and 1 point for a “fifth” place on each judge's shortlist.

Results

1. The entry that all the judges chose on their shortlist was entry by Mr Hemendra Bhola. Two judges ranked it first, and one judge each ranked it second, third or fourth. No other entry matched the popularity of this entry. We were therefore in full agreement in declaring this entry the winner of the competition.



From left: Jonathan Jacobus receives the 2nd Prize on behalf of Omari Joseph and Keston Keyes, along with Professor Ivelaw Griffith, Vice-Chancellor, University of Guyana

It is a concise design which shows excellent composition and thoughtful conceptualisation. It is based on a symbol of the University of Guyana, and it uses the national colours of Guyana in a tasteful manner. The design also reflects the mission of the UG Press, depicting learning and the flow of knowledge. The book-



Professor Ivelaw Griffith, Vice-Chancellor, University of Guyana (fourth from right), Ms Danniebelle Mohabir, Manager, UG Press, (fourth from left), pose with sponsors and prize winners

mark design is internationally recognisable, and makes a visual link with reading while standing out as a trademark design. The design lends itself easily to adaptation and to black and white or greyscale reproduction.

2. To award the second place, we considered the other high-scoring entries: – Mr Paul Mohabir, – Mr. Akeem King, Mr Hemendra Bhola, – Ms Christina DeOliviera and – Mr Graham Thomas. We found that of these, entry by Jonathan Jacobus, Omari Joseph and Keston Reyes stood out for its conceptualisation and for the way it echoes the goals and mission of the UG Press. We are also unanimous in declaring this entry to be the second place winner. It is based on a national symbol, the Victoria Amazonica lily, which the designer stylized to refer to books, writing and reading. This was one of the most thoughtful designs and it easily evokes the idea of the dissemination of knowledge. On the other hand, it lacks a clear identification with the University of Guyana and the UG Press.

3. We also felt that entry by Ms. Christina De Oliviera is a very good design which deserves recognition. Like, this entry symbolises the dissemination of knowledge, it makes very good use of the national colours.

Conclusion

We thank The University of Guyana for giving us the opportunity to participate in this important aspect of its development: the establishment of a university press. We also thank the following:

- the designers who submitted entries, for making the competition an interesting and challenging one;
- Ms Danniebelle Mohabir for competently making all arrangements which ensured a smooth and comfortable adjudication exercise, and the University of Guyana for providing facilities and refreshments.

We wish the UG press every success, and hope that the winning logo will enhance the press's identity and promote its international recognition.



University of Guyana Press Logo

The design draws inspiration from the University's coat-of-arms. The open book represents knowledge, education and printing; the wavy lines suggest the free flow and sharing of information; the owl denotes wisdom, intelligence and keen perception; while the use of the national colours is a nod to the country as a whole. The logo is also shaped in the form of the bookmark to continue the scholarly theme.

Improvements in Writing Programmes on the way



Professor Michael Scott, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Engagement

Professor Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, Vice-Chancellor of The University of Guyana convened a consultation on Writing at The University of Guyana's Turkeyen Campus from June 6 to 7, 2018. Organised by the Office of Academic Engagement, the forum sought to examine pertinent writing issues, challenges, concerns and limitations faced at the institution.

"As an academic institution, The University of Guyana is mindful of the common writing needs of the institution and, by extension, society," noted Professor Michael Scott, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Academic Engagement. "From time to time there needs to be introspection and retrospection of our administration, lecturers, students and stakeholders. This sets the stage for us to better equip The University of Guyana to serve the developmental needs of society."

Day one saw the participation of academic staff, including deans, heads of department, private sector representatives and lecturers of the university. Day two included UG staff, a student representative, media and other stakeholders. Through deliberation and consultation, recommendations were made on the way forward to enhance use of English programmes at the university.

Facilitator Dr Joyce Stewart, Instruc-

tor in Linguistics, Department of Language, Linguistics and Literature, Faculty of Humanities and Education, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, advised that writing programmes should be designed for all students of a university: "In order to improve writing we should give assignments and tie them to reading, set in-class writing assignments ... include critical analysis of writing techniques [and] promote the writing process - draft and peer editing."



A section of the participants

The downfall we face as educators, she continued, is that writing programmes are structured and designed specifically for test and examination. It is not diverse enough to include all the essential technical and structural elements that adversely promote effective writing: "Examinations mark for content rather than grammar." This deficiency in our educational system needs to be examined, Dr Stewart advised.

She further noted, "When students graduate from The University of Guyana, they take these same writing deficiencies into the workplace." Employers are then responsible for providing training to tackle those deficiencies, and she encouraged employee enhancement programmes to help alleviate some of these issues.

"We need to strive for action-oriented outcomes: the writing challenge is presenting an image that we don't like at home and abroad," said Professor Ivelaw Griffith, Vice-Chancellor of The University of Guyana. "There are social and societal issues with reading and writing, which are compounded by the multiple influx of literacy technologies. However, society has to manage these contradictions. Herein lies an opportunity for us to do something about the problem."

“It is not a one-dimensional problem because we are a multilingual society,” continued Professor Griffith. “However, we need to be conscious, more candid and not defensive, and take ownership of our part: from primary school to secondary and tertiary.” What is needed, he said, is “a holistic approach ... to modify areas in the educational system. This will take time and investment. This consultation is the beginning of the way forward to enhance writing.” He called for investment of a writing centre or a writing clinic in order to ameliorate the skills of students.

Professor Scott said there is a need for the Ministry of Education to design an education policy or language education policy, which The University of Guyana will support, to distinguish what is Creole, what is English by providing a standard for guidance. He also echoed the Vice-Chancellor sentiments in highlighting the need for more investment: “We need to see the language issue as important and make it a priority.”

According to Mr Al Creighton, Lecturer in the Faculty of Education and Humanities, a problem exists and this problem must be addressed: “There needs to be support for all faculties through the Use of English programme. It is important for each faculty to have its own English course, however co-operation is needed among Faculties.”

A survey was conducted to assess the language needs of 200 second-year students across faculties of The University of Guyana and it was found that: there is a lack of basic writing skills and critical analysis; difficulties in undeveloped ideas; issues of plagiarism; and problems with public speaking, oral presentations, differentiation between Creole and Standard English, clarity, and structuring essays.

Some technical and structural strategies were suggested to correct these deficiencies, including redesigned curricula, smaller class sizes, discovery learning methods, and mixing stronger and weaker students, revision of the Use of English programme, and staff development to teach the course. Other suggestions included supportive workshops, online writing sessions, employing techniques to encourage reading among students, implementing a writing lab and designing writing curricula for specific facul-

ties, and diagnostic English language needs assessments. Concern was also raised about the Caribbean Entrance Examination’s tendency to favour content over grammar.

According to the Minister of Education, Honourable Nicolette Henry, “We have to take the opportunity to address the educational system in Guyana ... we have to engage policy and employer groups.” She noted that the Ministry of Education hosted a curricula review forum from June 13 to 15, 2018, to ex-



Dr Joyce Stewart addresses the participants of the forum

amine areas for development.

Ms Jennifer Cumberbatch, Director of the National Caribbean Educational Research Development (NCERD) programme, noted: “There is a disconnect within the educational system. Teachers, NCERD and The University of Guyana need to work together. The Ministry needs the assistance of The University of Guyana to revolutionise the educational sector.” She emphasised the need for improvement at all levels of education.

Mr Henry Lewis, Training Manager at Banks DIH, admitted that there is a writing problem in the workforce and said such an initiative by The University of Guyana is important and essential to improve writing. “Writing is depleting at all levels of society,” he reported. “Without proper writing, an employee cannot function in other capacities. Effective writing is not just for grammatical

purposes, but for referencing as well.” A lack of proper writing and communication skills also prevents promotion in organisations, he said, highlighting weaknesses in report writing and correspondence in the workplace. However in some instances, supervisors can identify persons for re-education programmes and seminars: “In this regard, Banks DIH has established an Employee Educational Development Assistant Programme, which allows staff to write three subjects – English, Mathematics and Computer Science – to enhance their work perfor-

mance.”

The Second Engagement and Working Session on Writing was held on November 14, 2018, to discuss an action plan and work out the logistics for the establishment of a University of Guyana writing centre. An effective working group will be established to propel this project forward for a proposed launch early next year.

Professor Griffith thanked university staff and stakeholders for their contribution to the writing consultations, saying: “The connection and support of all sectors are needed for writing enhancement in Guyana.” In addition, discussions were held to examine a possible plan of action by The University of Guyana to provide intensive courses to promote language development for stakeholders in the private and public sectors.

Lecturer Participates in Society for Caribbean Linguistics conference

The 22nd Biennial Conference of the Society for Caribbean Linguistics (SCL) was held from August 6 to 11, 2018, at the Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica (UNA) and different sites in the province of Limon. Organised in conjunction with the Society for Pidgin and Creole Languages (SPCL), the theme of the week-long conference was: 'Connecting the Caribbean: Languages, Borders and Identities'.



Dr Tamarind De Lisser, Lecturer, Faculty of Education and Humanities participates in Society for Caribbean Linguistics Conference

Dedicated to the dissemination and discussion of theoretical and applied research of languages in the Caribbean, the conference covered various topics including creolistics, indigenous languages, sign languages and much more in the form of plenaries, panels, workshops and a special roundtable talk with native speakers of Limon Kreyol. Areas examined included discourse analysis, syntax, bilingual education, language attitudes, pragmatics and identity, language contact, language acquisition and language learning.

The event provided an opportunity for participants to exchange ideas with colleagues, get feedback on research, explore avenues for collaborative work and, in general, broaden their knowledge. The conference attracted participants from all over the globe who share an interest in the linguistic richness of the region.

Dr Tamarind Nnena De Lisser, Lecturer in the Faculty of Education and Humanities, presented a paper entitled 'Guyana in the Spotlight: Oil and Gas and the People's Languages' – on August 9, 2018. The paper critically examined issues relating to the language situation in Guyana, assessing whether the oil and gas industry will be, linguistically, a blessing or a curse.

The paper took the form of a baseline study, in preparation for any future changes. The data presented was based primarily on comparative analyses with other oil-producing countries, lan-

guage attitude surveys in Guyana, and discussions in the local media. It culminated with a discussion of the way forward: presenting methods for the protection of local languages and outlining the need for language education and sensitisation. Other panellists were Bettina Migge, Marco Schaumloeffel and Jo-Anne Ferreira.

The conference also gave Dr De Lisser, who is originally from Jamaica, the chance to explore the country and its linguistic richness: "Of particular interest to me, personally and academically, was the trip to Limon, notably the launch of the Limon Kreyol alphabet and the roundtable talk with Limon Kreyol speakers. I was able to interact with the people in Limon Kreyol, a dialect of Jamaican Creole that was brought to Costa Rica by Jamaican migrant workers, who went to work on the railways and banana plantations, and managed to maintain their language."

The linguistic challenges they are facing are similar to those of many Caribbean communities, including Guyana, she noted. For example there are issues surrounding negative attitudes towards the language, restricted domains of official use, and suppression of the language in schools: "This proved to be very relevant to my work and research interests in Guyana, and in particular the works to be carried out by the Guyanese Languages Unit (GLU) in the Department of Language and Cultural Studies. There is potential for partnership and collaboration with the linguists at UNA on various research initiatives for the holistic development of Caribbean Creoles."

Dr De Lisser thanked the Principal and Vice-Chancellor of The University of Guyana, Professor Ivelaw Griffith, for making available funding to cover most of her expenses; and the Faculty of Education and Humanities for funding her conference registration fee. In return, she said: "I would be delighted to share my work with The University of Guyana community and possibly the wider public."



From left: Dr Tamarind De Lisser and other participants of the conference

Consultation on enhancing World Languages at UG

The University of Guyana is cognisant of the decline in enrolment for foreign language programmes at the institution over the years. Therefore, the Office of Planning and International Engagement,



Honourable Minister of Education, Nicolette Henry and Professor Ivelaw Griffith, Vice-Chancellor, UG

in collaboration with the Faculty of Education and Humanities, held a consultation on enhancing world languages at the university. The forum, which took place from June 18-22, 2018, on the Turkeyen Campus, was organised to consult, deliberate and make recommendations on the way forward to develop and enhance languages programmes at the university.

The initiative is part of the university's efforts to graduate students with the necessary language set to communicate in Guyana's progressively growing business environment and effectively compete on the international market. "We will limit our world if we limit our linguistic content to English only," noted Vice-Chancellor of The University of Guyana, Professor Ivelaw Griffith. "Guyana has great market potential with the rest of South America and world." The University of Guyana needs to take the lead on broadening these linguistic perimeters, he added. Already it is mandatory for students of the School of Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation to learn a language other than English.

"Language is considered a competitive advantage," concurred Honourable Minister of Education, Ms Nicolette Henry. "The Government of Guyana is committed to endorsing and encouraging the teaching of another language ... Working together with other institutions, like The University of Guyana, to bring a higher awareness of foreign languages is important." Language diversification also promotes a multicultural and an inclusive society.

Mr Al Creighton, Lecturer in the Department of Language and Cultural Studies, explained that over the years the university has offered Bachelors programmes in Spanish, French and Portuguese, a Minor in Hindi, as well as courses in German, Dutch, Russian and Urubu: "The university needs to return to a period of immersion, to strengthen the life and interest of these degree programmes." He also called for an intervention at the secondary level, with the creation of foreign language clubs, debate and drama to make the learning of another language more interesting for students.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Ivelaw Griffith spoke of a need for a searching review: "We need to ask ourselves: what changes do we need to make so that we don't repli-



Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ivelaw Griffith, UG cate what was done before? ... Are the lecturers teaching what is on the syllabus? Are we delivering the practice and the theory? Do we have the human capital necessary? Do we have mechanisms in place to provide support?"

Other factors that should be considered in the examination of foreign languages are market-based trends, added Dr Reyn-



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

olds, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Office of Planning and International Engagement. There is an influx of Venezuelans, Chinese. This affects how business is being conducted in Guyana and ultimately can help to determine market needs. She also advised recognising and rewarding people for learning a foreign language; and implementing foreign language teaching standards for teachers at all levels.

The consultation saw the participation of local and foreign partners in communication and was held with the aim of implementing a robust foreign-language programme for the 2018/2019 academic year. The main areas of focus are: 1. A framework to support language development from primary through to tertiary levels of education; 2. The design and development of a curriculum for Bachelor of Arts degrees in Dutch and Mandarin; 3. The design and development of a curriculum for English as a second language; 4. Reviewing and updating the curricula for French, Spanish and Portuguese programmes; and 5. Preparation of course outlines.



Participants of the forum

Secondary School Outreach: Public Relations Division on a mission to reach hinterland students

The Public Relations Division's team, headed by Public Relations Officer Paulette Paul, visited secondary schools in the outlying Administrative Regions of Guyana between March and May 2018.

These visits specifically targeted students in the fifth and fourth forms and were intended to inform about programmes offered, entry requirements, tuition fees, accommodation, the application process, and The University of Guyana Entrance Examination (UGEE) among other topics. During the outreach to the schools, the team also held discussions

with parents and assisted students to apply online to attend UG. The opportunity was also taken to reach a larger audience via the hinterland community radio stations in Mabaruma and Madhia.

The Regions and Schools Visited

Region #1 Barima Waini: Mabaruma Secondary and Port Kaituma Secondary; Region #2 - Pomeroon-Supenaam: Aurora Secondary, Charity Secondary, Abram Zuil Secondary, Cotton Field Secondary, Anna Regina Secondary, Essequibo Technical Institute and Wakapoa Secondary; Region

#3- Essequibo Islands-West Demerara: Leguan Secondary and Wakenaam Secondary; Region #4- Demerara- Mahaica: St. Cuthbert's Secondary School; Region #7-Cuyuni-Mazaruni: Waramadong Secondary; Region #8-Potaro-Siparuni: Madhia Secondary and Paramakatio Secondary; Region #9: Upper Takutu- Upper Essequibo: St. Ignatius Secondary, Annai Secondary and Aishalton Secondary; Region #10-Upper Demerara-Upper Berbice: Kwakwani Secondary

These visits have been ongoing for the past 25 years.





Symposium on Education of Boys

The Faculty of Education and Humanities, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the Commonwealth of Learning, Unicef and Caricom, held a symposium on boys in education at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre from June 28 to 29, 2018.

'Bridging the Gender Divide: Stemming the Tide of Male Underachievement in the Educational System' gave participants a platform to present research, examine best practices, and devise strategic approaches to improve the performance of boys in the educational sector in Guyana and the region. As well as identify areas for future research.



Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ivelaw Griffith, UG

"Every child has the right to quality education, regardless of gender," explained Minister of Education, Honourable Nicolette Henry. "There is a stereotype that boys are independent and less interested in learning – that's not the case. Educating and nurturing our boys will facilitate change and development." She highlighted that the Ministry of Education is carrying out extensive curriculum reform to inform policy, strategies and curriculum



Honourable Minister of Education, Nicolette Henry
development.

In the Caribbean region, the dropout rate is higher among boys than girls, noted Unicef Country Representative to Guyana and Suriname Ms Sylvie Fouet: "5.5% of boys drop out of secondary school in comparison to 2.2% of girls." Effective alternatives for those who have dropped out of school include technical education and training.

"It's about looking at all aspects of society: the family, the community, the school, the media – these factors all play a critical role in education," said Professor Ivelaw Griffith, Vice-Chancellor of The University of Guyana. "We need to work with boys to improve their performance. Good performance is not good enough, we need to be mindful of excellent performance."

In his keynote address, Professor Carl James, Jean Augustine Chair in Education, Community and Diaspora, York University, urged: "We need to create a different type of masculinity, develop pedagogical practices, support gender patterns of achievement, assess consequences for stu-

dent placement, promote the development of skills, help youths to forge a healthy sense of self."

Dr Douglas Slater, Assistant Secretary General, Human and Social Development, Caricom, said: "The nature and structure of the educational system has to deliver education to focus on both girls and boys." Caricom is to implement phase one of a regional action plan on teaching through gender-sensitive information with a focus on youth and masculinity. "Boys need to feel safe and supported, and be provided with the necessary skills to change their attitudes and practices for personal growth and development," said Dr Slater.

The Commonwealth of Learning advised that teaching techniques must be tailored to boys and researchers and practitioners must determine why girls are outperforming boys and are more likely to remain in school. Apart from the educational system, there are economic and social factors that affect boys' education:



A section of the audience

boys may drop out of school to take care of their siblings, to seek employment, or because of peer pressure and inadequate curricula.

As a result of the challenges identified, the following suggestions were made to remedy the situation: to address gender disparity in the educational system, to instil in boys through popular culture the mindset that "Real men read", to carry out research to inform Ministry of Education policy, to educate teachers and help them to become mentors and therapists, and to build partnerships between school and community."

To build on the symposium, an action-plan workshop will be held to brainstorm, deliberate and plan the way forward.



Professor Griffith, University staff and participants

China Gives Technical Assistance to UG

On June 5, 2018, The University of Guyana and the People's Republic of China signed a Memorandum of Understanding for a grant to the value of GYD\$4,600,000 at Turkeyen Campus. The grant will facilitate the creation of a modern languages laboratory at the university, with modern amenities to facilitate a better teaching and learning experience for students and staff, including newspapers and journals in various languages for learning immersion.



From left: Mr Chen Xilai, Counsellor and Deputy Chief of Mission, Chinese Embassy signs Memorandum of Understanding with Dr Barabara Reynolds, Deputy Vice- Chancellor, Office of Planning and International Engagement, as Ms Nikki Cole, Senior International Engagement Officer, witnesses the signing

Signing on behalf of The University of Guyana was Dr Barbara Reynolds, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Office of Planning and International Engagement; and Mr Chen Xilai, Counsellor and Deputy Chief of



From left: Ms Claudette Austin, Dean, Faculty of Education and Humanities, Mr Chen Xilai exchanges contract with Dr Barbara Reynolds, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Office of Planning and International Engagement, along with Professor Leyland Lucas, Dean, School of Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation

Mission, on behalf of the Chinese Embassy.

Mr Chen said: "The University of Guyana is the cradle of Guyanese talent and the embassy is glad to contribute to the creation of a language lab." Education is critical to Guyana's development, he added, calling it an investment in the future.

According to Dr Reynolds, foreign language communities are growing within

Guyana: "We have to be strategic and practical and not just offer full-time courses, but allow students the opportunity to register for part-time foreign-language courses as well. There is a growing need for foreign languages in a number of sectors in society." For example, she noted: "Mandarin is critical to our development and the establishment of an academic programme in Mandarin is necessary."

In an effort to expand and sustain language programmes at the university, a number of initiatives have been introduced to revise and revisit languages, according to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor: "It is the university's vision to have all students acquire another language as a perquisite to graduate.

The event was organised by The University of Guyana's Office of Planning and International Engagement, which is responsible for leading and supporting planning, monitoring, evaluation and quality assurance; as well as promoting, facilitating and managing partnerships with international development agencies and academic institutions in other countries.



Mr Chen Xilai and Dr Barbara Reynolds, along with University of Guyana staffs and Chinese Embassy representative

Conversations on Law and Society

The Fifth Conversation on Law and Society was held on July 21, 2018, at Duke Lodge, Georgetown, to examine 'Some Economic and Educational Imperatives of the Oil Business'. The presentation was made by Professor Sarim Al-Zubaidy, President of The University of Trinidad and Tobago.



Professor Sarim Al-Zubaidy, President of University of Trinidad and Tobago

"Industrial stakeholders' contributions are important to the conversation on the oil business in Guyana," explained Professor Ivelaw Griffith, Vice-Chancellor of The University of Guyana. It is timely and relevant for Professor Al-Zubaidy to make this presentation, he noted.

According to Professor Al-Zubaidy, Guyanese people must be educated to deal with the impact of oil on society. "Revenue from the potential oil wealth needs to be used to facilitate the economic development of the country," he advised. "In order for Guyana's economy to develop, diversification is necessary, not just to promote development but for long-term sustainability of primary and manufactured goods and services. Revenue also needs to be invested in public awareness and educational programmes."

He added that a productive oil sector needs workers: "The University of Guyana and other local institutions need to take the lead in this initiative and design programmes with the capacity to supply the human-resource need of the industry. It requires strategic thinking."

The energy sector in Guyana brings in approximately 75% of foreign-exchange earnings, yet only 3% of locals get petroleum jobs. Government's investment should focus not just on education but also production and infrastructural development, which are critical for sustainable economic growth and development, Pro-

fessor Al-Zubaidy explained.

It is important that the populace understand their rights, he said: "The natural resources belong to the citizens of Guyana". Therefore there is need for good governance and institutional infrastructure (legal framework/laws) to be in place to effectively deal with oil and gas. A Petroleum Act and Regulations, he continued, are important to secure contractual arrangements within the oil sector.

The following strategies are needed to ensure sustainability: 1. Oil revenue needs to be used to transform the economy; 2. Guyana needs to be aware of and avoid the mistakes made by other countries and pursue diversification of the economy; 3. The contribution of the oil sector should be maximised; 4. Collaborations with other universities need to be set up to develop curricula models and design programmes that fit the development needs of the workforce/industry.

Distinguished Visiting Engineer-in-Residence at The University of Guyana, Dr Vincent Adams, cautioned that oil is a depletable resource and the country needs to examine what happens after 20 to 30 years. How do we maintain competitiveness? Like Professor Al-Zubaidy he endorsed the importance of long-term investment in education. But he also added that Guyana needs to get best deal in its production contracts, to invest in community development; and to train specialists to verify the

data coming from the wells, additionally he noted that environmental health and safety are critical for the sustainable development of oil in Guyana.

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor noted that, "In addition to education about oil and gas, we also need to educate our people about values, respect for time, environment and laws." The University of Guyana, he announced, will launch a 'values' conversation about the respect for the differences between us: "We have lost the value of respect. Ethics training is necessary, it needs to be taught and practiced at the school level."

Other members of the panel were Professor Clement A.C. Imbert, FASME, Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering, University of the West Indies, Saint Augustine, and Deputy Chair of the Board of Governors, University of Trinidad and Tobago; and Professor Andrew Jupiter, FEI, FIMM, CMG, Trinidad and Tobago Methanol Company, Chair in Petroleum Engineering, University of the West Indies, St Augustine.

The event was organised by the University of Guyana's Office of Planning and International Engagement, which is responsible for leading and supporting planning, monitoring, evaluation and quality assurance; as well as promoting, facilitating and managing partnerships with international development agencies and academic institutions in other countries.



A section of the audience

“We have to make silent stones speak” An Archaeological Lecture on the Rupununi Savannahs by Professor Mark Plew



*Professor Mark Plew,
Boise State University*

Some feel that archaeology has no relevance today because it has to do with history, but that is not the case, declared the Pro-Chancellor of The University of Guyana, Major General Retired Joseph Singh. At a lecture held on July 10, 2018, at the Education Lecture Theatre, Turkeyen Campus he explained. “We need an archaeological perspective to inform decisions in relation to climate change.” He continued “Such discoveries can show us how to conceptualise the adaptation to climate change: the past can guide the present and the future.”

The lecture was presented by Professor Mark Plew of

Boise State University on the archaeology of the Rupununi Savannahs and was organised by the Faculty of Education and Humanities and the Amerindian Research Unit at The University of Guyana.

The Pro-Chancellor further explained that some Guyanese are not fortunate enough to travel to certain areas of Guyana to see and learn about archaeological discoveries, therefore such a lecture is significant to “fill these gaps and promote awareness among Guyanese. There are a lot of artefacts and information waiting to be discovered.”

Professor Plew revealed that the first major archaeological discovery of the Rupununi Savannahs was the Aishalton rock art, which is the first systems survey held by Evans and Meggers in 1960 on (Rupununi & Kanuku Phase), (Williams 1979- Aishalton). This discovery he noted, served as the precedent for work to follow. However, there are still a significant number of sites yet to be discovered: “Only 25% of the Rupununi is under investigation – a lot of information has still not been captured in



A section of the audience

archaeological discoveries.”

He noted that the archaeology of Guyana has more to do with time and place rather than how and why. “We have to be more scientific and more technical in our approach to archaeology,” he urged. “We need to educate our children not to tamper with archaeological sites. We need to appreciate the importance of resources. We have to make silent stones speak.”

In terms of work to be done in the area of archaeological research in Guyana, he highlighted the need for documentation of greater variation and extensive research, excavation of both open and rock shelter sites to understand their functional variability, analysis of Aishalton’s complex rock art, and the recovery of datable materials as the basis of developing a more detailed chronology. However, for this to be achieved more sponsorship is needed, as well as cooperation across research disciplines, multi-year projects to monitor progress in research, and increased emphasis on technical analysis and broader questions that have regional importance.

The Faculty of Education and Humanities, Amerindian Research Unit, has evolved over the 12-year period of its existence. It is now an interdisciplinary unit, which has developed beyond languages. The main focus of the school is on the areas of archaeology and anthropology, culture, and culture in the area of archaeology. To date, more than 50 students have been trained in basis principles and techniques



*Pro-Chancellor, Major General
Ret'd Joe Singh*

of Archaeology, including indigenous students. And this year, six students graduated from the Boise State University’s Archaeology Summer Field School programme.



A section of the audience

Mother's Day Celebrations, May 19 in the Education Lecture Theatre





Father's Day Brunch



Three lucky fathers were recipients of special prizes at the third Father's Day Brunch held on Saturday, June 16, in the Education Lecture Theatre.

This annual event on the university's calendar is hosted by Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith to honour and



celebrate UG fathers - biological, legal or social. The proud fathers were selected by their respective faculties and division.

The prizes were donated by Captain Gerry Gouveia, Chief Executive Officer, Roraima Airways and

Education Resource Ambassador of The University of Guyana.

THE WINNERS

- A trip to Kaieteur Falls: Mr Carlyle Benjamin, Technologist, Faculty of Technology. Mr Benjamin has six children and eight grandchildren
- A trip to Arrowpoint: Mr Lynvol Mendonca and his six children. Mr Mendonca is attached to the Safety and Security Department



From left: Mr Jairam Samaru, Captain Gerry Gouveia, Vice-Chancellor Griffith, Mr Lynvol Mendonca, and Mr Carlyle Benjamin

Mr Jairam Samaru, a Driver attached to the Berbice Campus, was also gifted with a trip to Arrowpoint. This young man is at present raising a little boy whose father died and was found wandering on the streets.

A special thank you to UG Ambassador, Captain Gerry Gouveia for his generosity.





PERSONALITY PROFILE: Ms Kara Lord

Ms Kara Lord, the newly elected Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Education and Humanities, is elated at the completion of her Masters in Instructional Design and Technology from The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados, in June 2018.

Ms Lord's educational journey began at St Gabriel's Primary School in Queenstown, Georgetown, after which she pursued her secondary education at the St Joseph High School, also in Georgetown. Like any other teenager, her journey through secondary school had its challenges. However, she remembers a wonderful English teacher, Ms Michelle Montooth, who became her mentor: "She was like a second mom to me. She inspired and always encouraged me to work hard".

The early part of her childhood, Ms Lord lived in Kitty and later in North Ruimveldt. "I lived a very sheltered life: the only girl among four brothers and my parents were very protective of me," she said. "Generally I was not a spoiled child – only spoiled with things related to school such as books – however I was a happy child."

As a lecturer, Ms Lord loves her students and her classroom interactions – especially the day she walked into her class to find Ms Montooth. "That was a full circle moment for me," she said with a smile, "the teacher had become the student and the student the teacher."

Among her other mentors are her mom, Ms Gillian Lord ("She inspires me, she is honest, she is real and tells me like it is, and she is very funny"), and Professor Paloma Mohamed, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Philanthropy, Alumni and Civic Engagement at The University of Guyana: "I aspire to one day be like her: she is a young, ambitious, vibrant and a very strong leader." She also draws inspiration from friends, colleagues and students: "Once it's something that I can learn from to guide my life's path, I use it."

Outside of academia, she has lived a full life. In 2011, she participated in the Miss Guyana Universe Pageant and won. That same year, she represented Guyana at the Miss Universal Pageant in Brazil. "I try to live a balanced life," she said. "During my leisure time I cook, relax and spend time with my family. I love to take my son to the movies."

Fulfilment and purpose

Having left secondary school, the Deputy Dean wanted to become a counsellor so she pursued a BSc in Psychology at The University of the Guyana from 2006 to 2009.

She didn't plan to be a teacher – it just happened. She joined The University of Guyana family in 2011 as a part-time psychology lecturer and served in that capacity for approximately two years

from 2011 to 2013 before becoming a full-time member of staff. From 2015 to 2016, Ms Lord pursued a Postgraduate Diploma in Concentration: Higher Education, and immediately afterwards a Masters in Work and Organisational Psychology at Nottingham University in the United Kingdom from 2016 to 2017.

"I love what I do," she enthused. "I have grown to love the profession and I am happy to work at The University of Guyana." Some of the courses she currently lectures are Psychology of Adolescence and Adult Learning, Adolescence Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Psychology of Learning and Development. She also supervises undergraduate research.

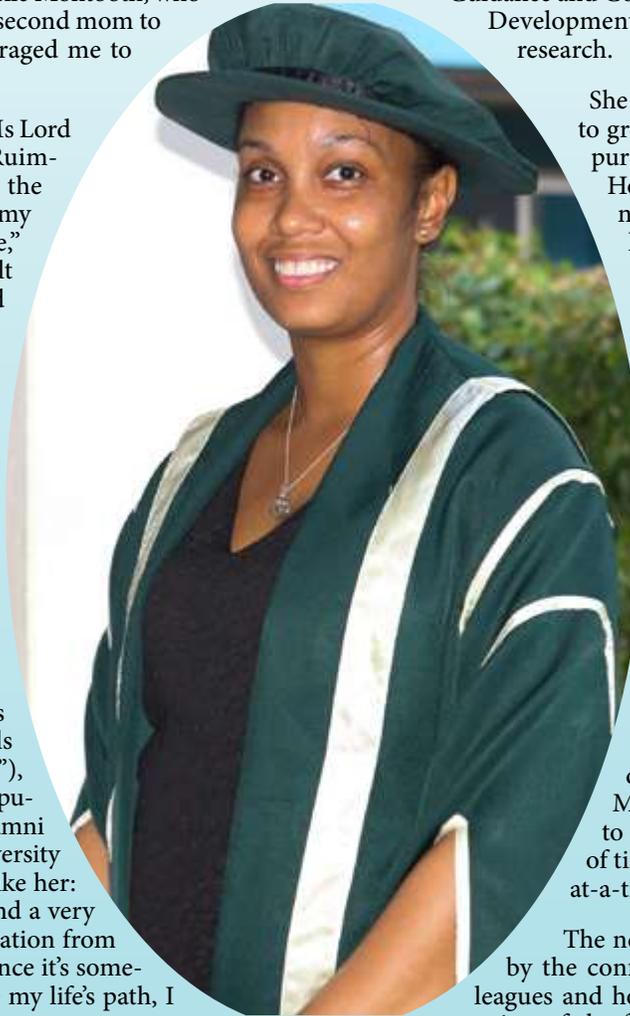
She spoke positively of the opportunities to grow as a member of university staff, by pursuing further education and research. However she lamented the lack of awareness of psychology in Guyana and believes more programmes are needed to promote awareness of the diversity of the field. She is passionate about the field of psychology, "I don't just want to be remembered as being nice and kind," she said. "I want my legacy to be one where I will be remembered for having contributed to the enrichment of the lives of others, but more so for having made great contribution to the development of psychology at The University of Guyana and in Guyana as a whole."

She believes in giving back to the community and contributing to the development of others: "I am inspired by purpose and being purposeful in life, I want to give back and do things that will benefit other people. My fear, however, is that I will not be able to do all the things I want to do because of time." Her solution is to take a one-day-at-a-time approach.

The newly elected Deputy Dean is humbled by the confidence bestowed on her by her colleagues and hopes to bring a fresh approach to the operation of the faculty. "My vision for the Faculty of Education and Humanities is harmony," she explained. "There needs to be standardisation and harmonisation in order for us to function effectively. I hope that we can set the standard as the experts on education and lead by example."

Her recently completed Masters also provided hands-on experience that will assist in the effective development of online courses. "As any university moves towards an online campus, personnel with the necessary training, capabilities and support mechanisms are required to provide online learning," she explained. "It will also help to provide support to core fundamental knowledge courses such as Evaluation and Curriculum Development."

On behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, the Renaissance team and staff of The University of Guyana congratulations are extended to Kara Lord on this special achievement.



Berbice Campus emancipation celebrations



Second from left: Regional Chairman of Berbice, Mr David Armogan, with participants

The University of Guyana Berbice Campus participated in an Emancipation Festival held on August 1, 2018, at No. 53 Cultural and Sports Complex, No. 53 Village, Corentyne. The day's proceedings commenced with a Grand Freedom Day Parade, featuring a marching band accompanied by young persons clad in African prints.

The cultural extravaganza showcased

contributions made by emancipated Africans to Guyana; information on slave traders, the hardships faced by slaves on plantations and revolts that occurred in both Berbice and Demerara; as well as cultural dances and drama performances to mark the 180th anniversary of emancipation.

The feature address was made by His Excellency, President David Granger, who spoke of the struggles of slaves, stereotypes of Africans and the way forward for development. He also presented bicycles to students who performed well at the National Grade Six Assessment.



Participants of the Emancipation Celebrations

There were displays of traditional African clothing, African cuisine and educational information, including some of President Granger's published work on slavery and emancipation and exhibits by The National Library and The University of Guyana Berbice Campus Library with works by famous Guyanese authors.

Also present at the event were First Lady Sandra Granger, Minister of Social Cohesion Dr George Norton, Regional Chairman of Region 6, Mr David Armogan, and Former Mayor of New Amsterdam, Mr Errol Alphonso.

Berbice Campus staff retreat to Orealla

A group of 22 staff from The University of Guyana Berbice Campus, led by Director Professor Gomathinayagam, visited the Amerindian community of Orealla and Siparuta from August 3 to 5, 2018. The team was welcomed by a representative of the village's captain and given a brief overview of the area's history and the medical significant of some natural vegetation grown there.



Staff of the Berbice campus



Over the two-day period, the group participated in morale-building and bonding exercises, which were facilitated by senior staff members. Members were also taken on a guided tour of the community, which including sightseeing along the Corentyne River, swimming, hiking and demonstrations and displays of local Amerindian culture and handicrafts produced.

The retreat was a success and the Berbice Campus hopes to make the event an annual activity. The team wishes to express its gratitude to the university's administration for this opportunity.



Moral building session

VC's Two-Year Reflections



Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith

The University of Guyana held a media luncheon on June 12, 2018, at the Herdmanston Lodge to mark the two-year anniversary of the institution under the stewardship of 10th Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University, Professor Ivelaw Griffith.

The event was held to examine, reflect and project for the continuous development of the institution. "There were rough and smooth patches," noted Ms Paulette Paul, Public Relations Officer, during her welcome remarks. "However such an event is symbolic and significant for self-introspection as the university continues its journey on the Renaissance supersonic train."

In this period, the university has undergone some structural and physical infrastructural improvements. "The year 2016 was one of reorganising the management team of the university," explained the Vice-Chancellor. He also highlighted the importance of staff welfare to the development of the university: "We must pay attention to staff and students and look at salary increases and regularisation of staff on a more permanent basis."

The Vice-Chancellor also noted the need for a collaborative approach, bringing in the government and world of business, as well as contributions by Guyanese who are passionate about developing their country and university. Though there are limitations," he noted, "we can see progress."

Steps are being taken to secure the accreditation of the School of Dentistry. However, a significant amount of investment is required, for example in clinical equipment. Air conditioners have also been installed in the George Walcott Lecture Theatre (GWLTL) and School of Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation (SEBI) buildings to provide a better learning environment for students and staff.

Meanwhile, exciting future plans include an annual conference and new short courses for the School of Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation, the re-naming of the Faculty of Technology to the Faculty of Engineering and Technology, the new Food and Nutrition Institution and a new Nursing programme in Berbice.



Members of the media and University of Guyana Staffers

Vice-Chancellor Professor Ivelaw Griffith expressed thanks to staff, students, government, industry, private sector and alumni for enabling the university to accomplish so much, despite challenges faced.

Elevate Your Campus Experience at the UG Campus Store

The University of Guyana's Campus Store is strategically located on the Turkeyen Campus and aims to make campus life easier for all, especially students. The Campus Store is an embodiment of our university brand, offering gift items, University of Guyana merchandise and services such as copying and printing and binding.

The store is also the place to come when you're preparing for your graduation as it offers rental of graduation gowns and accessories. You can even order graduation rings there too, to celebrate and remember this significant milestone.

Visit The University of Guyana's Campus Store today, choose an item with the UG Logo and carry it with pride throughout your university experience and beyond, so UG is always part of your life.



Accompanying the president of the university of Trinidad and Tobago on a Courtesy Call on the Minister Of Natural Resources and then hosting a luncheon as part of the visit



Appreciation reception hosted by the Vice Chancellor for the staff of the Turkeyen Library in June 23, 2018



VC hanging out with students at Turkeyen Campus



Ceremonies to break ground for the new Math and Science Building and to rename Faculty of Technology as Faculty of Engineering and Technology, held on July 20, 2018



Energy sector presentation by Dr Dennis Pieters at Turkeyen on June 25, 2018



Meeting at Renaissance House with faculty and staff of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology on June 28 about preparation for First Oil and Beyond



Luncheon at Turkeyen for Exxon Mobil Foundation and Conservation International leaders in Guyana GRO Project and launch of Project at Pegasus, on August 6, 2018



Guyana's first commemoration of Nelson Mandela International Day, held at Turkeyyen on July 25, 2018



Conversation on Law and Society Forum on Reparations in Guyana, held on July 30



Meeting with Hon Prime Minister Moses Nagamootoo to receive \$5 million cheque for project on Constitutional Reform education



Listening session for the Institute for Food and Nutrition Security in Berbice in August



Listening Session on Institute for Food and Nutrition Security in Anna Regina in August 15



First Summer Mini Course on Numbers Theory hosted by Education Resource Ambassador and Dean Terrence Blackman, held in July



Guyana Gateway research conference held at Turkeyen in August



Undergraduate Research Programme Symposium at the Berbice campus on August 28



SEBI Local Content Forum, held on July 23-24



Reception to celebrate the successful completion of SEBI's first year of operation, held on July 19



Second Gala of Alumni and Friends of UG, held on September 8 in Queens, New York



UG and Bridges Medical Mission host medical education conference at Marriott Hotel



Working meetings at Florida International University and a guest lecture in September



VC's visit to Roraima and Brasília in June as part of the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Guyana and Brazil



Visit on July 20 by CEO of Arthur Lok Jack, Mr David Dulai-Whiteway, to discuss collaboration with UG





UNIVERSITY of GUYANA

THE UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA

2019 NEW PROGRAMMES

APPLICATIONS OPEN SOON

TURKEYEN CAMPUS

January

Associate of Science (Petroleum Engineering)

Bachelor of Arts (Youth Works)

Bachelor of Science (Food Science)

Master of Science (Petroleum Engineering)

August

Bachelor of Arts (Psychology)

Master of Science (Psychology)

Master of Social Sciences (Communications)

BERBICE CAMPUS

January

Bachelor of Science (Nursing)

September

Bachelor of Science (Civil Engineering)

For more information contact

The University of Guyana
Registry (Admissions), Turkeyen Campus
Email: admissions@uog.edu.gy
Phone: (592) 227-2740 / 623-8325

Designed by:
Office of Strategic Initiatives, Vice Chancellery
(592) 222-8063 | (592) 222-4932 | (592) 623-0926

Save the Dates

Dave Martins (Air 2017)
Documentary Launch
Friday, January 18, 2019.
Venue: (tbc)

Launch Symposia
Monday, January 21, 2019 9:00-16:00h
Bachelor of Arts, Youth Community Development
Wednesday, January 23, 2019 9:00-16:00h
Bachelor of Science, Food Science
Friday, January 25, 2019 9:00-16:00h
*Associate of Science, Petroleum Engineering and
Master of Science, Petroleum Engineering*
Venue: University of Guyana, Turkeyen Campus

Professor Sis. Mary Noel Menezes
Distinguished Lecture
Friday, January 25, 2019 17:30h
Historical Realities for Redress: The Adequacy of Relinquishing Reservations and Pursuing Reparations
Pro. Sir Hilary Beckles
Vice-Chancellor, University of the West Indies
Venue: (tbc)

International Jazz Concert
Monday, January 28, 2019
Featuring: Joss Stone
Venue: (tbc)

Save the Dates

**The launch of The Jay and Sylvia Sobhraj
Centre for Behavioral Sciences and Research**

Thursday, February 7, 2019.

Venue: (tbc)

Turkeyen and Tain Talks 16

Thursday, February 7, 2019

Budget 2018

Venue: (tbc)

Diaspora/ Entrepreneurship Conference

Sunday, June 16, 2019 – Thursday, June 20, 2019

*Building a New Business Paradigm: Engaging the Diaspora
for an Enhanced Caribbean Competitive Landscape*

Venue: Ramada Georgetown Princess

8th Conversation on Law and Society

Thursday, January 31, 2019

Indigenous Languages

Venue: (tbc)

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

JOURNAL OF THE INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
AND THE FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA TURKEYEN CAMPUS

Renaissance

Office of the Vice-Chancellor, The University of Guyana

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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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