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The VC Speaks

Keeper of the Faith and Doer of Good Works

“Do not go where the path may lead; go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Our University’s first-ever solemn assembly, held on May 23, 2018, memorialised the life and livelihoods of Founding Deputy Vice-Chancellor (DVC) Dr Harold A. Drayton. His adoption of philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson’s words of wisdom: “Do not go where the path may lead; go instead where there is no path and leave a trail”, are reflected in his life’s journey through places near and far, including Scotland, Grenada, Jamaica, Ghana, Barbados and the United States. But, as I noted at the ceremony, it is perhaps in Guyana – and at our University – that there is unquestionably the greatest manifestation of his embrace of Emerson’s proposition.

In ‘University of Guyana: Heartbeat of a Nation’, Dr Drayton wrote: “On many occasions I have described the establishment of the University in 1963 as an act of Faith. With no capital funds in sight for permanent buildings and equipment, with the prospect of slender recurrent annual government subsidies, and the related foreseeable difficulties of staff recruitment, how else can one describe that exciting plunge of ’63?” But, as the Good Book reminds us, faith without works is dead. And Dr Drayton certainly was among those who laboured in the educational vineyards, doing good works. He was not merely part of the ‘Dreaming about it’ team; he was a key member of the ‘Let’s do it’ team. And we owe it to him and other dreamers and doers to keep the faith and continue to do good, and better, work.

We, the successive Keepers of the Faith and Doers of Good Works, must honour the memory of the faith and faithfulness of Dr Drayton by ensuring that the institution grows from strength to strength. Crucial to this is the embrace – both in word and in practice – of values that matter to the development of UG and to the nation itself, for which UG is the heartbeat. These values include integrity and respect. Integrity is important, especially as we are an integrity-challenged nation, and one that will soon witness the realisation of the kind of bounty that spurs a proclivity for corruption. As for respect, we need a stronger embrace in relation to the environment, our laws, punctuality, and our racial, gender and other differences.

Thus, as we continue to pursue individual and institutional dreams, giving rise to lives imagined and unimagined along Renaissance Road, it is important to remember pioneers such as Founding DVC Harold Drayton, who went where there was no path and left a trail for us to follow.

Keep on keeping on!



Professor Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, B. Soc. Sci., MA, MPhil, Ph.D.
Tenth Principal and Vice-Chancellor



Editor's Note

Dear reader,

The University of Guyana welcomes you to Vol. 3, No. 2 of 'Renaissance', the newsletter from the Office of the Vice-Chancellor, in which we share all the latest activities, events and developments taking place at The University of Guyana (UG).

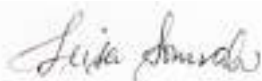
As the University enters the 2018/2019 Academic Year, the management and staff of UG are dedicated and committed to providing opportunities to enhance the teaching, research and general services of the institution. Though not without its own limitations, the University aims to implement a number of new initiatives to facilitate continuous growth and development.

One major step is the examination of the 1963 Act and Statutes of the University after 55 years, which is intended to improve governance at the institution. Another is the hosting of the Inaugural Entrepreneurship Conference, organised by the School of Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation.

Other notable mentions include the customer relations workshop that was recently held by the Registry Division, and the signing of an academic agreement between UG and Power Producers and Distributors Incorporated, which seeks to facilitate the continuous development of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology.

The University of Guyana continues to be cognisant of the changing needs of this country's economy, therefore new programmes are scheduled to be offered this academic year, which you can read about in this and subsequent issues 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.



UNIVERSITY of GUYANA

Renaissance Scorecard- Top 25 Items

Year I (June 2016-July 2017)

1. Secured the reaccreditation of the School of Medicine.
2. Made the George Walcott Lecture Theatre (GWLT) & the Small Lecture Theatre (SLT) fully airconditioned, and installed new bathrooms in GWLT.
3. Boosted the Wi-Fi access at Turkeyen, Tain, and Dennis Irvine Hall, put new PA systems in lecture halls, fixed furniture and put fans in classrooms.
4. Stopped wild horses, cows, and most dogs from roaming campus.
5. Modified the service hours of the Bursary, including opening on Saturdays.
6. Partnered with GTT to offer Mobile Money to enhance services to students.
7. Published Renaissance newsletter to showcase the work of students, staff, and alumni, and launched new website.
8. Held Race for PACE, which netted G\$4.1M for new Student Support Fund.
9. Signed MOUs with Movie Towne for solar energy production and student housing, with Ministry of Public Telecommunications on a range of benefits, and with Ministry of Natural Resources on funding support for several areas.
10. Inaugurated Distinguished Lecture Series to celebrate the work of Professor Clive Thomas, Professor Sister Noel Menezes, and Dr Ulric Neville Trotz and to inspire others to emulate their pursuit of excellence.
11. Increased tuition to help improve the fiscal condition of the university.
12. 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.
13. Secured a supplemental government subvention in 2016—the first time ever—and a 19.33 percent increase in recurrent funds in 2017 over 2016.
14. Hosted the First Education Resource Ambassadors conference, where we established the Vice Chancellor's Fund for Strategic Initiatives.
15. Restored the Walter Rodney Chair and began efforts to revive History.
16. Started an Etiquette Training Programme for Student Leaders; 56 student leaders were the first beneficiaries; paid for by VC Fund.
17. Started promotion of the Arts, including the appointment of Keith Waithe as the first Distinguished Visiting Artist-in-Residence since Martin Carter.
18. Began work on a new Students' Social Complex, extension of Agriculture and Forestry, a new Maintenance Complex, and repairs at Pere Street.

19. 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.
20. 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.
21. Created the Undergraduate Research Programme, and hosted successful inaugural student research conferences at Turkeyen and Tain.
22. Formed the Alumni and Friends of UG in New York & New Jersey to rekindle alumni engagement and encourage support by non-graduates.
23. Established the School of Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation (SEBI).
24. Launched UG Press to help boost research and scholarship.
25. Hosted the historic—for both UG and Guyana—First Diaspora Engagement Conference, where we launched the Caribbean Diaspora Engagement Centre. The conference attracted 260 people from Guyana, Barbados, Grenada, St. Lucia, Ghana, Nigeria, Canada, Br. Virgin Islands, TNT, Jamaica, UK, and USA.

**Office of the Vice-Chancellor
September 2017**



UG Marks Dr Cheddi Jagan's Birth Anniversary



Professor Winston McGowan

The University of Guyana (UG) held a commemoration for the 100th Birth Anniversary of the late President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, Dr Cheddi Jagan. In recognition of his contribution to the development of Guyana, a photographic display and book exhibition were held at the Turkeyen Campus on March 21, 2018.

The celebrations formed part of a wider programme of engagement being organised by UG to honour presidents and leaders of Guyana, with the aim of facilitating discussions on their personalities and policies. According to the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Ivelaw Griffith, it is the role of mature universities "to have conversations regarding national leaders, so as to facilitate intellectual discourse."

Dr Jagan will be remembered for helping to forge Guyana's path to independence, as well as the overall development of the nation, acknowledged Dr Nigel Gravesande, Registrar of The University of Guyana and Chair of the event's Planning Committee. "Jagan did his best in the service of humanity and his legacy is still alive and will be for generations to come," he said.

The daughter of the former president, Ms Nadia Jagan-Brancier, reflected on her fondest memories of her father. "He was warm, loving, kind and caring," she said. "He had a great sense of humour, was always happy and had a cheerful face. He was someone we should emulate." Through his publications, she continued, more peo-

ple around the world will know about the life and work of a man of admired qualities.

During the observance, extracts were read from a few of Dr Jagan's works, including the following from 1961: "I believe that my first charge is to raise my people from the mire of poverty in which, for too long, they have suffered ... I have been subjected to violence, indignity and jail. I am willing to face these things again, and gladly, in the fight to free my people and aid them. Here I stand. Here I will stand until I die."

Dr Jagan's work documents his personal and political beliefs on everything from poverty, economic and social development, to human rights and education. His most celebrated works include his autobiography 'The West On Trial', 'Forbidden



Pro-Chancellor, Major General Ret'd Joe Singh and members of the audience.



Ms Nadia Jagan-Brancier, daughter, Dr Cheddi Jagan

Freedom: The Story Of British Guiana', 'The USA In South America' and 'A New Human Global Order'.

The exhibition was organised by a committee chaired by Dr Gravesande and comprising Professor Paloma Mohamed-Martin, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Philanthropy, Alumni and Civic Engagement at UG; Mr Tota Mangar, former Deputy Vice-Chancellor, UG; Ms Indra Chanderpaul, Cheddi Jagan Research Centre; Professor Gomathinayagam Subramanian, Director of Berbice Campus, UG; Ms Gwyneth George, Librarian, UG; Ms Emiley King, Chief Librarian, National Library; Ms Paulette Paul, Public Relations Officer, UG; Dr Joey Jagan; Dr Nigel Westmaas, Hamilton College; Mr Kadasi Ceres, Faculty of Social Sciences, UG; and Ms Juneann Garnett, Assistant Registrar and Secretary of the event's Planning Committee.



A display of Dr Jagan's Books and Photographic Exhibits

Welcome dinner hosted by India's Ministry of Foreign Affairs during the VC's official visit in March 2018



UG SIGNS ACADEMIC AGREEMENT WITH PPDI

The University of Guyana and Power, Producers and Distributors Incorporated (PPDI) have formalised an academic collaborative agreement and signed a contract for an annual commitment of \$1.5 million from the power company.

The agreement was signed by Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Academic Engagement Professor Michael Scott and Chief Executive Officer of PPDI Dr Arron Fraser at Turkeyen Campus on April 18, 2018. This commitment will facilitate development within the Faculty of Engineering and Technology, as well as provide a 10-month industrial training course for five Engineering students of the University each year.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor noted the University's appreciation for such an investment, saying: "It shows that the Power Producers and Distributors company is committed to the enhancement and maintenance of quality assurance of our University students."

Professor Scott also emphasised how students will be able to benefit from the new opportunities offered. "The idea is to cultivate character, to ensure discipline, and to give them skills and

professionalism beyond the classroom," he said. "This is something that can't be counted in dollars and cents." The partnership will also help produce quality graduates, he added, who will be able to significantly contribute to the economic development of Guyanese society.



Dr Arron Fraser, Chief Executive Officer and Professor Michael Scott, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Engagement

PPDI has been in partnership with The University of Guyana for many years. "This formal partnership demonstrates the company's commitment and desire for our relationship to deepen," said Dr Scott, "so that at the end of the day our students can benefit from the best opportunities that can be afforded."

Dr Fraser reaffirmed this, saying that The University of Guyana produces quality graduates and there is an important need to link academia and industry, with initiative such as their work attachment programme. He added that the power company understands the importance of industrial attachments and is pleased to be able to make students better equipped for

the world of work. "Sixty percent of our management staff are UG graduates," he pointed out.

He also expressed gratitude to The University of Guyana and confirmed his company's commitment to contributing to the economic development of Guyana.

MEMORIAL TREE PLANTED AT UG

The University of Guyana is not just about achieving academic development, but environmental growth as well. As part of an Environment Enhancement Project, a silver palm tree was donated to the University in memory of Dr Cedric H. Grant, CCH, a former Ambassador to the United States of America and High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, who died in 2005. The tree was planted north-east of the Spicy Dish building (former cafeteria), near the Beharry Hall of Residence on March 29, 2018.

The Environment Enhancement Project was established in 2010 by Ms Pamela Bourne, the wife of former Chancellor of The University of Guyana Dr Compton Bourne. It seeks to enhance the physical environment of the University through landscaping with select trees, shrubs and other appropriate planting material.



Memorial tree planted near the Beharry Hall of Residence

SUPPORT FOR SCIENCE AND TECH AT UG



Dr Fitzgerald Yaw, Director, Office of Strategic Initiatives, UG; Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ivelaw Griffith; Dr Hector Butts, Finance Secretary, Ministry of Finance with Ms Tasheen Sayed, World Bank Country Director for the Caribbean and Chief Planning Officer, Evelyn Hamilton.

A Dissemination of Implementation Completion Report for The University of Guyana Science and Technology Support Project, sponsored by the World Bank, was presented on May 16, 2018, at the Turkey-camp Campus.



Ms Tasheen Sayed, World Bank Country Director for the Caribbean

According to the World Bank's Country Director for the Caribbean, Tahseen Sayed Khan, "The World Bank is committed to educational development in Guyana and currently has three projects focusing on education."

Looking ahead, Ms Sayed added:

"There needs to be more investment in technology in relation to human capital advancement. There needs to be long-term engagement, for the next five years or so, to focus on education."

She also spoke of the need for equality of learning, transfer of skills and employment in order to foster the development of an economy, and highlighted the importance of education. "The World Bank is committed to assisting The University of Guyana in this regard," she said, noting that the results of the Science and Technology Support Project have exceeded expectations.

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor of The University of Guyana, Professor Ivelaw Griffith, quoted Albert Einstein, saying: "Not everything that can be counted, counts; and not everything that counts, can be counted." He explained that what matters is the value proposition of our learning: "What really counts is the lasting impact it will have for years – the ripple effect that transforms our enterprise and our nation."

In order to ensure the sustainability of research at the University, he continued, it is important to build partnerships. "Part of the Renaissance initiative is to see what we can do better at The University of Guyana with continuous support from the World Bank and other partners," he said.

He added that both undergraduate and staff research is "of critical importance" to the development of The University of Guyana, and should be showcased within and outside of the country. This calls, he said, for strategic planning, the establishment of research programmes and curriculum development.



Mr Lenandlar Singh, Senior Lecturer, Department of Computer Science, UG

Dr Lenandlar Singh, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Guyana, echoed the Vice-Chancellor's comments, emphasising the importance of sustainability in research, adequate funding to build capacity and development, and greater collaboration between local and foreign researchers.

Technology student Shaqueen Karim expressed his gratitude for the World Bank initiative and said that the improvements in the Faculty of Engineering and Technology will mean "a better learning environment, improvements in lab facilities and infrastructural development".

BERBICE DIRECTOR PROMOTES ORGANIC FARMING



*Professor Gomathinayagam Subramanian
Director of The University of Guyana's Berbice Campus*

The Director of The University of Guyana's Berbice Campus, Professor Gomathinayagam Subramanian (better known as Professor Gomes), has dedicated 13 years of his life to the farming community of Berbice, where he advocates for and encourages organic farming.

Speaking at a lecture on The Uses of Soil Micro-organisms in Crop Production, held on March 28, 2018, in the auditorium of the campus, he said: "Guyana's soil is very fertile and can grow anything. However it needs proper culture practice. If you use beneficial micro-organisms you do not need fertiliser ... the use of too much fertiliser and chemicals prevent the plant from growing properly."

Micro-organisms, he explained to the audience, are used as soil control mechanisms to manage pests and diseases, which affect plant growth and diminish yields. The use of nitrogen is an essential element for plant growth, he added, but warned farmers not to use too much.

To improve microbial population, according to Professor Subramanian, farmers need to reduce their use of chemicals and fertilisers and use organic matter, which gives a better

quality crop. His vision is to grow vegetables without pesticides. Soil and water testing before planting is also important, he said, and he called for the establishment of a soil lab to facilitate testing.

Professor Subramanian is a prolific writer, with over 46 publications to his name, including books and published papers. He has also presented more than 65 papers at local and international conferences. Topics covered range from the Molecular Characterisation of Plant Pathogens, to Phytochemical Studies of Crude Leaf Extract of Tulsi.

The audience of the Berbice lecture comprised University of Guyana staff and students, members of the farming community, and representatives from the agricultural sector and Guyana Rice Development Board.

In his remarks, Vice-Chancellor Professor Ivelaw Griffith said, "There is a lag in science-based best practices in agriculture and this is a challenge we have to manage." He

a general culture of agriculture in Guyana. "Our approach to agriculture needs to change," he said. "Students need to be more involved in agriculture from a younger age, and farmers have to invest more and fund initiatives to develop the agricultural sector – not just look to Government [to do so]. You, the farmers, need to be the change agent."

He also acknowledged the important role The University



A section of the audience

called for more science in agriculture, noting that "research must be in harmony with our community".

The Vice-Chancellor also spoke of the need to promote

of Guyana plays in moulding quality agriculturists, and the need for the establishment of entrepreneurial links between agriculture and business.



Professor Subramanian, Director, Berbice Campus, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ivelaw Griffith, Pro-Chancellor, Major General Ret'd Joe Singh, UG staffers and member of the Agricultural sector

IMPROVING CUSTOMER RELATIONS AT UG



Dr Nigel Gravesande, Registrar, UG

In recognition of the important role that good customer relations play in fostering effective communication between an organisation and the public, a customer service workshop was organised by The University of Guyana's Registry office on March 27, 2018, at the Education Lecture Theatre, Turkeyen Campus.

"It is important to train all staff of The University of Guyana," said Assistant Registrar of Admissions Ms Nickalva Washington, "but moreso frontline staff like those in the Registry, who interface more with the public and therefore play an important role in facilitating effective customer relations. Good customer relations do not just enhance our professional life, but all aspects of our lives."

The Registry organised the first customer relations workshop in August 2017. This year's informative and interactive session saw the participation of 56 staff members from the Registry, Bursary and Library sections of the Turkeyen and Berbice Campuses.

According to Dr Nigel Gravesande, Registrar of The University of Guyana (UG), "Our mission is to create a conducive environment at UG to facilitate the teaching/learning process and to provide support to all students and departments in the realisation of this mission."

The programme was facilitated by the Commercial Manager of Guyana Beverages Inc. Mr Samuel Arjoon, who has been in the marketing and distribution business for

approximately 20 years. "We have to treat customers the way we want to be treated," said Mr Arjoon. "We have to raise the expectation at The University of Guyana and deliver on that expectation".

An efficient, effective and quality service promotes the development of any organisation or business, he explained. Ultimately customer service determines the customer's experience, and a satisfied customer creates 'brand loyalty' and ensures the customer's return.

He encouraged staff to market the brand of The University of Guyana to win the hearts and minds of the people they



Mr Samuel Arjoon, Facilitator



Ms Nickalva Washington, Assistant Registrar, Admissions Division

serve, saying "You need to offer the best". Public programmes such as the University's Open/Career Day and Secondary School Outreach, give the institution an opportunity to showcase what it has to offer.

Mr Arjoon also introduced Bernard Mohn and Jane Watkins' method of Appreciative Inquiry (AI), where instead of focusing on what is broken or failing, an organisation identifies what is working well, analyses why it is working and then applies this to other areas by sharing knowledge and equipping staff with the necessary tools to build better systems and move forward.



Mr Arjoon and a section of the participants

TURKEYEN & TAIN TALKS 12: 'Race, Reality and Reconciliation in Guyana'



Bottom from left: Ms Mikiko Tanaka, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme; Mr Colin Klautky, Guyana Organisation of Indigenous Peoples; Mr Eric Philips, Executive Member, African Cultural and Development Association; Professor Paloma Mohamed, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Philanthropy, Alumni and Civic Engagement; Dr George Norton, Minister of Social Cohesion
Top from Left: Norwell Hinds, President, UGSS; Pastor Ronald MC Garrell, Chairman, Inter Religious Organisation of Guyana; Ms Ryhaan Shah, Author and Activist; Mr Neaz Subhan of the Indian Action Committee and Professor Ivelaw Griffith, Vice-Chancellor, UG.

The 12th edition of the Turkeyen and Tain Talks was held on April 5, 2018, at the Pegasus Hotel, under the theme 'Race, Reality and Reconciliation in Guyana'.

Organised by the Office of Philanthropy, Alumni and Civic Engagement at The University of Guyana, the Turkeyen and Tain Talks are intended to facilitate, inform and encourage respectful discourse on matters of public interest that have significant national, regional or international implications.

They also enable the University to serve as an intellectual broker, assisting academic, civic, business, diplomatic and other communities to listen and learn from each other. In addition, they offer meaningful evidence-based and policy-relevant engagement between University students, public and private sectors, and the international community.

The Vice-Chancellor of The University of Guyana, Professor Ivelaw Griffith, explained during his brief remarks that the issue of race in Guyana has



Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ivelaw Griffith

its challenges and therefore something must be done about it. Through such forums. "we will allow people to feel comfortable about discomfort," he said. "Now is the time to discuss race. We need to be intentional in our approach and do something about the issue of racial divide."

However, the Vice-Chancellor added, we can't look at the issue of race in isolation. He noted the need to examine factors that influence the issue of race, such as the family, educational institutions, religious organisations, as well as the media – and to "engage them with an intent to look for possi-

ble solutions".

In his remarks to those gathered, the Minister of Social Cohesion, Dr George Norton, said: "Should the issue of race be adequately addressed, the political landscape of Guyana will be transformed for the better. The fact is, our ethnic diversity has been used as a mechanism to cause tension among our people..." Our leadership must embrace tolerance, compromise and meaningful consideration, in order for us to progress in race relations, the Minister continued. "The Ministry [of Social Cohesion] is open for dialogue and discussion for policy development."



A section of the audience

Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Philanthropy, Alumni and Civic Engagement, Professor Paloma Mohamed-Martin cited a survey conducted in 2012 in which 51% of respondents said the first thing they notice in people is their race. Furthermore, 47% ranked race among

the top three attributes when considering an intimate partner, and 14% said they make business decisions based on race relations. Therefore it's fair to conclude that race issues exist among Guyanese.

In order to curb racial is-

sues in Guyana, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor highlighted five steps that need to be taken: 1) Facilitate respect for diversity; 2) Promote and drive equality; 3) Support good governance; 4) Ensure citizen security and welfare; and 5) Encourage public participation.

Other presenters included Mr Eric Phillips of the African Cultural and Development Association (ACDA), Mr Neaz Subhan of the Indian Action Committee, and Mr Colin Klautky of the Guyana Organisation of Indigenous Peoples (GOIP). Meanwhile Pastor Ronald McGarrell, Chairman of the Inter-Religious Organization of Guyana, spoke on the theme of reconciliation; author and activist Ms Ryhaan Shah on the way forward; Mr Norwell Hinds, President of the University of Guyana Students' Society, on the issue of youth, race and the future of Guyana; and Ms



*Nelsonia Peraud-Budhram,
Lecturer, Centre for
Communication Studies*

Mikiko Tanaka, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme, on the issue of race in the national and international context.

Common threads among presenters were that progress lies in dialogue and education, such as forums that include the family, religious institutions, educational institutions and the media.



A section of the audience

UG CELEBRATES GUYANESE AUTHOR



Karen King-Aribasala speaks to audience members

Through its Renaissance initiative, The University of Guyana celebrates books and the authors of books. One author to be recognised is distinguished, prize-winning novelist Professor Karen King-Aribasala. A fiction and non-fiction writer, her book 'The Hangman's Game' was among the shortlisted entries in the Best Fiction category of the Guyana

Prize for Literature in 2010. Born in Guyana, she now lives in Nigeria where she is a lecturer of English at The University of Lagos.

On May 21, 2018, at the Education Lecture Theatre, Turkeyen Campus, Professor King-Aribasala took the audience on a journey through history, culture, tradition, prejudice and rejection as she read

extracts from her stories 'Our Wife' and 'Carpet Engagement', as well as a poem entitled 'Another Kingdom'.

Professor King-Aribasala also reflected on her journey in Africa. "The thought of going to the land of our ancestors was so sweet," she said. "However, we did not belong, we did not fit in. We were considered outsiders, because of the colour of our skin - that was so bitter.

The people rejected me and I in turn rejected them. I gravitated to those with whom I felt accepted, to seek solace - that was sweet."

The programme was chaired by Mr Al Creighton, Secretary of the Guyana Prize for Literature, while the audience included students and lecturers of The University of Guyana.



A section of the audience

PERSONALITY PROFILE:

Dr Dawn Iona Fox

Dr Dawn Iona Fox, a Lecturer in the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Natural Sciences, was named as a winner of the 2018 Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD) Elsevier Foundation Awards. Each year, the Awards honour five female scientists in the developing world, who are often under-represented and not given due recognition in the global scientific community. In addition to the accolade, Dr Fox was given a trophy and a cash prize.

She expressed her gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor of The University of Guyana for the nomination. "When I heard the news, I didn't have the words to describe the feeling – but it was one of excitement," she said. "We often work in isolation, so it was a feeling of empowerment to be recognised."

Born in Bartica, Dr Fox grew up in a single-parent household after her father passed away when she was just nine. From early on, she developed a love of reading. Her mother, Mrs Albertha King worked at the National Insurance Scheme local office, as well as the National Library Satellite in Bartica and give English lessons in the evenings, "so Books were always a big part of my life," she said. "My mom taught me to read from a young age."

She went on to spend seven years at President's College, where she was among the school's second batch of students. "Secondary school taught me to be self-sufficient and made me a well-rounded individual," she noted. Secondary school is also where she discovered a love of chemistry.

She acknowledges a teacher by the name of Ms Grace Henry, who assisted and guided her along the path to science. At the time there were two topics in the CSEC course: 'Chemistry in Industry' and 'Chemistry in the Home'. "These topics brought chemistry to life for me", Dr Fox explained. "I found out what common products like soap and toothpaste are made of, and why, and that's what intrigued me."

On completion of her secondary education, she wanted a year away from studies, so she took a job as a reporter at a newspaper called 'Business Monthly', where she worked for approximately one year before pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry at The University of Guyana in 1997. On completion of her degree, she did a three-month stint at the Institute of Applied Science and Technology (IAST).

"Initially I didn't intend to teach, I didn't want to teach," she admitted. "However, when I began my teaching journey at The

University of Guyana in 1998 as a part-time lecturer, I fell in love with lecturing." Meanwhile she continued to study, pursuing a Masters in Chemical Engineering at The University of Auckland in New Zealand in 2002. After which, she returned to Guyana and subsequently completed a Diploma in Education at The University of Guyana in 2004.

In 2011, Dr Fox graduated from The University of South Florida with a PhD in Chemical Engineering. Today she lectures at The University of Guyana in Analytical Chemistry, Physical Chemistry and Inorganic Chemistry, and also supervises students in their final-year research projects.

Staying inspired

Twenty years after her first foray into teaching, Dr Fox still loves the profession.

"I'm inspired to come to work," she enthused.

"Chemistry is a small department, but we are like family. I'm inspired by my students and their need to learn ... I want them to understand the importance of the discipline and see themselves as practitioners of the field. My objective is to get them excited about learning and show them how to apply chemical knowledge to their reality."

Dr Fox said she is grateful for her life and the opportunities it has afforded her. "I believe in God and I'm honored by the gifts I was afforded," she said. This is why she continues to give her service to The University of Guyana.

During her leisure time, Dr Fox loves to sing. "Singing has been a constant in my life," she said. She has been part of Woodside Choirs International for as long as she has been a part of The University of Guyana family. She also enjoys reading and has a secret love for colouring. "Many people may not know that, but it relaxes me," she chuckled.

Her vision for the Faculty is greater recognition and deeper engagement with the community. "We need to connect more with the people we serve," she explained. "We need to support schools, farmers, teachers etc." She hopes, too, that The University of Guyana will be seen as a global player with unique talents and expertise, and UG graduates will be able to compete anywhere in the world.

On behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, the 'Renaissance' team and staff of The University of Guyana congratulations are extended to Dr Fox on her special achievement.



Dr Dawn Fox and three of the other four awardees

UG GOES BLUE FOR AUTISM AWARENESS

In recognition of Autism Awareness Month, The University of Guyana collaborated with the Sorsha Williams Foundation for Autism & Special Needs Education to hold its annual Light It Up Blue event at the Registry building, Turkeyen Campus, on April 6, 2018.



Ms Paulette Paul, Public Relations Officer, UG

The event, organised by the Public Relations Division of the University, aims to raise awareness of autism and increase understanding and acceptance of children, individuals and families living with autism in Guyana.

Prior to the lighting up of the building, a brief ceremony was held on the lawns of the Registry. During her opening remarks,



Ms Karen Williams, Founder of the Sorsha Williams Foundation

are showing our support by 'lighting it up blue'. We also want to reach out to local autism organisations and collaborate to bring greater awareness of autism signs and symptoms, as well as coping mechanisms."

Ms Karen Williams, the founder of the Sorsha Williams Foundation, explained: "I am also the parent of an autistic child, therefore Autism Awareness Month is special to me". She spoke of the huge range of behavioural patterns often demonstrated by those with autism: "[Some] can read and write but can't talk, can talk but can't read and write, speak loudly or don't speak at all, can't look you in the eyes, have an unbelievable memory... and so much more."

Ms Williams highlighted the lack of facilities in Guyana for persons living with autism to meet their highest potential. Autistic students require special programmes designed for their needs, she explained, because symptoms vary from person to person. "We should be aware," she said. "Don't judge them, try to understand them. We need to advocate for them".

The autism spectrum encompasses difficulties with social in-



A section of the audience

teractions, communication challenges and repetitive behaviour, with each person demonstrating different tendencies. Ms Monique Pedro, a school teacher and final-year English student in the Faculty of Education and Humanities, noted that approximately 88 students within the school system in Guyana have been identified as autistic. "We need to identify them so that we can help to guide them," she said.

She spoke of the importance of obtaining first-hand information on autism and pointed to a course at The University of Guyana – Autism and Specific Disability – which outlines methods of teaching autistic children and cautions that they should not be defined by their autism. "We should look at their ability, rather than their disability," said Ms Pedro.

Public Relations Officer Ms Paulette Paul said the initiative is the University's way of supporting autism awareness in Guyana: "We

UG REMEMBERS FIRST DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR

In honour of the memory of the First Deputy Vice-Chancellor of The University of Guyana, the late Professor Harold Drayton, who was instrumental in the establishment of the University in 1963, a solemn assembly was held at the George Walcott Lecture Theatre, Turkeyen Campus, on May 23, 2018.

In his tribute which was read to the assembly, Chancellor of The University of Guyana, Professor Eon Nigel Harris, spoke of Professor Drayton's commitment to a cause he believed in: the formation of The University of Guyana, noting: "He played a profound role in its creation".

Dr Nigel Gravesande, Registrar of the University, added: "His vision and dream lifted The University of Guyana to greater heights and he was of inestimable value to his family, country and the region."

Reflections on his life were made by Professor George K Dannels, Father Malcolm Rodrigues SJ, and the wife of the late Harold Drayton, Dr Vonna Lou Drayton. Performances included a steel-pan rendition by Mr Detroy Dey, a song by Ms Amanda Reynolds, a piano recital by Professor Emeritus Joycelynne Loncke, and a poetry recital by the Dean of the



Professor Harold Drayton, First Deputy Vice-Chancellor, UG

Faculty of Natural Sciences, Calvin Bernard.

The reflections and tributes



From left: Dr Barbara Reynolds, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Office of Planning and International Engagement; Professor Ivelaw Griffith, Vice-Chancellor; Major General Ret'd Joe Singh, Pro-Chancellor; Professor Paloma Mohamed, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Philanthropy, Alumni and Civic Engagement; Ms Holda Poonai, Bursar; Ms Gwyneth George, Librarian and other academic staffers

recognised Professor Drayton as an exemplary individual, who displayed excellence in scholarship. He was ethical, dedicated and advocated truth based on scientific evidence. "He taught students to question and embrace knowledge, knowing that nothing should be held absolute in science," said Professor Dannels. "He was a classy and charismatic scholar who gave his best to his students, the University and his country."

We need to embrace Professor Drayton's determination, urged Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Ivelaw



Professor George K Dannels

University of Guyana, as well other public officials including Minister of Public Telecommunications Ms Cathy Hughes, Junior Health Minister Dr Karen Cummings and Members of Parliament Ms Gail Teixeira



A section of the audience

Griffith. "We have to embrace values, values critical for development – not just for the University but the nation as a whole," he said. Integrity is important as we strengthen our nation, he continued. We have a responsibility to show respect: respect for laws, environment, race, gender, capabilities and time. We need to value excellence.

Present at the assembly were staff and students of The

and Mr Audwin Rutherford.

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.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ON SHOW

Students of The University of Guyana were given the opportunity to participate in the Second Undergraduate Research Conference held at the Turkeyen and Tain Campuses from April 11-13, 2018, under the theme 'Celebrating the Power and Potential of Undergraduate Research'.

The conference – sponsored by the World Bank and organised by the Undergraduate Research Committee – saw a number of students present their research, under the guidance of mentors and lecturers. This year, for the first time, research on the arts was included in the programme.

Speaking at the conference, Vice-Chancellor Professor Ivelaw Griffith quoted Zora Neale Hurston's definition that: "Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking



Professor Ivelaw Griffith, Dr Troy Thomas, Director, Undergraduate Research

the time to unleash the potential of undergraduate research is now. "Our growth in

ration is needed to foster continuous developments in research. She also cited leadership, critical thinking, effective problem-solving methods, creativity and innovation as other critical factors. "Rather than wait until a disaster happens to do damage control, we need to share information within the Caribbean and the rest of the world on the issues of climate change," she said, explaining that this will help prevent disasters from happening.

The Conference at Tain was held on April 13, 2018. The keynote speech was delivered by Dr Bibi Alladin from UG's School of Medicine.



Students and Staffers

and prying with a purpose". He added that research is not limited to one field, and encouraged students to value the work of lecturers, mentors and teachers to enable them to poke and pry with a purpose. "The quality of research has improved and is recognised not just locally, but beyond the University's borders," he said. "This sets the stage for research students to be published."

In her keynote address at the Conference at Turkeyen, Professor Maya Trotz from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of South Florida, and a mentor for the Undergraduate Research Conference, told students that

undergraduate research is timely and critical, and such research can inform policy and limit challenges," she said. With Guyana's oil industry moving forward, she suggested that students research the impact oil will have on the environment, such a research could inform decisions on how to prevent an oil spill.

However, she noted that more collabo-



Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ivelaw Griffith hands over a Token of Appreciation to Professor Maya Trotz, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of South Florida

Scenes from the Undergraduate Research Conferences held at the Turkeyen and Tain Campuses from April 11-13, 2018



Scenes from Finance Minister, CDB President and VC Griffith Signed Agreement in May at CDB Board Meeting in Grenada for CDB funds for new Library at Turkeyen



VICE-CHANCELLOR'S LECTURE SERIES VIII: *'Bridging the Divide in Tertiary Education Between Developing and Developed Countries'*

Dr Rudolph Crew: "The approach to education needs to change"



Vice-Chancellor Professor Ivelaw Griffith and Dr Rudolph Crew, President, Medgar Evers College, New York

The eighth edition of the Vice-Chancellor's Renaissance lecture series was held at the Education Lecture Theatre, Turkeyen Campus, on April 4, 2018. The event featured renowned leader in education and reformer Dr Rudolph Crew, President of Medgar Evers College in New York, who presented on the topic 'Bridging the Divide in Tertiary Education Between Developing and Developed Countries'.



Interactive session with members of the audience

Dr Crew explained that the viability of tertiary education in third world countries depends on a number of factors. For example, economic trends in the world set the tone for the way in which education should be delivered (i.e. supply and demand). While he acknowledged the need to consider both, he said: "We as educators need to focus more on the supply element, rather than demand ... the system of tertiary education and the manner in which we deliver education has to change to meet the needs of the world market."

In addition to economic factors, the education system needs to examine the role that race, gender and ethnicity play in the domain of the world. Further, emphasis needs to be placed on security and stability (in terms of technology), migration, and displacement (in terms of distribution of money). Industrialisation and technological trends hugely impact economic development. Dr Crew pointed out that the foregoing factors are all interlinked and need to be examined in totality as it relates to the educational system.

There is a need to face and fix what is broken at The Univer-



Dr Rudolph Crew, President, Medgar Evers College, New York

sity of Guyana: "There is a fierce urgency of now" explained the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ivelaw Griffith, "we have to look beyond nation and institutions to face and fix inconsistencies with issues of development, economic, social and educational development." Thus collaboration between developed and developing universities can help to bridge that gap.

The Vice-Chancellor's Renaissance initiative aims to facilitate discussions on the strengthening of capital investment, economic viability and alumni engagement at the University; as well as engage national and international higher education policy leaders and practitioners, with a view to strengthening the University's international standing and enhancing academic advancements.



Interactive session with members of the audience

UG Moves forward With Governance Reform

The University Council met in extraordinary session on July 27, 2018 and considered and approved proposed changes to the University of Guyana Act and the University Statutes, which are the key components of UG's governance. In relation to the Act, the changes include reducing the membership of the University Council from 26 to 17 and removing the provisions for special interests and international representation from Britain, Canada, the USA and UWI.

These changes, are the result of a series of stakeholder consultations conducted by the Governance Review Committee, which were approved by the University Council in November 2016. The final revised report and the proposed changes were presented by the Chair of the Governance Committee, Professor Lawrence Carrington, a former UG Vice-Chancellor. The Council adopted the revised Act by majority vote and will send the recommended changes to the Ministry of Education for appropriate governmental and legislative considerations. Only the University Act needs legislative action; the University Council is responsible for approving the revision of the Statutes.



Chancellor, Professor E. Nigel Harris

The Chancellor, Professor E. Nigel Harris, was elated with the result, noting "I am tremendously happy that Council has fulfilled one of the central mandates of the April 2016 Transformational Task Force with respect to university governance. The recommended changes will better empower both the Council and managers of the university while ensuring accountability to government and other university stakeholders." He continued: "I thank Professor Lawrence Carrington and his committee as well as the university community and Council members who engaged over a two-year period to enable completion of this important task".



Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ivelaw Griffith

Meanwhile, Vice Chancellor Ivelaw Griffith said "The decision to approve the revision of the major governance architecture of our 55-year-old university is a significant milestone in our institutional maturation. If adopted by the National Assembly, the revised Act will remove some of the blurred lines between the policy making role of the University Council and the operational management of the institution, and strengthen its autonomy." Like the Chancellor, he noted: "I deeply appreciate the hard work of the Committee Chairman Professor Lawrence Carrington and the team and the many stakeholders who labored in the reform vineyards for almost two years."

In relation to the Statutes, the Council approved a series of revisions. Among other things, they relate to the Officers of the University, committees of the Council, the powers of the various committees, the Alumni Association, and discipline of students and staff. The revisions that were not settled have been referred to a sub-committee of the Council, with a view to the final adoption of the entire document at the Annual Business Meeting in November.

The Council also considered the term of office of Professor Harris, which ends this August, and in keeping with its authority under Section 9 (1) of the University of Guyana's Act, it unanimously approved the extension of his tenure through November 2018, to permit him to preside over the 2018 Annual Business Meeting and the 2018 graduation. Additionally, a committee was established to recommend terms of reference and a search process for a new Chancellor. The proposed terms and search process will be reviewed at a special session of the Council and a final decision made at the forthcoming Annual Business Meeting.

The Council also endorsed the drafting of a proposal for the establishment of a UG Foundation and the advancement of negotiations for the proposal related to a two thousand-seat auditorium that will be funded by a major gift. The two items will be the subject of intra-university consultations, with the final proposals approved by a future meeting of the Council.

EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD



Director, Berbice Campus, Professor Gomathinyagam Subramanian with lecturers and students

Thirty one Agriculture students of The University of Guyana and three lecturers – Director of Berbice Campus Professor Gomathinyagam Subramanian and lecturers Ms Zenesia Phillips and Dr Grayson Halley – paid a visit to two manufacturing sites: one along the East Coast of the Demerara River, the other in Lethem.

The objective of the exercise was to provide opportunities for students of the Department of Agriculture, within the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, to cement their theoretical knowledge of scientific concepts in the areas of Animal Sciences, Crop Sciences and Soil Sciences with practical experience.

The first site visit was to Julian Jones Farm located in Mahaicony, East Coast Demerara. While there, students were introduced to the process of manufacturing molasses, urea and mineral blocks, which form part of a supplementary feeding system for cattle and small ruminants.

Throughout Guyana's coastal region, deficiencies of micro-nutrients in grazing animals are very common. This often leads to a decrease in performance, such as reduced growth, body weight and milk production, as well as health-related problems.

Students also had the opportunity to see an automated, industrial-scale Copra Dryer used for coconuts, plus a walk-in freezer and commercial ham-smoker oven – both locally made. Swine and duck production facilities were observed too, and the proprietor of the farm explained his methods, practices and protocols to both students and lecturers.

The second site visit, on February 28, 2018, was to the Rupununi savannahs,

where the group saw the work of the Wowetta Women's Agro-processors Organisation, which is involved in the production of farine. Managed and staffed solely by the women of Wowetta village, Region 9, the Wowetta factory is equipped with modern facilities and equipment yet maintains traditional processes.

A visit was also made to Santa Fe farm, a huge, multibillion-dollar agricultural establishment built in the North Rupununi by prominent Barbadian investor Sir Kyffin Simpson. It has an integrated farming system comprising both crops and livestock – mainly rice, vegetable crops, cattle, pigs, sheep and horses. It also has a huge mill, capable of milling rice and other grain crops.

“We are in phase one and we are moving aggressively towards cattle rearing, which would complete that phase,” said Mr Richard Vasconcellos, Director of Santa Fe farm. “Unfortunately the grazing lands where Santa Fe is located are not of the best

quality. Of course there are situations for pasture enhancement, but in our business model pasture enhancement is very costly.”

He added that the farm is looking forward to the arrival of a new abattoir: “The government has indicated that Lethem would be getting again its own abattoir and we are excited for that. But of course, it would take a couple of years before we can get to the size of herd where we can supply it. Nonetheless, we are moving towards that and are hoping to be if not the main supplier then one of the main suppliers.”

For now, the farm's main source of revenue is rice. The type of rice produced is the dry land variety, which is exported mainly to Brazil as cargo rice. In 2017, in excess of 15,000 tonnes of paddy and cargo rice was exported to Brazil. Currently, over 10,000 acres of land has been prepared for rice cultivation. Other vegetable crops, as well as swine production, are still in their infancy phase.

On March 1, 2018, the UG group met with the Deputy Regional Executive Officer and the Senior Veterinary Officer, with responsibility and oversight for all the agricultural activities of the region. They were also given the opportunity to explore the area: visiting two waterfalls flowing from the Takatu Mountain range; trying their hand at trail hiking, swimming, volleyball, dancing and other recreational activities; and participating in the local Mashramani parade, beach outing and football competitions. Some also sampled local products such as farine, cassava bread and piwari.



Students and staffers of UG Berbice Campus

UG's Vice-Chancellor meeting the VC and other officials of Jawaharlal Nehru University in March 2018



"A University stands for humanism, for tolerance, for reason, for the adventure of ideas and for the search of truth. It stands for the onward march of the human race towards ever higher objectives. If the Universities discharge their duties adequately, then it is well with the Nation and the People,"
Jawaharlal Nehru

UG HOSTS FIRST ENTREPRENEURSHIP CONFERENCE



From left: Pro-Chancellor, Major General Ret'd, Joe Singh, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ivelaw Griffith, Minister Dominic Gaskin, Ministry of Business, Professor Leyland Lucas, Dean, School of Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation

'Economic Transformation through Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation' was the theme for The University of Guyana's Inaugural Entrepreneurship Conference, held on May 20-22, 2018, at the Ramada Georgetown Princess Hotel, Providence.

The aim of the conference, organised by The School of Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation (SEBI), was to examine issues that adversely affect entrepreneurship and business innovation in Guyana, with the hope of finding timely solutions. It was also an opportunity to encourage more youth involvement in entrepreneurship, showcase local businesses, and boost the spirit of entrepreneurship in villages and indigenous communities.

The Vice-Chancellor of The University of Guyana, Professor Ivelaw Griffith, explained that the conference sets the stage for a much-needed conversation on entrepreneurship. "We are aware of the realities in Guyana," he said, "however it is important that we talk about entrepreneurship. The School of

Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation hopes to partner with organisations to guide, learn and adjust to the changing needs of our society."

Presenters at the conference expressed the sentiment that Guyana lacks a culture of entrepreneurship, and said this must be instilled from the school level. They also noted that start-up businesses lack venture capital investment, people are terrified of taking risks for fear of losing their investment, and it is diffi-



A section of participants

cult to access income to sustain entrepreneurial businesses.

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

Lucas, told delegates that "in order for us to advance the conversation on entrepreneurship and create a culture of entrepreneurship, relationships with the Diaspora are important." He also advised: "We need to work with small entrepreneurs to exhibit their products and take them from where they are to where they want to go."

The Dean also made the following five recommendations: 1) Policies need to be in place to ensure a high level of trust

in business creation; 2) There should be an alignment between projects and government initiatives; 3) Remittances and human capital are important to sustain economic development;

4) Embassies should play a more dynamic role in showcasing opportunities for investment in Guyana; and 5) Governmental involvement is ultimately key to the development of entrepreneurship.

Mr Robert Williams, Divisional Credit Manager of the Institute of Private Enterprise Development (IPED), explained the challenges that young people face: "Youths don't know how to conduct business. They are not given the tools to know how. [We need to] educate the youth on how to be an entrepreneur, how to do business".

SEBI lecturer Andrew Hicks added: "It takes a necessary skill-set to render participation in enterprise and [sustain] entrepreneurship." He noted that the school has a significant number of students interested in creating their own enterprises in the areas of agro-processing, aquaculture, tourism, social enterprises, hospitality services for local and international markets, and community leadership development.

Participants of the two-day conference included Republic Bank Limited, the Guyana Bank for Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Education, IPED, GO-Invest, and the Guyana Telephone and Telegraph Company, as well as other private and public organisations from Guyana, the United States of America, the United Kingdom and Barbados.

"The University of Guyana hopes to make the conference an annual event and not just limit it to Guyana," said the Vice-Chancellor. "We have begun a wonderful journey. We have hope, and though we have challenges we will manage them with an optimistic approach. We need to look at what we can do, rather than what we can't do."

CONVERSATIONS ON LAW AND SOCIETY: 'The Rule of Law and the Caribbean Court of Justice'

Justice Adrian Saunders, President of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), became the first judicial presenter of Conversations on Law and Society to extend the series beyond Guyana's borders with his presentation on 'The Rule of Law and the Caribbean Court of Justice' at Duke Lodge on May 24, 2018.

The rule of law is an important subject for discussion in any society, and since the CCJ is the formal Court of Appeal and critical dispenser of justice in Guyana and the wider region, it was only fitting to have Justice Saunders make this presentation.

He explained to those gathered that Caribbean constitutional law is the notion of constraining arbitrary state action as well as government action in violation of human rights, and noted that "The law must be clear and concise – if it is vague it cannot grow". He also spoke of improving the criminal justice system, criminal case management and the prison system in the region.



The audience comprises of Justice Yonette Cummings-Edwards, Chancellor of the Judiciary (ag), Dr Barton Scotland, Speaker of the National Assembly, other distinguished members of the legal profession and members of the general public

The Vice-Chancellor of The University of Guyana, Professor Ivelaw Griffith, echoed the need for modern courts, the reformation of some laws and criminal codes, and prison reform. "There is overcrowding in the prison system," he said, referring to the large percentage of criminal cases in Guyana that have not been heard. "Overcrowding breeds more prisoners – this is an element in the present justice system that needs to be adjusted".

On the other hand, Justice Saunders emphasised that there are exceptions to the rule of law, for example, 1. If there is an international petition pending, the court can use the petition to restrain the



Justice Adrian Saunders, President, Caribbean Court of Justice addresses the audience

executive (based on the right to the protection of the law); and 2. If a litigant is charged with an offence and cannot get access to justice to challenge the state (for example, they can't afford the costs of highly scientific evidence), then rule of law is exempt.

The Conversations on Law and Society series, organised by the Office of Planning and International Engagement, is intended to examine the legal ramifications of social issues and the social implications of legal issues through research, reflection, dialogue and debate. It provides an opportunity for the University and the public to share ideas and contribute to positive change in our society.



From left: Pro-Chancellor, Major General Ret'd, Joe Singh, Ret'd Justice Stanley Moore and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ivelaw Griffith

Scenes from Philanthropy and Corporate Engagement at Work, with the Zara Group and GPL



Scenes from the Vice-Chancellor's May Engagements at the CDB and UWI Cave Hill



BUILDING BRIDGES WITH SURINAME

The University of Guyana and Anton de Kom University of Suriname made a cooperative agreement on March 28, 2018, to share expertise, insight and experiences, and deepen the relationship between the two universities. Subsequently, a team of nine lecturers from Anton de Kom University of Suriname visited The University of Guyana and met with University officials to discuss collaboration. A welcome ceremony was held at The University of Guyana's Turkeyen Campus on May 17, 2018.

The University of Guyana is in the process of re-shaping and implementing new programmes in Education, Psychology and Student Advisement, according to Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Michael Scott. Therefore collaboration is necessary, he advised: "It will expand the horizons of the University as it relates to learning ... We need to keep in touch with the changes and technological advancements of a changing time – and can only respond to the changing needs of society if we collaborate and have meaningful interactions with other universities."

At the ceremony, Dean of the Faculty of Education and Humanities at the University of Guyana, Claudette Austin, said she hopes that the two universities can ink a formal agreement and forge a partnership that will benefit all.

In attendance at the ceremony were students and staff of The University of Guyana's Faculty of Education and Humanities, as well as the following representatives from Anton de Kom University of Suriname: Dr Fariel Ishaak, Head of the Department of Educational Sciences, and the following lecturers; Jenice Wongsoredjo; Irene Frijde-Ramdien; Mireille Monsch, Dr; Geeta Jhinkoe Rai, MS; Lillian Blankendal, Drs; Eveline Ramdhan, Drs;

Carlo Badal, Drs; and Pauline Crawford-Nesty, MA.

The guests interacted and shared meaningful discussions with the lecturers of the Faculty of Education and Humanities. Having toured the campus, a courtesy call was made to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ivelaw Griffith, where various matters were discussed, such as the building and strengthening of the partnership between the two universities. The relationship will



A section of the audience

be reciprocal, with exchanges of staff and students to strengthen deficiencies on both sides, and build up research opportunities and general programme development.



Representatives of Anton de Kom University of Suriname and The University of Guyana

FASHION DESIGNER LAUNCHES FOUR BOOKS

Sonia E. Noel is famous in Guyana and the region as a fashion designer. However, she is also an entrepreneur, philanthropist, motivational speaker and has now added another title to her portfolio: author.

The launch of her four books – ‘Living With Intention’, ‘Women Across Borders: With A Mission’, ‘Compilation Beyond The Runway’ and ‘Women Across Borders: Fulfilling Purpose’ – was hosted by The University of Guyana at the Turkeyen Campus on May 10, 2018.

During his welcome remarks, the Vice-Chancellor of The University of Guyana, Professor Ivelaw Griffith, highlighted the University’s efforts to foster more reading through its Renaissance initiative,



Sonia Noel hands over a copy of her Book to Ms Gwyneth George, UG Librarian

noting: “There is a decline in reading among Guyanese”.

Through her writings, Dr Noel charts

the journey of her life, as well as the journeys of other courageous women. She explained that we sometimes go through ups and downs in our lives, yet challenges can be overcome. “I am passionate about life and its values, and hope that the books will add value to the lives of others,” she said. “I am a designer by heart, but writing is pulling me back in this direction.” Dr Noel also encouraged more reading among the youth, saying: “We need to encourage our children to read more to foster development.”

During the launch, inspirational excerpts were shared from each book and copies of the publications were donated to The University of Guyana Library and The National Library.

BERBICE CAMPUS HOLDS OPEN/CAREER DAY



Ms Paulette Henry, former Assistant Director, Berbice Campus UG, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ivelaw Griffith and Student.

‘Expanding Your Horizons: Exploring the Possibilities’ was the theme for this year’s University of Guyana Open/Career Day, which was held at the Berbice Campus on April 11, 2018. More than 40 organisations from both the private and public sectors participated in the event, along with hundreds of secondary school students – a substantial increase on last year’s turnout.

Organisations that participated in the event expressed their satisfaction with the interest and interactions they were able to generate through their displays. While University faculties, sections and departments were enthused at the chance to promote programmes and services offered by the institution to the secondary school students in attendance.

Faculties used creative and innovative methods to showcase their facilities and courses. For example, students were encouraged to think of products that could be marketed at the School

of Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation (SEBI). There was also an inter-faculty/department/section competition, which was won by the Berbice Campus Library, with the Department of Agriculture coming in second place, and the Faculty of Education and Humanities in third place.

While the cultural programme saw performances by primary and secondary school students from Berbice, as well as poetry, steel pan music, Indian dance, storytelling and songs. Plus artifacts were on display and a special appearance made by ‘Ole Man Pappi’, better known as Mr Michael Khan, lecturer at The University of Guyana.

During his remarks, Vice-Chancellor Professor Ivelaw Griffith encouraged students to focus on excellence, saying: “Don’t take for granted the opportunity of an education”.



Students

Scenes from Berbice Campus Open Career Day



The University of Guyana

NEW PROGRAMMES

Faculty of Education and Humanities

Bachelor of Arts

- **Youth Work**
(Turkeyen Campus)
January 2019

Faculty of Engineering and Technology

Master of Science

- **Petroleum Engineering**
in conjunction with The University of the West Indies
(Turkeyen Campus)
January 2019

Associate of Science

- **Petroleum Engineering**
in conjunction with University of Trinidad & Tobago
(Turkeyen Campus)
January 2019

Associate of Science

- **Civil Engineering** (*Berbice Campus*)
September 2019

Faculty of Health Sciences

Master of Science

- **Orthopedics and Traumatology**
(*Affiliated programme -Turkeyen Campus*)
September 2018

- **Psychology** (*Turkeyen Campus*)
September 2019

Bachelor of Science

- **Nursing** (*Berbice Campus*)
September 2018

Faculty of Natural Sciences

Institute for Food and Nutrition Security

Bachelor of Science

- **Food Science** (*Turkeyen Campus*)
January 2019





The University of Guyana prepares for **First Oil and Beyond**

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

is pleased to make the following announcements
as part of the university's
preparation for First Oil and Beyond



THE FACULTY OF TECHNOLOGY HAS BEEN RENAMED THE **Faculty of Engineering and Technology**

Additionally:

- A new **Department of Petroleum and Geographical Engineering** in the Faculty of Engineering & Technology is being planned for operation from January 2019.
- A Consortium of Post-secondary Institutions—**The Higher Education Consortium on Engineering and Mining**—is being established to streamline and strengthen educational delivery and
- **New Associate and Masters degree programmes in Petroleum Engineering** will be offered from January 2019 in conjunction with The University of Trinidad and Tobago and The University of the West Indies.



NEW PROGRAMMES

The University will be also offering several new degree programmes:

- Bachelor of Nursing (Berbice Campus, September 2018)
- Associate of Civil Engineering (Berbice Campus, September 2019)
- Bachelor of Psychology, September 2019
- Masters in Psychology, September 2019
- Bachelor in Youth Work, January 2019
- Masters in Medicine—Orthopaedics and Traumatology, September 2018
- Bachelor of Science in Food Safety, January 2019.



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DAVE MARTINS PLAYS IN LINDEN



Former Mayor of Linden Carwyn Holland welcomes Dave Martins and his band to Linden. “It is a great initiative, transformative thinking on the part of The University of Guyana,” he said. “More Guyanese need to see our icons – it’s great for our youth to see. Spreading the message, not just to Linden but countrywide, will help to promote patriotism.”

Current Mayor of Linden Waneka Arrindell, in her first official presentation as Mayor, said: “It was a wonderful initiative. It is important for Guyanese artists to be acknowledged. Such an icon is not known among young people, therefore this venture is great.” She added that she hopes he returns and captures a wider audience.



The University of Guyana FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Supporting Guyana's development through
Science, Technology and Business

Now offering the MSc in Agrotechnology and Business

The Master of Science degree in Agrotechnology and Business, launched in 2017, focuses on finding solutions to problems in the agricultural and allied sectors through research and innovative technologies.

The programme offers combinations of studies in Agronomy or Animal science with Biotechnology, Food Science and Business.

All students are required to select development and management of agricultural projects, emerging issues in agriculture, statistics as well as a course in the humanities irrespective of their programme choice. These prerequisites prepare graduates to function effectively within the agriculture sector.

The programme is uniquely located within the University of Guyana Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry where synergies are established with other Faculties. Students may select electives from the Faculties of Education, Humanities, Law, Earth and Environment Sciences and Natural Sciences.

They also have opportunities to work with engineers and social scientists in the Faculties of Technology and Social Sciences respectively.

The Faculty is also affiliated with many universities and organisations including the following:

- The Universities of the West Indies, Arkansas, and Missouri,
- The Caribbean Agricultural and Development Institute (CARDI),
- The Interamerican Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA),
- Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and the
- Caribbean Council of Higher Education in Agriculture (CACHE).

Students, therefore have many opportunities to visit and complement their programme of study through the study abroad programme.

The MSc. programme receives support from several government and non-governmental agencies as well as scholarships through the Office of the President.

Delivery of the programme currently utilises classroom contact as well online facilities. This will be enhanced in 2018-19 academic year through an internet facility to Berbice which was facilitated by the Ministry of Communications. Students in the Berbice area shall receive the majority of their instruction at the Berbice Campus.

Students have had several field exercises including hands on exposure at several Pomeroon locations, Linden highway and Soesdyke farms, Guysuco and NAREI farms and laboratories. The programme which is highly integrated into the Guyanese agricultural sector, seeks to gather useful information from researchers and entrepreneurs which would inform research and projects.

Current research in this programme include soil amelioration on the white sands and the use of GIS in sugar and rice cultivation. All research and project activities support the Guyana's government's thrust in enhancing the profitability of agricultural enterprises through the optimal utilisation of resources.



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UNIVERSITY of GUYANA

Save the Dates

**Turkeyen and Tain Talks 15
A Better Life for Youth Juvenile Justice
September 21, 2018
Pegasus Hotel, Georgetown**

**7th Conversation on Law and Society
Marijuana
Professor Rose-Marie Belle Antoine
Dean, Faculty of Law, UWI
Professor- Labour Law and Offshore Financial Law
Attorney-at-law
&
Dr William Adu-Krow
Representative – PAHO/WHO
October 18, 2018, 18:00 hrs
Umana Yana, Kingston, Georgetown**

**Launch Symposium
Institute for Food and Nutrition Security
October 25, 2018, 9:00 -16:00 hrs
Arthur Chung Convention Centre**

**9th Vice-Chancellor's Renaissance Lecture
Biological Control Systems: the Future of Engineering in Medicine
Professor Babatunde Ogunnaike
William L Friend Chaired Professor of Chemical Engineering
University of Delaware
November 15, 2018, 18:00**

**Annual Human Rights Film Festival
Commemmoration of the 70th Anniversary of the
Adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
November 25 – December 10, 2018**

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
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DUANE EDWARDS

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

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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 10 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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