



UNIVERSITY of GUYANA

Renaissance

Office of the Vice-Chancellor, The University of Guyana

Vol. 2 No. 4, April-June, 2017

The reluctant politician: Minister Winston Jordan *pg 7*

Students & staff shine at UG's Annual Sports Day *pg 11*

UG, MoPT ink agreement on technical cooperation *pg 17*



UG honours Professor Ulric Trotz *Story on pg 14*

Table of Contents

TITLE	PAGE
The VC Speaks	3
Editor's Note	5
UG Alumnus and The Reluctant Politician: Winston Jordon	7
The Career Journey of Social- Sciences Assistant Dean- Ms Diana Gobin	9
Mr Lidon Lashley: Most Innovative and Relevant Presentation in Elemmentary Science Pedagogy	9
Vice-Chancellor and Team Visits China	10
Students and Staff Shine at UG's Annual Sports Day	11
UG Signs Pact for Solar Farm and Student Housing	13
UG Honours Professor Ulric Trotz	14
Personality Profile: Mr Ron Glasgow	15
President David Granger, Opposition Chief Whip to Speak at UG Inaugural Diaspora Engagement Conference	16
UG, MoPT in Agreement on Technical Co-operation	17
UG Students Pay Tuition and Win Prizes with Grace Kennedy	17
Carter Center Hosts Constitutional Reform Symposium	19
Social Work Exhibition	21
CCS Hosts Annual IMC Exhibition	23
Empowering Others Through ICT-Eldon Marks is living his dream	26
Press Freedom Day Activities	28
Attorney-at-Law Leslie Sobers' Legal Perspective on Press Freedom	29
Excellence is Both Art and Attitude: Congratulations to Mr Winslow Craig, Master Sculptor and Lecturer	30
The University of Guyana Commissions New Lecture Theatre at its Turkeyen Campus	31
VC Hosts Tea Party to Commemorate Mother's Day	32
Annual Health Walk Jump Starts Occupational Safety and Health Month 2017	35
Travis Dowlin, Former Cricketer and CCS Student	36
The Soundtrack of Guyana	37
University of Guyana Launches New Website	38
Best graduating Law student Receives Prestigious Award	39
VC Initiates UG Grounds Beautification with Tree Planting Exercise	40
Bridges Global Medical Missions Collaborates with The University of Guyana to Host The Continuing Medical Education Conference.....	41
Vice-Chancellor's Meeting with Business Leaders	43
Vice-Chancellor's Visit to Surama and Bartica with Vice President Allicock and others.....	44

The VC Speaks

On Identity and Innovation—Being and Becoming

“The most powerful natural species are those that adapt to environmental change without losing their fundamental identity which gives them their competitive advantage” – Charles Darwin

Charles Darwin’s prescient proposition, made after his path-breaking research that was conducted in our continent, focused on biological organisms. Yet, his proposition has powerful applicability to sociological organisms, such as educational institutions. The educational institution most dear to us—The University of Guyana—is undergoing analogous existential change, the kind of adaptation and innovation needed because of local and global environment changes.

The months of April and May witnessed significant adaptation and innovation developments, as we continue our Being to Becoming Renaissance Journey. A few examples will suffice. At our inaugural Undergraduate Research Conferences—on April 12 at Turkeyen and April 13 at Tain—some several dozen students presented their research findings and proposals, guided by their faculty mentors. We also had Keynote Addresses that were both thought-provoking and fun—by Dr. Terrence Blackman, UG Ambassador and Dean of the School of Science, Health and Technology at Medgar Evers College of The City University of New York, at Turkeyen, and Dr. Gyanpriya Maharaj, Director of our Center for the Study of Biological Diversity, at Tain.

The most profound “species adapting” development so far here occurred on April 27 when our governing Council approved the establishment of the School of Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation (SEBI). This new School will be responsive to business and public sector educational and research needs, and with short courses and not just undergraduate and post-graduate degree programs. Moreover, it will be entrepreneurial in its modus operandi, with sights set on educational and operational excellence, providing a model for the rest of the University in several areas.

April 27 was not just a milestone for UG, though. As I noted in presenting SEBI to the UG Council, the Council of The University of the West Indies (UWI) was meeting on that very day and at that very time, and one of their consequential decisions was the appointment of a businessman as the new Chancellor. This is a first for UWI, which reflects their recognition of the need to adapt and innovate regarding income generation. UWI now places a higher premium on private sector funding than ever before, conscious of the severe difficulties with reliance on government funds. This is adaptation and innovation at work at the region’s leading educational organism!

Successful adaptation and innovation require motivating and celebrating the people who are critical to the design and the delivery of the change. Mindful of this, I hosted the first of what will become an annual event. With co-sponsorship by the Ministry of Education and ANSA McAL, we held at the Umana Yana a wonderful Mother’s Day Tea Party celebration of 68 mothers from Turkeyen, Tain, and IDCE Anna Regina. Oh, and we also launched a new UG website in May.

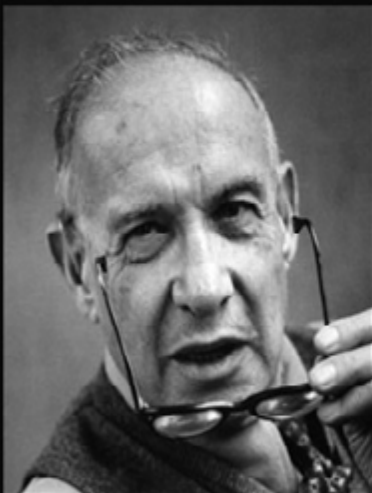
Keep on keeping on!



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



THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S APRIL-MAY QUOTE



INNOVATION is the specific tool of entrepreneurs, the means by which they exploit change as an opportunity for a different business or a different service. It is capable of being presented as a discipline, capable of being learned, capable of being practiced. Entrepreneurs need to search purposefully for the sources of innovation, the changes and their symptoms that indicate opportunities for successful innovation. And they need to know and to apply the principles of successful innovation.

(Peter Drucker)

Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

The collaboration between the Office of the Vice-Chancellor and the Centre for Communication Studies (CCS) of The University of Guyana brings to you this Volume 2: No. 4 edition of *Renaissance*, a monthly newsletter. *Renaissance* is the Vice-Chancellor's medium of sharing with you our University's developments.

The months of April, May and June were filled with activities. UG observed its Annual Sports Day and World Press Freedom Day. Reflect on the Faculty of Social Sciences' (FSS) Department of Sociology and Centre for Communication Studies exhibitions along with UG's activity to honour Professor Ulric Trotz.

In this edition take pleasure in reading the profiles of UG Alumnus and Minister of Finance, Honourable Winston Jordan, FSS' Assistant Dean, Diana Gobin and UG's Student Society President, Ron Glasgow. Also learn of the outstanding achievement of Mr Winslow Craig, Master Sculptor and Lecturer.

Our University has received tremendous support from the private sector. Read about our recently signed pact with MovieTowneInc and DaChin Development Inc, to develop a solar farm and new student housing. Additionally Grace Kennedy recently awarded some of our students with prizes and tuition as rewards for using their services. We thank the private sector for their interest in collaborating with UG for a more developed and sustainable university.

UG recently hosted the Carter Center's Constitutional Reform Symposium along with Bridges Global Medical Missions' Continuing Medical Education Conference. Moreover learn more about our upcoming Inaugural Diaspora Conference and how you can contribute towards this event and to our nation's premiere academic institution.

As you read, be inspired to join us as we celebrate UG's *Renaissance!*



Denise Hopkinson-Braam
Editor

UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA

Vice Chancellor's Fund for Strategic Initiatives

Giving to UG

Supporting UG can be achieved through monetary donations/material contributions in the form of gifts and/or sponsorship(s)

THE PROCESS

Send Cheques via Registered Post to
The University of Guyana
Turkeyen Campus
Greater Georgetown
Guyana

All donations should be made out to
The University of Guyana

Donations may also be sent electronically using the following
Account name: University of Guyana

Foreign Exchange
Account #: 001-124-7
Bank Name and Address
Republic Bank Guyana Ltd
38 Water Street
Robbstown, Georgetown
Bank swift/ABA/ Routing

Accountability and Reporting

- A receipt shall be issued when cheque or cash is received from donors
- A certificate of contribution shall be issued for donors using the electrical transfer system
- A register of donors will be maintained
- Weekly report on cumulative donations received
- Inform and update donors on use of funds
- Donations deposited into accounts
- Donations entered into ledger Accounts
- Donations disclosed in Management Reports and Financial Statements

If Intermediary Bank Is Requested

USA Bank of America
NY Branch, 100 West 33rd Street
New York 10001
ABA Code: 026009593
Swift Code: BOFAUS3N
Account#: 6550325990



The reluctant politician: Minister Winston Jordan



Alumnus Hon. Winston DaCosta Jordan, MP - Minister of Finance

Before his appointment as Minister of Finance under the APNU/AFC regime, you may have never heard about Winston Jordan.

However, there is much to the new minister. With over 30 years of working experience in a number of areas, including macroeconomic management, economic policy reform, and programming and governance as well as numerous honours and fellowships to his name, Minister Jordan is a force with which to be reckoned. However, he is more than the sum of his accomplishments, and in a recent interview in his office at the Ministry of Finance, Minister Jordan told the story of his humble beginnings.

Before “minister” was added to his name, Jordan came from a simple background. He was the third of seven children in a strong-rooted Guyanese family, the son of a joiner and a housewife. While he has lived in several parts of Georgetown,

including Lodge, Kitty, and West Ruimveldt Park, Jordan is a country boy at heart, having been born in the village of Good Intent, West Bank of Demerara. He shared that his large extended family, including his siblings, his parents, and aunts and uncles, lived simply in a one-bedroom apartment.

He was exposed to school late due to a number of challenges, including race riots in the 1960s. He managed to attend a private school, Britton's Private, in Lamaha Street but after that, there was a holdup in his education: when it was time for primary school, there were no schools available since all were packed to capacity. He shared that, in many cases, children were being taught on the schools' steps. Nonetheless, he persevered and, after the riots ended in 1964, his parents heard about Campbellville Government School. He was placed there to write Common Entrance and copped a place at the Indian Educational Trust Col-

lege, which is now Richard Ishmael Secondary School.

Work Life

Jordan worked as a Class II Clerk at the Public Service Commission. Not to be limited to one place, Jordan pushed for further professional and personal development “While employed at Customs, I was an evening student at the Government Technical Institute, where I pursued Commerce and then later on did Accounting before making my way at the University of Guyana,” Minister Jordan shared.

In fact, upon his return from the United Kingdom in 1984 from his Commonwealth Scholarship programme, he immediately began teaching and researching part-time at the University of Guyana. He was engaged as a Senior Research Associate in the Institute of Development Studies, teaching development planning until 1989. He had subsequent engagements with the university through the years, teaching public finance and public administration. For him, it was both frustrating and rewarding.

“It was frustrating in the sense that the university had lost a significant number of skills while being unable to find suitable replacements. It was also severely handicapped in terms of financing, and faced a real danger of closure,” he said.

He recalled that many of his fondest moments revolved around teaching and mentoring students, especially those who were in difficult circumstances. He also enjoyed providing an innovative learning environment. “It was a pleasure to give back to the University and having students benefit from my experience I had while pursuing my studies at the University of Warwick,” he said proudly.

Continued on page 8

The reluctant politician: Minister Winston Jordan



Continued from page 7

He advised current UG students to make their time count, be true to themselves, always strive for excellence, and to be each other's keeper.

"Now that you are paying for tertiary education, make your four years count; stay focused, know what you want, dislike the easy way out, and take the hard way because the hard way will benefit and give you knowledge while at university and in your after university life." He further said that communication is key and continued, "Progress doesn't come so easily and quickly; sometimes, it doesn't come at all and there were times when I thought about giving up and moving on. But what kept me going day in day out was that changes are inevitable. As Guyanese, we aren't looking for handouts, but we do expect our hard work to pay off and our responsibility to be rewarded."

"So stay in school; don't give up. There is no doubt that there are rough times, but we have been through tough times before. If we keep fighting for what we want, then success will eventually be ours."

He also encouraged those taking loans to pay them back. "Remember: there is somebody who may be

as poor as you or even poorer who would want the opportunity you have or had."

Political Office

When asked what prompted his decision to run for political office, Winston Jordan shared that he was a very good friend to the former Leader of the Opposition and now President of Guyana, His Excellency, David Granger. The minister revealed that he had never contemplated going into politics, though he did participate in activities of the youth arm of the People's National Congress (PNC) in his younger days.

It was not until January 2015 that he was approached by President Granger to join the emerging multi-party coalition. "Even then I was a bit reticent about becoming a full blown politician, and had asked the president to be considered for a technocratic position in the cabinet," Minister Jordan said. This request made sense; after all, he had extensive knowledge due to various positions held in his life, including as a Budget/Economic Adviser, Budget Specialist, Adviser in Budgeting, Budgeting and Public Investment Special, and Director of Budget. He also served as the Country Analyst

in the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) from 2009 to 2015 and as the Technical Coordinator in the Public Management Modernization Programme (IDB) from 2006 to 2008.

"So here I am today, the reluctant politician who has become the Minister of Finance of Guyana," he added.

Since then, the "reluctant politician" has been making a name for himself. No stranger to Guyana's social and political activism, he brought leadership of the coalition government with his technical experience and unwavering commitment to the building of Guyana. However, despite his futuristic way of thinking, his probing mind, and true commitment to democracy at all levels, Winston said that Guyana's economy remained largely unchanged. "It is heavily dependent on a few primary commodities such as rice, sugar, bauxite and, more recently, gold for growth, income, and employment while at the same time has high import content. So I see my main task as building a vibrant, resilient economy capable of withstanding both external factors – such as low prices for exports and high prices for imports – and domestic climate change factors, such as El Nino and La Nino weather Phenomena. The achievement of this goal will entail diversifying and modernising the economy away from its current dependence to one that adds more value and services," he said.

He further highlighted that a social cohesion framework is needed to unite the people of Guyana, who have been racked by years of divisive politics.

Minister Jordan is married to Charmaine Atkinson-Jordan and has three children: Jo-Anne Milner, Darren Jordan, and Yonnick Jordan.

The Career Journey of Social Sciences Assistant Dean - Ms Diana Gobin



Ms Diana Gobin Assistant Dean of the Faculty Social Sciences, University of Guyana

Ms Diana Gobin has a working career of eight years spanning the worlds of academia and business administration. She is a lecturer at the University of Guyana within the Department of Business and Management Studies where she facilitated undergraduate courses in Principles of Business Administration, Organizational Theory and Behaviour, Business and Management Environment, Entrepreneurship and Small

Business Management, Management Accounting, Project Management, Retail Management, Marketing Management, Internet Marketing, International and Export Marketing, and Consumer Behaviour. She has also facilitated the Quality Management course in the Commonwealth Masters in Business Administration (CMBA) programme.

Ms Gobin is the Assistant Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Guyana and held former roles as Co-ordinator of the Accounting and Banking and Finance programmes. She is currently a Doctoral candidate furthering studies on her keen area of interest, which is entrepreneurship among the youth. Additional areas of research interest are motivation and corporate social responsibility. Her academic achievements include an International Masters in Business Administration (IMBA) with a specialization in Innovation and Entrepreneurship (Distinction) from the Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business (University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago), a Bachelor of

Social Science in Management from the University of Guyana (Distinction) and a single subject Diploma in Project Management (Distinction) from the Institute of Commercial Management.

Ms Gobin was the former owner of a small business game shop after investing all her saving in the pursuit of a childhood wish to own her own business. She then ventured into an air refreshner partnership business with two of her IMBA cohort members. Both businesses were not sustained. However, Ms Gobin learned valuable lessons from these ventures, which she uses to educate others. She holds a belief that agriculture is the future of Guyana and out of curiosity to understand how some new agricultural techniques worked, financed the set-up and testing of aquaponics and hydroponics on a small scale. Further, her desire to make meaningful contributions to community influenced her joining the Guyana Environmental Initiative. Ms Gobin is now a lecturer in the recently launched School of Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation.

Mr Lidon C Lashley Most Innovative and Relevant Presentation in Elementary Science Pedagogy

Most innovative and relevant presentation in elementary Science Pedagogy.

“Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm”. It is with great pleasure to extend congratulations to Mr Lidon Lashley, lecturer of the Department of Foundation and Education Management under the Faculty of Education and Humanities. Mr Lashley received the award for the most innovative and relevant presentation in the elementary Science Pedagogy at the Caribbean Science Education and Technology Conference this year. His remarkable contributions and innovative ideas have lifted us to new heights. This has been a record year

for us and throughout the Caribbean region. This award recognizes that much of our success is directly attributable to



Mr Lidon C Lashley, Lecturer, Faculty of Education and Humanities, University of Guyana

his efforts. On behalf of the University of Guyana Vice Chancellor, Staff, Students and Press we are wish Mr Lashley many congratulations on receiving this prestigious award.

The conference was held at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, Kingston from April 10 to 12, 2017 under the theme “providing quality science education: the foundation for creativity, innovation and sustainable development”. The title of Mr Lashley’s presentation was “meeting learning needs and achieving bench marks through inclusive pedagogical approach “to teaching science”.

Vice-Chancellor and Team Visits China

UG to offer a minor in Mandarin Chinese Studies The University of Guyana (UG) and the Dalian University of Foreign Languages (DUFL) in China have reached an agreement for UG to offer a Minor in Mandarin Chinese studies and also for the development of a Bachelor's Degree in Mandarin at the UG. This agreement was reached recently when a team from The University of Guyana comprising Vice-Chancellor Professor Ivelaw Griffith, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Planning and International Engagement Dr Barbara Reynolds, Director of the Confucius Institute, UG, Al Creighton, and Chinese Director of the Confucius Institute Ma Tao, recently met in China with officials of the Dalian University of foreign Languages (DUFL) for the first historic official meeting of the Board of the Confucius Institute, UG.

The meeting was hosted by DUFL, the UG's partner institution in China for the operation of the Confucius Institute and it was held on their campus in the city of Dalian, China. Representing DUFL were Vice-Chancellor Prof

Liu Hong, Dean of the Multi-language Base in Dalian for the International Promotion of Chinese Language Prof Sun Yuhua and Li Fan of the International Office at DUFL. Prof Sun Yuhua pledged the full support of DUFL with assistance from Hanban – the headquarters for Confucius Institutes in China – for the programmes. UG will continue to offer Mandarin as one of the languages that UG students may choose in addition to Spanish, French and Portuguese. Mandarin will also be available as one of the foreign language requirements of the new School of Entrepreneurship and Business and Innovation (SEBI) at the UG.

The meeting was chaired by Ma Tao and addressed by the two Vice-Chancellors, Dr Reynolds, the Dean of the Multi-language Base and the Director of CIUG. Both universities reaffirmed the MOU already in force between them and pledged continued cooperation, while Dr Reynolds put on the table ideas for areas of future cooperation and ways in which the institutions can assist each other for mutual development. She also reaffirmed the Vice-Chancellor's invitation to DUFL to visit the UG for the next meeting of the Board. CIUG Director

Al Creighton presented the report of the Institute, covering its operations since 2014, the conduct of the programme in Mandarin as well as the academic, cultural and social events on the UG Campuses and in the Guyanese community. He presented the budget of the CIUG and outlined the vision of the Institute, plans for its future development and ways in which there can be deeper academic exchanges to support programmes in each university Dalian University of Foreign Languages was selected in 2013 to partner with



UG in the setting up of the Confucius Institute on the campus. DUFL trains and makes available lecturers in Chinese Language Teaching for the CIUG.

Although it was historically founded with its strength in foreign languages, it now has programmes in several other disciplines and the UG will now look forward to a widening in twoway exchanges involving areas beyond Chinese Language Teaching

Students and Staff Shine at UG's Annual Sports Day



The University of Guyana (UG), hosted their annual Inter Faculty Athletic Track and Field Championships on Friday March 24, 2017 at the Leonora Stadium, West Coast Demerara.

The sports commenced at 09:00 h, athletes opened the exciting competition with the men's 5000 m race, followed by other field events -Shot Put, Long Jump, Discus, High Jump, as well as 100 m and other sprint races.

The March Past Salute which started at 11:30 h was led by the melodious Guyana Defence Force Musical Band followed by the Vice Chancellor Professor Ivelaw Griffith and the participating faculties. The divisions participating were Education & Humanities, Social Sciences, Agriculture & Forestry, Natural Sciences, Technology, University of Guyana, Berbice Campus (UGBC) & Institute of Distance and Continuing Education (IDCE). The teams were judged based on uniformity, banner, size, punctuality, and bonus, giving a total of 60 points. The Faculty of Social Sciences presented the largest contingent, Faculty of Agriculture & Forestry was deemed the most uniformed, and best banner on parade went to two faculties: Social Sciences and Earth & Environmental Sciences.

The Faculty of Education and Humanities, who won the 2017 Inter Athletic Competition walked away with the victorious crown

by gaining a total of 238 points, followed in second place by the defending champions, Faculty of Social Sciences with a total of 218 points. The University of Guyana Berbice Campus was third with 162 points while the Faculty of Technology gained 133 points capturing the fourth position in the competition. The other faculties scored the following points: Natural Sciences- 100 points, Agriculture & Forestry - 70 points, and Earth and Environmental Sciences - 62 points.

The representative from the Faculty of Technology, Rayon Abrams, who won the 100m, 200m and 400m, was crowned the Sprint King, while the Faculty of Education representative Kezia Bess was adjudged the Sprint Queen by winning the 100m, 200m and 400m races.

Even though outstanding performances came from both Rayon and Kezia, neither copped the "Champion Athletic Crown". The Champion Male and Female Athlete medals were given to two athletes from the Faculty of Education & Humanities. Osafo Dos Santos gained 33 points and won in the field events of Discus and Shot Put, got second place in Javelin and fourth in High Jump. Fiona Mentis copped the first position in High Jump, Long Jump and second place in both the 100 & 200m.

The event was well attended by the public.



The UNIVERSITY of GUYANA

invites you to the

DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT CONFERENCE 2017

JULY 23rd to 28th 2017

GEORGETOWN, GUYANA

*Dreaming
Diaspora
Engagement
Doing
Diaspora
Engagement*



KEY DATES

April 14th 2017

Deadline for
Abstract Submissions
.....

May 12th 2017

All acceptance letters
For proposals e-mailed.
.....

June 16th 2017

Deadline for the executive
summary of your paper(s)
Submitted.

PROGRAMME & DATES

JULY 23rd 2017 – ARRIVAL & WELCOME RECEPTION

JULY 24th 2017 – OPENING PLENARY, PANELS & PAPERS

JULY 25th 2017 – PRESENTATIONS DAY

JULY 26th 2017 – 2nd ERA CONFERENCE

JULY 27th 2017 – KNOW YOUR COUNTRY DAY

JULY 28th 2017 – CLOSING PLENARY, CULTURAL NIGHT

CONFERENCE VENUE

GEORGETOWN RAMADA PRINCESS

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST & LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CONFERENCE AT:

[HTTP://DIASPORACONFERENCE.UOG.EDU.GY](http://diasporaconference.uog.edu.gy)

UG Signs Pact for Solar Farm and Student Housing

MovieTowne Inc., DaChin Development Inc., and The University of Guyana signed two Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) on Thursday, April 27, for collaboration on a solar farm project at the Turkeyen Campus and for the development of student accommodation on the Turkeyen and Berbice campuses.

Vice-Chancellor and Principal of The University of Guyana, Professor Ivelaw L Griffith and Derek Chin, Director of DaChin and MovieTowne Inc. signed the MOU's. The MOU's will pave the way for future collaboration on projects critical to the University's development, as well as national and regional development.

The negotiations on the MOU began in early 2017, spearheaded by Professor Paloma Mohamed, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Philanthropy, Alumni and Civic Engagement (PACE) and Registrar Dr Nigel Gravesande. The MovieTowne technical team was led by Derek Chin with team members Eusi Anderson and Hadyn Gadsy.

The proposed Solar Farm project will allow the University and MovieTowne to collaborate on the design, structure, financing and management of the farm. The project holds the possibility of energy efficiency solutions for both entities and academic benefits for staff and students of the University, to obtain training and hands-on experience with renewable energy and energy efficient technologies.

The agreement also allows room for collaboration with third parties (e.g. Florida International University) on technical and curricular aspects in relation to the solar farm.



Vice-Chancellor Griffith (left) and Derek Chin, Director of MovieTowne (right) during the signing of the MOUs

The University is also collaborating with DaChin Inc to provide 150 rooms in a student-housing complex at Turkeyen, with similar possibilities for the Tain Campus. This move is in keeping with The University of Guyana's international push and simultaneous expansion of its postgraduate degrees, which are expected to attract more foreign students and faculty who will need safe and affordable accommodation on the campuses.

The projects are expected to be fast-tracked in keeping with the vision of making The University of Guyana a world-class University that provides the impetus for Guyana's transformation.



UG Honours

Professor Ulric Trotz A A



The honourable Professor Ulric Trotz A A and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Guyana Professor Ivelaw Griffith.

Science policy and culture as essential elements of transformative change in Guyana was the main area of discussion at the inaugural Ulric Neville Trotz A A, distinguished lecture held by the University of Guyana on Wednesday March 15, 2017 at the Pegasus Hotel, Georgetown, Guyana.

This lecture was the third of its kind in the Vice-Chancellor's distinguished lecture series known as "The Renaissance" and was initiated by current Vice-Chancellor of the University of Guyana, Professor Professor Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith.

According to Professor Griffith in his opening remarks, the Renaissance Lecture Series is designed to celebrate Guyanese heroes such as scientists, social scientists, artists and those individuals who have distinguished themselves by making significant contributions to the university and to the nation. He added that it is our responsibility not only to celebrate our heroes but also to inspire citizens of Guyana to want to be like and surpass these heroes.

Professor Trotz, the honoree of the evening, was accompanied by his wife and son while students, professors, government officials, and many others came to celebrate the outstanding work of this Guyanese academic icon. The celebration commenced with two testimonies about

Professor Trotz, shared by Dr Marlene Cox, former Deputy Vice-Chancellor, UG and Mr Rashleigh Jackson. The two spoke extensively about the excellent teaching, mentoring and negotiation skills of Professor Trotz, as well as the care he took while imparting his knowledge to his students.

The Guyanese scientist, who hails from the town of Bartica, credits his major outstanding contributions to his teaching career at the University of Guyana and the establishment of the Institute of Applied Science and Technology. He is also known for his work in climate change, serving as science advisor for Caribbean Community Climate Change Center in Belize. He explained that his inspiration came from his chemistry teachers at Queen's College and what drives him is that he believes in what he does. His advice to potential scientists is to pursue the profession with all vigor and to take advantage of all the opportunities available.

Meanwhile, the guest speaker of the evening's proceeding was also a student of Professor Trotz and a Guyanese scientist. Professor Suresh Narine, director of Trent Centre for Biomaterials Research at Trent University, Ontario, Canada, spoke extensively about taking science and innovation and making it an important tool for development. He clearly stated that science by itself is unconcerned with development, innovation or anything other

than knowing. He added that for science to become innovative it must be married to the needs of society, culture, and aided by carefully coined policy. He added that our policy to science and technology must deliberately encourage science and education, starting at the nursery level and via our programming on television and must inculcate science as an accessible useful career choice for students.

Professor Narine further illustrated to the gathering by using examples of some current projects that produced local products, such as a face cleanser by Rupununi Essence and a salad dressing from Pakaraima Flavors. He noted how policy could have helped a process that was otherwise painstaking and said that, even though these projects were small, much was learnt about ownership, branding, packaging,



A few of the attendees

collaboration, respect for knowledge, and intellectual prosperity. Therefore, he continued, policy is what is now needed to replicate successes several times.

Professor Narine also opined that Guyana needs a desk at Cabinet that underscores science as a tool for development and that, without carefully coined policies, science as a tool for development will continue to elude Guyana.

The inaugural address was well received by the audience and was concluded with a question and answer segment. Tokens of appreciation were also presented to the honoree and other professors in attendance.

Profile on Mr Ron Glasgow, President of the University of Guyana Students' Society

"I was looking for a way to channel that energy effectively and maximize it for the benefit of my personal growth and development so that in the long run I can help other people in many ways."

Born January 08, 1997, Ron Einstein Glasglow recalled that his childhood revolved around things which were no different than that of a typical Guyanese child's upbringing. As the eldest child in his family, he emphasized that education and the holistic notion of academic pursuit coupled with the need for leisure activities to stimulate the mind and solicit profound thoughts and actions remains key factors in his life. The budding 20 year old conveyed that, the education and experience garnered from his secondary school, Bishops High actually played a significant role in shaping the important choices he has made thus far in life. In his own words, he said that, "the discipline, the structure, the entire academic setting at my high school showed me exactly how I should think and act and what to do in the world.

Futhermore, as time progressed and his fondness for economics intensified, he decided to pursue tertiary level studies in the academic field and thus opted to attend the University of Guyana at the tender age of seventeen years. He



Ron Glasgow

noted that "I chose to pursue a higher level of economics because growth as an individual asset is something I want to achieve." Moreover, it is quite surprising that whilst growing up he never really envisioned himself within the field of economics but rather he aspired to become a scientist. However, the manner in which his secondary school was academically structured stipulated that if the required grades for a particular stream are not achieved by a student for their first stream option then they must opt to study their second stream choice instead. Fortunately, he decided to venture into the business class which is basically streamlined by economics and it enthused him. He shared that "then everything that didn't make sense to me began doing so when I went into business. "Economics was and is something that brings me alive." Additionally, Mr Glasgow noted that "I came to the university at seventeen

years old. Back then, I was childish and but also competitive and energetic. I was looking for a way to channel that energy effectively and maximize it for the benefit of my personal growth and development so that in the long run I can help other people in many ways." Moreover, Mr Glasgow's current academic choice aids him in functioning efficiently and effectively due to the fact that economics is a branch of social science which encompasses human interaction, human socialization and the social context within which this interaction and/or socialization occurs. In his political office, economics allows him to use the social aspect of the field productively to different aspects of his work during critical decision making times.

Without doubt, Mr Glasgow is the epitome of stoicism and resilience. These characteristics complemented by his

Continues on pg. 25

President David Granger, Opposition Chief Whip to Speak at UG Inaugural Diaspora Engagement Conference



*Dr. Fitzgerald Yaw
Director of Strategic Initiatives
University of Guyana*

The University of Guyana (UG) will host the historic inaugural Diaspora Engagement Conference (DEC 2017) from July 23 to 28, 2017, at the Ramada Georgetown Princess Hotel, under the theme: Dreaming Diaspora Engagement, Doing Diaspora Engagement. The Conference is expected to attract over one hundred participants from within and outside Guyana.

His Excellency President David Granger will host the Welcome Reception on Sunday, July 23 and deliver the keynote address to declare the conference open on Monday, July 24, 2017, while the Opposition Chief Whip, Hon. Gail Teixeira, will deliver the luncheon address on Tuesday, July 25. Additionally, several government ministers, including those for Business, Public Telecommunications, Finance, and Public Health, have confirmed their participation. Video messages also will be coming from Baroness Valerie Amos, director of the School of Oriental and African Studies in the UK, and Ms Gina Miller, founding partner of Spencer Churchill Miller (SCM) Direct, of Brexit fame.

Additionally, Mr Glen Khan, Chair-

man of LAPARKAN; Mr David Lammy, British MP; and Mexican Ambassador to Guyana Mr Ivan Roberto Sierra Medel will speak at the conference, along with 40 other keynote speakers and presenters. The Indian High Commission will also share India's experience in engaging its Diaspora. Guyanese businessmen, academics, and civic leaders scheduled to speak and chair sessions at the conference will be coming from the United States of America, Nigeria, the British Virgin Islands, the United Kingdom, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Canada, and Russia. They will join local civic and business leaders, government officials, diplomats, and academics in discussions on the various panels, the ministerial round-tables, and the business dinner.

Hosted by the University of Guyana with planning input from local and Diaspora stakeholders, DEC 2017 is organised around two overarching pillars: human, social and entrepreneurship development, and Diaspora philanthropy, diplomacy, and educational engagement. It is expected to provide the platform for developing a diaspora engagement strategy to inform the work of the first Caribbean Diaspora Engagement Center. The launch of the Center is expected to be a major highlight of the six-day conference. According to UG's Vice-Chancellor Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, "the conference will contribute to the development of a mechanism to effectively attract diaspora social and economic investment and engage the diaspora in educational and economic development."

Brain-child of the Vice-Chancellor, the conference has several components, including academic and policy conversations, community engagement, a Know Guyana Day where local and international attendees will have an opportunity to make day visits to various parts of the country, and the second meeting of UG's Education Resource Ambassadors. The academic conversations will focus on issues such as international and regional

migration policies and experiences, cultural identity dynamics, financial transfers and remittances, role and contribution of hometown associations, diaspora trade and investments, and tourism.

The historic event will end on Friday, July 28 with two highlights. The first is the Investiture of Professor Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith as UG's Tenth Vice-Chancellor, the first time a UG Vice-Chancellor will be officially installed as Chief Executive and Chief Academic Officer. The second highlight will be a cultural extravaganza that will be free of cost to conference registrants. The extravaganza is being organised by London-based music icon Mr Keith Waite, and it will spotlight Guyana's rich cultural diversity at home and abroad. Performers will be coming from Ghana and the UK, and Mr Waite will be returning to Guyana to serve a second stint as Visiting Distinguished Artiste-in-Residence at the University. Turkeyen Campus, Greater Georgetown

The period for submission of abstracts has ended. Registration, however, is still open, and can be done online at <http://diasporaconference.uog.edu.gy>. Conference participants in Guyana can pay for their registration at Citizen's Bank locations and at the Bursary at the Turkeyen or the Tain campus. Persons registering now will catch the 'Early Bird' rate, which ends on July 1.

The university appreciates the sponsorship received so far from LAPARKAN, Movie Towne, the Ministry of the Presidency, Fly Jamaica, the Ramada Georgetown Princess Hotel, Caribbean Airlines, Roraima Airways, Metro, Republic Bank, GBTI, ENetworks, Slingshot, Go-Invest, the Ministries of Business and Public Telecommunications, E.C. Vieira Investments Ltd. Guyana, and the Guyana Tourism Authority.

UG, MoPT in Agreement on Technical Cooperation



On Wednesday, April 19, 2017, The University of Guyana (UG) and the National Data Management Authority, Ministry of Public Telecommunications (MoPT), signed a Memorandum of Understanding for technical cooperation. Signing on behalf of UG was Vice-Chancellor Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, while Public Telecommunications Minister, Cathy Hughes signed on behalf of the MoPT. The agreement will facilitate the following: 1) Interconnectivity of the Turkeyen and Berbice Campuses and the Institute of Distance and Continuing Education branches, 2) Delivery and access to the Internet by students and staff; 3) Mutually beneficial technical expertise, resource sharing, and capacity development that are essential to developing and sustaining an IT efficient university environment; conducive to producing graduates of the highest academic pedigree who can meet the present and emergent needs of the Government's ICT agenda. Additionally, Minister Hughes also took the opportunity to present to Vice-Chancellor Griffith, 20 laptop computers for use by UG lecturers.

UG Students Pay Tuition and Win Prizes with Grace Kennedy



At a simple ceremony on Wednesday April 27, 2017 a member of the Grace Kennedy management team presented the first 25 University of Guyana students, who used their campus Bill Express service to pay their tuition fees, with prizes of laptop tables and umbrellas.

THE DIVISION OF EDUCATION AND HUMANITIES ANNUAL KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND COMPETENCE BUILDING WORKSHOP SERIES

The University of Guyana Berbice Campus (UGBC), Division of Education and Humanities in collaboration with the Cyril Potter College of Education, Rose Hall Centre held a workshop "Using Current Methodology in Language Teaching" on April 11, 2017. It was held under the theme: "Sharing knowledge, building relationships and supporting development".

This workshop was facilitated by Ms P Rose, a lecturer in the Division of

Education and Humanities and her final year students (BEd. English). Among the attendees were the first year students of English Language of CPCE.

Opening remarks were done by Ms M Bynoe, Coordinator of the Division of Education and Humanities, and the workshop was declared open by Ms S Bhajan, Head of Centre, CPCE Rose Hall.

The workshop focused on system functional linguistics: guiding students

to develop cohesive and coherent texts; Task-based language teaching: guiding students to develop listening and composing skills and Combining theme-based and task-based language teaching to teach poetry.

Closing remarks were made by Ms P Rose. The CPCE students expressed their appreciation for the knowledge which they received, and were excited to take the new knowledge back to their classrooms.

SAVE THE DATES

*Walter Rodney Chair Lecture Series 2017
presented by Professor Kimani Nehusi, Holder
of the Walter Rodney Chair, The University of
Guyana*

Lecture 3

Topic: Guyanese Education in the Twenty First
Century: Challenges and Opportunities
July 20, 15:00 h: Little Rock Suites, New
Amsterdam, Berbice.

Lecture 4

Topic: From Oppression Towards Liberation: A
Peoples Political History of Guyana, 1838-1964.
August 3, 16:00 h: National Library Conference
Centre, Georgetown

July 23-28, 2017

**The First Diaspora Engagement Conference
under the theme, 'Dreaming Diaspora Engage-
ment, Doing Diaspora Engagement'.
Ramada Princess Hotel and Turkeyen Campus**

August 10, 2017

Renaissance Lecture

Models of Governance at Public Universities in
the United States by Dr Ronald Mason, President
of the University of the District of Columbia.
18:00 h Herdmanston Lodge, 65 Peter
Rose & Anira Streets, Queenstown, Greater
Georgetown

August 24, 2017

Launch of the book - An Accidental Life
by Professor Harold Drayton, Former Vice-
Chancellor of the University of Guyana.

Carter Center Hosts Constitutional Reform Symposium

In the spirit of political correctness coupled with national innovativeness for societal nation-building to facilitate a healthy and pluralistic Guyana, on March 31, 2017 the Carter Center Guyana hosted a symposium titled "Perspectives on Guyana's Constitutional Reform Process" at the University of Guyana's Education Lecture Theatre (ELT). The Carter Center Guyana has always had its interests vested in Guyana's constitutional reform process and subsequently sought and presently continues to seek partnership with the nation's Government, its political parties and civic bodies within the local communities. Thus, the symposium aimed to shed light on factors associated with constitutional reformation in Guyana, highlight measures that can be undertaken to remedy reform issues as well as identify measures applicable to the Guyanese society using insights acquired from the constitutional reform processes of other nations and also conduct introspections and/or reflections on the underlining processes regarding Guyana's constitutional reform process.

The event was moderated by Mr Severin Wilson, a past student of the university and also the current head of the Carter Center Guyana Reform Project who had previously engaged in a similar public discussion years ago at the university. Additionally, the course of the instructive discussion was carried out by a distinguished panel consisting of members: Professor Paloma Mohamed, Deputy Vice-Chancellor-PACE and Behavioral Scientist specializing in Communication; Mr Vincent Alexander, former Registrar of the University of Guyana and current GECOM Commissioner;

Mr Ralph Ramkarran, former Chairperson of Guyana's Constitutional Reform Commission and former speaker of the National Assembly; Mr Gino Persaud, founding member and former president of the Transparency Institute of Guyana Inc.; Mr Lawrence Latchmansingh, Human Rights and Conflict Resolution Consultant; Dr Jacqueline Hanoman, Sociologist, Community Educator and International Expert on Constitutional Reform Process and Ms Marion Volkmann, Human Rights Lawyer and one time director of the Carter Center, Tunisia. In addition to that, the event was exceptionally received by staff and students as well as politically oriented citizens from across the

fundamentally the chief cornerstone for development and requires strategic planning, decision-making and implementation so that it can be exercised effectively and consequently benefits the people and the nation. Now, constitutional reform being a serious subject-of-matter was highlighted by Mr Ralph Ramkarran as "a method to solve problems derived from ethnic diversification in Guyana." Mr Ramkarran stressed that "back in the day and presently the most pressing issues in Guyana are as result of ethnic divisions which mainly stem from race politics practiced by the two main political parties." Mr Ramkarran further noted that while growing up as an active political



Professor Paloma Mohamed, Deputy Vice-Chancellor-Philanthropy Alumni and Civic Engagement and Mr Lawrence Latchmansingh, Human Rights and Conflict Resolution Consultant

nation. Also, among the attendees were the United Kingdom's High Commissioner and the United Kingdom's Commission.

A constitution is regarded as the blueprint of a nation's holistic structure. It is

advocate, his political activism allowed him to become captivated by constitutional reform and its basic principles and as such he sought to use it as a solution to end ethnic division in Guyana.

Mr Alexander then emphasized that in his opinion constitutional reform and the discussions it usually raises is actually streamlined by two fundamental factors, to name, a formal/legal and sociological factors. These factors in turn create platforms for responses and actions that aids in a nation's elevation process. Also, these factors can influence legal systems by simultaneously reflecting the direction in which the society is changing and indicate what else needs to be done. He explained that "the process of constitutional reform in Guyana was first undertaken sometime in the late 1990s to the early 2000s period but was never completed. In regards to that incomplete reformation, there are a number of decisions that were made by the Government back then to retract certain

continues on page 18



Mr Vincent Alexander, GECOM Commissioner; Mr Ralph Ramkarran, former Chairperson of Guyana's Constitutional Reform Commission and former speaker of the National Assembly; Mr Gino Persaud, founding member and former president of the Transparency Institute of Guyana Inc

Carter Center Hosts Constitutional Reform Symposium

continued from page 17

parts of the constitution.” Thus, today when specific references are made concerning the retracted parts of our country’s constitution which are not observed, it appears as if the nation’s constitution is abstruse.

Mr Alexander proceeded to be candid about the topic adding that “reform is a necessary process for ultimate constitutional completion. Since Guyana is a multicultural society and the nation’s constitution can be viewed as a contract of the people; it should therefore collectively constructed by the Government and the civil societies and also it should reflect Guyana and her people on varying levels not just on a political and legal one.”

Due to the fact that, Guyana’s present constitution is not entirely applicable and relevant to Guyana’s multidimensional issues, without doubt there is need for a constitutional reform process.

Mr Alexander opined that “in the past efforts were made to have parts of the constitution reconstructed to address ethnic divisions in the country. However, when the procurement commission was made lawful around the year 2000 with unequivocal stipulations about how it should be established, from that period until year 2016 political parties failed to establish a working commission to address the country’s core race issues.” Instead, the political parties focused on frivolous issues regarding the law itself and other matters contrary to fixing racial division amongst the Guyanese people.

On the contrary, Professor Mohamed offered a completely different viewpoint on Guyana’s constitutional reform process stating that while political construction is important to the drafting and implementing of the constitution which serves as a framework for the nation, “I believed that the legal framework overrides the social framework regarding conversation on the constitution reform process.” Professor Mohamed encapsulated that societal issues faced by the communal man in Guyana are not results of race but rather are results of power, class and the subjective fashioning of things in the nation to benefit one group as compared to another. She shared a similar viewpoint to Mr Alexander in that, indeed there is need for deeper conversations on reformation involving the participation of those all members of society and not just

with those in power and those with political affiliations. Eventhough, political framework is necessary for nation-building, it is actually the intricate social factors which help to gear that framework and make it work effectively for the betterment of people and the country.

Additionally, Mr Persaud agreed with the discussed topic that “serious and comprehensive constitutional reform is needed by the Government to address issues in the country. He mentioned that “race, politics and power are three of the primary social ills in Guyana. However, he does not believe that a constitutional reform process can totally solve the problems because of the multifaceted natures of their origins. The reform process can partially remedy race, political and power related problems which have retarded Guyana’s growth for years.



Mr Latchmansingh in his brief address echoed the sentiments of the previous panelists, conveying that “the constitution should not be reserved for political forces.” He added that “when a certain set of people realize that something in particular is not working, they effortlessly try to link that faulty something to something else as a cover-up.” Undoubtedly, that has been the case in relation to Guyana’s constitution and therefore constitutional reformation is critical.

Moreover, Mr Wilson sought the opinions of the international experts Dr Jacqueline Hanoman and Ms Marion Volkmann on the matter. In Dr Hanoman’s address, she stated that the emerging dichotomy of race and power as hindrances to effective constitutional reform should never be conversed about separately and that is where the true problem lies. She added further that “race, power and class are not dichotomous in nature because they are all

elements to a multidimensional whole.” As such, if a nation continues to address them as different matters the true extent of their damage to a society’s development can never be identified and as such there can never be proper remedies.

Ms Volkmann relayed, while using references to her work regarding Tunisia’s constitutional reformation process that “the reformation process is symbolic in moving a nation forward.” On the other hand, political history and certain dispositions that arose should not be completely ignored simply because a non political stance is desired. Actually, historical dispositions are key elements which aid any reformation process and reflect constitutional change and societal transformation.

Furthermore, when asked on whether or not Guyana should consider past dispositions in its constitutional reform process, the panelists indicated that historical dispositions should indeed be taken into account because past occurrences actually provide opportunities to readdress and reconstruct unsuccessful endeavors, broaden the dialogues on race, power, class and its layman effects on citizens, engage citizens from different calibers of life in political discussions and cater for diversification of views, decision-making and actions and use history as a stepping-stone toward engineering the nation’s constitutional reform process in order to sustain development in every aspect of life.

In closing, Dr Hanoman communicated that history is critical to reformation because it provides knowledge on failed attempts so that more work can be done to make those attempts successful. She noted that “consultation is not dialogue.” Oftentimes, when strategic decisions need to be made and there is the process of consultation, these talks are often disguised as the actual planning and implementation process of the strategic move. Dr Hanoman shared that “every nation that wants constitutional reform should know that consulting people on how to create a constitutional reform process is not a dialogue about how it actually works.” As a result, the panelists urged the attendees and political leaders to engage the people not just on a consultation and political basis but also on an action oriented basis geared toward the planning, decision-making and implementation of a proper and effective tactics for the nation’s constitutional reform process.

SOCIAL WORK EXHIBITION

*Final year Social Work students
Showcase their products and services.*



SOCIAL WORK EXHIBITION

Final year Social Work students Showcase their Arts and crafts



CCS Hosts Second Annual IMC Exhibition



The University of Guyana's Centre for Communication Studies (CCS) hosted its second annual Integrated Marketing Communications (IMC) exhibition, on Monday, April 24, 2017, on the lawns of the CCS.

Putting theory into practice, the exhibition saw the coming alive of thirty-four Integrated Marketing Communication plans developed by students of the CCS' IMC course.

The well attended exhibition, displayed an array of unique products and services which included the introduction of

turmeric cubes, terrariums, locally produced herbal tea, all natural fruit juices and vegetable blends, cake pops, training services for Sports journalists, personalized gym service, bachelorette party planning, corporate events planning among other services and products.

Participants related that the exhibition provided them with a platform to launch their business ideas which will be supported by the employment of other integrated marketing

continued on page 24



CCS Hosts Second Annual IMC Exhibition

continued from page 23

The University of Guyana's Centre for Communication Studies (CCS) hosted its second annual Integrated Marketing Communications (IMC) exhibition, on Monday, April 24, 2017, on the lawns of the CCS.

Putting theory into practice, the exhibition saw the coming alive of thirty-four Integrated Marketing Communication plans developed by students of the CCS' IMC course.

The well attended exhibition, displayed an array of unique products and services which included the introduction of turmeric cubes, terrariums, locally produced herbal tea, all natural fruit juices and vegetable blends, cake pops, training services for Sports journalists, personalized gym service, bachelorette party planning, corporate events planning among other services and products.

Participants related that the exhibition provided them with a platform to launch their business ideas which will be supported by the employment of other integrated marketing communication strategies as their business ideas mature.

The CCS explained that through such practical events, self-organized learning can be fostered along with the building of communities of practice among learners.

The exhibition comes as part of the DPC 4208 Integrated Marketing Communications course, offered by the Centre for Communications Studies.



Profile on Mr Ron Glasgow, President of the University of Guyana Students' Society

From pg. 15

energetic trait allow him to function in his demanding work capacity as president of the student body. Mr Glasgow described himself as such explaining that "discipline acquired from administrative rules and regulations which I did not always favor but had to adhere anyway in high school taught me this." In fact, his adherence to the school's rules and regulations helped him to perfect the stoic trait because "by going through the struggle of conforming to situations I did not like taught me how to put feelings aside and do what must be done regardless of personal thoughts." Moreover, he is resilient because in a sense he encapsulates this

welfare and development in various arenas concerning students of the University of Guyana. Also, he added that the quotation is actually an ideal one for every Guyanese man to emanate on a day to day basis.

Currently, he has served as President of the UGSS for one and a half terms collectively. Additionally, in relation to his duties as president, Mr Glasgow is required to represent the interests of students at the institution and ensure that constituents suffer no violations and injustices. One of his aims as leader of the student body is to make the institution's

Professor Ivelaw Griffith, to provide aid for the students who were affected by the recent Cummings Lodge fire.

Mr Glasgow shared that challenges often arise when he has to balance his school work with his job work. For instance, students learned of tuition hike during the mid-semester period. As a representative of students' interests and affairs, Mr Glasgow had to make a critical decision which involved foregoing two mid-semester exams in order to attend politic meetings concerning the briefings about the tuition hike matter. Despite his many shortcomings in the past filled of some situations which were inevitable, he shared optimistically that he still continues to try his utmost best to make all his actions and decisions transparent and objective. As aforementioned, he abides by the principle of Seneca in situations where accountability and fairness seem to be compromised.

"Economics was and is something that brings me alive."

bout of determination and steadfastness which oftentimes allows him to always complete tasks he has undertaken without feeling the need to quit. As a matter of fact, his energetic quality overlaps with his resilient trait where he is always motivated to work assiduously with a charge of energy which allows him to work fast and also smart.

Mr Glasgow's gets his motivational drive from two philosophical souls, to name, Seneca and Marcus Aurelius who where Greek and Roman, respectively. Unsurprisingly, they were also heralds of stoicism. Actually, he is fond of one Seneca's quotation which reads: "if it is not right, do not do it and if it is not true then do not say it." This quotation is applicable to his presidential position where he is expected to make fair, accurate, transparent and constructive and beneficial decisions regarding the

environment more dynamic and buoyant in nature for students to not only interact on a study level but on a leisure one as well since it is important for the human anatomy to have a healthy balance of both academic education and physical education. Oftentimes, many students attend university with the prime purpose of just getting their degree to leave without looking back. Thus, he is aiming to change that mundane way of thinking and provide multiple extra-curricular options for students to actively grow and development and in turn help the university.

It should be noted that, among his major contributions toward the university, the UGSS body has helped to finance emerging recreational clubs and aided in the creation of a student facility and Mr Glasgow has worked along with the university's Vice-Chancellor,

Undoubtedly, this signifies that Mr Glasgow's level of diplomacy and remarkable work ethic indicates why he was voted by the students to represent their rights and interests at the University of Guyana Turkeyen Campus. In addition to that, he emphasized that students can look forward to the formations of more recreational clubs and to attend those that are operational such as the Robotics Clubs, Astronomy Club and a Computer Science Club for Girls. Also he urged alums to become more actively involved in the development of clubs on the university's campus in order to ensure that current and future students experience the full bout of academic satisfaction while attending university to impart elsewhere in their lives.

Empowering Others Through ICT - Eldon Marks is Living His Dream

By Svetlana Marshall

Reprinted from Guyana Chronicle Newspaper, April 9, 2017

“LIVE YOUR dream. Be as crazy as you possibly can be, ignore the status quo, set your goals and go after them with blind determination,” Social Entrepreneur, Eldon Marks said as he addressed a room full of entrepreneurs and software developers in a collaborative work space he had developed with his business partner, Chitra Dwarka.

Marks, who ever so often describes himself as a dreamer, is no stranger to Guyana, having won the Ministry of Public Telecommunication’s first Hackathon along with his team from Version75 Solutions (V75) in November, 2016.

But long before he had risen to stardom, Marks had been quietly working behind the scenes, molding the nation’s youths to be the best version of themselves.

For 12 years, he lectured and mentored hundreds of students at the Department of Computer Science at the University of Guyana. It was at that university that the former Bishops’ High School student had acquired his undergraduate Degree in Computer Science before pursuing a Master’s Degree in Computer Science at Howard University, Washington D.C. At Howard he specialized in Artificial Intelligence and completed the programme in three semesters with a 4.0 GPA.

“I owe much of academic and professional development to the University of Guyana, more specifically to my former lecturers in the Department of Computer Science who later became my colleagues and mentors. The environment that I was afforded as a student and subsequently as a young

lecturer gave me the opportunity to discover my true potential and reach further than I had ever conceived.”

Although being exposed to what many describe as the “world of opportunities,” Marks opted to return home to contribute to the development of his country in the fields of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and Entrepreneurship.

“Looking out from a developing economy, it is easy to see what we don’t have and it is easy to be consumed with studying our problems instead of solving them. ICT Entrepreneurs are much needed in Guyana for two reasons: (1) it is widely accepted that digital industries where an individual can electronically provide services and products regardless of geographic location are significant drivers for economic growth – simply put, a trained web designer with a laptop and Internet access can quickly and readily earn a decent living, even in Guyana. (2) The entrepreneur mindset is concerned with assessing problems to quickly and effectively solve them – taking action over talking about it.”

Further, driven by his personal philosophy drawn from spiritual teachings and his innate desire to empower others while empowering himself, the husband and father of one made one of his many dreams a reality developing his own company – Version75 Solutions.

Marks explained that V75 is a community disguised as a company uniting user interface design specialists, graphics designers, marketers, web developers, mobile application developers, database developers and



Social Entrepreneur Eldon Marks

software engineers to deliver the most effective, comprehensive and unified solutions.

As a ‘dreamer,’ he told the budding entrepreneurs and software developers that there were risks that he had to take but it was important for his dream to materialize.

“There are realists and then there are dreamers. A realist would understand certain parameters and these parameters would be based on what they can see, what they can touch, what they can feel,” he posited while explaining his perspective.

A dreamer, on the other hand he explains, pushes beyond the limits set by society. “So being a dreamer really means constantly challenging those social norms, the status quo, pushing the limits and eventually discovering what more we can actually do and how much more we can deliver,” he explained.

For him there is no harm in taking risks. “There is really no harm in taking

continues on pg. 27

Empowering others through ICT - Eldon Marks is living his dream

continued from pg. 26

that risk of setting an objective, however, crazy it might be. You set the objective as high as possible and whether you achieve it or not, you learn from it. Be as crazy as you possibly can be, ignore the status quo, set your goals and go after it with blind determination,” he posited.

Though there will be challenges, there are meant to be overcome, Social Entrepreneur emphasized.

Here in Guyana, Marks and his team at V75 were faced with the sad reality that acquiring local support from businesses in the field of ICT was a difficult one. But instead of ‘packing up shop’ and opting to do something else, they decided to target foreign markets. “Locally we are faced with this stigma with respect to our own local developers.... We have this diminished image of our own skills as Guyanese,” he explained. Its first client was a Canadian company.

“Through networking, we were fortunate enough to secure an offshore client – a Canadian Insurance Company,” he added. Today, 64 per cent of its



The Version75 Solutions at the Code 'til yuh drop'

projects are for clients outside of Guyana.

There was another challenge V75 had faced during its initial phase – the team had difficulties finding a common work space. It was out of that challenge that WeOwn Space was established approximately seven months ago.

The collaborative work space, situated at Lot 3 David Rose Street and Aubrey Barker Road, South Ruimveldt Gardens, Georgetown, in the words of Marks,

“gives local startups a fighting chance,” on a daily basis. It was further explained that WeOwn Space provides a unique environment for co-working, leaning, collaborating and networking to support Guyanese on their professional journey.

Though Marks is the founder of V75 and the Co-founder of WeOwn Space, he said for both entities there is no boss, noting that the input of all team members is important and valued deeply.

Outside of the world of ICT, Marks said he is a husband and father one. He said while pursuing one’s dreams is important, family is important too.

“It is no easy task to be a full-time professional and have a family. The constant context switching and collection of responsibilities can often force you to choose one or the other. In my case, my family is the reason that I became a social entrepreneur who lives up to delivering value. I can better provide for them today while leaving behind a slightly better world, tomorrow.”

UG Receives Books from High Commission of India

The High Commission of India in Georgetown donated 222 books of 141 titles with multiple copies on various subjects, such as Philosophy, History, Information Technology, Business, Religion, Politics, Science, to name a few to the University of Guyana, Tain Campus, Berbice on Saturday 8th April 2017.

High Commissioner of India, His Excellency Mr V Mahalingam, handed over the books to Professor

Gomathinayagam Subramanian, Director, Berbice Campus, University of Guyana, at a short ceremony held in the Foyer of the Library at the University. Present there were lecturers, staff members and students. The High Commissioner urged the students to enrich their knowledge by making use of the books donated by the High Commission.

PRESS FREEDOM DAY ACTIVITIES



World press freedom day was recognised and celebrated by the centre of communication studies (CCS). The activities were geared towards bringing awareness to the essential sacrosanct of press freedom. The theme for 2017 press freedom day being “critical minds for critical times”. The grand conductor of CCS hierarchy pursued their celebratory agenda from an inclusive, cross sectional perspective.

This inclusivity saw participation from all level of students, in the centre of communications. The first and second year students were tasked with writing essays, poetry, producing art and performing skits. The senior students were involved in management and overseeing their junior counterparts.

The synergy of minds, ideas and talent led to an abundance of creativity. The CCS management were reduced to cattle herders as ideas and bodies stampeded the auditorium, with the rush to get to the greener pastures of display. The display while helping groups and individuals to find their locale did not subdue the general enthusiasm.

The creativity produced was refreshing as press freedom was depicted uniquely. While framing varied, the message was synonymous with the theme and objective of press freedom. The exhibition enveloped audience and creator which saw many creators sealing the deal with a stamp of approval.

In a congenial atmosphere, interaction was abounding. Between the sip of choice drinks, advice and feedback beckoned. The exhibits looked at press freedom in the context of its role in society as well those charged with the responsibility of performing this noble profession. Data provided looked at the different facets of press freedom, risk and rewards which

encapsulates the job.

The notion of press freedom based on the evidence provided, historical and current showed it's a work in progress. The role of policy makers and civil society were underscored as being important in the quest for press freedom.

The satirical performance of the skit was convivial while conveying an important message. Raucous laughter emanated from the audience suggesting enjoyment of its construction and many familiar punch lines.

The skit highlighted lack of respect for the press from those in authority. The plight of journalism and by extension press freedom, where their role was subverted by behaviour unbecoming of officials. This underscored how trenchantly the problem can be and can be deemed cultural at times.

A march by all participation was fittingly the final activity of the day. The gusto of the marchers was matched by their vociferous chants enunciating the objective of the celebratory activity.



Attorney-at-Law Leslie Sobers'

Legal Perspective on Press Freedom

“Let the press be free to critically examine issues so that there will be critical thinking and an increase in the level of awareness”

Attorney-at-law, former Magistrate, Lecturer and Chairman for the Guyana National Broadcasting Authority (GNBA), Mr Leslie Sobers, is a strong advocate for press freedom. Mr Sobers defines press freedom as the ability of journalists and broadcasters to acquire and package information in a way that will be interesting to the public. Mr Sobers further pointed out that this information should be disseminated without censorship by the Government. Also, he believes that the public is a part of that freedom therefore citizens must be free to receive information.

Mr. Sobers views press freedom as an essential part of any community because it enables a democratic society. He stated that “when people are able to freely express opinions, only then the rest of the community will become an informed society which will then result in persons making informed decisions”. Mr Sobers advised that press freedom has limitations to certain types of information which should always be respected and practiced. Such information includes but is not limited to personal health issues, trade secrets, confidential information, anonymity etc. However, if public information is being withheld; information which is by law supposed to be released to the public, then the person withholding same can either be taken to Court for breaching the law or reported to the Commissioner of Information who will have the authority to direct that person to release the requested information.

Additionally, in order to encourage progress for press freedom, Mr. Sobers highlighted that in the legal world and more specifically to Guyana, there is continuous support

“People will speak out for all sorts of reasons but whatever the reason let the conversation commence so that even those who might be making statements or decisions because they were led to believe a certain thing will change their decision because they are now receiving more information”



Mr Leslie Sobers, Attorney-at-law

to ensure that journalists, whistle blowers and sources are protected. These are normally some of the most critical.

concerns when it comes to press freedom. “People will speak out for all sorts of reasons but whatever the reason let the conversation commence so that even those who might be making statements or decisions because they were led to believe a certain thing will change their decision because they are now receiving more information”, Mr. Sobers said.

When asked about his opinion on the existence of press freedom in Guyana, Mr Sobers responded in the positive expressing that press freedom is not lacking in Guyana, he believes it is very much alive and that it is the main reason why people can write what they write and say what they say. His general outlook on press freedom is as follows, “let the press be free to critically examine issues so that there will be critical thinking and an increase in the level of awareness.

Excellence Is Both Art And Attitude

Congratulations to an Exemplar of Excellence

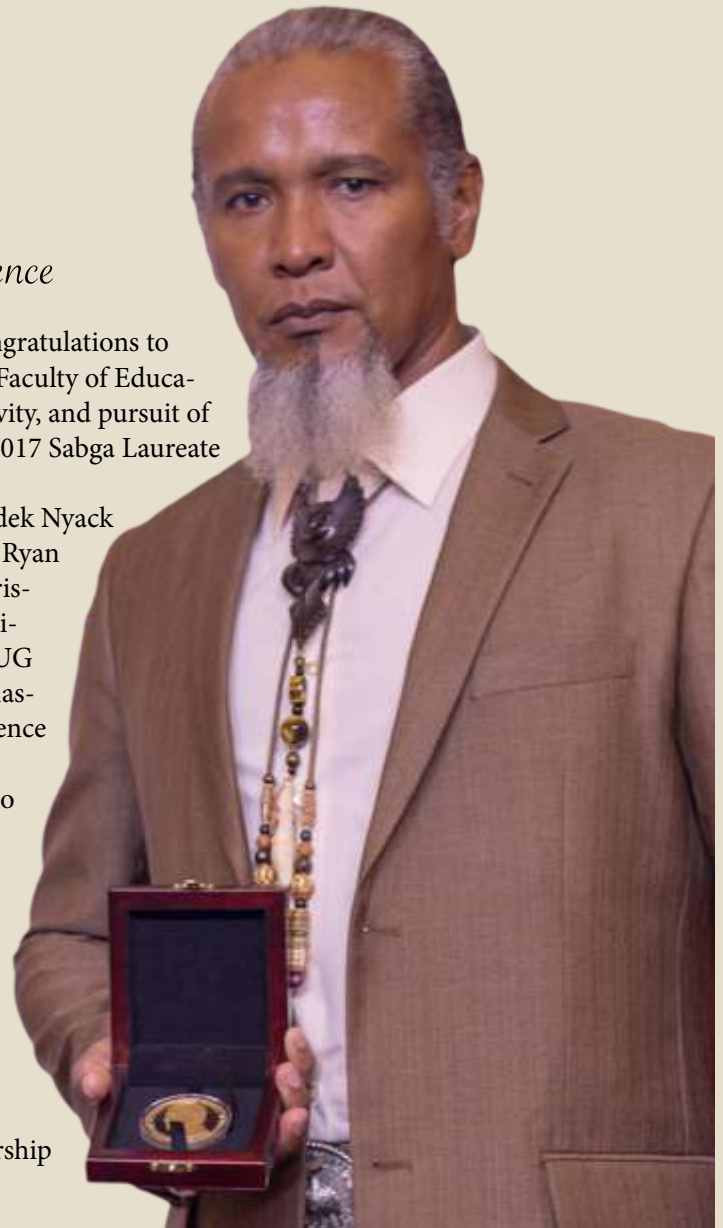
The University of Guyana (UG) extends sincere congratulations to Mr. Winslow Craig, Master Sculptor and Lecturer in our Faculty of Education and Humanities, whose superb craftsmanship, creativity, and pursuit of excellence have been rewarded with him being named a 2017 Sabga Laureate for Arts and Letters.

We also applaud the other 2017 Laureates—Ms. Shadek Nyack Compton from Grenada (Entrepreneurship), Mr. Kwame Ryan from Trinidad and Tobago (Arts and Letters) and Dr. Christopher Arif Bulkan from Guyana (Public and Civic Contributions). We note with pride that Dr. Bulkan is a former UG lecturer who validates the importance of the Guyanese Diaspora, soon to be engaged at our historic Diaspora Conference in July.

The University of Guyana extends sincere gratitude to the Sabga Foundation, Dr. Norman Sabga and the family of Dr. Anthony Sabga, O.B.E, the national selection committees and the panel of Eminent Regional Persons for their generosity, erudition and diligence in seeking and supporting the pursuit and practice of Excellence in the Caribbean.

We embrace the values of Excellence, Integrity, and Service that the Laureates demonstrate and we pledge to pursue and practice these values across the university, including in the newest entity, the School of Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation— SEBI.

*Professor Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith
Tenth Vice Chancellor and Principal
The University of Guyana*



*Winslow Craig, University of Guyana Lecturer,
Sabga Laureate for Arts and Letters, 2017*



THE UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA

The University of Guyana

<http://uog.edu.gy/>

First Diaspora Engagement Conference 2017

<http://diasporaconference.uog.edu.gy/>

School of Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation

<http://www.uog.edu.gy/school-entrepreneurship-business-innovation>

The University of Guyana Commissions New Lecture Theatre at its Turkeyen Campus



University of Guyana New Lecture theatre

In a simple ceremony on Thursday March 30, 2017, a new state of the art theatre was opened. The theatre is nestled between the CBJ Lecture hall and the CIT building at UG's Turkeyen campus. The building was financed to the tune of some 74 million dollars, with about 64 million being provided by the Government of Guyana.

The commissioning ceremony began at 12:00 noon and was chaired by Dr Barbara Reynolds Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Planning and International Engagement. Vice-Chancellor Professor Ivelaw Griffith, while presenting the Welcome, thanked all the parties that were able to make the lecture theatre possible. He remarked that UG is undergoing a "renaissance of transformation" and expressed hope for more progressive ventures for the institution in the future with the assistance of stakeholders and other investors. Professor Griffith also made an appeal to the students to value the new building. He said: Professor Griffith also urged the students to see the new buildings as their own. He said: "I am making a plea to the students and the staff to see this as ours, to take care of it, every time we have to spend money to repainting something after two months, it is money that is not available for something else; every time we have to replace stolen

equipment, its money not available for something else."

The building stands two storeys high and has the capacity to seat 350 students. The bottom flat has the ability to seat 150 students and includes removable partitions to allow it to be divided into smaller classrooms. The second floor has classrooms that can house 50-60 students. The building also houses rooms for academic staff and is well equipped with public address systems, projectors, ceiling fans and modern washrooms. It is also wheelchair accessible.

The programme of the day included greetings by Chancellor Eon Nigel Harris, remarks by education minister Dr Rupert Roopnarine, a statement on behalf of the students by UGSS president Ron Glasgow, a statement on behalf of staff by The Faculty of Social Sciences' Assistant Dean, Diana Gobin and was closed off with the official ribbon cutting and a tour of the new building.

The opening of the new lecture theatre is another step in improving the situation at the Turkeyen campus and comes on the heels of a new Health Sciences building, a new multi-purpose building and other notable improvements.

UG Hosts Tea Party to Commemorate Mother's Day



Attendees with the Vice-Chancellor of The University of Guyana

"All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel mother." - Abraham Lincoln

At a colourful and elegant showing on Saturday May 31, 2017, the Inaugural Tea Party in Celebration of Mothers was held. The event was the brainchild of UG's Vice-Chancellor, Ivelaw Griffith. It was held at the Umana Yana and saw close to 100 persons in attendance.

The event was held to appreciate women who are mothers in their own right. Some were biological mothers, others step-mothers and some were just mother figures. These women hailed from the staff body of the University of Guyana, across its Turkeyen and Tain campuses. Head of Departments from the various faculties were required to nominate two persons to attend as special invitees. Some women even braved the distance to travel from Essequibo to attend the event.

Off to a Guyanese fashion late start, the tea party was chaired by Professor Griffith himself. The program included a poem by published poet and Head of the English Department Gentian Miller; an Invocation by Paulette Ragubeer, a Keynote speech by Ms Gwyneth George on the theme "Reflections on Motherhood" and a rendition of "Summer Time" by Ms. Amanda Reynolds. The programme culminated with the vote of thanks by Ms. Sharon Roopchand-Edwards and a closing prayer by Ms Jacqueline Murray. To close out the event, all the women in attendance

were presented with tokens which Professor Griffith hoped they would cherish and care for until the next year when the event is likely to be hosted again.

The event was made possible through a partnership between UG and AnsaMcAl whilst the food was provided by Maggie's Catering.



Staff Members at the Inaugural Tea Party for the Celebration of Mothers

REMARKS DELIVERED AT A TEA PARTY HOSTED BY PROFESSOR IVELAW GRIFFITH, VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRINCIPAL, TO HONOUR MOTHERS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA

Reflection on Motherhood by Mrs Gwenyth George, University Librarian



Professor Ivelaw Griffith, Vice-Chancellor, UG and Ms Gwenyth George, University Librarian

Today our Vice-Chancellor has given mothers a chance to dress up, come apart from their chores and sip tea! I recall my days of going to tea parties with my mother. But those hats! - how I hated those hats. But as I was leaving home today, I said to myself "Mother, I am going to a tea party, without a hat!"

Today also, while we pay tribute to mothers, let us also pay tribute to the fathers who are mothering their children.

Let me begin my simple dialogue with two (2) poems :

How God created Mother

*Good took the fragrance of a flower
The majesty of a tree
The gentleness of morning dew
The calm of a quiet sea
The beauty of a twilight hour
The soul of a starry night
The laughter of a rippling brook
The grace of a bird in flight
Then God fashioned from these things
A creation like no other
And when his masterpiece was through
He called it simply... MOTHER (Author unstated)*

A Mother's Love

*Your arms were always open when I needed a hug.
Your heart understood when I needed a friend.
Your gentle eyes were stern when I needed a lesson.
Your strength and love have guided me and gave me wings to fly. (Author unstated)*

Being a mother is possibly one of the most unappreciated jobs in our society. In the past, women were revered, for being mothers as "stay-at-home" moms; today they are hardly noticed. So many of us have been spoiled by our mother's love yet we did not realise how much they did for us. James Joyce put it this way – "whatever else is unsure in this stinking dunghill of a world, a mother's love is not".

Let us reflect a bit on Mother's Day. It is celebrated in over forty-six (46) countries around the globe. What is remarkable is that there is no difference in the way it is celebrated as there is no difference in a mother whether she lives in the East or in the West.

In 1908, Anna Jarvis was firmly committed to honouring her mother. She is known today as the “Mother of Mothers” even though she was never a mother herself. But she devoted herself unceasingly to motherhood and only became bitter when mother’s day was commercialised.

Let us continue to reflect on motherhood. The world is full of various types of mothers.

Mother’s day is therefore a day to celebrate the silent efforts of all the mothers out there, who have made your life a celebration. The word “mother” has become synonymous with love and care. When we talk of motherhood, we usually think of the biological mothers, but motherhood is more than that – there are stepmothers, adopted mothers, mothers-in-law, surrogate mothers and those who spend their lives mothering people. Let us today commit ourselves to changing our perception of motherhood even as we celebrate this mother’s day.

I want to reflect on one famous mother in the Bible – Moses’ mother. To protect him, she plaited a basket of reed and silently watched and prayed as he floated in the water. She watched as he was adopted by Pharaoh’s daughter. To be able to continue to watch over him and protect him, she got a job in Pharaoh’s household as his nanny. What a painful experience ! Then let us turn to Pharaoh’s daughter – her love for Moses, her adopted son caused her to defy even the wishes of her father to destroy him. The love of a mother crosses barriers of race and gender, colour or looks.

As we continue to reflect on motherhood, let me tell you the story of the crow. She went to the school to pick up her child. Not seeing him, she asks the children if they had seen the most beautiful bird! A crow beautiful? But that is the love of a mother.

Motherhood is a 24 hour job – no trade unions to fight for you, no salary increases and if you attempt to strike, you never do! And you know, “A mother’s work is never done!”

While I was perusing the Internet to find appropriate material for this event, I came across this joke which I want to share with you :

Joke of the child sent to bed

*Child : Mom, can I have a glass of water?
 Mother : No, you had your chance. Lights out!
 Five (5) minutes later
 Child : Mom, can I have a glass of water?
 Mother : No, if you call again, I will spank you
 Five (5) minutes later
 Child : Mom, can you bring me a glass of water
 When you come in to spank me?*

How many of you have been in that position – dealing with a querulous child, wanting to spank him or her BUT do you ever do that?

This is not an academic dialogue so I would wish to close with this poem by Rudyard Kipling :

“Mother o’ Mine”.

*If I were hanged in the highest hill
 “Mother o’ mine, O mother o’ mine”
 Know whose love would follow me still
 “Mother o’ mine, O mother o’ mine”
 If I were drowned in the deepest sea
 “Mother o’ mine, O mother o’ mine”
 I know whose tears will come down to me
 “Mother of mine, O mother o’ mine”
 If I were damned of body and soul
 I know whose prayers would make me whole
 “Mother o’ mine, o’ mother o’ mine”*

I thank you! Happy Mother’s Day!

Annual Health Walk Jump Starts Occupational Safety and Health Month 2017

Theme:

“Optimise the collection and use of Occupational Safety and Health data”



Staff from various Government Ministries, trade unions, and Private Sector at the walk

To commence the commemoration of National Occupational Safety and Health Month (OSH) the National Advisory Council on Occupational Safety and Health (NACOSH), along with the Social Protection Ministry, hosted an awareness walk and rally in the city of Georgetown.

On Sunday April 4, a number of participants from various Government ministries, trade unions as well as public entities participated in the Annual Health walk, which commenced at the Bank of Guyana and ended at D'Urban Park. The walk was held to raise awareness of the need to optimise strategies to ensure safety in the workplace. It was also aimed at celebrating the worldwide labour force while highlighting the importance of workers well-being to increased productivity.

The NACOSH Chairman Andrew Garnett expressed delight over the great turnout to the walk and explained the need for occupational safety and health in the workplace.

In attendance were the staff members of University of Guyana who were first time participants. They had a significant number of Staff members present in support of the walk. A representative of the University of Guyana expressed delight in the turnout and further stated that the

university plans to continue participating in future events. Also in attendance were several Government Ministers who spoke on the significance of OSH. Public Telecommunications Minister Cathy Hughes highlighted the importance of safety in the workplace, especially in Guyana, given the long history of accidents. Sharing similar sentiments were Public Infrastructure Minister David Patterson and Minister within the Social Protection Ministry with responsibility for labour, Keith Scott.

The walk and rally provided an opportunity for persons to voice suggestions on ways they can improve and promote safety within workplaces. NACOSH indicated that an aggressive and comprehensive programme was in the pipeline to prevent the culture of, and minimise, work-related accidents and diseases. Engaging stakeholders, resuscitating the Joint Workplace Safety and Health Committee and empowering management and non-management workers are among the Council's objectives for these initiatives.

In keeping with the traditions of the previous years a series of activities will be in store for the commemoration of the National Occupational Safety and Health Month.

Travis Dowlin Former Cricketer and CCS Student



Travis Montague Dowlin

Travis Montague Dowlin is a proud Father, Husband, Student at the University of Guyana pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Communication Studies and a selector at the West Indies Cricket Board. Mr Dowlin is a former Cricketer who has represented Guyana, West Indies and the West Indies in tests, one day international and twenty 20 internationals. He was a right handed batsman and part time off break bowler.

Besides being a sterling contributor to sports, Travis is a determined, self-motivated and ambitious individual. He grew up in Campbellville and attended Redeemer Primary School. After completing his primary education, he secured a place at St. Stanislaus College where he played sports throughout his school years

He became fascinated with cricket quite early in his life at a tender age because of the love for the game and as a matter of fact the influence of Carl Hooper. He related that he looked up to Hooper as a role model because he was talented and possessed class.

For the former Captain, "cricket can easily be described as a game of failings; it was challenging to find that right balance of acceptance of the situation and not being too hard on myself, so im somewhat disappointed I didn't find that balance much earlier in my career"

Nevertheless Travis is still known as an attacking batsman in the sport, bringing home his team victorious under any circumstances. As a Guyanese Dowlin represented Dowlin represented West Indies from 1997 to 2011, including as a Captain in the 2009 season. During that time, he played 85 first-class matches scoring 4,013 runs at an average of 30.7; 57 List A matches scoring 1,189 runs at an average of 24.5 and 24 Twenty20 matches

at an average of 29.05.

In 2009 he was Guyana's Captain for that season and in 2010 he captained the West Indies A team tour to Bangladesh. Mr Dowlin went on to represent the West Indies in six (6) Tests. He made 343 runs, 95 being his highest score. He ended with an average of 31.8. He played 11 ODIs totaling 228 runs at an average of 25.33 and two Twenty20s where he scored 68 runs

Mr Dowlin has been a cricket analyst for the past three years, at both regional and international levels and has done radio commentary for the Caribbean Premier League (CPL) and regional matches held in Guyana. He was also selected as a member of the radio commentary panel for the final leg of the Tri-Series held in the West Indies

Mr Dowlin lives by this motto on a daily basis "find your purpose and pursuit", which makes him a very successful individual because of his persistence and eager to run the race. Apart from being a professional Travis enjoys Yoga and reading inspirational content. His advice to young aspiring youths who have a desire to be sportsmen/sportswomen is that "being involved in sports is a lifestyle, it is not only what goes on the field of play but often times the off field aspect is just as crucial. So it requires one hundred percent commitment and discipline. So im urging young folks to be persistent and stay focused on your dreams".



The Soundtrack of Guyana



Guyanese flautist Keith Waithe performing for the audience in UoG's Education Lecture Theatre

You can't escape birdsong in Guyana. From the caw caw of the wild parrot and macaw to the omnipresent kis-ka-dee, kis-ka-dee. For Guyanese flautist Keith Waithe, these are not just background sounds – but inspiration. Now 'The Flute Man' is planning on creating what he calls a birdsong symphony, taking his cue from Guyana's dawn chorus.

Normally based in London, Mr Waithe is in Guyana as the University of Guyana's artist-in-residence – the first person to hold that post since Martin Carter. At a workshop, held March 22, 2017 at UG, he hosted an Improvisation Workshop – to introduce music fans and performers to his repertoire and research.

"I have over two hundred flutes!" he said, and proceeded to demonstrate a few. The alto flute, the Irish penny whistle, the clay ocarina... swooping from bird sounds to classical music to masquerade to a kind of mouth percussion mirroring the sound of Indian dhol drums.

From India, we were taken to Africa

and some Guyanese kwekwe rhythms, performed with the help of a guest drummer and an impromptu performance from National School of Dance director Linda Griffith. Then it was onto Guyanese folk as Feed The Flames frontman Gavin Mendonca performed 'Small Days' and a steel pannist was called up from the audience to join in.

"Show us a conversation between the flute and steel pan," requested one participant, "this is an improvisation workshop after all!" Waithe and the pannist duly obliged, and ended the workshop with a lively jam session.

Having a musician as an artist-in-residence was an interesting step for the university, which offers three music programmes: Associate of Arts (Music/Creative Arts), Certificate in Education – Music Education, and Diploma in Music (none are on the 2017/2018 course list but that seems to be an omission).

Yet music isn't an island. At the workshop, students from the art department were invited to paint while the session was in

progress.

The experiment drew some great results, including this piece (see below) – inspired, said the artist, by Waithe's reference to his many flutes.

Students and interested folk in Berbice can enjoy the workshop when it's repeated next Wednesday March 29, at UG's Tain Campus from 10am-12pm. Other upcoming events to look out for include a concert at the Theatre Guild in Georgetown on Friday March 31, and a Public Lecture, also at the Theatre Guild, on Thursday April 6.

<https://hummingofthebird.wordpress.com/2017/03/23/the-soundtrack-of-guyana/>

University of Guyana Launches New Website

Events | Latest News | Resources

Explore UG | Prospective Students | Current Students | Faculty & Staff | Alumni & Community

Doing Diaspora Engagement

LEARN MORE

THE UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA

The University of Guyana was established in April 1963 and began its operations in October of the same year with a batch of 164 students in temporary premises loaned from Queen's College in Georgetown.

Programmes were at first confined to the Arts, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences. However, in 1967, a Faculty of Education was established and this was followed by the establishment of the Faculties of Technology in 1969, Agriculture in 1977, and in 1981, the Faculty of Health Sciences, prior to the establishment of which programmes in Health Sciences were offered within the Faculty of Natural Sciences.

KNOW MORE →

Prof. Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith
Vice-Chancellor & Principal

Welcome Message

Prof. Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith - Vice-Chancellor & Principal

On April 2, the University of Guyana had a soft launch of their new website. The launching of the website has been in the works for a number of years now. This new version of the website is said to be just a soft launch, a more formal launching of the website is to be released later this year.

Public Relations Officer, Ms Paulette Paul in her memo to the campus community stated that the new site is designed to be user friendly, improved functionality and enhanced rich content. It seeks to provide users with information on the University of Guyana, for example past and upcoming events, faculties and curriculum just to name a few. The website has undergone a complete face-lift and represents the culmination of a very large amount of work over the past few years by dedicated staff members. This website was possible due to the collaborated effort of Eldon Marks, Lecturer from the Department of Computer Science, the present web manager Christopher Clarke, who spearheaded the effort over the past few months with support from the Public Relations Division, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Barbara Reynolds, the Department of Software Services and Vice-Chancellor Professor Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith.

However, it is to be noted that the website is still a work in progress; hence there will be some hiccups. Prior to launching the website they encountered many setbacks along the way; the main bug bearer was the (non-submission of content by sections). According to Ms Paul, by going viral with the soft-launch they hope to debug the site more thoroughly and fix the glitches in advance of the formal launch. Ms Paul further stated that on the website visitors are asked to give feedback on any problem they may encounter or what they think should be edited or enhanced.

The site is currently being managed by an internal team led by the Web Manager Christopher Clarke, Public Relations Officer Ms Paulette Paul, and Head of Department of Software Services Sekhar Moses Mallampati. Leading up to the official launch of the website the team is working towards enhancing and creating new and exciting features. The team will collect feedback before and after the site launches and will make changes aimed at improving the site and the experience of its users.

Best Graduating Law Student Receives Prestigious Award



Attorney at law latoya Roberts

Latoya Andrea Roberts is surely making a reputation for herself and showing that finding your purpose and pursuit are possible no matter how weak your beginnings are, you can achieve greatness once you work hard to earn it.

From a tender age she knew exactly what she wanted to do with her life and which career path would be the best for her to fulfill her duty to humanity. However, her coming from an underprivileged family, her dreams seemed far from reality. This didn't stop her as she persevered and held unquestionable faith in God so that she could rise up today, emerging as the top graduating Guyanese law student from the Hugh Wooding School of Law and the recipient of the Guyana Government Prize Award.

She was honored for her outstanding performance, perseverance and for her unquestionable faith in the supreme being of pursuing her dreams and aspiration and conquering the challenges that she was faced with throughout her academic journey. It is often being said that endurance is one of the difficult disciplines, but it is to the one who endures that, the final victory comes, with that being said Miss Roberts is a true essence captivated by this quote which was termed by Buddha.

The Ambitious Attorney related that law was quite the fact given that one needs to be utmost committed but there is no other profession she would rather do. As a matter of fact, she deems it a blessing to be able to embrace such an extraordinary career.

Latoya grew up with her mother, in a small rivering community called Vreed-en-Rust, West Bank Demerara and describes herself as a country girl who found life in town to be so much different from that in her quaint village. She would often help her mother with farming from which they gathered

the necessary finances to take care of her and her siblings. While living there as a child, she attended Sandhills Nursery School and subsequently Sandhills Primary School. She related that "school life was hard and would often times have to go to school barefoot and with her books in her hands or in a plastic bag".

Nevertheless, she pressed on with her mother's insistence that a good education was the key to escape poverty.

Eventually she was sent to Georgetown to live with her relatives and to further her education, where she attended Tucville Primary School. She wrote the Common Entrance Examinations in the city and secured a place at the North Georgetown Secondary School. This left her somewhat disappointed as she aspired for President's College.

However, she made the best of it. During her school years at North Georgetown Secondary, she related that she had a serious interest in business related subjects. She worked hard and in 2004, she graduated as the best graduating student from North Georgetown Secondary with nine subjects.

Right after, she fulfilled her dream of going to President's College by entering sixth form at the school. Here she pursued law as was recommended by her mentor, Derill Gittens. It just so happened that Roberts was able to fulfill one of her childhood dreams as she became a sixth form student at President's College.

Roberts recalled that one of the persons who were instrumental to her successes and love for law was her law tutor at President's College, Mr. Yohance Cave.

After graduating, her next step was supposed to be Hugh Wooding Law School but due to lack of finances she could not attend immediately. As such, she put her studies on pause and secured a job. During her employment, she managed to save up some money and with the help of some of the members of her church she was able to finally take the entrance exam to get into the Law School.

Unfortunately, she was met with disappointment sometime after when she received the results of the exam, stating that she did not make it. Still, she kept her faith and believed that there was more. In September of 2014, she received a letter from the Hugh Wooding School of Law stating that she was accepted and would begin studies that same term. She eagerly accepted but there was one problem; she only had enough to cover her tuition and expenses for the first half of the year. However, this did not discourage her and she went with faith.

Despite it all, Roberts conquered her challenges and is very successful today. The young attorney plans to continue her education by pursuing her master's degree, doctorate and to make herself reputable in the legal fraternity.

Her advice to youngsters who are aspiring to be good ambassadors in society is to "be steadfast towards your goals, read and study hard and you can achieve anything you possibly desire".

VC INITIATES UG GROUNDS BEAUTIFICATION WITH TREE PLANTING EXERCISE



Professor Ivelaw Griffith, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Guyana initiated a tree planting exercise during the month of May with the ultimate goal of beautifying the Campus.

The small event saw palm trees being planted in front of the New Lecture Theatre which was erected between the Centre for Information Technology (CIT) and Cheddi Bharrat Jagan Lecture Theatre. Attendees included Professor Griffith, Dr Barbara Reynolds, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, members from the University of Guyana's Student Society (UGSS), Mrs. Nelsonia Budhram, an official from the Lion's Club on campus, staff members and students from various faculties.

The exercise is said to be the first of many yet to come which will eventually include friendly competition among faculties to beautify their surroundings to the best of their ability. The first palm tree was planted by Professor Griffith while the others were planted in partnership by Dr Reynolds, the students and official from the Lion's Club, members of staff, representatives from the UGSS and other students attending the event.

Attendees reacted positively to the initiative and expressed that they hope it is not short lived.



Bridges Global Medical Missions Collaborates with The University of Guyana to Host The Continuing Medical Education Conference

As part of the Mission's commitment to render medical services geared toward improving health and health care delivery nationwide, on Sunday May 21, 2017 the Bridges Global Medical Missions in collaboration with the University of Guyana hosted the Continuing Medical Education (CME) conference at the Ramada Hotel. The conference drew knowledge, insight and exclusive narratives and presentations underlined by experience and extensive medical research work from a diverse group of medical professionals and practitioners to edify students and other present and potential medical workers. Also, this was done to actively provide a platform for Guyana's local medical personnel and international ones to exchange ideas in an organized and scientific manner. Since 2008, the Global Medical Missions team has been travelling annually to Guyana to conduct medical outreach programmes centered primarily on health and health care delivery processes, for example, orthopedic, pediatrics, family medicine, optomology and many more medical services which are administered in area hospitals like Fort Wellington, Linden, Lenora and Georgetown.

Among the attendees of the largely received conference, was Professor Ivelaw Griffith, Vice Chancellor of the University of Guyana along with a number of distinguished members of the medical diaspora such as Dr Claudette Heyliger-Thomas, Director of Bridges Global Medical Missions, Hon Dr Karen Cummings, Minister within the Ministry of Health, Dr Kelly, Morehouse School of Medicine, Dr Veerasammy Ramayya, Dr Emanuel Cummings, Dean of the Faculty of Health Science and Dr Sheik Hassan Amir, Directors of Medical and Professional Services at GPHC.

In his opening speech, Professor Griffith remarked that educating people is synonymous with developing a country. He emphasized this point using the ancient Chinese proverb "if you're planning for a year plant rice, if you're planning for ten years plant trees and for years beyond that educate people;" urging the audience to maximize the opportunity presented to them, take the advice shared on health and health care



Professor Amstead delivering her presentation

delivery seriously and use it in different aspects of their lives whether it is in the hospital, clinic, workshop or even an academic setting. He pointed out that "the process of educating people is a dynamic duality which does not only focus on helping people to acquire the necessary knowledge but also to enable them to practice healthy and safe medical behaviors to protect their bodies and those of others."

Moreover, Hon Dr Cummings shed light on the work her Ministry has been engaging in to enhance and strengthen the competencies of Guyana's medical

services and professionals. She chose to highlight that enhancement is a multidimensional process which is often hindered by the geographical structures of the country's hinterland areas, which sometimes prove to be inaccessible for health care workers who must traverse those remote areas to administer care to those in dire need of it. Additionally, of the diverse panel present at the conference, Dr Emanuel Cummings first delivered his resounding address which focused on 'Reforming the Health Work Force to Support National Health Coverage' where he discussed the importance of health important in the media and the equity of health care delivery universally. He alluded to the fact that primary health care has shifted, citing indicator measures of past and present concerns. He conveyed that "in the past mother and child health was the dominant focus but now health for everyone is a top priority, back then improvement and health was only discussed and implemented on the village level but now there is the promotion and mitigation effects of social hazards and in the past technology to remedy diseases but now technology for its impacts and how it revolutionizes the health care sector among other measures."

Furthermore, succeeding this address was Dr Sheik Amir emphasized on the different medical/science sub-specialties that were previously grouped together in the past but now have different specialists administering to them individually. He stressed on the challenges of medical specialties such as neurology, optomology and other scientific fields that face irregular shortages of skilled medical professionals who usually migrate and invests their medical knowledge overseas.

Story continues on page 41



Dr Claudette Heyliger, Director of Bridge; Global Medical Mission; (extreme right) poses with other distinguished attendees at the conference

continued from page 40

Dr Patrick Griffith followed next and based his discourse on ‘Stroke: Mental Health Sequelae.’ It should be noted that, one of the biggest health problems in this part of the hemisphere is stroke. The disease is rated worldwide as the second leading cause of mortality and presently stands as the third leading cause of mortality in the Caribbean. Also, Dr Griffith noted that “Barbados currently has the lowest mortality rate in relation to stroke while Guyana has the highest which is quite surprising since we’ve surpassed a nation like Haiti.”

Additionally, he further stated that in order to increase cognizance regarding stroke and mental health, national efforts must be made to strengthen stroke management publicly by implementing better health education techniques across the nation to educate people on the disease’s signs, symptoms, treatments and preventative measures; as well as to edify both professional and non professional people on the mental health implications regarding stroke.

Continuing the medical edification

journey was Dr Donald Wallerson, member of the Black Physician’s Council who presented on ‘Atrial Fibrillation’ in its entirety. In brief, as explained in his lecture, Atrial Fibrillation which is commonly abbreviated as ‘AFib’ is mainly caused by irregular heartbeats that eventually leads to stroke, blood clots, heart complications and ultimately death. Furthermore, the next address came from an Associate Professor at Wright State University, Dr Michael Galloway who spoke on ‘Cervical Cancer and Clinical Updates on Health Care Delivery.’ According to Dr Galloway’s research that was presented, cervical cancer is one of the leading causes of deaths worldwide and is the third most fatal cancer behind lung cancer and breast cancer. In addition to that, he shed light on the silent causes which sometimes go unnoticed and untreated that can lead to cervical cancer and even delved into explaining some preventative measures like screening and pap smears that can be used to treat cervical cancer.

Then, Professor Sharon Armstead, a clinical assistant and a respiratory therapist, succeeded his address with

her discourse which was centered on ‘Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).’ As cited in her lecture, COPD encompasses a number of progressive lung diseases such as chronic bronchitis, asthma and emphysema. She further communicated indepth the role of GOLD (Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease) in relation to COPD and how the organization works along with medical professionals and medical corporations to help improve the prevention and treatment of COPD in multiple ways.” Undoubtedly, the CME Conference not only highlighted the various life-threatening diseases plaguing the health and safety of Guyanese but it also helped to offer insight and foreknowledge to instigate action and help citizens and most importantly the government, to focus more on these diseases and adopt more suitable measures to constructively deal with the diseases.



Dr Sheik Amir, Director of Medical and Professional Services at GPHC giving his address

Vice-Chancellor's Meeting with Business Leaders



Vice-Chancellor's Visit to Surama and Bartica with Vice President Allicock and others



Renaissance

Office of the Vice-Chancellor, The University of Guyana

Publisher: Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, PhD

Editor: Denise Hopkinson-Braam

Editor-at-Large: P Nigel Killikelly

Assistant Editor: Theleisha DeSouza

Proofreaders: Bonita Hunter

Designers: Orpheo Griffith,

Stephan Sookram, Mary C. Adams, Shumaine Howard,

**Lanessa John Forbes, Crystal Stoll, Desilon Daniels, Alicia Downed,
Abigail Brower.**

Contributors: Ms Paulette Paul, UG Public Relations

Division; Guyana Chronicle Newspapers,

Dr Dhanpaul Narine, Ms Paulette Henry,

UG Berbice Campus, Carinya Sharples, Guyana Chronicle Newspaper

Writers: Shari Simon, Crystall Stoll, Belinda Henry,

Abigail Brower, Alicia Downes, Shumaine

Howard, Lanessa John-Forde

Photo-credits: Vice-Chancellor Professor Griffith, Neketa Forde,

Kishona Mathurin, Ebony Edwards, Lennox Gasper,

Alexis France, Delice Adonis

UG Learning Resource Centre

Vol. 2 No. 4 April-June, 2017

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.

For more information or to make contributions:

Call: 592-222-5402

Email: public.relations@uog.edu.gy

Visit: <https://www.facebook.com/ugturkeyencampus/>