

# Renaissance

Office of the Vice-Chancellor, The University of Guyana

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UNIVERSITY of GUYANA

**A Vice-Chancellor With a Difference**

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**UG Hosts First Conference of  
Education Resource Ambassadors**



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## The VC Speaks

**“You can’t cross the sea merely by standing and staring at the water.” — Tagore**

The Spanish Philosopher Jorge Santayana once offered the prescient proposition that “to know what people really think pay regard to what they do, rather than what they say.”

Yet, if the doings of individuals and institutions are not known, are not communicated, one would be none the wiser about what and how people really think as is reflected in what they say and do. Thus, communication has a critical role in actualizing the important nexus between thought and action.

It is with this in mind that I establish this medium of communication to share with the important constituencies of The University of Guyana—within and beyond Turkeyen and Tain, within and beyond Guyana—some of what the various individuals and entities of our university are both saying and doing, what they are dreaming and doing.

Thus, I am delighted to share with you this inaugural edition of *Renaissance*. It will be a monthly medium to enable the various communities connected with our University to appreciate the work and workings of people who are laboring in our tertiary educational vineyards.

While *Renaissance* will be produced by the Office of the Vice Chancellor, it is not intended to share the thinking and doing only of the Vice Chancellor. Therefore, I invite you to share your thinking and doing, your dreaming and doing—you student and lecturer, you administrative and support staff, you alumni and retiree, you Education Resource Ambassador and potential Education Resource Ambassador.

The *Renaissance* on which our university is now launched is your *Renaissance* too; this *Renaissance* is your medium too. Its vibrancy and richness will be enhanced by your contribution. Let this medium reflect your embrace of one of my mantras: ‘I fuh UG, you fuh UG, we all fuh UG’. Understandably, the realization of this project—which gives life to an aspect of Santayana’s proposition—took the hard work of people on and off campus, within and outside Guyana. I am thankful for their thoughtful and diligent planning and execution, in the naming contest, the design and layout, the writing of articles and assembling of various components, the editing, the distributing, and more.

So, I commend to you this first edition of *Renaissance*. Read it! Share it! Contribute to it!

Keep on keeping on!

Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, PhD  
Tenth Vice-Chancellor and Principal





## Editor's Note



Carolyn Walcott  
Editor

*The Office of the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Guyana (UG) is pleased to share with you this first edition of Renaissance, a monthly publication that captures various facets of development surrounding the nation's premier tertiary institution.*

*In this edition we bring you retrospective and progressive perspectives from national and international contributors who are all alums and friends of UG.*

*Renaissance takes you on a journey with footprints of the road travelled, pebbles picked up along the smooth but sometimes tumultuous terrain, and visions yet to be realised as we move through uncharted waters. Under new captaincy, the ship, UG, has set its sails steadily, resolutely, toward an onward, upward journey.*

*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.*

*Our email address is [vicechancellor@uog.edu.gy](mailto:vicechancellor@uog.edu.gy). 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.*

*Read, reflect and be inspired to join in the Renaissance!*

# A Brief History of The University of Guyana

Presented at the Interfaith Service to mark the 50th Anniversary of the passing of the University of Guyana Ordinance #63, April 19, 1963  
In the George Walcott Lecture Theatre (GWLTL), Turkeyen Campus on April 19, 2013

By Sr Mary Noel Menezes, RSM, AA  
Edited and Adapted for this Publication.

It is indeed an honour for me to have been asked to share with you a brief history of our University now celebrating its 50th year. Where has the time gone? I was among the first group of lecturers and so vividly remember our first convocation in 1967 at which 32 students, 28 men and 4 women, received their degrees. The guest speaker Professor Anamathudoo expressed the fervent wish that the University would live up to the highest standards if it were to be worth the name of University. To quote his words: "To have a University is not enough – it must be a University of high standard. A University of low standard is worse than having no University at all." We continue to support his wish over the years.

## Why the need for a university in Guyana?

Over the years, our young people had left our shores to study in Canada, the UK, the USA, and the West Indies and many never returned home. More and more, therefore, the need for an institution of higher learning to train teachers and other personnel in the education system became acute. In Feb. 1963 a "Memorandum on Higher Education" was presented in the Legislative Council by the then Min. of Education and Social Development, Hon. Cedric Nunes. Among other needs, it was noted that of the 500 secondary school teacher population only 144 were suitably qualified. The need for a university was indeed vital and critical. In that institution, personnel for the civil service, teachers for the education system, and programmes of industrial, agriculture and social development would be the main focus". Above all, active research was vital to stimulate the intellectual life of the society. The plan was much debated but finally the University of Guyana Ordinance was passed on April 19, 50 years ago.

## UG's Early Years

The University's first Chancellor, Mr Edgar Mortimer Duke, GBE, LLB and Board of Governors decided that the new institution would offer undergraduate courses in the Faculties of Arts, Natural and Social Sciences at the modest fee of \$100.00 per annum. Financially speaking it was

impossible at the time to build a Campus so in the interim classes would be held at Queen's College from 4pm to 10:30pm after their students had left thus, in those early years, the University was scathingly referred to as "Jagan's Night School". I can assure you of the difficulty of those early days when lecturers had to be on the spot to ensure getting a classroom before another colleague had bagged it. But despite the inconveniences in those early years, there was "a pioneer gaiety" – a spirit of camaraderie and sharing among staff and students. Professor Bill Carr realistically captured the nostalgia of the Queen's College days "with its stairs and rooms smelling of boys, stale buns, spilt sweet drinks and assorted vermin" – indeed an atmosphere not wholly conducive to learning.

## UG's Inauguration

The University opened on October 1, 1963 with 164 students. The multi-talented Welshman, Professor Lancelot Hogben, was the first Vice-Chancellor; the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Professor of Biology, our Guyanese Dr Harold Drayton while another Guyanese, Dr Lyttleton Ramsahoye, Professor of Physics, young Neville Trotz, part-time lecturer in Chemistry, Dr Bancroft Davis, Professor of Economics, Mr MacGilvary, Caribbean Studies and History Department and Yvonne Stephenson who would later become Head of the University Library, giving years of service.

The ceremony heralding the opening of classes was an impressive one, so much so that it moved the Booker Group of Companies to donate 56 hectares of land at Turkeyen where we now are, for the permanent site of the University. From far and wide came donations of books for the library, topped by the generous gift of 1800 titles from the British Council in Guyana. The Library is the hub of every University.

A University can more survive without lecturers than without a library.



Sr Mary Noel Menezes, RSM, AA

*Sistery Mary Noel Menezes, RSM, AA, Religious Training (Mercy Noviate, Dallas, 1950), Teachers' Diploma (St Joseph Col., Jamaica, 1954), BA (Misericordia, 1964), MA (Georgetown, 1965), PhD (UCL, 1973). Sister Menezes had an association with the University of Guyana which has been universally acknowledged as a shining example of scholarship, dedication and commitment to the achievement of excellence. This association has two periods: 1967-1991, and in 2003-2004 after her retirement. Dr Menezes was elevated to a full personal Professorship at the University of Guyana in 1980, was awarded the Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters by the College Misericordia in 1983, and decorated by the Government of Guyana with the Golden Arrow of Achievement Award in 1982.*



The University in its earliest years was blessed with outstanding administrators: Professor Arthur Lewis, Chancellor, former CARICOM Chief Executive, William Demas, Commonwealth Secretary-General, Sir Shridath Ramphal, Pro-Chancellors, Sir John Carter and Harold Davis. The Vice-Chancellors over the years included Prof. Alan Earp, Dr Dennis Irvine, Dr George Walcott, the first Guyanese, succeeded by other Guyanese, Dennis Craig, Harold Lutchman and James Rose. Were I to note all the exceptional Heads of Departments and lecturers these pages would not suffice.

#### 1969 was an historic year

It was the year of the first Open Entrance Exam with about 400 students writing the exam; the year when UG was granted UK approval, the year of many visiting scholars, the year of many newcomers on staff, the year of the arrival of Dr Dennis Irvine, one of our most notable VC, the year of UG at its present site at Turkeyen with its enrollment of approximately 1000 students. On October 6, the Large Lecture Theatre was inaugurated. Classes and classrooms overflowed and already the new buildings were inadequate.

Over the years the University has grown and the burgeoning of many faculties added to its remarkable growth – the Faculty of Arts then included the Departments of history, English, Modern Languages, Geography, Division of Caribbean Studies, Creative Arts as well as an Amerindian Research Unit. In 1972, Tourism Studies was added. In 1973, the History Department launched the first graduate programme – MA in the History of Guyana and Caribbean Studies which over the years have produced many leading historians, not only in Guyana but overseas. These include Basdeo Mangru, Khalill Mohamed, Tota Mangar, former Deputy Vice-Chancellor, David Chandraballi, former Registrar of UG and Dr James Rose, former VC. Among other noteworthy historians are His Excellency David Granger, President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, Hon. Carl Singh, Acting Chancellor of Guyana, and the late Desrey Fox, MP.

#### Faculties and Course Offerings

The Faculty of Education, established in 1967, offered a Post Graduate Diploma in Education, then in 1975 a Bachelor of Education followed by a Master's in 1976. In

that year also a Department of Extra Mural Studies, later upgraded to an Institute of Adult and Continuing Education.

In August 1996 the Institute was renamed the Institute of Distance and Continuing Education as it provided courses for students in Linden, Berbice and Essequibo. In 1981, the Department of Health Sciences became the Faculty of Health Sciences offering a wide variety of diploma programmes. In 1985, it began the training of Medical Practitioners. In September 2003, the Faculties of Arts and Education were merged into the School of Education and Humanities.

In 1976 and 1977 the Faculty of Natural Sciences offered Graduate Degrees in Biology and Chemistry; in 1994 Environment Studies was established. The Faculty of Social Sciences has been considered as the most dynamic Faculty in the University. In 1970 the first year programme leading to a UWI Law Degree was started and in 1993 a full Law Degree programme was offered; in 1977 and 1978 Graduate programmes in Economics and Political Science were introduced while in 1987 a Women's Study Unit.

In 1969 the Faculty of Technology was started offering Diplomas in Architecture and Building Technology and Civil Engineering. Later the programme expanded to accommodate studies in Agricultural Engineering, Mining and Surveying and Aeronautical Engineering. It became obvious that, in a country where the economy is predominantly agricultural, a programme in agriculture was a necessity and in 1977 the Faculty of Agriculture was established. In 1987 the Forestry Unit was started and in 2002 the Faculty was renamed the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry. More programmes were added in the 2000s – in 2002-03 the Degree in Nursing and Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering.

Not only at Turkeyen was the University expanding its programmes. In November 2000 a second campus was opened at Tain, Berbice, offering programmes in a variety of fields in the Arts and Sciences. It is obvious that over the past 50 years the University has grown rapidly, has expanded, catering to the wide needs of

“To have a university is not enough – it must be a university of high standard. A university of low standard is worse than having no university at all.”





students who have served the country at every level of expertise and in every field and also who have made a name for themselves overseas.

#### **“Ups” and “Downs”**

Over the past 10 years UG has faced a number of problems. UG has been mainly underfunded. The students first paid G\$100.00 per annum and now \$127,000 per annum. It has been increasingly difficult to maintain the Library, the laboratories and the many needs of the faculties. The concern over political involvement together with poor remuneration resulted in the loss of excellent academic staff. With the financial help of the IDB between 1989 and 1993 a number of new buildings were erected – the Herbarium, the Department of Law and Management, the Faculty of Agriculture and a Computer and Learning Resource Centre, the Centre for Information and Technology and the Cheddi B Jagan Lecture Rooms. Two students’ dormitories were constructed on campus in the 1990s and one at Goedverwagting – the Dennis Irvine Hall of Residence.

#### **Endeavour to Succeed**

As we ponder on the accomplishments of the students, more than over 20,000 have graduated over these 50 years. Above all, we must thank God for his support and guidance. At the same time we must express heartfelt gratitude to all members of the Administration and Staff, both academic and clerical, who gave of their best, of their expertise to guide the University. The task has not been an easy one – as those of us who were privileged to be with the University in its early years of trial and error, will recall. But we must always remember that nothing worthwhile, be it in our spiritual, academic and material lives can ever be accomplished without dedication to the task, hard work and an unwavering assurance that success will be the outcome.

To the Administration, staff and students, my warmest congratulations. May you continue to experience continuing success in every field and so make your country and your University proud of you. Ad multos annos! God bless you all!



# Notable Milestones Throughout the Decades

**1963** - The University of Guyana was officially opened in a blaze of emotional glory in the auditorium of Queen's College, offering programmes in Arts, Natural Sciences and Social Sciences

**1968** - The University's first Convocation

**1969** - The Institution occupied its present site at Turkeyen

**1981** - Dr George Walcott, the first Guyanese Vice-Chancellor was appointed

**1987** - The Walter Rodney Chair in History was established

**1990** - The University won the Inter-Regional Universities Debating Competition for the first time

**1991** - Distance Education was introduced at the University through the IDCE

**1994** - The first differently able student (Blind) Ms Julie Lewis, graduated

**2001** - The first Open Day was held on the Turkeyen Campus

**2002** - The Tain campus held its first Convocation

**2005** - First Distinguished Professor – Clive Y. Thomas – was installed

**2009** - First Emeritus Professors – Winston Mc Gowan, Sister Mary Noel Menezes and Doris Rogers - were installed

**2011** - The School of Education & Humanities hosted the Islands Conference

**2012** - The University introduced the 40-years Long Service Award for staff - Professor Clive Y. Thomas and Mrs Patricia Harnanan were the first recipients.

**2012** - US\$10M credit was received from the World Bank for the UG Science and Technology Support Project

**2013** - The University celebrated its 50th Anniversary.

**2014** - Tuition fees for local students were adjusted after a 20-year hiatus.

**2015** - Statutory approvals were given for the offering of MPhil/PhD programmes

**2016** - Appointment of the tenth Vice -Chancellor, Professor Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, PhD

**2016** - The university held the first Education Resource Ambassadors Conference



# “Reflections on Fatherhood” VC’s Inaugural Father’s Day Brunch

Vice-Chancellor Griffith hosted an inaugural Father’s Day Brunch as part of his vision to bring fathers together at the University of Guyana. The event was described by many who attended as heartwarming and a great time of reflection and interaction among fathers. It provided a unique space for bonding.

The keynote address was then Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences June 19, 2016

by Michael E. Scott, PhD

A Special Welcome to us all and a customary HAPPY FATHER’S DAY and most of all, for all those who believe upon God Almighty, praise be to the Father of Glory who has kept us to this day and is present in Spirit.

When I was first given the assignment with set criteria to identify two men in the Faculty of Social Sciences who are fathers, I thought it would be the easiest task to accomplish. I was mistaken, I came up with one father, since the men were very few and the fathers surprisingly not there or have become un-reproductive or not given recognition for their productive role as is increasingly the case in this gender-centric (including gender neutral and gender sensitive) scientific age.

Those are quite serious propositions to ponder. However, this for me seems an easier task having been given the free license to reflect on fatherhood. Immediately, my mind wandered expansively even considering the fatherhood of some of my very good friends here, the classification of fathers on death announcements of all things which tells the “dead truth” of child fathers, foster-fathers, step-fathers, god-fathers or surrogate fathers as routes to fatherhood.

Today there are the sexually reassigned, the absentee father, the visiting father and the supposedly unknown sperm donor father. Which leads me to ask rhetorically: Are these the basis of the doom of the traditional/normally known father? However, I do believe that in utmost respect to the eminent Vice-Chancellor and Principal of UG, a man and leader with a complexion of credibility; countenance of integrity and charismatic capability it behooves me to set some standard at this signal occasion and seminal event.

I take this opportunity, Sir, to publicly and formally welcome you and your wonderful spouse, Fran, and as current FATHER of UG in your many UG roles, an especial Father’s day greetings to you in your onerous and unenviable role. May your transformative thinking bear fruit as we fathers give you the genuine support to achieve your vision that is now ours as well.

So my very good friends, you need not worry, there will be no “tantalise” for today is a Sunday, a blessed and good day. Furthermore, I know that at this stage of your respective lives you are comfortable and at ease with yourselves having now the proverbial skins as thick as that of the rhinoceros. The easy task for me is to reflect upon myself as father with



Participants at Father’s Day Brunch

some allusions. Mindful of this brunch I will reflect on four elements in short order considering the occasion for which we have gathered.

When Edith Clarke in her seminal work wrote of “My Mother who Fathered me” she tacitly acknowledged the indispensable and important fathering role which can be ‘played’ but not ‘performed’ in its fullness as a “male” father would or should. In a gender multiplying world where the male gender role is slipping down the ladder, it seems no longer a monopoly of the male. Furthermore, as elements of that traditional gender role are diminishing rapidly in the wake of the unorthodox competition and scientific capacity to procreate without the male physical involvement and for gender reassignments, in particular, I would suggest that Edith Clarke would have well written a gender neutral text today. Thus, I wish to reflect rather fleetingly on:

### Fatherhood: Becoming, Being and Behaving against the Backdrop of the Gender Centricity and the Human Sexuality Discourse

I have chosen to pursue this approach on this significant day, initially meant for male fathering by those who conceptualised it many moons ago, because it is current and relevant to the way we perceive and may relate to Fatherhood.

Using an experiential definition, fatherhood in the Guyanese/ Caribbean experience, I daresay at this point in time, comprises a male role-set of procreator in a relationship with a woman who bears a child making him a parent, provider, leader and protector. It is not merely fathering – i.e. performing the parental role of a father it is a parent-father role - given greater meaning when there is a complementary role of mother with child.

### 1. BECOMING – How did you become a father? What was your experience?

- Becoming on the “labour day of truth” in the labour room to share a unique moment of fathering without fainting
- Becoming a father as parent vs child-father, some have seen both sides and can reflect on the pros and cons of access to the child etc.
- Becoming a disowning father or discovered father

If **Becoming** a father is tough or easy, depending on your perspective, **BEING** one is the ultimate challenge.

An anonymous writer said a good father is worth more than a hundred school masters; just consider the magnitude of roles, not one but one hundred times over! We must note that the schoolmaster is: teacher, counsellor, example, guide, guardian, disciplinarian, administrator, etc. a true surrogate parent. As a real parent-father it is an onerous task when considering this description.

I am often bemused by the intense focus by speakers on the Good Book regarding the scenario pertaining to the “prodigal son” as told by the learned Dr Luke. A lot of focus has been on the Father and his long lost younger son and not the ever present elder son who questioned his father’s action. Here a father runs to kiss his younger returning prodigal son who was remorseful on one hand; while on the other hand he met with opposition from an ever-present, self-absorbed and resentful son.



*Participants at Father's Day Brunch*

How does the father respond? With calm assurance, fathering influence in such myriad situations of relationships that will arise and will challenge our tolerance by being father – Can we assuredly settle matters by saying child you are always with me, why worry your reward is assured for staying the course with me; but we must celebrate your sibling’s return, your sibling and my child who has missed the mark. Thus, our **BEING** must be:

### 2. BEING

- Being a reservoir and disburser of affection.
- Being diligently and selflessly devoted – being called a “fixer” as our job to put things in order;
- Being assertive rather than aggressive in life’s situations for our children’s sake,
- Being a positive influence as leader to and for them.

Calvin Coolidge (30th US President) said: “no person was ever Honoured for what he received; Honour has been the reward for what he gave.” So continue to be giving so that you will receive in due time. Remember it is not where you sow that

you reap; it is what you sow my fellow fathers. We must remember that there is an expectation regarding our role, thus as father’s according to Walter Schirra “we don’t raise heroes and heroines we raise sons and daughters and if we treat them as sons and daughters they will turn out to be heroes and heroines in our own eyes.”

Thus make the effort to be there to see them grow and to bring them up. Abraham Lincoln (16th US President) once said, obviously adapting it from the Good Book,

“there is only one way to bring up a child in the way he should go and that is to travel that way yourself.” Bring yourself up to the mark by traveling with them and showing them the better way in a broken world with all its challenges, pressures and distractions. Whatever way you choose to travel with them as parent-father is the way to their destiny.

As we all advance in time at a different rhythm in our respective lives I have recognised that the first great gift we can bestow as fathers is a good example. That my daughter Sara demands that her father be celebrated on mothers’ day, is a great honour to me.

This is not about being more holy than righteous or a paragon of virtue, for all our righteousness are filthy rags and I am always mindful that mine stinks, so I spend a lot of time and effort on clean-up. It is about you and me in Michael Jackson’s “man in the mirror” as well as Charles Horton Cooley’s

“looking glass self” as the latter pertains to our families, which we need to relate with in these serious times as we see ourselves as men in their perceptions of us.

Let us be sure about our fatherhood more so to be sure about it in our **BEHAVING** lest God **ALMIGHTY** turns his face in anger further from us. There is a time and season for **BEHAVING** right and now is the time!

### 3. We must be deliberate about our BEHAVING:

- Living a transparent life
- Displaying upright moral conduct
- Having a healthy, hearty and hopefully holy routine, and
- Leading and encouraging from the front

Finally, there was once a time when Fatherhood was only about men, only men can be fathering and become and be fathers, no more. Today we operate against the **BACKDROP OF HUMAN SEXUALITY** – We’re in that muddled zone, which we are still trying to come to terms with as fathers and men. It is not about how we respond to this reality and its challenges but about how we think transformatively about ourselves to strengthen what



remains of the gender role we must perform and restore ground lost due to our acts of commission and omission.

As the Good Book says as it was in the beginning so shall it be in the end. The world, in the essence of the mind of man has not changed – man had a DNA spelt out Disobedient Naked Afraid when the great Father asked Adam: “a weh yuh deh”? – Adam where are you? His response was I am naked and hiding. It is still a question of locating the man and more so in this time when the “garden” is a complex and complicated phenomenon with myriad dimensions. For the woman “a wah yuh duh”? – What have you done? Those are still the enduring questions to generic man and woman we have come to know, traditionally.

In closing, I also reflect upon my 1970s school boy athletic hero, Bruce Jenner, the 1972 Olympic champion decathlete to see in 2015 he is the reassigned Caitlyn Jenner. The new normal of exalting sexual attraction, sexual appetite, sexual appearance, sexual activity and sexual alternatives to the normal are all here with us. As I continue to close with a mix of Guyanese parlance so whither the “maan a maan, maan nah tobacca stick?” How “meh go sing me kweh kweh” about who “lay down and who nah function, wah kine a ????? is dat? We’re in a gender sensitive world to be mindful of.

Thinking and reflecting on fatherhood has truly challenged my scope of reflection. Is father a man??? What is Happy Father’s day in the 21st century? Did the inventors and promoters of this day perceive of this diverse 21st century father? However, in exercising my constitutional right of free speech I do believe that it takes a man to be a special dad in the process of fathering for effective fatherhood.

**My friends let us each be a man of substance not only a Family Anchor That Holds Everyone Resolutely!  
Be Disciplined Affectionate Determined to lead.**

Today we honour good fathers who having BECOME, having BEEN and having BEHAVED, have been TRUE ANCHORS for their families giving of their time, talent, treasure and tolerance to ensure a better life for their children. Thus, as the Good Book said of one commandment with a promise: honour your father (and mother) that your days may be long upon the land ... So even as we celebrate Fatherhood we acknowledge and appreciate our own fathers; but most of all our children, not forgetting our wives, mothers, sisters, aunts who help to enhance our relevance, significance and roles by what we do to bring honour to ourselves.

God Bless You!

### *About Michael Emanuel Scott (PhD)*

Married for over 30 years, a parent, grandparent and an educator and social scientist with a working career of over 40 years spanning the worlds of teaching, research, regional examination assessment, public management, academic institutional management and social science assessments and audits of forests and education institutions.



*Michael E. Scott, PhD*

Current Deputy Vice Chancellor Designate for Academic Engagement, Former Dean (2005-2010) and Director of Graduate Studies (1997-2002 and 2003-2005), current lecturer, Department of Government and International Affairs (1996-present) of the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Guyana. Former Academic Board member of the Commonwealth of Learning (2007-2010), a visiting lecturer to Clarke Atlanta University - Morehouse and Spellman Colleges (2002) and a member of the ACU Fellows Network on Governance.

An Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) Post-Doctoral Fellow in Governance and Visiting Fellow to the Political Economy Research Centre, Sheffield University (2003). A PhD Graduate of University of London in Social Sciences and Administration 1995; MA Graduate University of Sheffield in Methods of Analysis in International Studies 1991; A British Council Graduate Scholarship awardee 1989. BSocSc University of Guyana, Sociology (Distinction) 1984; and Grade 1 Class 1 Trained Teacher, Cyril Potter College of Education 1977.

An author and co-author of in excess of twenty five scholarly publications in books, journal articles, book reviews, working papers, conference papers on governance and the public sector; other publications including requested journal articles in other areas of interest, essays and poetry on diverse subjects; and advisory reports for international development institutions.

The current Chairperson of the Inter-Ministry Committee on Social Cohesion in Guyana. An elected laity of the General Board, and the International Board of Education (overseeing 53 universities and tertiary level institutions worldwide) of the Global Nazarene Church. Also functions in an advisory capacity at the Regional, Field and District levels of the Nazarene Church. Current Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Caribbean Nazarene College in Trinidad and Tobago and a member of the Covenant of Christian Conduct (Global Nazarene Church) on Human Sexuality 2016.



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“If you’re always trying to be normal, you will never know how amazing you can be.”  
— Maya Angelou

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## Confronting the Challenges, Making a Difference: Education Resource Ambassadors Discuss UG

by Zina Edwards

*The Renaissance conference held at the Guyana Marriott Hotel and hosted by the Vice-Chancellor, University of Guyana, marked the beginning of a new and promising season for the University.*

A one-on-one chat with Professor Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, PhD, Vice-Chancellor (VC) revealed anticipation among many students and staff.

The main objectives of the conference were:

- To bring on board those who are in and out of Guyana, some of whom are alums of the University, by sharing the challenges facing the institution thus stimulating their contribution to a better UG;
- To enable people to see the university close up hence tours of both campuses;

In conceptualising the conference, the Vice-Chancellor envisioned a broad constituency, not confined to government, to take ownership of the immediate and future development of UG. In this context, he invited a group of 45 Guyanese who paid their own way from Canada, twelve different parts of the United States, Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago to be part of the conference. Media executives, technology professors and businessmen were among those who came not only because the Vice-Chancellor asked but because of the faith they have in his leadership. That signaled the beginning of the *Renaissance*, Professor Griffith opined.

“After our tour at both Tain and Turkeyen campuses there was an emotional session because persons did not believe the state the university is in. Much was discussed and a plan of action was put in place as the group is now aware of how much was broken for the university staff and infrastructure,” the VC expressed.

Particular areas of engagement expected include:

- Landscaping and enhanced conditions on the campuses
- Re-accreditation of the medical school
- Better equipment
- Salary increases for academic and non-academic staff

The VC, as the head of the institution, is boosting staff morale by connecting with them, a move he initiated by hosting UG’s Inaugural Fathers’ Day Brunch.

### HOW DID WE GET HERE?

“We got to this place because the university grew in student body but it did not grow in the commensurate support for lecturers, for the support staff, and facilities, and financial support for the university has been significantly lacking over the years,” said Vice-Chancellor Griffith.



*Zina Edwards holds a Diploma in Communication Studies from the UG Centre for Communication Studies (UGCCS) and is a prospective graduate of the B.Soc Sc. (Communication Studies) class of 2016.*

*Invitees and Scenes from the First Education Resource Ambassadors Conference*





# Education Resource Ambassadors Commit to UG

## *Press Release - UG Public Relations Division*

Contributions of cash, scholarships and pledges totaling over US\$70,000 dollars or 14.5 million Guyana dollars were among the major outcomes of the first University of Guyana Education Resource Ambassadors Conference, which concluded successfully at the Guyana Marriott Hotel on Saturday, June 25. The three-day conference was held under the theme “Dreaming Resources, Doing Resources”. Participants made a considerable tangible display of passion and concern with their support. This level of fund-raising is expected to continue with several local and international initiatives as part of the strategic resourcing for the University.

This initiative of Professor Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, PhD, the 10th Vice Chancellor of The University of Guyana, was aimed at offering some key domestic and Diaspora stakeholders a first-hand view of some of the challenges facing The University of Guyana, including but not limited to, institutional, infrastructural, and technology systems, finance and human resources.

The programme included visits to the Tain and Turkeyen Campuses, as well as plenary and breakout sessions at the Marriott Hotel, where presentations were made by a mix of overseas and locally-based Guyanese alumni and friends of the University. The Conference helped stakeholders to identify immediate, short, and long-term contributions and the realities facing the institution.

In response to the invitation by the Vice-Chancellor, 45 high-level Guyanese in education, medicine, media, and industry from across the Diaspora (Barbados, Canada, Grenada, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States of America), paid their own way to join around 60 local participants in the ground-breaking event, which saw a groundswell of appreciation for the challenges that the national university faces in the production of quality graduates to support the nation's development.

Apart from the money raised, several important initiatives emerged from the two-day exercise including the adoption of a resolution which called upon the government to provide emergency funding to arrest any further deterioration of the University. The conference also highlighted the importance of identifying tangible ways for various parties to resource the university, such as providing technical support by way of policy, programme and protocol development to strengthen the governance and accountability systems in the University. Moreover, it addressed matters of plant, equipment and faculties' development, academic and administrative staff development, student support and development and institutional partnerships.

Professor Ivelaw Griffith, in acknowledging the resounding success of the initiative intoned, “The renaissance of the nation's University has begun. We are happy that this was achieved through embracing both the challenges and the various strengths we have in Guyana and at the university”. From here moving forward it must be ‘I for UG, U for UG, We all for UG!’

As part of the renaissance, the Vice Chancellor envisages re-kindling dormant partnerships and pursuing new ones. In this respect two agreements were signed with the Institute of Applied Science and Technology (IAST); one renewing an existing partnership and another that establishes a new partnership in housing for foreign visiting lecturers and scholars. As well, the title of Education Resource Ambassador was conferred on each conference delegate, with an instrument of appointment signed by the Vice-Chancellor and bearing the university seal.

The first conference of Education Resource Ambassadors facilitated the cultivation of a sense of collective ownership in the welfare of The University of Guyana by those stakeholders and it demonstrated the willingness of persons to contribute to the restoration of the institution's academic credibility and financial stability. During the concluding session of the conference, Professor Griffith announced that a follow-up conference will be held in about a year's time, to coincide with his installation as Vice-Chancellor and Principal.

*Participants of the First Education Resource Ambassadors Conference*





# Resolution to the Government of Guyana

Marriott Hotel, Georgetown, Guyana

June 25, 2016



From left: Hon. Dr Rupert Roopnarine, Minister of Education and Vice-Chancellor  
Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, PhD

*Education Resource Ambassadors adopted a Resolution calling on the Government of Guyana to provide emergency funding to reverse the imminent collapse of the institution.*

Whereas the University of Guyana is the only national university in the nation and must become a source of national pride

Whereas the University was woefully underfunded in the past

Whereas the Educational Resource Ambassadors visited the Turkeyen and Tain Campuses and were dismayed and deeply troubled at the degradation and neglect of the institution

Whereas the landscape and physical infrastructure of the Turkeyen Campus have critically deteriorated

Whereas the health and safety of students, faculty and staff are threatened by mold and unsafe buildings  
Whereas faculty and staff are woefully underpaid, demotivated and constrained to work in poor conditions

Whereas the University is seriously underprovided with materials, equipment and technologies necessary for its effective functioning

Whereas the students are being made to attend a substandard institution

Whereas numerous members of the Government, political opposition, private, public sector officials and civil society are distinguished alumni and faculty of the University of Guyana

Whereas the President and Minister of Education publicly pledged adequate and sustained funding for the restoration of the national University, now therefore

Having regard to the fact that successive Governments and Presidents have defined the University of Guyana as a strategic national treasure

Be it resolved that the University of Guyana Educational Resource Ambassadors hereby call on the Government of Guyana to provide emergency funding to arrest the further deterioration of the University without further delay.





# Education Resource Ambassadors

Below is the list of the Education Resource Ambassadors who adopted the Resolution to the Government of Guyana.

1. Dr Ronald Aaron, University of Guyana
2. Mr Vincent Alexander, Ministry of Education
3. Mr Donald Ainsworth, National Community Development Council
4. Ms Claudette Austin, University of Guyana
5. Mr Calvin Bernard, University of Guyana
6. Rear Admiral Gary Best, Ministry of the Presidency
7. Ms Natalya Bobb-Semple, University of Guyana
8. Mr Owen Bovell, University of Guyana
9. Dr Hector Butts, Ministry of Finance
10. Dr Elroy Charles, University of Guyana
11. Ms Shabakie Fernandes, American International School of Medicine
12. Mr Gerry Gouveia, Roraima Duke Lodge
13. Dr Keisha Holder, University of Guyana
14. Mr Rayman Khan, University of Guyana
15. Ms Debra Lowe, University of Guyana
16. Dr Suresh Narine, Institute of Applied Science and Technology
17. Dr Carl Niamatali, Guyana Cancer Prevention Society
18. Dr Bridget Ogowewo, University of Guyana
19. Ms Sarah Parris, Citizens Bank
20. Ms Paulette Paul, University of Guyana
21. Dr Michael Scott, University of Guyana
22. Major General Joseph Singh, Ministry of the Presidency
23. Mr Komal Singh, Gaico Construction Inc.
24. Ms Elena Trim, University of Guyana
25. Dr Grantley Walrond, Reunion Gold Corporation
26. Mr Colin Welch, University of South Carolina
27. Dr Vincent Adams, United States Department of Energy
28. Dr Simone Alexander, Seton Hall University
29. Dr Omowale Amuleru-Marshall, St George's University
30. Dr Terrence Blackman, Medgar Evers College, CUNY
31. Dr Lloyd Blenman, University of North Carolina- Charlotte
32. Dr Walter Campbell, Orange Board of Education NJ, USA
33. Dr Sandra Canterbury, Atlanta City Schools
34. Mr Selwyn Collins, Conversations with Selwyn (CWS), USA
35. Dr Kofi Dalrymple, Algenol Biotech



36. Dr Donna Danns, University of North Georgia
37. Dr George Danns, University of North Georgia
38. Ms Marilyn Farley-Thompson, DeKalb County School System
39. Mr Volville Forsythe, Caribbean Development Bank
40. Mr Ian Hall, ATISS
41. Mr Bruce Haynes, University of Guyana
42. Mr Colin Haynes, Diamond Diagnostic Centre
43. Prof Floyd Haynes, University of The District of Columbia
44. Prof Percy Hintzen, University of California, Berkeley / Florida International University
45. Dr Gregory James, Jaros Baum & Bolles (JBB)
46. Mr Peter Nigel Killikelly, Dock Media Group Inc.
47. Mr Arnold King, The Caribbean and Floridian Association, Inc.
48. Dr Mark Kirton, The University of the West Indies, St Augustine
49. Prof Jason Mars, University of Michigan
50. Prof Norman Munroe, Florida International University
51. Dr Dhanpaul Narine, NYC Department of Education
52. Dr Kimani Nehusi, Temple University, Tshwane University of Technology
53. Mr Desmond Prass, Desmond G Prass CPA PLLC
54. Mr Bernard Rollins, City of Newark, New Jersey
55. Ms Patsy Russell, CUSO International
56. Ms Allison Skeete-Hadaway, Consolidated Edison
57. Mr Philip Smith, Guardian Life Insurance Co.
58. Mr Godfrey Statia, Statia CPA PA
59. Dr Egar Stewart, Stewart Engineering Services PLLC
60. Mr Paul Nehru Tennessee, University of District of Columbia
61. Dr Desmond Thomas, Retired IDB Economist
62. Prof Ewart Thomas, Stanford University
63. Dr Kelwyn Thomas, Morehouse School of Medicine
64. Mr Colin Westmoreland, Roraima Consulting Inc.
65. Dr Conrad Wilson, Springlake Animal Hospital
66. Dr Leon Wilson, Alabama State University
67. Dr William Wilson, University of the West Indies
68. Dr Fitzgerald Yaw, Statistics Canada
69. Dr Paloma Mohamed, University of Guyana
70. Ms Carolyn Walcott, University of Guyana



# Moving the University Forward

by Zina Edwards

“As a staff member at the University of Guyana, I believe that this conference was timely. The Vice-Chancellor took that bold step to involve others to bring a wide diversity of views and to involve others who can commit to the University to improve its present state,” said Bruce Haynes.

Haynes said that apart from the facilities which could be greatly improved, many staff members are demoralised and demotivated. These feelings are shared not only among the academic and administrative staff, but more so among those who do the menial work, who can be considered to be the least paid, and most overworked.

For the UG Workers’ Union President, the conference was an amazing opportunity to get staff members informed and involved in moving the university forward. He added that areas like Occupational Health and Safety need to be put in the forefront. The Union President further stated that it was a step in the right direction that a team came from the Diaspora to see the University in its present state instead of them having a “sugar coated” view of the intuition.

## WHAT BRUCE HAYNES LOOKS FORWARD TO IN THE “NEAR” FUTURE

- More pledges in the short term to fix some of the working conditions.
- Occupational Health and Safety Officer for the University and the requirements for OHS at the level it should be.
- More interactions with all staff members, which the Vice-Chancellor has already started.
- Health of the staff members should always be at the top of the list.
- Keeping staff informed about developments at the university and letting them know they matter, should be on the cards.

# Inaugural Turkeyen Talks

by Zina Edwards

The University of Guyana (UG), in fulfilling its mandate to drive informed discussions on pertinent current and looming national and international issues, responded to the BREXIT issue in its inaugural Turkeyen Talks, on Tuesday, July 12, 2016. The forum, held from 18:00 h to 21:00 h at Duke Lodge, High Street, Kingston, Georgetown, was the first event the University organized to contribute to the growing international discussion.

The distinguished and knowledgeable panelists addressed the topic ‘Britain, the EU and the Rest of the World: A Reality Check’. Panelists included Prof. Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, PhD, Vice-Chancellor, UG; Dr Thomas Singh, Senior Lecturer, Department of Economics, UG; H.E. James G. Quinn, High Commissioner of the United Kingdom to Guyana; Ambassador Colin Granderson, Assistant Secretary-General, Directorate for Foreign and Community Relations, CARICOM; Ms Pat Bacchus, CEO Caribbean Containers and Chair of GoINVEST; and the Hon. Carl B. Greenidge, Vice-President and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guyana.

Turkeyen Talks and Tain Talks are among the first outreach initiatives of The University of Guyana’s Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof. Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, PhD. The initiative follows the highly successful first conference of Education Resource Ambassadors held June 24-25, 2016 at the Guyana Marriott Hotel. This initiative is intended to be a series of responsive fora seeking to forge meaningful, solution-oriented dialogue between the University community and other communities in Guyana.

Turkeyen and Tain Talks Two (2) will be held on September 12, 2016 from 17:00 h to 19:00 h at Duke Lodge, Kingston, Georgetown. A distinguished and knowledgeable panel will discuss the topic “Guyanese Lives Matter, Mental Health Matters: *Preventing Suicide in Guyana.*”

For inquiries please contact the University of Guyana on 592-222-3583. Visit our youtube channel and facebook page to view videos and images from Turkeyen Talks (July 12, 2016 forum):  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNga\\_3itQ891GXgjlH62hA?spfreload=10](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNga_3itQ891GXgjlH62hA?spfreload=10)  
[https://www.facebook.com/ugturkeyencampus/photos/?tab=album&album\\_id=10154349608944283](https://www.facebook.com/ugturkeyencampus/photos/?tab=album&album_id=10154349608944283)



## What Students Should Know About Their Students' Society

"I would boil it down to three main points:"

Ron Glasgow, President of The University of Guyana Students' Society (UGSS).

- **Student representation and empowerment**

"We are here and exist solely for the representation and empowerment of students," Glasgow emphatically stated. He noted that the society's role in representing students is not limited to those who voted his group into office. "Students need not be in a state of apathy when they are robbed of a certain rights on this campus. Representation is readily available."

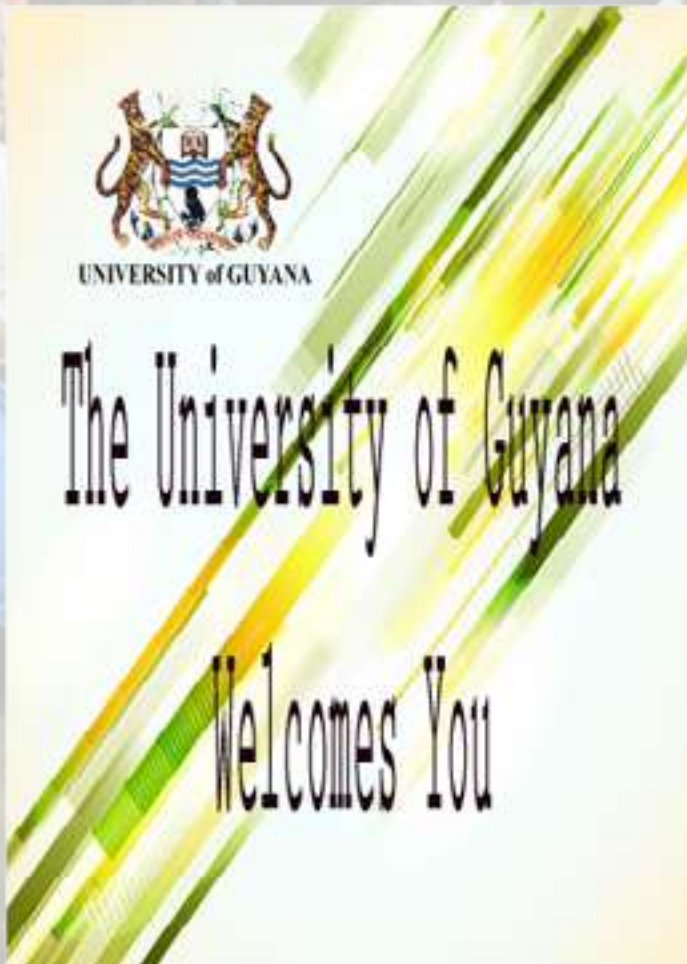
- **Shared Ideas for Enhanced Campus Experience**

"Too often, when the Students' Society executives gain office, they are not given a clear image of what students really want on campus," expressed Glasgow. He added that this produces decisions taken out of the judgement of the executive body, which sometimes disregards the desires of the students. The UGSS therefore will seek the input of the students on campus so they can undertake projects that will benefit the campus on the social, academic and physical levels.

- **United We Stand, Divided We fall**

The mantra of togetherness is foremost on the mind of this new leader who believes "Only together can we make a difference on this Campus. Our stakeholder group, the students, is the largest stakeholder group of this University. Without us, there is no University and we should work together towards the single purpose of having a great experience on this Campus." He recognised that the UGSS may sometimes "fall short" of that purpose but stressed that the Society will be resolute in leading that campaign to represent students. Students have a right and obligation to suggest improvement, serve and share their talents in pushing UG to greater heights.

The UGSS office is located on the ground floor of the University of Guyana Learning Room (UGLR), formerly Spicy Dish Canteen.





## Professor Ivelaw Griffith: A Vice Chancellor with a Difference!



by Dr Dhanpaul Narine

My first headmaster was Mr Cedric Vernon Nunes at Vergenoegen Government School. He was calm, caring, compassionate and inclusive. Mr Nunes was also a visionary. As a Minister of Education his dream was to bring higher education to all Guyanese. He worked hard with Dr Cheddi Jagan, Dr Fenton Ramsahoye, and others, to found the University of Guyana.

Our Tenth Vice-Chancellor of the University of Guyana, Professor Ivelaw Griffith, embodies the vision of Mr Nunes and all those that want our University to serve Guyana. It is no accident that Professor Griffith is an alumni of the University of Guyana.

Professor Ivelaw Griffith is eminently qualified to be our Vice-Chancellor. He has run universities in North America and they thrived under his leadership. Here is an example: York College in New York is part of the CUNY system. The student population is diverse and a good portion is from the Caribbean community, including Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica, among other places.

Under Professor Griffith's leadership standards rose among the 8000-odd student population and the students and staff there remember fondly his caring and mentorship at York College. It is this same care, compassion, and the ability to get things done, that Professor Griffith brings to the University of Guyana.

A key objective of our Vice Chancellor is to take the University to the community. This creates a sense of ownership but it also says that the University is firmly grounded in the people. In this regard there is much scope for UG to work with the school system to produce quality entrants that are versed in the STEAM subjects.

A people's University puts on its agenda the pressing problems of the day. In the case of Guyana there is good reason to study the high incidence of traffic accidents, crime, suicide, AIDS and other social and economic issues. Our Vice-Chancellor is committed to these studies and under

his leadership UG will produce quality research from which practical policy applications can be derived.

There is also the need to study the environment and UG's function as a bridge-builder in Guyana and the Caribbean. The discovery of oil in Guyana means that UG should be prepared to play a prominent role to embrace new geological frontiers.

Professor Griffith has asked us to stretch, to aim high, and never to be comfortable with mediocrity. He wants to brand the university, to use technology to do business and to work for the re-accreditation of the medical school.

Professor Griffith is leading by example. He dreams big and opens his eyes to make those dreams towers of excellence. Our Vice-Chancellor was instrumental in organizing a Father's Day Breakfast, the Resource Ambassadors Conference, 'Turkeyen Talks' and the e-newsletter 'Renaissance' in only the first few weeks of his administration!

Professor Griffith wants 'an architecture of governance' in which there is respect for each other. The Vice Chancellor is aware of the hard work put in by the teachers, students and staff and the need for them to be treated with respect and value. He has put in place arrangements to honor the intellectual giants of the university. They are Professors Mary Noel Menezes, Clive Y. Thomas, Ulric Trotz, Perry Mars and steps will be taken to fill the Walter Rodney Chair.

As our Vice-Chancellor proceeds to bring about much needed reforms, transparency, accountability and integrity are his guiding lights. The jig has shaken the loom and we no longer stare hesitantly at the river's edge. Professor Griffith wants us involved; with his vision and our help we will show the world what Guyana's sons and daughters can be!

*Dr Dhanpaul Narine is a UG Ambassdor and UG alumnus. He is also an educator, writer, TV host and a religious and civic leader in New York.*



## Renaissance

*Office of the Vice-Chancellor, The University of Guyana*

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