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UG's Faculty of Social Sciences Honours Top Achievers for 2023

... Vice-Chancellor Underlines Importance of Social Scientists in the Country's Development

The University of Guyana's Faculty of Social Sciences (FSS), on November 29, 2023, hosted its Annual Prize Giving and Awards Ceremony at the university's Education Lecture Theatre, Turkeyen Campus. The activity, which is now in its third year, is organised to recognise the outstanding performances of students, both graduating and continuing, in the various programmes within the Faculty.

Vice-Chancellor of the University of Guyana, Prof. Paloma Mohamed Martin, in her remarks via video, thanked the leadership of the Faculty, including Dean Diana DaSilva Glasgow, for organising the event noting that it will serve to motivate other students to work hard towards achieving their goals.

In congratulating the awardees, the VC pointed to the importance of social scientists in the further advancement of the university, our communities and country as a whole. "The importance of Social Science in the management of social policy, coordination of relationships and functions in society especially at this time cannot be overstated," she said.

Head of the UG's Department of Law, Justice Kenneth Benjamin, in delivering the feature address congratulated all the awardees and wished them well in their future endeavours.

Speaking to the awardees directly, Justice Benjamin said: "You have been equipped with the tools and have demonstrated that you are worthy and capable of striving for excellence....The first thing you need to do is to be prepared to work just as hard as you have done to earn your rewards."

Justice Benjamin noted that there will be pitfalls and disappointments along the path to a successful life "but I would suggest to you that your experience at the University of Guyana has prepared you for that...What has been entrusted to you is to think logically, analyse situations and forge solutions."



The Republic Bank Chairman’s Award for the best graduating student in the Faculty of Social Sciences, was presented to Mr. Khushal Singh who is also this year’s Valedictorian. The award was presented by Mr. Stephen Grell, Managing Director of Republic Bank Ltd.

Several outstanding performers walked away with various awards and prizes. The Faculty’s coveted prize; The Republic Bank Chairman’s Award for the best graduating student in the Faculty of Social Sciences, was presented to Mr. Khushal Singh who is also this year’s Valedictorian. Mr. Singh completed a Bachelor of Social Science degree in Public Management with a perfect 4.0 GPA. The award was presented to Mr. Singh by Mr. Stephen Grell, Managing Director of Republic Bank Ltd.

A new award was created to recognise the second best graduating student in the Faculty of Social Sciences. This award was sponsored by the Centre for Local Business Development

(CLBD) and presented by Director of the Centre, Dr. Natasha Gaskin-Peters to Ms. Oshana Gale who completed a Bachelor of Social Science degree in Social Work with a 4.0 GPA.



Prize winners of the 2023 UG's Faculty of Social Sciences' Prize Giving and Awards Ceremony pose for a photo op. after the event.

Additionally, there were several other awards presented to the top performers (highest GPA) across all departments. The Clive Y Thomas prize for the best graduating Economics student was presented to Mr. Hans Dominic Gaskin who secured a 3.9 GPA. Mr Gaskin also received the Cyril Solomon Memorial Prize for the best graduating Labour Economics, Applied Microeconomics and Applied Econometrics student. The Cyril Solomon prize is sponsored by the family of the late Dr. Cyril Solomon. Joel Walcott secured the Professor Lloyd Blenman Award for Excellence and Leadership in the field of Economics which was sponsored by the Blenman family and presented by Delonte DeClou, nephew of the late Professor Blenman.

For the Department of Sociology, Ms. Oshana Gale secured the Sybil Patterson award which is presented to the Best Social Work Graduate and sponsored by the Guyana Association of Professional Social Workers (GAPSW) and was presented by the President of GAPSW, Mrs. Debbie Hopkinson. The Student Social Work Association of Guyana (SSWAG) also presented an award to Ms. Gale in honour of being the best graduating undergraduate student with a Bachelor of Social Science in Social Work. Teshana Fraser secured the Professor George Ken Danns Award for the best graduating Sociology student. The Head of Department medal for the second best graduating students in the Bachelor of Social Work and Bachelor of Sociology went respectively to Ms. Schedelia Hodge and Ms. Chelsea Chapman.

In the Centre for Communication Studies (CCS), the Shirley Alma Paul and Paulette Paul Memorial Award was presented to the best graduating Bachelor of Social Science Communication Studies student, Ms. Akima Bacchus. The award was presented by daughter of the late Paulette Paul, Ms. Aisha Jones and sponsored by Ambassador Michael Brotherson, Guyana's Consul General to New York. The Forsythe-Roath award for the best graduating student in the Diploma in Communication Studies was presented to Jordan Haniel Nelson, sponsored by Dr. Seeta Roath and presented by Ms. Wendy Hermonstine. The Centre also introduced two new undergraduate awards for the best graduating research student in the Bachelor of Communication Studies and the best Video Production student, both of which went to Ms. Abike Barker.

Corissa Adara McClure secured the Rashleigh Jackson Prize for the best graduating International Relations student which will be presented at a later date by Permanent Secretary Elisabeth Harper of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In the Law Department, Sarah Grannum secured the Guyana Women Lawyers Association (GWLA) book prize for the best graduating female law student. Head of the Association Ms. Genevieve Whyte-Head was present at the ceremony. Dionne Cockfield Douglas and Ruth Ann Wilson secured respectively, the Ian Chang prize for best performance in criminal and constitutional law. Kalina Bulkhan secured the Anne Blue memorial award for the best academic performance in the law programme after the second year in the Bachelor of Laws. Angel Stephens secured the Head of Department medal for the second best graduating Law student, and Reanna McGarrel secured the Ashton Chase memorial prize for the best graduating student in Employment Law.

New awards were introduced for postgraduate students including an award for the best graduating Master of Communication Studies student. This award was presented to Ms. Tusankine Francis-English, and the Centre's Master's Leadership Award (Communication Studies) presented to Ms. Yolanda Ward. Additionally, the Centre for Communication Studies handed out tokens of appreciation to all of its post-graduate students who had graduated from the programme in 2023. A new award was also presented to the best graduating Master of Social Work student, Ms. Roseita De Castro. Ms. De Castro received the Child Link Eminent Achievement Award which was sponsored by Child Link and presented by the Chairman of its board, Mr. Kosi John. The Guyana Association of Professional Social Workers (GAPSW) sponsored a new award for the Best Graduating Student Master of Science in Social Work which was also presented to Ms. Roseita Castro. The Student Social Work Association of Guyana (SSWAG) also presented an award for the Best Graduating Social Work student at the Associate Level to Ms. Russhell Primus who is a continuing student with the highest GPA and a member of SSWAG.

In the Commonwealth Master of Business Administration and Public Administration programs, awards were presented by Coordinator of the programmes, Dr. Duane Edwards to the best performing students for two cohorts, 2020 and 2021. The recipients were Ms. Yulette Park, Mr. Vickash Laljeit, Ms. Bibi Narine, Ms. Gyanpriya Maharaj and Ms. Tricia Blenman.



A section of the gathering at the Faculty of Social Sciences' Prize Giving and Awards Ceremony at the University's Education Lecture Theatre, Turkeyen Campus.

Some student associations presented awards to their members including the Economics Society (UGES) which presented the UGES award, the Fazil Award and the Steven Baldeo award for the best graduating Economics student who is also active in UGES to Mr. Joel Walcott; and the Steven Baldeo award to the second best and third best graduating students who are also members of the UGES to Ms. Celine Chase and Ms. Anjeli Surujpaul, respectively.

Continuing students with the highest and second highest GPAs in their respective programmes were also recognised through placement on the Dean's Honours List. The Dean's Honours List and the names of all prize winners are available on the Faculty's webpage: <https://fss.uog.edu.gy/deans-honors-list>

UG's 2023 Valedictorian, Mr Khushal Singh, in delivering the vote of thanks expressed gratitude to the University's administration, faculty and other support staff for their diligent efforts in ensuring students were given the necessary support to be successful. He encouraged continuing students to keep working hard to achieve the goals they set themselves.

Please visit the university's website <https://uog.edu.gy/> for more information on programmes and courses being offered and the application process.

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UG IN BRIEF

The University of Guyana, now in its 60th year, was founded in October 1963. “UG” as it is fondly referred to offers 160 plus programmes in over 60 disciplines in online, face-to-face or blended formats. UG delivers in a Guyana-based system across eight campuses. It is the largest, oldest, most advanced and only state University in Guyana with a student population of over 10,000.

“UG” has provided education, training and research for over 50,000 alumni over its 60-year history. UG’s national and global impact and footprint are significant. Its graduates have risen to populate the commanding heights of national, regional and international organisations of repute in over 150 different disciplines. The mission of the University is to discover, generate, disseminate and apply knowledge of the highest standard for the service of the community, the nation, and all mankind within an atmosphere of academic freedom, innovation and universal respect.

UG’s forward-thinking Blueprint 2040 is currently setting the course for the University’s future design and institutional response to the changing needs of Guyana, the region and the world. UG is currently celebrating its 60th anniversary and is stepping up its focus on becoming one of the leading and most sought-after educational institutions in the world for both staff and students.

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