

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Georgetown /Guyana/ University of Guyana/ February 17, 2024/

UG Honours Outstanding Athletes; Scholarships, Improved Sports Facilities, Robust Sports Policy among Initiatives to Push the Development of Sports

The University of Guyana recently hosted its Annual Sports Awards ceremony which saw several of the University's outstanding athletes being honoured for their grit, determination and drive to be on top of their game. During a simple ceremony hosted at the University's Education Lecture Theatre, Turkeyen Campus, several initiatives were laid out by the University's administration all aimed at seeing a strategic and more focused approach to the development of sports at the University.

UG's Vice-Chancellor Prof. Paloma Mohamed Martin congratulated all the athletes and urged them to keep aiming for high standards and to continue to represent their faculties, the university and country well. The VC said that in spite of limited resources, the university's administration will continue to engage with its various development partners to acquire the resources needed to ensure that athletes are afforded the opportunity to develop themselves both in sports and academics.



Prof Paloma Mohamed Martin (sitting centre front row), Board Member of the Regional Anti-Doping Organisation, Dr Karen Pilgrim (second from left front row) and other senior University officials pose for a photo op with the awardees.

The VC pointed to countries that are not so wealthy but they have managed to identify, groom, support and create athletes who excel internationally. "We just don't want to support athletes who are doing sports now, we want to make sure that we have an infrastructure, that we understand the infrastructure, the academic and policy architecture, and the way in which human beings who are

able to excel and do the things that these athletes are able to, and what kind of an enabling environment is required for them to do this”.

According to the VC, the University is actively looking at several initiatives to push the development of sports, these include; enhancing the physical conditions for sports on the University’s campuses, setting the policy architecture in place that would see all students who desire to develop themselves in sports get an equal opportunity to do so, and offering students scholarships to advance their academic endeavours.

UG’s Registrar, Dr Nigel Gravesande noted that sports at a tertiary educational institution such as UG requires broad collaboration with various stakeholders such as students, the administration of the university, coaches, the various national organisations, “all coming together in a synergistic fashion” to complement the efforts of the University. He said: “We are moving away from the notion that sports, once considered an extra curricula activity, is now being acknowledged by the administration and the students themselves, as being a vital component of a student’s holistic growth.”

Board Member of the Regional Anti-Doping Organisation and the evening’s Guest Speaker, Dr Karen Pilgrim underscored the importance of athletes being discipline in everything that they undertake and to balance well their academic and sports endeavours. Dr Pilgrim lauded the University for the actions it is taking to ensure that students are provided with the necessary support to succeed in sports and academics.

Head of the UG’s Sports Department, Jaime Skeete, offered congratulations and best wishes to the athletes and noted that the department will continue to work with the Registry’s Students Welfare Division to ensure that athletes are given the opportunities and support they need to develop themselves.

Please see below for the full Trophies and Medals List:

Inter-Faculty Cricket (Academic Year 2022 – 2023)

Winner: University of Guyana Berbice Campus

Runner-up: Faculty of Education and Humanities

Best Batsman: Philbert Wilburgh (UGBC)

Best Bowler: Davindranauth Sewnauth (UGBC)

Inter-Faculty Dominoes (Academic Year 2019 – 2020)

Winner: Faculty of Education and Humanities

Inter-Faculty Dominoes (Academic Year 2022 – 2023)

Winner: College of Behavioural Sciences and Research - (Orrinthia Bishop, Talecia Benn, Latoya Lopes, Keshone Marshall, Jeneisa Massiah, Jammal Whitehead)

Runner-up: University of Guyana Staff - Brian Williams, Philbert Clarke, Mark Scott, Evarad Semple, Melinda Williams, Devon Nurse, Renick Alleyne, Mitchroy Dennis

UoG King and Queen Chess Tournament (Academic Year 2022 – 2023)

Chess King

Winner - Keron Sandiford

Runner-up - Murphy Bagot

Chess Queen

Winner - Sasha Shariff

Runner-up - Britney Bovell

UoG King and Queen Scrabble Tournament (Academic Year 2022 – 2023)

Scrabble King

Winner- Joel Persaud

Runner-up - Kwasi Benjamin

Scrabble Queen

Winner - Cassidy Burnett

Runner-up - Bhomini Babulall

Outstanding Team Performance for Academic Year 2022 – 2023: University of Guyana Trojans Basketball Team

World University Games Chengdu Delegation: Certificate of Participation (Noalex Holder, Shimar Velloza, Elishaba Johnson, Niran Bissu, Leoni Adams, Malinda Williams)

University of Guyana Women in Sport Appreciation:

- Ruth Sanmoogan – ***Outstanding Contribution and Performance in Sports from 2017 – 2021***
- ***Female Participation in Sports*** Certificates – Odella Hilken and Keisha Higgins, Faculty of Education and Humanities

Please view the awards ceremony here: <https://youtu.be/9Dn6cWfzVkw>

The University of Guyana in Brief

The University of Guyana, the national University of Guyana, now in its 60th year, was founded in October 1963, three years before Guyana became independent. “UG” as it is fondly referred to offers over 160 distinct programmes in over 60 disciplines from certificates, Bachelor’s degrees, Master’s Degrees to Ph.D.’s. These programmes are offered online, face-to-face or in blended formats. UG delivers through a Guyana-based system across eight campuses. This includes its 35-year-old community-based institute for Distance and Continuing Education (IDCE) and the second major campus at Tain in Berbice celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2025. The University of Guyana’s student population is over 11,000.

Through its 8 Faculties, including an accredited College of Medical Sciences, School for Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation and the School for Earth and Environmental Sciences which is ranked # 5 globally, “UG” has provided education, training and research for over 60,000 alumni over its 60-year history with significant national and global impact. Other faculties include the Faculty of Engineering and Technology, The Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, The Faculty of Natural Sciences, The College of Behavioural Sciences and Research, The Faculty of Education and Humanities and the Faculty of Social Sciences. The University is also home to 10 Research Institutes including the internationally important Centre for Biodiversity, The Institute for Food and Nutrition Security, The Institute for Innovation, Research and Entrepreneurship, The Institute for Energy Diplomacy, The Green Institute, The Institute for Human Resiliency, Strategic Security and the Future, and the International Centre for Excellence in Early Childhood Education. The mission of the University of Guyana is to discover, generate, disseminate and apply knowledge of the highest standard for advancement of communities, the nation, and mankind within an

atmosphere of academic freedom, transparent accountability, pragmatic 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 with renewed focus on becoming the leading teaching and research University in Guyana. Visit UG at www.uog.edu.gy

-end-