



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

University of Guyana / Greater Georgetown / Guyana / Saturday, April 1, 2023

### ***UG to Host 2<sup>nd</sup> Diaspora Conference on May 8-10, 2023, Under the Theme: "Calling 592: Honouring, Researching, Reigniting Diaspora"***

#### ***- Exciting Presentations and Fringe Events on the Cards***

The University of Guyana (UG), now in its 60<sup>th</sup> year, is set to host its 2nd Diaspora Conference at the Turkeyen Campus, Greater Georgetown, Guyana, during the period May 8-10, 2023 under the theme "Calling 592: Honouring, Researching, Reigniting Diaspora."

The Diaspora Conference is one of several signature events being hosted by the University this year to celebrate the institution's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It will provide a platform for academics and professionals, particularly those from the major capitals around the world with a large Guyanese diaspora presence, to engage in high-level discussions on the conference's sub-themes related to diaspora research and studies.

Participants of the conference are expected to benefit from innovative keynote, panel presentations and discussions on various sub-themes such as; Repositioning the Diaspora: Working across Spaces and Places; Reconceptualising the Diaspora: A paradigm shift; Diaspora and Intersections: Race, Class, Gender, Youth and Vulnerable Communities; Diaspora as Changemakers in their Community; Diaspora and the Future: Youth, Technology and Virtuality among others.

The conference is also expected to attract University of Guyana alums, numbering over 50,000 and spread worldwide.

The opening ceremony for the conference is scheduled for Monday, May 8, 2023, at 9:30 hrs.

Persons attending the Diaspora Conference can access discounted airline tickets offered by Caribbean Airlines at a discount of 10%. Details on this offer and how you may be able to access same are available at the Diaspora Conference website <https://ugdiasporaconference2023.com/> along with recommendations on hotels and group tours to some of Guyana's top tourist destinations.

Additionally, early bird registration fees are accessible until (April 7<sup>th</sup> 2023). For more information, please visit here: <https://ugdiasporaconference2023.com/>.

For a full list of events the University will be hosting in celebration of its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and how you can participate, please visit: <https://celebrateug60.com/>.



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Consistently we rise, changing the world in infinite ways

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# 2<sup>ND</sup> DIASPORA CONFERENCE

## Call for Papers

Conference theme: *Calling 592: Honouring, Researching, Reigniting Diaspora*

**May 8 - 10, 2023**

Venue: University of Guyana, Turkeyen, Guyana

The persistent migration and movement of communities of Guyanese and Caribbean Peoples to and from their perceived homelands, to other areas of the Caribbean, South and North America, Europe, and other areas of the world have become a defining feature of the late 20th and early 21st centuries. According to Forbes Magazine, Guyana, which today has one of the fastest growing economies in the world, remains at the top of the chart, as the country with the highest global migration rate. Guyana has produced distinct "diasporas" in major capitals. There are 'little Guyanas', some officially named as in New York City, and others that crept up and are noticed in Washington D.C, London, Suriname, Barbados, French Guiana, and Venezuela to name a few. Communities of Guyanese and Caribbean peoples such as in Brooklyn, Toronto, Brixton, and many other places are commonly referred to as the Guyanese and Caribbean Diasporas. In these and other places the home culture survives and thrives away from home.

As we approach the end of the first quarter of the 21st century, and Guyana's 57th independence anniversary on the cusp of several transformative possibilities, the time is ripe for us as a people to take stock, to connect and reconnect home and abroad. Accordingly, the University of Guyana celebrating 60 years this year and which pre-dates the formation of Guyana as an independent state has organised its second diaspora conference to provide a platform for discourses for participants from all relevant fields, professions, practices, and identities to shed light on the evolving meanings of the life of the diasporas, the contributions we can share with each other for mutual benefit, and ways in which we can foster sustained research and collaboration. Indeed the University of Guyana with its thousands of alumni all over the planet can be construed as having its very own diaspora consisting of its former students and faculty. We are therefore calling out to them too with this conference.

### For queries, kindly contact:

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- ✉ [ugdiasporaconference@uog.edu.gy](mailto:ugdiasporaconference@uog.edu.gy)
- 🌐 [www.ugdiasporaconference2023.com](http://www.ugdiasporaconference2023.com)

The conference organisers welcome proposals for presentations in a variety of formats: presentations, panels, workshops, group activities, films, posters, performances, etc. that fall under and address the following:

### SUBTHEMES:

#### Connections:

- Engaging with Diaspora in the Evolving "New" Norm
- Connecting, Building and Sustaining Diaspora Relationships
- Bodies with multiple 'homes'
- Expanding the borders of home
- Repositioning the diaspora: working across spaces and places

#### Definitions:

- Reconceptualising the diaspora: a paradigm shift
- What, Where, and Who are diaspora?

#### Reciprocal Opportunities / Diaspora -home relations

- Diaspora Studies and Research About Diaspora
- Reigniting The Diaspora: Research, Resilience and Sustainable Communities
- Migration, Diaspora and Citizenship
- Diaspora and intersections: race, class, gender, youth and specifically vulnerable communities

#### Diaspora and the Future

- Youth, Technology and Virtuality

#### Leading Lights

- Diaspora as Changemakers in their community

NB: We encourage submissions of thought-provoking and innovative proposals that will engage the minds and hearts of attendees at home and abroad. This conference is not one where presenters will only read their written work. Rather, we strongly encourage proposals and presentations that will give rise to and spur discussion and questions beyond reading their written presentations. And further, will plant the seed and give birth to exciting new ideas on the topic, and in small and big ways might lead to change in all our worlds for the better. **We strongly encourage youth and community-based organisations in our diaspora to submit proposals.**

### PROPOSALS: WHAT TO SEND

The aim of this collaborative networking event is to bring people together to encourage creative conversations about the future. As such we encourage proposals within the sub-themes listed above that you think will encourage discussions. But please feel free to enquire about any presentation you would like to make.

**150 word presentation proposals** should be submitted via email address [ugdiasporaconference@uog.edu.gy](mailto:ugdiasporaconference@uog.edu.gy)

Abstracts and proposals must be submitted in word format with the following information in this order:

- 1) Author(s)
- 2) Title of presentation
- 3) Relevant Subtheme as noted above
- 4) Affiliation as you would like it to appear in the conference program
- 5) Email address
- 6) Mailing Address/ Country of residence
- 7) Body of proposal presentation
- 8) Brief bio including a photo of the presenter

Emails should have the subject heading: PRESENTATION PROPOSAL - UG 2nd Diaspora Conference - YOUR NAME.

### IMPORTANT DATES

Submission Deadline	February 28, 2023
Notification of Acceptance	March 10, 2023
Registration Deadline	March 18, 2023
Full Presentation Draft	March 30, 2023

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## UG IN BRIEF

The University of Guyana, now in its 59th year, was founded in October 1963. "UG" as it is fondly referred to offers 150 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 59-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 will celebrate its 60th anniversary in 2023 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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