



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Georgetown /Guyana/ University of Guyana/Monday, July 15, 2024*

## **UG Library, Unicomer Collaborate on 2024 'Reading is Fun' Programme ...Some Forty Children Benefitting**

The University of Guyana, on Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup> launched its 2024 'Reading is Fun' programme at the University's Library on the Turkeyen Campus. This initiative which aims to support the development of children from surrounding communities, is being supported by Unicomer, in particular its Courts Optical Department.

During the launch of the programme, UG's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paloma Mohamed Martin, thanked Unicomer, formerly Courts, for its long-standing support, noting the company's swift response to the university's request for collaboration on the initiative. The VC highlighted that the university is extremely delighted to be offering this three-week reading programme to the students and expressed the hope that they will take full advantage of it to improve themselves. The VC further thanked the UG Library team for their dedication towards the project. She added: "We are deeply grateful to the parents for allowing their children to participate in this essential programme."

Courts Optical Chain Manager, Richard Simpson, echoed the same sentiments as the Vice-Chancellor emphasising the importance of supporting initiatives like this, noting that not many universities around the world undertake such efforts. "I am happy to be part of this initiative because of the value it brings to the children in the community," he said, applauding UG for the programme and pledging his team's continued support.

In addition to supporting the 'Reading is Fun' programme, Courts Optical will also provide free eye tests for all participating children.

UG's Chief Librarian, Mrs Gwyneth George in her remarks noted that the programme has been running for more than fifteen years and targets 'vulnerable children', particularly those between the ages of 5 and 13. She explained that while reading forms the core, the programme extends beyond literacy. There are other activities such as educational excursions, basic computer skills, and creative pursuits like poetry. The youngsters are grouped and guided by expert facilitators from the university's library. Some forty children are currently participating in the programme.

Meanwhile, a similar programme is being held at the University Tain Campus in which more than thirty children from surrounding communities are participating.

The University of Guyana looks ahead with pride at the programme's initial success and reaffirms its commitment to future initiatives aimed at enriching the lives of children across Guyana.

The programme will run for three (3) weeks up to July 26, 2024, at the Turkeyen Campus Library, University of Guyana.



*Last row from left: Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paloma Mohamed Martin; UG's Chief Librarian, Mrs Gwyneth George; second from right, Courts Optical Chain Manager, Mr Richard Simpson, along with other UG and Unicomer staff and some of the children who will be participating in this year's "Reading is Fun" Programme.*

### **About The University of Guyana:**

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, Diplomas, Associate Degrees, 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 academic divisions, including an accredited College of Medical Sciences, School of Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation and the Faculty of 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 Research, Innovation 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 the 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 a renewed focus on becoming the leading teaching and research University in Guyana. Visit UG at [www.uog.edu.gy](http://www.uog.edu.gy).

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