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# Dr John Edward Greene, a new UG Ambassador



Dr John Edward Greene, UN Secretary General's Special Envoy on HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean and UNAIDS Regional Director, receiving his diploma from UG Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ivelaw Griffith, at the induction of UG Education Resource Ambassadors in Maryland.



From left to right: Dr Riyad Insanally, Ambassador of Guyana to the US and the OAS; Dr Eddie Greene; Sir George Alleyne, Chancellor of UWI; UG Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ivelaw Griffith; businessman Ron Alert; and UG Ambassador and Economist Dr John Sumner, at a brunch at Dr Greene's residence in Maryland on October 2, 2016.

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# The VC Speaks

## A milestone week of first steps along Renaissance Road

*“A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step.” – Lao Tzu*

**T**he 12 words in the epigraph are as powerful now as when they first were penned in the 6th century BC by Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu. In this respect, I am confident that when the next chapter of the history of The University of Guyana (UG) shall have been written two or three decades from now, the authors will be obliged to deem the last week of October, 2016 — Sunday 23 to Saturday 29 — as “A milestone week of first steps along the transformational *Renaissance* road.”

The week began with the arrival from the United States of Dr Patrick Liverpool, the first foreign-based member of the team to study the feasibility of establishing a School of Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation, a key element of the *Renaissance* Matrix. Another first step was taken the following day with the arrival, also from the United States, of Sumner Hutcheson III, a fundraising consultant with extensive experience at the Red Cross and at several universities. I invited Sumner to help us position ourselves to enhance our philanthropic and alumni engagement.

Both Dr Liverpool and Mr Hutcheson were my guests on Tuesday at another crucial first step along *Renaissance* road: a special meeting of the Academic Board that I convened to discuss branding and merchandising, with presentations by several vendors. We heard from Dock Media, which is led by our own UG Ambassador Nigel Killikelly, and Jackson Jewelers, the head of which is Mr Dean Jackson. Another company, Impressions, will present their proposal in early November.

Wednesday marked another first step — the departure of Ms Paulette Henry, Deputy Director of the Berbice Campus, for Carlton University in Canada, where the Council of Undergraduate Research (CUR), the leading international organization on undergraduate research, was running an Institute on Initiating and Sustaining Undergraduate Research Programs. Ms Henry has agreed to serve as part of the core leadership team of our Undergraduate Research Program, which will be led by Mathematician Dr Troy Thomas, and she was the first colleague to be sponsored to participate in one of the CUR Institutes.

The seventh international members of the feasibility study team, which is headed by Dr Edward Davis, Dean of the School of Business at Clark Atlanta University in the USA, also arrived on Wednesday. Later that evening, I hosted a welcome reception for the team to meet and interact with business leaders, diplomats, government and UG personnel, and civic leaders. Honorable Dominic Gaskin, Minister of Business, attended and stressed the importance of our initiative during his remarks. Several new UG ambassadors were also inducted that evening.

Thursday was, perhaps, the most significant day of the week. Not only did the feasibility team begin its work in earnest, but it was our day to celebrate Professor Clive Yolande Thomas. We had a thought-provoking panel discussion on his “Work and Perspectives on Development” at the Turkeyen Campus. It was chaired by Head of our Department of Economics, Mr Sydney Armstrong, with presentations by Deputy Vice-Chancellor Dr Michael Scott; retired IADB Economist, Dr Desmond Thomas; and UG Economics Lecturer, Dr Thomas Singh.

This was followed, at the Pegasus Hotel, by a grand Inaugural C.Y. Thomas Distinguished Lecture, which entailed not only delivery of a sobering lecture on “Petroleum and Climate Change in Guyana’s Future” by Professor Jay Mandle of Colgate University in New York, but also the viewing of sections of a TV interview that enabled participants to gain insights into his humble social circumstances, his early educational journeys, his work as scholar, advocate and activist, and more. I hosted students from his high school — Queen’s College — at both events, to motivate them to emulate C.Y. and become giants, in their own rights, later.

As well, we gave him a gold UG pin as a token of appreciation and we mounted a display of some of his scholarly works. I also announced work in progress on the founding of the Clive Yolande Thomas Professorship in the Economic and Behavioral Sciences, for which I have already received one seven-figure Guyana dollar pledge. Moreover, I reported that Professor Compton Bourne, a former Chancellor of UG and a former President of the Caribbean Development Bank, had accepted my invitation to head the Advisory Committee to establish and manage the C.Y. Thomas Chair.

The feasibility team finalized its work on Friday afternoon and then hosted a press conference to share initial impressions and the work it anticipated doing, with a view to submitting a report with recommendations to me by next February. The week ended with a Brunch on Saturday that I hosted to enable some business leaders and influencers who were unable to attend one of the formal sessions to share their views with team members.

The significance of that October week lies not merely in the number of important and successful ventures we undertook, but in the fact that, recalling Lao Tzu, each of those events constitutes a significant first step along *Renaissance* Road. Together, the initiatives that these first steps launched will witness the creation of a respected and resourceful educational and economic enterprise of which all alumni, students, staff, government, and other stakeholders are proud.

Keep on keeping on!

Professor Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, B. Soc. Sci., MA, MPhil, Ph.D.  
Tenth Principal and Vice-Chancellor  
The University of Guyana



# Editor's Note



Denise Hopkinson-Braam  
Editor

Dear Readers,

The collaboration between the Office of the Vice-Chancellor and the Centre for Communication Studies (CCS) of The University of Guyana brings to you this third edition of *Renaissance*, a monthly newsletter. *Renaissance* is the Vice-Chancellor's medium of sharing with you our University's developments.

In this edition of *Renaissance*, we hope you feel as proud of our graduates' and lecturers' achievements as we do. The University of Guyana (UG) participated in this year's 13th Annual CANQATE Conference, which consisted of three days of seminars, panel discussions, and cultural activities. The conference covered a wide spectrum of quality assurance matters related to the issues of sustainability and development in the Caribbean region.

Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Dr Emanuel Cummings, and Medical Director, Dr Ronald Aaron, participated in the Beyond Flexner Conference in Miami, Florida. Equally impressive is Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, Mr Calvin Bernard's participation in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in Johannesburg, South Africa.

As Guyana celebrates its 50th year of Independence, it is quite fitting the country's most prestigious, tertiary institution celebrates its 50th Anniversary Convocation exercise. This year's graduation exercise is scheduled to be very special, with the feature address being delivered by Dr Vincent Adams, Guyanese born, engineering giant working in the US Department of Energy.

All these stories and more are creations of our CCS student interns attached to the publication. CCS is involved in training students in the art of print, radio, television and online journalism; public relations; communication research, and consultancy.

As you read, be inspired to join us as we celebrate  
UG's *Renaissance*!

# UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA

## Vice Chancellor's Fund for Strategic Initiatives

### Giving to UG

Supporting UG can be achieved through monetary donations/material contributions in the form of gifts and/or sponsorship(s)

#### THE PROCESS

**Send Cheques via Registered Post to**  
University of Guyana  
Turkeyen Campus  
Greater Georgetown  
Guyana

**All donations should be made out to**  
the University of Guyana

#### Accountability and Reporting

A receipt shall be issued when cheque or cash is received from donors

A certificate of contribution shall be issued for donors using the electrical transfer system

A register of donors will be maintained

Weekly report on cumulative donations received

Inform and update donors on use of funds

Donations deposited into accounts

Donations entered into ledger Accounts

And

Donations disclosed in Management Reports and Financial Statements

**Donations may also be sent electronically using the following**

Account name: University of Guyana

Foreign Exchange

Account #: 001-124-7

Bank Name and Address

Republic Bank Guyana ltd

38 Water Street

Robbstown, Georgetown

Bank swift/ABA/ Routing

**If Intermediary Bank Is Requested**

USA Bank of America

NY Branch, 100 West 33rd Street

New York 10001

ABA Code: 026009593

Swift Code: BOFAUS3N

Account#: 6550325990

**For further details and enquiries please email**

[donate@uog.edu.gy](mailto:donate@uog.edu.gy)

**For alumni membership and matters please email**

[alumni@uog.edu.gy](mailto:alumni@uog.edu.gy)



# University of Guyana

## 50<sup>th</sup> Graduation

A total of 1,628 students will graduate on Saturday November 12 from the University of Guyana (UG) as the country's leading tertiary education institution hosts its 50th Convocation at the Turkeyen Campus.

One notable milestone of the 50th Convocation will be the graduation of the first batch of students from four new programmes offered at the University in the Faculties of Health Sciences and Technology.

Six students will be conferred with the Master's Degree in Internal Medicine/ Infectious Diseases and an-

other six students will receive the Master's Degree in Public Health. Three students will graduate with the Bachelor of Science in Medical Rehabil-

itation; while **Dr Vincent Adams, who attended the university some 43 years ago, will deliver the keynote address** and UG's administrative staff will also be attending this milestone event. The 2016 valedictorian, Kibwey Peterkin from the School of Medicine, will receive the President's Medal for the Best Graduating Bachelor's Degree Student and the Prime Minister's Award for

Guyanese, Dr Vincent Adams, Deputy Field Manager in the US Department of Energy, who attended the university some 43 years ago, will

deliver the keynote address; while, special invitees such as H.E. President David Granger, top government officials, members of the Opposition,

and UG's administrative staff will also be attending this milestone event.

The 2016 valedictorian, Kibwey Peterkin from the School of Medicine, will receive the President's Medal for the Best Graduating Bachelor's Degree Student and the Prime Minister's Award for

the Best Graduating Student in the School of Medicine.

The ceremony will also be honoring graduates from all academic programmes in the seven faculties: Agriculture and Forestry, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Education and Humanities, Health Sciences, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, Technology and the Institute of Distance and Continuing Education (IDCE). Those graduating will be conferred with master's and bachelor's degrees, associate degrees, diplomas, and certificates.

## List of Valedictorians 1967-2015

Year	Name	Faculty
1967	Mohamed Insanally	Faculty of Social Sciences
1968	Philip Chan	Faculty of Social Sciences
1969	Ahamad Baksh	Faculty of Social Sciences
1970	Avril Eloise Crawford	Faculty of Arts
1971	Yvonne Justin Bickerton	Faculty of Social Sciences
1972	Dharamdeo Mathura	Faculty of Social Sciences
1973	Kenneth Sugrim	Faculty of Education
1974	Nandkumarie Balkaran	Faculty of Natural Sciences
1975	Sheik Mohamed Hanef Yusuf	Faculty of Natural Sciences
1976	Rosaline Fung	Faculty of Arts
1977	James G. Rose	Faculty of Arts
1978	Frederick Kissoon	Faculty of Arts
1979	George Olinpke	Faculty of Education



1980	Davenand Jadesh Ramnarine	Faculty of Social Sciences
1981	William Wilson	Faculty of Technology
1982	Kiran Rohra	Faculty of Technology
1983	Sonia Isaacs	Faculty of Social Sciences
1984	Alim A. Hosein	Faculty of Arts
1985	Tulsienandan Mahadeo	Faculty of Technology
1986	Dindyal Permual	Faculty of Agriculture
1987	David Singh	Faculty of Natural Sciences
1988	Earl Lancaster	Faculty of Technology
1989	Elizabeth Ramlall	Faculty of Social Sciences
1990	David A. Granger	Faculty of Social Sciences
1990	Marilyn Persico	Faculty of Arts
1991	Edrisa M. Witter-George	Faculty of Social Sciences
1992	Shryayanti Persaud	Faculty of Social Sciences
1993	Raymond Trotz	Faculty of Arts
1994	Everlyn DeFreitas	Faculty of Social Sciences
1995	Hansel Paul D'Ornellas	Faculty of Technology
1996	Raymond Brewster	Faculty of Arts
1996	Jaiwanttie Anganu	Faculty of Social Sciences
1997	Julie Matthews	Faculty of Social Sciences
1998	Davina Jagdeo	Faculty of Natural Sciences
1999	Jennifer Cumberbatch	Faculty of Education
2000	Malcolm Williams	Faculty of Natural Sciences
2001	Mwangala Liayo Simamba	Faculty of Social Sciences
2002	John Everton Forde	Faculty of Social Sciences
2003	Rafael Abdulla	Faculty of Technology
2004	Kris Andre Dover	Faculty of Natural Sciences
2005	Omar Sherif Khan	Faculty of Natural Sciences
2006	Sharon Wilson	Faculty of Education
2007	Dionne Vanessa Frank	Faculty of Social Sciences
2008	Khafka Khadine Alexander	Faculty of Social Sciences
2009	Loria-Mae Heywood	Faculty of Social Sciences
2010	Michael George	Faculty of Natural Sciences
2011	Vineeta Persaud	Faculty of Natural Sciences
2012	Safrawz Ben Hassan Sharief	Faculty of Technology
2013	Eileen Selina Marray	Faculty of Social Sciences
2014	Joel Samuel Joseph	Faculty of Social Sciences
2015	Sachin Ramsuran	Faculty of Technology

# University of Guyana's Tain Campus hosts Turkeyen and Tain Talks 3 A focus on agriculture in Berbice

Agriculture is a nation's backbone. It is the primary human necessity which sustains the population with its numerous agricultural cultivations. The planting of subsistence crops and cash crops, even the growing of rice, sugar cane and fruits, production of sugar, yam and wheat, rearing of livestock, and the produces made from agricultural products in the Region Six area for human consumption, all must be pervasive in abundance for food productivity and food security to be definite and the cultivations must be harnessed for profitability of various natures. This helps to paint the "green" picture which Guyana's Berbice area is communally and nationally known as. In observance of Agriculture Month, celebrated annually during September, the University of Guyana's Turkeyen and Tain Talks 3 was held on October, 2016 at the University's Tain Campus, under the theme 'Farming, Profitability and Food Security: A focus on Berbice.'

The event was largely well received, especially by local farmers and academics in the Agricultural field. The proceedings discussed were centered on the area's Agricultural sector and where it stands and themed Agricultural presentations on farming, food profitability, and security were officiated by brief remarks from the Minister of Business, Honorable Hans Dominic Gaskin, along with five panelists: Professor Subramanian Gomathinayam, Director of University of Guyana's Tain Campus; Mr Mahendra Persaud, Plant Breeder and Chief Scientist of the Guyana Rice Development Board; Mr Rajindra Persaud, the Director of Nand Persaud Group of Companies; Ms Crandon, Agricultural Science Teacher at the East Canje Secondary School; and Mr Gavindra Ramnarine, Head of Research at the Guyana Sugar Corporation.

Berbice is deemed one of the country's Agricultural capitals with rice, sugar, fruits, fish rearing, and livestock contributing a large portion to Guyana's export market and constituting a sound percentage of its residents' economic income. According to Mr Persaud in his presenta-

tion, more than seventy percent (70%) of rice production in Guyana is done in Berbice. He noted further that for 2016 the area has experienced a forty-one percent (41%) increase in area Agricultural food productivity compared to previous years. In a field that requires human labor, resources, and business initiatives to thrive, opportunities in various aspects in the farming arena for people, particularly youths, are limitless. Honorable Minister Dominic Gaskin spoke about the importance of sustainability in farming as a business and alluded that farming must be met with dedication. He added that people should stretch beyond their comfort zones to gain these opportunities because these endless prospects do not reside in a comfort zone. He stressed further that hard labor and serious work are requisites in the process to turn farming into a substantial profitable business, which in turn can help to create other jobs, lead to economical development, and provide resources to better the nation.

***"The price of food follows the price of fuel."***

***– Mr Rajindra Persaud***

In addition, Mr Persaud presented his view on the agricultural theme but, with rice production being his core context, said that everyone needs food and food markets to help reinforce food security by selling foods at affordable prices for everyone. Nand Persaud and Company's Karibee Rice has been a Guyanese household name. One of the main reasons his family ventured into Agriculture (rice production) is because of concerns at the rate the world population is growing and a fear of global starvation. He stated that during the years in study it became noticeable that the price of food follows the price of fuel.

To support this claim is the 2007-2008 global food insecurity crisis that was experienced after there was a drastic increase in food prices. This resulted in economical

and political turmoil for many countries, particularly poor and developing countries. The primary cause of the food insecurity was due to rising oil prices that resulted in increased prices for fertilizers, pesticides, and in turn food. In late 2008-2009, fuel prices decreased and subsequently food prices as well. Mr Persaud said that, after this spike, there is no need for fuel prices to go up and there is no need for food prices to go up either, so food security presently is constant. Furthermore, he highlighted a few challenges the overall farming sector is faced with, including the lack of adequate finances among small scale farmers who are dying out due to not being able to compete with financially stable large scale farming industries. Mr Persaud offered some advice to the farmers, especially the small scale and/or independent farmers, on how to achieve proper drainage, irrigation, and soil management.

***"Farming is a health generator and entrepreneurial enterprise." – Ms Crandon.***

In addition, Ms Crandon in her address raised a similar point on the need for farmers to utilize proper food management practices and to integrate soil management plans to boost plant fertility. She stressed on the dangers of spraying pesticides and how it is the main causal factor for many sicknesses residents face. She urged farmers and Agricultural businesses to adapt climate smart plans and to take into consideration when farming the scale of food production, its distribution, and how easily accessible the food market is for Berbice residents. She emphasized how hard it is for interior farmers to market their produce, with the lack of appropriate transportation, storage facilities, and land elevation, coupled with water shortages. She urged large businesses in the area and the government to take action and remedy the situation.

Mr Persaud, being the representative of a large scale farming company, spoke on how his company adapts to agriculture and the distribution of fertilizers and finance it makes to aid small scale farmers. He explained the roles of modernization: the use of aircrafts to spray fertilizers instead of manual bottle sprays, and mechanization: suitable equipment to cultivate produce in a timely fashion brings down prices play in assisting any agricultural business. Furthermore, Mr Gomathinayam explained the capacity to which soil and water management affects local produce in the area and the benefits of Agricultural produce to Guyanese.

Discussing another aspect of Agriculture in Berbice and Guyana holistically, Mr Ramnarine flipped the coin on Guyana’s farming and business industry and

the importation of internationally produced foods and produce from countries that are not agriculturally stable and which could instead be made locally to benefit Guyana. He shared an incident where he purchased a pack of plantain chips made in Costa Rica and how guilt stricken he became.

**“No matter how hard the economy is, no matter how hard things get, people have to eat.”**

– Mr Gavindra Ramnarine.

He added that marketing and advertising as well as packaging and distribution have major roles to play in an industry’s sale of foods. On the other hand, Ms Crandon believes that Berbice does not have a solid food security system. However, she is cer-

tain it can be achieved in the future.

All presenting parties shared the view that educational institutions play a key role in instilling the idea that agriculture is everyman’s craft, which results in a pocketful of wealth. They stated that Guyanese are assiduous people who need to be motivated and geared toward farming and food production to ensure food profitability and security in the Berbice area. Mr Persaud, in his address, noted that “schools need to explain the importance of farming to students so their interests in agriculture can be piqued.” He shared his beliefs that the University of Guyana needs to implement stringent plans to rethink its position in the agricultural sector in Guyana so that it will benefit Berbice and the entire Guyana in the years that follow.

Scenes from Turkeyen and Tain Talks 3 *A focus on agriculture in Berbice*



# BIO – Dr Vincent Adams

## Featured speaker, 2016 Turkeyen Convocation

This Guyana son excelled at sports at a young age, becoming the first from Linden to represent Guyana at cricket, while only a teenager. Unfortunately, at the tender age of 19, a very highly acclaimed cricketing career was ended by a car accident. Thus, Vincent Adams was forced to pursue academics and, in 1973, earned a B.Tech. Degree in Civil Eng., being in the first class of UG engineering graduates specifically trained to stand-up the Guyana Water Authority (GUYWA). After four years with GUYWA, he migrated to the US where he earned two MS Degrees in Hydrology, and Petroleum & Geological Engineering; and a PhD in Environmental Engineering.

However, Vincent's only dream was to play cricket for the West Indies. Alas, 10 years ago, this talented Guyana opening batsman travelled a long way from being just a poor little boy from Christianburg, Linden, to being sworn in as a member of the Senior Executive Corps, comprising the highest ranking civilians equivalent to the Army Generals, running the day-to-day operations of the US Government. For the past 30 years, with the US Department of Energy, he led technology development, and the decommissioning and dismantlement of the nation's nuclear weapons complexes.

As Deputy Field Manager, he currently manages the \$35 Billion projects in the states of Ohio and Kentucky. Other high level roles included standing-up and executing the Government's \$6 Billion Environmental Stimulus program; heading Engineering & Technology Development in managing over 20 world class national laboratories and universities; and leading the creation, curricula development, and execution of the STEM programs for nine US universities.

Dr Adams, aptly referred to by one writer as "A Guyanese Engineering Giant", commands the respect of his peers around the world. He serves as an expert to the International Atomic Energy Agency on project management, and technology and standards development for member nations. He was Chairman of two International Science & Engi-



*Dr Vincent Adams - Deputy Field Manager, US Department of Energy*

neering conferences; Chairman of the Southern Section of The Air & Waste Management Association, the pre-eminent environmental professional organization with over 10,000 members, internationally; and US Representative on the Nuclear Energy Agency for Economic Cooperation and Development Task Group for Recycling. He led technology development for protection of ports and highways from terrorists attacks and transformation of nuclear weapons technologies into applications for medicine, greenhouse gas curtailment, and fuel cells. He also developed the equations governing a state of the art air pollution control system. He led the transformation of two Federal Departments to becoming high performing organizations. As a Senior Petroleum Engineer with AMOCO Oil Company, he conducted discovery, reserve calculations, and extraction of oil & gas, including pioneering work that enhanced oil & gas recovery.

Despite the demands on his time, Dr Adams walks the talk when it comes to compassion and charity, especially in education of the young. No doubt grounded by his personal life, he passionately believes that no child should be denied an education because of the lack of means. You see, his mother

was never afforded the basic skills of reading and writing; so teachers and his "village", stepped up to guard his path towards a sound education. He recalls that once he was soundly whipped by a teacher for not placing better than third in his class. He constantly and humbly reminds all that he would not have been anywhere close to where he is without that "village" that raised and molded him, thus making it clear why he maintains such an abiding hands-on interest in Guyana, and why he feels so deeply obligated to now be part of that "village" in giving back, not only to his native land, but to all mankind.

Without hesitation, he acclaims his biggest contributions to mankind to be his leadership in providing critical educational, medical and economic needs to his hometown of Linden, while Chairman of the Linden Fund USA for 13 years, and using his high office to transform the lives of so many in Tennessee, New York, and his home state of Ohio. As recognition, Dr Adams was accorded the prestigious President's Award from the Ohio School Board's Association for contributing the most to education in the State of OH in 2012, by his establishment of STEM programs, providing science & engineering career opportunities and exposures to thousands of students.

Dr Adams's life serves as a powerful symbol and motivator for other young Guyanese, and as a testimony that poverty is no barrier to reaching goals and ambitions, and every young man and woman in the Guyanese community must feel that they have a chance in life. He maintains great hope for Guyana's youths, and strongly believes that if he made it, they can too, once given the opportunity. He swears that Guyana has the potential to become the richest country on the planet. The West Indies did not lose a potentially great cricketer; the United States and the world gained a great humanitarian, scholar, engineer, and scientist.

# Professor Jaipaul Singh

## Speaker, Tain Campus Graduation

by Professor Jaipaul Singh



Professor Jaipaul Singh

I gained my BSc (Major Biology and Minor Chemistry) Degree from the University of Guyana in 1971. In September 1970, I started the Postgraduate Diploma in Science Education and Management and I was awarded with the diploma in 1972 from the University of Guyana. In 1974, I joined the University of St Andrews in Scotland, where I did my PhD for a thesis entitled "Evidence for the involvement of intracellular cyclic nucleotides in the control of myocardial con-

tractility". Following the PhD in 1978, I worked as a Research Fellow at the University of St Andrews (1978-1980); University of Dundee (1980-1981); and the University of Liverpool (1981-1984). I joined Preston Polytechnic (now University of Central Lancashire or UCLAN) in 1984. Throughout the years, I was promoted to Senior Lecturer (1986), Principal Lecturer (1988), Reader (1991) and, subsequently, to Professor (1993). In July 2011, I was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) from the University of Central Lancashire for a thesis entitled "Mechanism of secretory and contractile responses in tissues and cells of the body in health and disease".

**Publication and supervision:** I have published 23 reviews, 22 book chapters, over 185 original manuscripts, and 230 refereed abstracts. I have supervised 62 postgraduate research students successfully for PhD (42), MD (1), MPhil (2), and MSc by Research (17). Currently, I am supervising

three PhD students and one MSc by Research. I also examined over 55 postgraduate research students for the MSc by research, MPhil, MD and PhD. I am also the field editor for three scientific journals and a member of several professional scientific societies.

**Training:** Since 2002, I have been involved mainly with research and training of postgraduate research students in the School of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences (60 students) and the School of Forensic and Investigative Sciences (100+ students). As Research Degree Tutor (RDT), my responsibility is to recruit, admit and guide the postgraduate students throughout their research degree career with the help of their specific supervisors. I am responsible for all governance issues involve in research training, supervision, examination, and successful completion. I also collaborate with several research laboratories nationally and internationally.

**Personal:** I am married to my wife, Aileen, and I also have two adult children, Andrew and An-

gela, who are working and living in London. My son and his wife have a small daughter, Evie Singh.

**Research Interests:** I have published widely on the heart and exocrine glands. My primary research interest is on diabetes mellitus (both types 1 and 2), investigating how the disorder is inducing cardiomyopathy, neuropathy, and nephropathy. Linked to this is also other related interests in the roles of regular exercise, diet modification, and education to prevent, treat, and control diabetes. I have also worked on the beneficial effects of cinnamon and *Momordica charantia* (corilla or bitter melon) to treat diabetes mellitus. In doing these studies, we discovered that corilla could be used effectively to kill a number of different cancer cell types. Currently, we are trying to isolate and characterise the active anti-diabetic and anti-cancer compound (s) in corilla, investigating the therapeutic effects as single or combined therapy.

## UG's Feasibility Study Team for the Establishment of a School of Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation



UG's Feasibility Study Team poses with VC Griffith

The University of Guyana Feasibility Study Project for the establishment of a School of Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation Team was conducted during October 22-30, 2016. During this time the team met with the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith and facilitated working sessions with stakeholders at Duke Lodge, Georgetown.

# Cubana Disaster 40th Commemorative Ceremony

The 40th Anniversary Commemorative Ceremony of the Cubana Air Incident was held at the Cubana Air Disaster Monument on the Turkeyen Campus of the University of Guyana on the morn-

the western hemisphere. Four men were arrested in connection with the bombing and a trial was held in Venezuela. Freddy Lugo and Hernan Ricardo Lozano were sentenced to 20-year prison terms.

Orlando Bosch was acquitted and later moved to Miami, Florida. Luis Posada Carriles was held for eight years while awaiting sentencing but eventually fled. He later entered the USA illegally but was charged and eventually released in 2007 where he lives a free man.

In his address, President Granger said that Guyanese remember the victims of the bombing as they pay homage at the monument site. He remarked that small nation states have to consider the political cost of exercising their sovereignty, considering it was four Caribbean nation states that a number of years earlier had established ties with Cuba. In remembering the victims, he said, the present and future generations of Caribbean people can be spared the recurrence of these acts of terror.

The ceremony was chaired by UG alumna Michella Abraham-Alli and included participation by the military, prayers by representatives of the major religions, and the laying of wreaths by the President, the Cuban Ambassador, a representative of the Cuban Friendship Society, and a relative of one of the victims.



H.E. David Arthur Granger; Ministers of the Government; Speaker of the National Assembly; Members of Parliament; Ambassador of Cuba to Guyana, Julio González Marchante; Members of the Diplomatic Corps; and Vice-Chancellor and senior officials of UG at the 40th Anniversary Commemorative Ceremony of the Cubana Air Disaster.

ing of October 6, 2016. Present at the event was President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, H.E. David Arthur Granger; Ministers of Government; Speaker of the National Assembly; Members of Parliament; Ambassador of Cuba to Guyana, Julio González Marchante; Members of the Diplomatic Corps; relatives of victims of the incident; Vice-Chancellor and senior officials of the University of Guyana; and special invitees.

The Cubana Air Incident occurred on October 6, 1976 off the coast of Barbados when Cubana Airways Flight CU-455 Flight 455 was bombed, killing all 73 persons on board. Fifty-seven Cubans, eleven Guyanese, and five North Koreans were among the victims. The Guyanese were Raymond Persaud, Rawle Thomas, Jacqueline Williams, Rita Thomas, Harold Norton, Gordon Sobha, Ann Nelson, Margaret Bradshaw, Violet Thomas, Sabrina Harrypaul, and Seshnarine Kumar. The incident is considered as the first act of terrorism against civilian aviation in



President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, H.E. David Arthur Granger, placing a wreath at the Monument.



Cuba's Ambassador to Guyana, Julio González Marchante, speaking at the 40th Anniversary Commemorative Ceremony of Cubana's Air Disaster at the University of Guyana.



President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, H.E. David Arthur Granger, and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Guyana, Professor Ivelaw Griffith, greeting each other at the Cubana Monument, Turkeyen Campus.

# Molding better health care: *Professionals for better health care*

**'LET'S PREPARE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS FOR THE WORLD THAT EXISTS AND NOT FOR A PERFECT WORLD' - PEDRO GREER, FIU**

On September 19, 2016, Dr Emanuel Cummings, Dean Faculty of Health Sciences, and Dr Ronald Aaron, Medical Director, University of Guyana, attended the Beyond Flexner conference in Miami, Florida. The Beyond Flexner movement focuses on health equity and training health professionals as agents for a more equitable health care system. The conference was governed by the theme "Social Mission in Health Professional Education". The Beyond Flexner conference was a unique opportunity for Dr Cummings and Dr Aaron to learn more about the movement and how to integrate social mission into our teaching, learning, and practice at the University of Guyana.

In his report, Dr Cummings explained that the social mission of a Health Professional School is the contribution of the School in its mission, programs, and performance of its graduates, faculty and leadership to addressing the health disparities of the society in which it exists. This mission will be achieved through the promotion of cultural and accountability in health professional education that values health equity, raising public consciousness about the social mission, impacting future leaders' understanding and commitment to the social mission, creating social mission standards and matrices to augment mission

awareness at multiple levels, serving as a repository for strategies that advance social mission, supporting pathways to ensure a diverse workforce including leadership, enlarging similar and diverse perspectives, and being Regionally relevant.

His report went on to state the main ideas that came out of the conference. These included: the Mission Statements of Schools that offer

learning to achieve the best care for their patients and the communities in which they live and practice. Health professionals should be trained in this new model from the start of their educational experience, leading to true inter-professional education, with shared facilities and the same basic coursework. Additionally, there should be multiple entry and exit points that would provide flexibility and

in addition gender equity. The Social Medicine Curriculum must also be oriented around the needs of the community that it serves. All health care professionals should be exposed during their training to Epidemiology Biostatistics and Preventative Medicine and Research since they teach the fundamentals required for community based participatory research, including how to conduct needs assessment and design/ implement community projects addressing the social and economic determinants of health. The need to integrate learning by offering longitudinal integrated clerkships for clinical core training and replacing traditional block clerkships was also noted along with system based integrated Curriculum. The suggestion was also made to incorporate the principles of Patient Centered Medicine Home (PCMH) into the curriculum and provide scholarships for prospective students particularly from deprived communities.

The University must have a continuous engagement of both the surrounding communities as well as secondary schools. Medical Schools are now ranked based on the role that their curriculum plays in social mission.

This Beyond Flexner movement is one that will benefit the health care programs offered at the University of Guyana.



Caribbean Delegation to the Beyond Flexner Conference in Miami Florida

L to R - Ronaldo R, Drs Bassaw Bharat UWI- Mont Hope, Ronald Aaron UG, Tomlin Paul UWI- Mona, Aaron UG, Erica Wheeler PAHO/WHO- Barbados, Sandra Reid UWI-Mona, Jose Garcia Gutierrez PAHO/WHO Washington and Dr Emanuel Cummings UG

Medicine and Allied Health, which stated that a social mission agenda should be reflected. Health Care Professionals are critical in the elimination of the socioeconomic disparities that exist within our societies. The vision is that health care workforce is comprised of physicians and other professionals, all capable of assessing practice outcomes, identifying learning needs, and engaging in continuous

would allow health professionals to redirect their careers as their goals evolve. The primary health care approach in the delivery of curriculum of health care professionals should also be strengthened while students should be engaged in community based projects during the duration of their studies. Student population must be reflective of the ethnic, cultural, and economic environment in which it serves





THE UNIVERSITY of GUYANA

# Invitation

The Tenth Vice Chancellor of the University of Guyana

*Professor Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith*

requests the pleasure of your company at

## *Turkeyen & Tain Talks 4*

at which a distinguished and knowledgeable panel will address the topic:

*After Obama, More History: Implications of the  
US Elections for Guyana & the rest of the Western Hemisphere*

ADMISSION IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2016 | TIME: 18:00 - 20:00 HRS

VENUE: PEGASUS HOTEL, KINGSTON, GEORGETOWN | DRESS: BUSINESS

A COCKTAIL RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW

Please R.S.V.P to (592) 222-3583

This event will be streamed live at

<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/axKV4z8gjzH>



THE UNIVERSITY of GUYANA  
presents

## *Turkeyen & Tain Talks 4*

at which a distinguished and knowledgeable panel, featuring:

Professor Ivelaw L. Griffith

Vice Chancellor, The University of Guyana,

H.E. Mr Jean Ricot Dorneous

The Ambassador of the OAS in Guyana,

Ms. Queenela Cameron

Coordinator of the Department of Government and

International Relations, The University of Guyana,

Mr. Kadase Ceres

Former Coordinator of Department of Government and

International Relations, The University of Guyana,

H.E. Mr. Pierre Giroux

High Commissioner of Canada in Guyana,

*amongst others.*

will address the topic:

*After Obama, More History:  
Implications of the US Elections for Guyana  
& the rest of the Western Hemisphere*

18:00 - 20:00 hrs

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Pegasus Hotel, Kingston, Georgetown

Admission is **FREE** and open to the public

A COCKTAIL RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW

For information contact

The University of Guyana on #592-222-3583



**Save the Date: December 3, 2016**

*Sr. Mary Noel Menezes*  
Inaugural Distinguished  
Lecture

Venue: Herdmanston Lodge

66 Peter Rose & Anira St.  
Queenstown, Georgetown



UNIVERSITY of GUYANA

# International Convention of Wild Fauna and Flora

## *Guyana joins worldwide voices in the preservation of nature*

Every three years, representatives from nations around the world gather for the Conference of Parties (COP) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). At these high-level gatherings, scientists, managers and diplomats discuss how we as a people can ensure that nature is unthreatened by the international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants.

This year, the 17th CITES COP was held in Johannesburg, South Africa from September 24 to October 4 and saw participation by a delegation from Guyana. Though small, the three-person Guyanese delegation played a role in the conservation of nature by participating in the important discussions.

One of the members of the team was Mr Calvin Bernard, Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences at the University of Guyana. He participated in the CITES gathering in his capacity as the former Chairperson of the Wildlife Scientific Authority (WSA) Board of Guyana. Also part of the delegation were Minister of Indigenous People's Affairs, Sydney Allicock, who participated in a ministerial gathering before the actual convention, and Ms Alona-

Sankar, Head of the Wildlife Management Authority (WMA).

For Bernard, the convention, which was officially implemented in 1975, presented an opportunity for countries to have their voices heard in a decision making process which impacts on the livelihoods of their citizens and

and dependence on the trade in specimens of animals and plants.

"We are somewhat dependent on wildlife trading so, that being a part of the economy, we could not fully and actively participate in that trade if we were not a Party to CITES," Bernard said. He further said that, as a Party

principles of the convention but also have to do with you, the nation," Bernard emphasised. He continued, "That is essentially the basic thrust for participation of Guyana in CITES. Decisions of a COP are made largely by consensus but it could also come down to a vote and each Party has a vote when a decision is being made. So, when you're not there, you're giving up the opportunity to let your voice be heard, which could come back to haunt you."

At each meeting, the Parties convene to discuss critical issues in relation to the implementation of the convention. But all the work is not saved for every three years. Rather, there is a standing committee that meets much more frequently after the parties have given their general indications. There are also two related committees: an Animals Committee and a Plants Committee. Therefore, when the Parties actually meet, they do so to consider reports, working documents and proposals for species to be listed, up-listed or down-listed on the three appendices of the Convention.

CITES regulates trade by placing species into three appendices. Species in Appendix I are prohibited from commercial trade and may



*Calvin Bernard, Dean of the Natural Sciences Faculty and former Chairperson of the Wildlife Scientific Authority (WSA), during the recent CITES gathering (Earth Negotiations Bulletin photo)*

the survival of species within their domain. In regards to our country, CITES has been an outlet for discussion since Guyana joined in 1976.

According to Bernard, working along with CITES is important for Guyana because of its high biodiversity

to CITES, Guyana has certain responsibilities.

"We need to ensure that our interests are looked after. Even if you don't put up a proposal, you want to be there to have your voice heard on proposals in general that not only are in relation to the

only be traded for conservation or education purposes.

“These are species that have the highest risk of endangerment from trade or other pressures,” Bernard explained.

Species on Appendix II are those not presently threatened by extinction but for their trade must be regulated to avoid them being threatened by extinction in the future. The regulation of trade in these species includes the imposition of limits to the trade by establishing quotas. Appendix III contains species that are protected in at least one country which has asked other Parties to CITES to assist in the regulation of trade. With these species, trade is not regulated, but is nonetheless documented.

Bernard shared that, at the recently concluded Convention, there were concerns

raised on a number of species of flora and fauna, such as the peregrine falcon (heavily in demand for the sport of falconry), African lion and elephant, and rhinoceros. The species of most concern at this year’s convention was the pangolin, a scaled mammal found in Asia and Africa. Deemed as the world’s most hunted mammal, the pangolin is traded for its scales, which is believed to possess medicinal properties. All species of the pangolin are now listed on Appendix I of CITES.

While Guyana had no proposal at this year’s Convention, there were proposals considered that are of relevance to our country, Bernard said. One such proposal regarded the Rosewood. Rosewood species are generally used for the creation of musical instruments

and many of its species have been brought down to critical numbers, thus requiring regulation. Guyana has Rosewood species in small numbers and these species are not the ones of greatest concern. However, during this year’s Convention, all species of Rosewood that fall under the genus *Dalbergia* were listed under Appendix II. Another area of concern that affected Guyana was the addition of two species of sharks to Appendix II and the level of preparedness of Guyana to comply with the requirements of this listing given in particular the way in which the harvest of sharks is done in Guyana.

Meanwhile, Bernard opined that Guyana’s greatest challenge when it comes to wildlife trade is the gathering of pertinent data on species, such as accurate population estimates and knowledge of

population dynamics. “We do need to take a step forward on this. We do fairly well in monitoring and keeping down international illegal trade but we’re not currently managing local trade.” However, he projects that this will be addressed shortly.

Additionally, Bernard shared that the University of Guyana will be partnering with US Universities, including Texas Tech University and the University of Florida, in relation to improving and offering programmes in wildlife management, particularly in the areas of law enforcement of trade regulations. These partnerships will go a long way in bolstering the country’s capacities in wildlife management, Bernard said.



*Delegates of Committee I during the CITES gathering (Earth Negotiations Bulletin photo)*

# UG celebrates Archaeology Day 2016

## *Calls for greater public awareness on field*

The University of Guyana (UG) joined the world in celebrating International Archaeology Day 2016 with a simple yet informative exhibition on the Turkeyen Campus on October 14.

The exhibition, held under a tent between the UG Library and the Humanities Building, was organised by the Amerindian Research Unit (ARU) and saw visits by hundreds of students during the course of the day.

The primary objective of the observance was to bring public awareness to archaeology in Guyana, said Ms Louisa Dagers, Coordinator of the ARU. The exhibition was in collaboration with the observance's

Department.

Persons interested in gaining some knowledge in archaeology from UG can do so by earning an Associated Degree within the Anthropology Programme. Dagers explained that the programme captures some aspects of Linguistics, Cultural Anthropology, and Archaeology. The intent, she said, was to expose persons to the field before they progress to a degree programme either at UG, in Suriname, or at the University of the West Indies.

"We've been pushing for an Archaeology programme for probably the last five years at UG and we've always been undersubscribed," Dagers said. She added that, due to a

economies, intense logging, and mining there is a need to protect archaeological sites and us putting it out there lets people know the values of the sites and how they can contribute to our understanding of who we are and of the Indigenous peoples of Guyana," she explained.

She further said that archaeology is way more expansive than people often believe it to be. "This is not about prehistoric archaeology only; it also constitutes underwater archaeology, historical archaeology: everything from shipwrecks to these little [Dutch] bottles that you find; any building that is at least 50 years old, all come under historical archaeology and tell a story of our past and our ancestors. In some little way, we need to be cognizant of the importance of our culture and our heritage and protect it in any way we can and this is where the museum and the University can collaborate to make public awareness a focus."

She said too that a summer programme featuring an Introduction to Cultural Anthropology is hosted and interested persons can attain a Certificate of Participation. She said that the programme often receives participation from persons from Indigenous communities such as Aishalton and Lethem. Additionally, a Certificate of Par-



*A discovery made from an archaeological venture was on display*

ticipation in Archaeology from the summer Archaeology Field School is also available.

"This year, we were able to get some students from Belize. Because we are not able to run the full course [within the Anthropology Department], we take little parts of it and offer it just to get people exposed to it," Dagers said.

Dagers encouraged persons who are interested at all in archaeology to sign up for the University's Anthropology programme. She stressed that archaeology is constantly evolving and provides a link to both our past and future. "The thing with archaeology is that it's no longer a soft science; we've moved a lot from the exploration stage and from knowing generic writings and surveys. It's more leaning towards hard science now... Archaeology is now a big global community," she said.



*Students gather around for a demonstration of how an archaeological site is marked*

founder, the American Institute of Archaeology.

Dagers explained that, through her, UG was able to sign on to celebrate the annual event. She went on to say that the observance "promotes public awareness for archaeology and conservation of archaeological sites for archaeology globally".

According to Dagers, there is a need for public awareness and public support and policies for an improved Archaeology programme at the University of Guyana. Currently, studies related to archaeology fall under the University's Anthropology

low turnout by students for the Anthropology programme, it has never been able to proceed.

"This is pretty much the limbo we've been in so promoting archaeology in this way [the exhibition] is really fitting; we get to attract people...and maybe students would be persuaded to join the programme," she said. In a bid to arouse curiosity, the exhibition also featured a demonstration of a site marking for an archaeological venture.

Meanwhile, Dagers opined that there is a need for a cultural and archaeological policy in Guyana. "With growing

## A “people person” and defender of human rights: Alumni and GDF Chief of Staff, George Lewis

Being a “people person” and a strong advocate for people’s right, newly appointed Chief of Staff of the Guyana Defence Force and alumnus of the University of Guyana, Brigadier George Anthony Lewis believes providing a listening ear does more for a person rather than ignoring them.

The man of many words who always wears a smile shared that his influence comes from his parents, grandparents, and the church. With a strong Christian upbringing, he was taught to be honest regardless of the situation and that bad news never gets old with time, and coincidentally it’s what he lives by.

Brigadier Lewis, a father of two surviving children and husband to Albertine Lewis, was born at New Amsterdam in the ancient county of Berbice, where he was also educated. Graduating as best all rounder from the Berbice High School, he went on to the New Amsterdam Multilateral School where he completed what is now known as the Caribbean Proficiency Examination (CAPE).

Following this, his military career, which has spanned some thirty five years and counting, kicked off. Funnily enough, the military was not his calling; he was 19 years old when officers visited New Amsterdam. During the outreach, he was told that he should join the army. He was a bit hesitant but, being a person who loved challenges and the patriotism and nationalism behind the idea, he took the bait. There were also few job opportunities in those days.

Leaving his hometown, he ventured to the city for training as a cadet officer and, throughout the years, he moved up through the ranks and is proud to have reached the pinnacle of the organization. He says this is one achievement anyone in any organization can aim for.

Asked about his tertiary education, the Chief of Staff said it was something that came in its own time. While he had been applying for permission to attend the University of Guyana, many times his request was shot down. However, with advice he focused on other things.

Years later, his final attempt would prove success-



*GDF Chief of Staff, George Lewis is a “people person”*

ful. During the period 1999 to 2003, he read for his degree and, while it was a challenge,



*Through hard work and dedication, GDF Chief of Staff, George Lewis, has quickly risen through the ranks and stands as testament to those around him he persevered and graduated with distinction in the Public Management, Bachelor’s Degree Programme. He also holds a Master’s Degree in Human Resources Management from the University of Central Michigan, and has not hung up his gloves on future advancement of his studies.*

Being a helpful person, he says his passion has always been the development of housing and so, when the project for developing the joint service scheme located at Lamaha Springs arose, he immediately jumped at it. It is his belief that “A person with a roof over his/her head is an empowered person”.

As a military man, the job is a challenge he says, but you must be able to strike a balance between the job and family, and his family comes first. Most of his spare time is spent with his 17 year old daughter, ensuring that she has everything for school; he is also the handyman, “Mr Fix It”, around the house, he says.

His favorite quote, which

he himself came up, with is “Whatever the difficulty, whatever the challenge, it can be fixed.”

Through it all, “people” continuously give him the drive to continue doing what he loves, “I am most happy when I can look at someone and observe their development and know to myself that I would have been helpful and that I would have played a role in their development.”

Reflecting on his tenure, it is one he does not regret as he would have grown and developed and encouraged parents to persuade their child or children to join the military as it is seen as a stable institution that provides upward mobility.

Peering into his future, his intention is to successfully complete his tenure in the GDF. He also envisages writing a book, but what that book will be about is still to be known. The Chief of Staff is also anticipating a return to the University of Guyana, not as a student but as a lecturer, here again, for the development of people.

# A man who braved life's path to become successful

## *The story of Dr Troy Thomas*



Dr Troy Thomas

Dr Troy Thomas, Director of Undergraduate Research Program at UG, sits upright in an armchair behind his work desk, surrounded by a paradoxical environment that is empty but yet feels so laden with work. The office space adorned with a few chairs and his work equipment is painted with the inviting and complementary yellow, a brilliant, vibrant, and mysterious color that evokes a whirlwind of thoughts similar to the mathematical world filled of calculations. His attire - pinstripes and black - clearly defined his purpose to dedicate his abilities to educate and persistently serve the nation's future academics in order to gain fruitful outcomes. In addition, Dr Thomas' small frame managed to fill the atmosphere with its emanating meaningfulness which spoke without words that there was a story – his story – which needed to be implored upon.

Born in 1981 at the Wakenaam Hospital on the small island in the mighty Essequibo River, Dr Troy Thomas spent his childhood traversing between Wakenaam and the Es-

sequibo Coast where he was he garnered his secondary education at the Wakenaam Secondary School. He was birthed by Mr Harold Thomas, who was a farmer, and Ms Pamela Thomas who was a teacher at the secondary school in the

***“The work I do now is carried out so that my son can benefit from it in a number of ways, intellectually and instinctually, in the long run.”***

***- Dr Thomas***

area. Actually, he came as companionment to an older brother and a young sister. During his childhood, Dr Thomas shared with happiness bursting through his voice, that even though electricity and electronic devices were not prevalent in his home, he chose to engage in other meaningful mindboggling activities which helped to steer him onto the path he is on now. He and his siblings would often enjoy the great outdoors of the countryside despite the disagreements that came with

it. Moreover, after this period the entire family relocated to Georgetown, Guyana.

As his childhood progressed and young adulthood graced him, Dr Thomas offered that he never had any aspirations rooted in any definitive career path although his secondary level grades were excellent and should have prompted him to become career oriented in a single specific field. He shared that, “growing up in contemporary Guyana, like many people living in these areas, has now made me realize the thought of university rarely crossed my mind, simply because it seemed so far off.” He continued further that, “focusing on the broader picture of an unfortunate reality in many communities where the thought of higher education seems somewhat distant or not there at all.” However, throughout his youthful days, there were a number of people he admired and gained inspiration from to grow and become prosperous in life. These people

assiduously to finish any task given, whether it requires him to be the last one leaving the workroom. Also, he is an introvert who does not share the abundance of attention given to an extrovert. Certainly, when someone who is boisterous, outgoing and free-spirited enters a room, they command all of the attention. Dr Thomas shared he is someone who would usually not enter a room crowded with chattering people and blatantly silence them while commanding their utmost attention; what he might do is converse with a particular group in that room. An excellent listening ability is a trait of introversion Dr Thomas also possesses. He mentioned that he always pays keen attention to what other people are saying; even if it interrupts his gratification to something else, he would let them speak and intently analyze what they have to say, whether the spoken content is of substance or not.

Furthermore, after graduating from secondary school and spending a considerable amount of time in Georgetown, he returned to Wakenaam where he gave his teaching skills to the secondary school. Later, Dr Thomas went on to enhance his academic qualifications in Secondary Mathematics at the Cyril Potter College of Education and abroad. In addition, a former principal named Ms Savatri Balbahadur, who had always held him in her best of interests, played a role in his program of study at the University of Guyana. As a result, he chose the Mathematics program, which he later graduated from with a Bachelor of Science Degree (BSc), while copping the Best Graduating Mathematics Student award.

Currently, Dr Thomas is the Director of the Undergraduate Research Program at the University of Guyana. He relayed that, “this entails craft-

ing a vision, not individually but holistically, with the Vice Chancellor and other members of his department, to come up with a strategy of how they are going to function and implement an effective undergraduate program.” Dr Thomas added that since all the University’s faculties and programs are inclusive in this program, the collective involvement constitutes to some amount of complexity for it aims to include a variety of aspects. According to Dr Thomas, “the complexity arises when we have to come up with a plan that seamlessly integrates different aspects of various programs, which includes shaping themes departments can incorporate in the curriculums.” Additionally, he noted that while the multifaceted nature of the program and its complexity is inevitable, at the same time, it affords the crafters an opportunity to achieve new goals and objectives not existent and to help to improve undergraduate program results from over the years. Also, Dr Thomas is the current president of the Transparency Institute Guyana Incorporated which he noted “looks at transparency, accountability and corruption in the Guyanese society, and keeping track of what is going on in the government and private sector to be able to initiate appropriate change in that regard.”

Consequently, Dr Thomas has academic experiences spanning across various fields of study such as his involvement in the newly crafted Public Health Program in the Health Sciences faculty on the university’s campus, and he has also cooperated with the Computer Science and Biology departments at the university, serving in the capacity of a supervisor for graduate research. He has supervised other research at the Commonwealth MBA program.

Apart from being academically oriented, Dr Thomas spoke about what he deems as enjoyment. He is married and has a son who is approximately two and half years old, whom he aims to be a great father to. In respect to what he does for

relaxation, hobbies are sort of a far-off thought for him. In the past, Dr Thomas shared with elation, he enjoyed playing cricket, writing poetry, singing and going to gym. However, presently all of his enjoyable moments revolve around doing work and reading that work in his spared time to perfect it.

At this moment in his life, Dr Thomas stated he gains some level of enjoyment in the academic work that he does and the motivating drive that in the near future it would make him relevant any part of the world. He explained that his aim of all his research work “is not be recognized on a national and regional aspect only but rather to be recognized in a reputable man-

ner any part of the world [he] journeys to.” In addition, he immerses himself in his work to produce his best with hopes that one day when his son is old enough to understand the world and its intricate patterns, he will appreciate all of his father’s researches and academic papers. According to Dr Thomas, “the work I do now is carried out so that my son can benefit from it in a number of ways intellectually and instinctually in the long run.”

Without a doubt, Dr Troy Thomas has paved an academic path for many young Guyanese to pursue a career in Mathematics. He is the epitome of an individual who realized what he wanted to achieve in his life,

though not in his younger days, but nonetheless he assiduously worked toward what he wanted to accomplish choosing not to stop at no hindrance in life’s path.

Many of his past and present students, he shared, can attest to the fact that he has significantly impacted their lives with the mathematical and other educational knowledge he has imparted onto them. As he continues onward in his academic adventure, the thought of what follows plagues one’s mind as assurance runs deep he will definitely deliver an exceptional work to give him the international distinctiveness that can be engrained in the history encyclopedias.

## SAVE THE DATE! JULY 23<sup>RD</sup> TO 28<sup>TH</sup> 2017 GEORGETOWN, GUYANA



THE ONGOING UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA (UG) RENAISSANCE

*Dreaming Diaspora Engagement, Doing Diaspora Engagement*

ESTABLISHING A CARIBBEAN DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT CENTRE  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA AND HOSTING  
A FOUNDING CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE SESSIONS WOULD BE  
AROUND THE MAIN TOPICS OF:

HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION/UG,  
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# I AM UG

## – Metro Atlanta fundraiser for the University of Guyana

By Austin E Thompson, Jr, MBA, MPM

On Saturday, October 29, 2016, members of the Guyanese community from the Metro Atlanta area converged at the residence of Drs Conrad and Coreen Wilson in Conyers, GA for the “I am UG” Renaissance Fundraiser, with an abundance of food, camaraderie, and everyone enjoying a

with Guyanese in other geographic areas of the Diaspora, is doing its part to galvanize much needed support to assist our beloved national university.

The first conference theme, “Dreaming Resources, Doing Resources”, was befitting the purpose of this recent gathering in Atlanta.



Dr Paloma Mohamed, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Philanthropy for UG (2nd, left) with members of the Guyanese community from Metro Atlanta

pleasant atmosphere.

The event, first, was held to inform those who were not in attendance at the First Conference of Education Resource Ambassadors, about mobilizing time, talent, and treasure to facilitate opportunity and innovation at the University of Guyana, which was held on June 23 – 25, 2016 at the Marriott Hotel in Georgetown, Guyana. Second, and in addition to apprising everyone in attendance, we gathered as Guyanese concerned about the current state of UG to raise funds to be contributed toward the rehabilitation of UG. The Metro Atlanta Guyanese community, along

Moreover, it is befitting the many fundraisers which are organized among the Guyanese Diaspora to answer the call to facilitate the raising of much needed funds for the revitalization of UG and restoration of its brand as an esteemed and preminent educational institution in the Caribbean-South American region.

Dr Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, the 10th Vice-Chancellor of UG, challenged us as alumni, and as Guyanese, to stimulate a movement of responders who will work diligently to raise funds for UG’s resurgence, and, in this effort, reignite the passion of UG’s alumni, who are lead-

ing scholars within many notable disciplines around the globe. Dr Griffith is our champion, on whose shoulders this colossal undertaking is carried. Nonetheless, with a strong support network, we are all stakeholders, committed to seeing the resurgence of our national academic institution, The University of Guyana, with campuses in Berbice (Tain and Johns), and Turkeyen.

The effort held at the Wilson’s residence raised \$2,600 from 34 donors for the UG Renaissance Fund, with additional pledges forthcoming from those who were not in attendance. We were honoured to have the presence of Dr Paloma Mohamed, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Philanthropy for UG, who travelled from Guyana to be in attendance on the Vice-Chancellor’s behalf to deliver an eloquent keynote message on the im-

portant work we are doing to support this essential renaissance. These stakeholders, our Education Resource Ambassadors, donors, and supporters are making it possible for young people to have quality resources to enhance their academic experience, and for the university to provide much needed support to its staff, students, and the community at large.

Dr Griffith offers his immense thanks for all we are doing to make this mission come to fruition. *Dreaming resources, doing resources.* We are not only discussing what we should do, but we are taking necessary action to realize our goal.

*I am what I am, I am who I am, I am UG. Respect, I am UG. Renaissance!! Thank you.*



A section of the gathering at the “I am UG” Renaissance fundraiser



## UG participates in 13th annual CANQATE Conference

The University of Guyana (UG) had the largest representation of 40 persons at this year's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Caribbean Area Network for Quality Assurance in Tertiary Education (CANQATE) Conference. CANQATE was hosted by the National Accreditation Council, The Ministry of Education, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

Under the Theme, "Sustaining a Culture of Quality Assurance in Tertiary Education for National and Regional Development", CANQATE was hosted at the Arthur Chung Convention Centre in Liliendaal, Greater Georgetown, from October 4 – 6, 2016. UG's team represented each faculty from the Turkeyen and Tain campuses.

Among the seminar presentations, UG's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, delivered on the topic, "Civil Society as a Critical Stakeholder in Building and Sustaining a Culture of

on best practices of quality assurance in Jamaican and Trinidadian high schools and the University of the West Indies (St Augustine and Mona Campuses).

education settings, quality assurance challenges and strategies, the adoption of virtual learning environments, and a human resource development strategy with implications for quality assurance.



*The University of Guyana's representatives at this year's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual CANQATE Conference.*

Quality Assurance." Participants of the conference were exposed to seminar sessions

Additionally, discussions were held on the impact of workplace bullying in the culture and climate of higher

Representatives from Guyana, Jamaica, Belize, Canada, St Lucia, Suriname, Grenada, among other Caribbean nations, for the three day event, focused on quality assurance matters related to the issues of sustainability and development in the Caribbean region.

Regional and local representatives were treated to an Opening Ceremony at the National Cultural Centre, a Festival Night at the Umana Yana, and a trip to the Kaieteur Falls. The event culminated with a gala ceremony at the Pegasus Hotel.

## Notice

Issue 43 of the Transition Journal (2015) has been uploaded to the Institute of development Studies (IDS) website. The journal can be found at [idsguyana.org](http://idsguyana.org)

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### TRANSITION

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Journals of the Institute Of Development studies and the Faculty of Social Sciences

UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA TURKEYEN CAMPUS

# University of Guyana Turkeyen Campus Lions Club

The University of Guyana Turkeyen Campus Lions Club started meeting informally in July 2015 under the GT&T Benab on campus. Approximately one month after the informal meetings were held, nominations were made for the various club officers post subsequently followed by elections. See photo below of 1st Board of Directors for the Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

Demerara Lioness Lions Club assigned Ln. Mark Ross and Ln. Gillian Orderson as the Guiding Lions for the Uni-

versity of Guyana Turkeyen Campus Lions Club. In September 2015, University of Guyana appointed Mrs Nelsonia Persaud-Budhram as the Faculty Advisor for the Club.

The Club was chartered by the Demerara Lioness Lions Club on April 30, 2016 at the Georgetown Club. In attendance were Dr. Barbara Reynolds (DVC) and Dr. Nigel Gravesande (Registrar). The UG Turkeyen Campus Lions Club is open to all staff and current students pursuing studies at the University

of Guyana as well as students who have graduated in less than one year. Club meetings are on the 1st Monday of the month in Centre for Communication Studies Building in MO 1&2. Please note, however, that meeting time changes every semester because each semester members have varying schedules. Members are required to submit their free times and then a meeting time consensus is drawn.

On March 9, 2016, Lions Club International approved the University of Guyana Tur-

keyen Campus Lions Club.

The name Lions stands not only for fraternity, good fellowship, strength of character and purpose, but above all, its combination of L-I-O-N-S heralds to the country the true meaning of citizenship: LIBERTY, INTELLIGENCE, OUR NATION'S SAFETY.

To join the University of Guyana Turkeyen Campus Lions Club or for more information check our facebook page: UG Turkeyen Campus Lions Club.



From left to right: Members of the Demerara Lioness Lions Club: Charter Member Ln Carole Persaud, Membership Director - Ln Blossom Manbodbh-Samuels, 2nd Vice President Ln Mark Ross; Board Members of the UG Campus: Tamer - Romein Kadir, Secretary - Malisa Richards, 2nd Vice President - Tiffini Barton, President Elect - Keshan Takchandra, 1st Vice President - NathifaVictorine, Treasurer - Oksana Adams, Membership Director - Shivraj Balkissoon, President - Ln Cindy Bovell and Immediate Past President - Gillian Orderson at University of Guyana.





# Renaissance

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