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(Georgetown /Guyana/ University of Guyana/ January 20, 2024/UG Welcomes Back 31 PhD's under Donor Funded Advanced Scholar Programme – VC Says “Blessing to The University and the Nation”

“Blessing to UG and the Nation” – VC says as UG Welcomes Back 31 PhD's under Donor Funded Advanced Scholars Programme

The University of Guyana (UG) has received a substantial shot in the arm after 31 of its faculty members who were studying for their PhDs and Ed.Ds graduated in December 2023. The scholars from across UG's 8 Faculties and several service units are already back at the University carrying out teaching, research and administrative functions. The Advanced Scholars Programme which began in the 2018/2019 academic year and funded by the ExxonMobil Foundation was developed by the University of Guyana in a close collaboration with Arizona State University. The project also funded 3 Masters students. Six more doctoral scholars are expected to complete in the coming months.



The scholars posing for the photo op in Phoenix Arizona. Six scholars who could not attend the December ceremony in Pheonix Arizona are not captured in this photo.

See full video here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1veifOL2cfdIH-UW0_j1SzliY-xJyVyyw/view?usp=drive_link

The project was designed by then Deputy Vice Chancellor of The University of Guyana, Prof. Paloma Mohamed and Prof Gary Dirks of Arizona State University in the United States primarily to increase the number of teaching staff at the University who had terminal degrees (doctorates), by 30% by 2024, and to power up UG's research capacity.

Prof. Paloma Mohamed Martin, now Vice Chancellor has said the programme is “*a blessing to the University, our students and the country, since it will immediately increase the research output of the University, the quality of teaching, and also the fundamental levels of administration and service. This experience for these dedicated staff was meant to be more than an academic exercise. It was an experiential one which was critical to operating UG's Blueprint 2040. This goal has been achieved.*”

Prof. Dirks says “*the programme with UG was absolutely critical to ensuring that The University of Guyana is able to deal with the tsunami of developments which are about to descend upon the country. I was honoured to be part of this very, very important moment for UG and Guyana.*”

The University of Guyana's Advanced Scholar programme focused on action research on key problems located in all 10 regions of Guyana as well as the University of Guyana itself as a community of interest. Dissertations on sustainable agriculture and forestry, energy, education and indigenous communities, water and pollution, biodiversity, chemical and mechanical innovations and technologies, computing, labour economics, education, educational administration and support systems to name a few, were produced over 4 intense years of study and research.

Scholars under the project have so far published over 60 research papers. Two books and a conference on their work are currently in preparation and the project itself is being studied as a model system for rapid results use of the academy in sustainable development. The University of Guyana will be featuring one scholar and their work every week starting February 2024.

The University wishes to congratulate its scholars and their academic support teams and to thank ASU, ExxonMobil Foundation, the University of Guyana's support team, including all who contributed, covered teaching and administrative duties for their colleagues while they pursued their studies.

For a full report on this project please click here ; https://drive.google.com/file/d/1veifOL2cfdIH-UW0_j1SzliY-xJyVyyw/view?usp=drive_link

Also visit the University of Guyana's website: www.uog.edu.gy.

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