

Turkeyen and Tain Talks 9 **Constitutional Reform in Guyana**

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*Vice Chancellor's Dinner in
honour of Sir George Alleyne*

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The VC Speaks

“The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step.”– Lao Tzu

On Journeys and Dreams

This semester some 2,560 new students began their academic journeys with the first step in pursuing their dreams to secure knowledge reflected in their desired certificates, diplomas, and undergraduate and postgraduate degrees. Several hundred of them are starting their journeys with the 16 new programs launched this academic year, seven of which are in the newly-established School of Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation (SEBI).

All our 8,000-plus students, and especially the ones starting their journeys this year, should remember that the nature and quality of their input will help determine the nature and quality of the output at the end of their journeys. They cannot merely wish to have their diplomas and degrees; they must work for it. In this respect, values become important.

As students pursue their educational journeys, they should pay attention to three critical values: Excellence, Integrity, and Respect. As to the first value, they should remember the dictum of the Greek philosopher Aristotle: “We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, it is a habit.” Integrity also is important. Students must earn their course grades, and not cheat to get them. They should resist the temptation provided by technology to buy papers or to plagiarize, or to take away from the classrooms, labs, or the library items that are not theirs. Moreover, they should remember the value of Respect: for themselves, the academic and other staff, their classmates, and the environment.

Yet, new students and degree programs are not the only expression of Renaissance Dreams this academic year. Space permits mentioning just a few such. In this respect, I am delighted that Chancellor of the Judiciary Emeritus Carl Singh accepted my invitation to become the Inaugural Distinguished Jurist-in-Residence and Head of the Department of Law. I have great expectations that our Law Department will witness both substantive and symbolic enhancements. Furthermore, music icon Dave Martins joins us as Visiting Distinguished Artist-in-Residence.

Students completing their academic journeys this year also will witness some new things. For example, rather than having one lengthy Convocation ceremony at the Turkeyen Campus, we shall have two—on the same day, November 11—with both Convocation Addresses delivered by distinguished alumni; the morning one by educator and journalist Dr Dhanpaul Narine of New York, and the afternoon one by Ambassador Michael Ten-Pow, Guyana’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations. The ceremony at Tain, to be held the following week, also will feature a distinguished alumna—business executive Patricia Bacchus, who studied law.

Thus, we continue exciting journeys and dreams at UG as we build our Renaissance Bridge.

Keep on keeping on!



Professor Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, B. Soc. Sci., MA, MPhil, Ph.D.
Tenth Principal and Vice Chancellor



THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S SEPTEMBER QUOTE

"Dreams" by Langston Hughes

Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams
For when dreams go
Life is a barren field
Frozen with snow.



Editor's Note

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 Volume 2: No. 6 edition of Renaissance, a monthly newsletter. Renaissance is the Vice-Chancellor's medium of sharing with you our University's developments.

In the month of September the University was involved in many activities. Through the Office of PACE (Philanthropy, Alumni and Civic Engagement) we hosted another successful and well attended Turkeyen and Tain Talks which focused on Constitutional Reform in Guyana. The Office of PIE (Planning and International Engagement) hosted the Vice-Chancellor's Renaissance Lecture III, with feature speaker Sir George Alleyne, Director Emeritus, Pan American Health Organization.

In this edition take pleasure in viewing pictures from a number of Town Hall meetings, both at Turkeyen and Tain Campuses, and appreciation dinners for staff and Sir George Alleyne. Our University's alumni and friends in New York recently held their Inaugural Renaissance Gala. We hope you enjoy these and other scenes from the Guyana Cultural Association's Folk Festival, Family Fun Day and Kwe Kwe Night.

Additionally, the Minister of Public Telecommunications, Honourable Catherine Hughes, has been a faithful friend to UG. Through Minister Hughes' intervention the University will benefit from the promise of broadcast licenses and the donation of 278 chairs. The Centre for Communication Studies is particularly ecstatic about the promise of broadcast licenses for both radio and television and would like to thank Minister Hughes for her tremendous support and Professor Paloma Mohamed, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (PACE), for facilitating this venture. Certainly our students and the wider University community will be better positioned to serve the needs of our fellow Guyanese.

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



Denise Hopkinson-Braam
Editor

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
The University of Guyana
Turkeyen Campus
Greater Georgetown
Guyana

All donations should be made out to
The University of Guyana

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
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Robbstown, Georgetown
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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
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USA Bank of America
NY Branch, 100 West 33rd Street
New York 10001
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Swift Code: BOFAUS3N
Account#: 6550325990





Renaissance Scorecard- Top 25 Items

Year I (June 2016-July 2017)

1. Secured the reaccreditation of the School of Medicine.
2. Made the George Walcott Lecture Theatre (GWLT) & the Small Lecture Theatre (SLT) fully airconditioned, and installed new bathrooms in GWLT.
3. Boosted the WiFi access at Turkeyen, Tain, and Dennis Irvine Hall, put new PA systems in lecture halls, fixed furniture and put fans in classrooms.
4. Stopped wild horses, cows, and most dogs from roaming campus.
5. Modified the service hours of the Bursary, including opening on Saturdays.
6. Partnered with GTT to offer Mobile Money to enhance services to students.
7. Published Renaissance newsletter to showcase the work of students, staff, and alumni, and launched new website.
8. Held Race for PACE, which netted G\$4.1M for new Student Support Fund.
9. Signed MOUs with Movie Towne for solar energy production and student housing, with Ministry of Public Telecommunications on a range of benefits, and with Ministry of Natural Resources on funding support for several areas.
10. Inaugurated Distinguished Lecture Series to celebrate the work of Professor Clive Thomas, Professor Sister Noel Menezes, and Dr Ulric Neville Trotz and to inspire others to emulate their pursuit of excellence.
11. Increased tuition to help improve the fiscal condition of the university.
12. Used the VC Fund to provide G\$100,000 to each of 13 students and two staff members who were fire victims in Cummings Lodge in January 2017.
13. Secured a supplemental government subvention in 2016—the first time ever—and a 19.33 percent increase in recurrent funds in 2017 over 2016.
14. Hosted the First Education Resource Ambassadors conference, where we established the Vice Chancellor's Fund for Strategic Initiatives.
15. Restored the Walter Rodney Chair and began efforts to revive History.
16. Started an Etiquette Training Programme for Student Leaders; 56 student leaders were the first beneficiaries; paid for by VC Fund.
17. Started promotion of the Arts, including the appointment of Keith Waithe as the first Distinguished Visiting Artist-in-Residence since Martin Carter.
18. Began work on a new Students' Social Complex, extension of Agriculture and Forestry, a new Maintenance Complex, and repairs at Pere Street.
19. Reorganised the senior leadership, with the creation of DVCs for Academic Engagement; Planning and International Engagement; and Philanthropy, Alumni and Civic Engagement; and an Office of Strategic Initiatives.

20. Launched *Turkeyen & Tain Talks* as a bi-monthly series to facilitate discussions with the community on important subjects and the *Renaissance Lectures* for periodic discourse on crucial university issues.
21. Created the Undergraduate Research Programme, and hosted successful inaugural student research conferences at Turkeyen and Tain.
22. Formed the Alumni and Friends of UG in New York & New Jersey to rekindle alumni engagement and encourage support by non-graduates.
23. Established the School of Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation (SEBI).
24. Launched UG Press to help boost research and scholarship.
25. Hosted the historic—for both UG and Guyana—First Diaspora Engagement Conference, where we launched the Caribbean Diaspora Engagement Centre. The conference attracted 260 people from Guyana, Barbados, Grenada, St. Lucia, Ghana, Nigeria, Canada, Br. Virgin Islands, TNT, Jamaica, UK, and USA.

Major Year II Plans

1. Started the new academic year with 16 new degree programmes and 2,148 new students.
Note: registration continues until September 22.
2. Will have two graduation ceremonies at Turkeyen instead of one long one.
3. Will create a Task Force to examine conditions in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) and recommend improvements.
4. Dave Martins to serve as Distinguished Visiting Artist-in-Residence. Also, the Indian High Commissioner has agreed to support an important aspect.
5. Will host an academic commemoration of the birth centennial of President Cheddie Jagan, which is March 22, 2018.
6. Will work on a UG mobile app, branding, merchandising, & global outreach.
7. Start feasibility work on an Institute of Food and Nutrition Security.
8. Re-energise biodiversity teaching and research, and enhance relevant collaboration with the Ministry of the Presidency and Iwokrama.
9. Pursue maximum staff salary increases; performance/accountability is key.
10. Undertake costing of diplomas & degrees, and the economic impact of UG.
11. Do comprehensive review of the Law Department.
12. Appoint Dr Vince Adams as Visiting Distinguished Engineer-in-Residence
13. Change name of Faculty from Technology to Engineering & Technology.
14. Advance the planning for additional energy courses and programmes.
15. Appoint former Ag. Chancellor Carl Singh as inaugural Jurist-in-Residence.

**Office of the Vice-Chancellor
September 2017**

Vice-Chancellor's Dinner in honour of Sir George Alleyne

The University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ivelaw Griffith held a Business dinner at the Renaissance House hosting Sir George Alleyne on September 06, 2017.



The Faculty of Technology Launches New Programmes



The University of Guyana's Faculty of Technology is offering three (3) new programmes which will help students within the aviation and mining industry to better equip themselves.

The University of Guyana, in collaboration with Aviation Industry and in consultation with Guyana Civil Aviation Authorities, has developed a Certificate Programme in (Aviation Management). This new programme is in response to an identified aviation industry need. Aviation contributes to the socio-economic and cultural development of nations and can be used as a key driver for sustainable development in Guyana. With the exception of courses in specialized areas, such as piloting, aircraft maintenance and air control, there is no programme available in Guyana to provide a holistic understanding of this fast paced industry. Elena Trim, (Dean of the Faculty of Technology), was excited to announce that this programme is the only programme of its kind being offered in the region. With this initiative, the University of Guyana moves to the forefront in the field, in the Caribbean.

For at least three years the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) has requested that the University of Guyana introduce a programme in Mining Engineer as the mining sector is evolving. Throughout the past years, the GGMC has commissioned two large gold mines at Aurora and Karouni. With these developments, the need for Guyanese mining engineers continues to grow since most of who have

been employed are residents of the Caribbean and other countries. This demand will increase as the sector continues to expand. With this in mind, the Faculty of Technology has specifically developed an 'Associate of Science degree in (Mining Engineering) which begins in this 2017/2018 academic year. This programme will create opportunities for Guyanese students as well as International ones. The programme will equip students with the skills required to be effective in the dynamic mining sector, consequently creating a labour force.

The Bsc in (Industrial Engineering) is an additional new programme that is designed to serve students who are desirous of pursuing a career as a technician or technologist in industry. This programme is designed especially for the working class people and comprises of practical as well as theoretical learning activities with the main focus being problem solving. This mixture of theory and practical application will allow students to think meaningfully about the content and their learning and then apply their ideas in a variety of realistic situations.

As Guyana is on the verge of becoming an oil producing country, the Faculty of Technology is also planning to offer a Master's programme in 'Petroleum Geoscience' in the academic year 2018/2019 which aims to give graduates an opportunity to explore for oil and gas.

Turkeyen and Tain Talks ⁹ Constitutional Reform in Guyana



The University of Guyana's (UG) ninth bi-monthly intellectual debate and Q&A, Turkeyen and Tain Talks, was held on the 21st September at Pegasus Hotel and was aptly themed, "Constitutional Reform". A diverse panel individually assessed whether there should be constitutional reform with respect to issues of women, governance, indigenous rights, legality and criminal justice, and children. One panelist even specifically addressed why we should change the constitution of Guyana. The panel featured the likes of Indra Chandarpaul, Rosemary Benjamin-Noble, Shameza David, Jean LaRose, Vincent Alexander, Anil Nandlall and Terrence Campbell and Hon. Raphael Trotman.

In fact, Chairperson of the Women and Gender Equality Commission, Indra Chandarpaul, while explaining the struggle for women's rights and feminism as a movement, expressed the challenges



Guyanese women face under the current constitution. She further emphasized, "Constitutional post-holders harassed equality intended to fix this by law."

Meanwhile, Deputy Chairperson of



the Rights of the Child Commission, Rosemary Benjamin-Noble, while outlining what the rights of children are in Guyana, expressed that it is our duty to safeguard these rights. Moreso, she elaborated on the challenges that exist in continually trying to enforce these laws, and that our current solutions to child abuse and children's rights are only commendable, at best.

Similarly, UG Alumna and Guyana National Youth Council member, Shameza David, while justifying why youths should be involved in every stage

of constitution reform, explained that youths have failed to use the constitution effectively. She ended on encouragements such as, "Every issue, at every stage, is our issue!"

Executive Director of the Amerindian Peoples Association, Jean LaRose, after sharing how much she has learned because of exposure and her position, she asked provoking questions. Larose said: "Does constitutional reform take into account indigenous lifestyle, daily life, culture, land or even land titles. Traditional land rights aren't addressed in the constitution. Indigenous heritage and livelihood are tied to their land. The land is their home, pharmacy, kitchen and hunting ground. Protections are placed but are not acted on. People need to act to see the constitution made

effective.” She closed on the need for true indigenous representation within the Indigenous People’s Commission, due regard must be paid to them as people in every facet and that they have significant input in decision making about them.

What’s more, member of the Guyana Elections Commission, Vincent Alexander, while addressing whether the constitution reflects and provides what the people need, explained that a constitution must be open, equitable and transparent. He even noted, “Before we can effect change it should be done from an expert study and point of view.”

Former Attorney General, Anil Nandlall, after justifying his disappointment with constitutional reform, questioned the driving forces for it and whether it was foreign influence pushing constitutional reform or local dissatisfaction. He stated: “Problems occur when public/private officials seek to misuse the constitution. This doesn’t mean the constitution is ineffective. Constitutional compliance trumps constitutional reform.”

Lastly, member of RISE Guyana, Terrence Campbell, while specifically addressing why we should change the Guyana Constitution, emphasized the gravity of Constitutional Reform and what we would actually replace it with. He outlined a number of issues that would have to be implemented in a new constitution. These included but are not limited to presidential limits reduced, legislation of campaign finances, and transparency on salaries above \$50000 to put all monies above board. He mentioned, “The constitution

should entrench structures to police investments and structures to opt out of investments.” His closing remark was, “We should demand transformation and change.”



Renaissance Weekend in New York 2017

Guyana Cultural Association Folk Festival Family Fun Day and Kwe-Kwe Night





Alumni and Friends of the University of Guyana Inaugural Renaissance Gala



Alumni and Friends of the University of Guyana Inaugural Renaissance Gala



Renaissance Weekend in New York 2017

Meeting of New York and New Jersey Education Resource Ambassadors



FULBRIGHT SPECIALIST

- Dr Carmen Bovell



Carmen Bovell, PhD

Dr Carmen Bovell is a Guyanese born, US citizen and an International Early Childhood Consultant holding a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Early Childhood Special Education.

Dr Bovell returned to Guyana on the 29th August on a United States Fulbright Specialist Grant to work in collaboration with the National Center for Educational Resource Development (NCERD) through the University of Guyana (UG) upon request from Mrs Elsa Cromarty-Hosein, Head of Department, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, as part of a 31 days Early Childhood Special Education project.

As a consultant the main goal of her project was to equip teachers, caregivers, University of Guyana students and other relevant resource persons with knowledge, sensitivity and skills to identify and address the special education needs of children at the nursery and early primary school levels in both the classroom and the home. To this end, she engaged stakeholders in identifying developmental, and other programmatic issues and needs pertaining to students with special needs.

Further, Dr Bovell visited Special Education centers (low incident

disabilities) such as the David Rose School, Tommy Reed Center, Step by Step school in Bagotstown and Ministry of Education Visual Unit for the Blind for the purpose of gaining background knowledge of the context in which stakeholders operate and advice from an international perspective.

The information gained was utilized to develop and deliver lectures at UG and workshops on early childhood special education to teacher, students, and other stakeholders. One workshop was conducted in Linden at the Cyril

Potter College of Education on the topic *Developmental Delays*. She said that “you can have children sitting in your class room that may not have obvious disabilities but they are not learning at the pace of what is consider normal (slow learners)... something is getting in the way of their learning, something is slowing down or acting as a barrier, teachers must be able to identify what is causing the delay and be able to administer appropriate education so that that child can grow and learn.”

In addition, she reviewed the current university course offerings in special education, and a draft of the Bachelors of Education (with a specialization in special education) and made recommendations for modifications, discussing the possibilities for expansion in the delivery of special education courses at the University, specifically as it relates to students three to eight years old.

She recommended that the Inclusion policy for Guyana under revision be finalized and implemented.

She is very passionate about her work and hopes to make a meaningful contribution to the development and implementation of quality early care and education programs for all children, primarily economically disadvantaged/ differently able children.



Mrs Elsa Cromarty- Hosein ,Vice-Chancellor Professor Ivelaw Griffith and Dr Carmen Bovell on her first day at the University of Guyana

STUDENTS AWARDED VICE-CHANCELLOR'S SCHOLARSHIP TO ATTEND UG

Professor Ivelaw Griffith, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Guyana awarded scholarships to three students to attend classes at the University of Guyana, two of whom are in the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Tourism Programme and one in the Diploma in Banking and Finance Programme.



Ms Daness Mc Calman

Ms Danessa Mc Calman, an 18-year old who is from Corentyne, Berbice, was awarded a scholarship from the University's Vice-Chancellor to read for her Diploma in Banking and Finance. "I am very thankful for the Vice-Chancellor who awarded me this scholarship which will enable me to better equip myself for the outside world," Mc Calman said she currently finds



Mr Rex John

the programme not as challenging as she thought it would have been since she would have attained a number of grade ones at

CXC , which has laid a good foundation for her work at UG.

"It was during a visit to the Bina Hill Institute in North Rupununi, Region 9, that the Vice-Chancellor made a promise to offer the two best graduating students a scholarship opportunity at the University of Guyana. "I was lucky to be one of the recipients after being the overall best graduating student for Bina Hill Institute," said Mr Rex John. This twenty three year old who is from Paramakatoi, Region 8 is currently reading for his Bachelors of Arts Degree in Tourism and he is very excited about the scholarship opportunity given by Professor Griffith. He further stated that Vice-Chancellor Griffith should offer more



Ms Angela Gomes

scholarship opportunities to persons who do not have financial support, especially persons from the hinterland areas.

In addition, eighteen year old Ms Jan Gomes who is from a small village called Kato located in Region 8, was the best graduating student at Bina Hill Institute. Gomes also benefitted from the scholarship opportunity provided by the Vice-Chancellor. She is reading for her Bachelor of Arts degree in Tourism.

"My experience at the University of Guyana so far is interesting and challenging since it is a new experience for me," said Gomes. Further, Gomes also stated that she is very grateful for such a remarkable opportunity since it will allow her to expand her knowledge and indulge in the educational facilities. "I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to Professor Griffith for offering me and my colleague this opportunity to attend this University," Gomes stated.

Berbice Campus Book Launch of Indo-Caribbean Feminist Thought: Genealogies, Theories, Enactments



One of the Librarians accepting a copy of the book from the editors.

Similar to the Turkeyen Campus, the UGBC Library played a pivotal role in coordinating the launch of a book by Caribbean writers titled: Indo-Caribbean Feminist Thought: Genealogies, Theories, Enactments edited by Dr Gabrielle Jamela Hosein and Dr Lisa Outar. The University of Guyana was privileged to have the opportunity of being the first launch venue chosen by the writers in this book launch.

Participating in the program proceedings were Ms Jacqueline Murray, Interim Director, Institute of Distance and Continuing Education, (IDCE) serving as Chair of the Proceedings, Professor Gomathinayagam Subramanian, Director, UGBC, who welcomed the audience and Professor Paloma Mohamed, DVC, Philanthropy, Alumni and Civic Engagement (PACE), who gave remarks on behalf of VC Griffith. Professor



The interview with the editors

Mohamed, commended the writers noting that there are still good and pleasant happening within the University arena



Remarks being done by Professor Paloma Mohamed, DVC PACE

locally and regionally. Also speaking at this event were Mrs Vanda Radzik, Commissioner, Women and Gender Equality Commissioner and Mr Dennis Gill, Lecturer, Faculty of Education and Humanities.

The Book discussion was moderated Ms Angelina Autar and Dr Rishie Thakur, both lecturers within the Faculty of Social Sciences at the UGBC. After an interesting rapport with the editors the discussion segment stimulated a number of valuable and interesting questions, comments/suggestions and commendations from the diverse audience.

Dr Gabrielle Jamela Hosein and Dr Lisa Outar presented complimentary copies of the book to the following Libraries:

1. University of Guyana Berbice Library
2. Stanleytown Community Library, New Amsterdam
3. National Library, New Amsterdam Branch
4. Kildonan Community Library, Kildonan, Corentyne

The curtains came down on this event which was streamed live by the library, with the vote of thanks being delivered by Ms Bibi Farzana Khan, Assistant

Librarian (ag), Berbice and a Cocktail reception hosted under the auspices of Vice-Chancellor Griffith.



A section of the audience in attendance

Vice-Chancellor's Meeting with Hon. Nicolette Henry, Minister of Education on August 29, 2017



Scenes from the Vice-Chancellor's Renaissance Lecture III

The Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Renaissance Lecture III was held in August, 2017, on the topic "Models of Governance at Public Universities in the United States" by Dr Ronald Mason, President of the University of the District of Columbia, AASCU Senior Scholar.



The Multiversity Universities of the Caribbean

by George A O Alleyne, Director Emeritus
Pan American Health Organization

Below is the text of Sir George Alleyne's speech made at the Vice-Chancellor's Renaissance Lecture IV, coordinated by the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Planning and International Engagement - PIE).



"First, I wish to thank Professor Griffith and Dr Reynolds for the invitation to give the Vice-Chancellor's Fourth Renaissance lecture. I was very pleased to accept. Even although my first of many visits to Guyana was in 1968, and over the years have had close ties with many of your faculty and students, this is actually my first lecture in the University of Guyana. My academic contacts with Guyana and Guyanese stretch back through many decades. As an undergraduate, I was always impressed by the brilliance of the students who came to the University College of the West Indies from then British Guyana. Not only were they exceptional academically, but they expressed themselves with a clarity and a precision that were to be envied and emulated. The late Robert Moore was one of the finest orators I have ever heard and I have heard many.

The term Renaissance has always conjured up for me an image of Europe in the 15th and 16th centuries. This was a period that marked the end of the middle ages with its feudal system and



opened an era of rebirth of interest in classical forms and literature. But most importantly, it marked the growth of humanism. The Renaissance humanism enhanced civic engagement and the development of what we now refer to as the humanities. It saw the appearance and appreciation of materials which still influence our lives profoundly such as paper, printing and gunpowder, although there are other claimants to those inventions.

But your Vice-Chancellor has emphasized a more literal definition of Renaissance and projects it to mean the rebirth of the University of Guyana to bring it into a zone of modernity so that it might fulfill its pristine purpose through discovery, generation, dissemination and application of knowledge. I am sure all Caribbean citizens of good will, especially those with a specific interest in higher education wish him well and watch with interest the development of the project, and here let me congratulate you on the recent accreditation of your medical school.

There is another reason, apart from my wish to visit Guyana



again, why I accepted with alacrity the invitation to give this lecture. It is because I was stimulated and intrigued by a comment made by your President Granger at the recently concluded meeting of the CARICOM Heads of Government in Grenada. In a discussion on the state of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) which many judge to be the centerpiece of CARICOM, he referred to fear and a lack of trust as being the two critical factors which are impeding progress. I have been attending these meetings for many years and have heard many of the discussions about the state of Caribbean integration, but this was the first time I had heard it put so sharply that it was fear and a lack of trust that was preventing the Caribbean countries from putting in place many of the very laudable plans they had developed, but which required joint action. On reflection, I tend to agree with your President. I submit that if we are to progress in all of the areas set out in the treaty of Chaguaramas and subsequent accords, it behooves all Caribbean citizens – all humanists to reflect on the causes and the means of eliminating fear of taking action and building trust in ourselves and one another. I say citizens because I do not believe this task should be

Continues on pg 24

The Multiversity Universities of the Caribbean

Continues from pg 23

left to our leaders alone. I believe that your President's affirmation is worth exploring in a university context.

Fear is good. It is what has kept Homo sapiens from those dangerous situations that might spell destruction. We have developed a nervous system – the sympathetic nervous system that allows us to react to situations of danger – to situations that engender fright or flight. But fear can also be a liability, as it prevents us taking steps into the unknown and perhaps makes us impotent to realize our full potential. This fear in the individual is translated into institutional or national fear and leaders often only interpret the fear of their constituents and act accordingly, binding undue caution with the negative aspect of confirmation bias, leading to inaction or very cautious action. This combination often causes us to pride ourselves as acting with deliberate speed. This is not the time or place to enter into the details of the CSME as I believe that there has indeed been progress, but it has been fear and a lack of trust that has made for the deliberate speed of implementation of some of its components. Parenthetically, I have no doubt about the value of the CSME, although I am concerned that a unifocal attention to it may have indeed has overshadowed other important pieces in the puzzle of Caribbean integration. I am an unrepentant advocate of the thesis that not enough attention has been paid to that functional cooperation which should be the glue of any multinational enterprise, and of course, education is one of the areas in which functional cooperation can find full expression.

Fear may be countered by trust. When a batsman calls for a sharp single and his partner responds without fear of being runout, it is because of trust in the other's judgment. Trust has been debated by philosophers for ages and there are various taxonomic approaches, but in the case of the Caribbean, I propose that it is practical trust that is important. I mean by this one individual or institution trusting another to act in the manner that will not be seen as a betrayal or be seen as inimical

to the other's interest. That is the case of the cricket example I cited above. It is the lack of trust that often engenders the fear of taking risky decisions. In the case of countries in a regional arrangement and not only such, it is the fear of loss and not only the fear of the consequences of action and indeed the former is more powerful than the latter. There is the fear of losing what one has, without the assurance that what comes will be advantageous. This fear of loss is a normal and powerful human attribute and Daniel Kahneman the Nobel prize winner in behavioral economics has shown convincingly that we strive harder to avoid



loses that to achieve gains.

The challenge is how to address this fear of loss – this loss aversion that is responsible for much of the xenophobia that is so obvious in the world as a whole and is not absent from the Caribbean. It is the fear of loss of sovereignty or local agency that may be at the root of many of the problems that beset the regional integration project. It is loss aversion at a national level. It is fear and loss aversion that strengthen the fissiparous tendencies that are inherent in any group or network which naturally tends to a state of entropy. The world has seen this play out through Brexit. But I believe that it is possible to address and diminish it through the collective thinking of informed citizens and that the universities of the region can make a substantial and significant contribution.



We must appreciate that the Caribbean polity is an imagined reality. Humans throughout the ages have rallied around imagined realities. CARICOM is in the nature of an image and an idealized image of a collective entity. Buildings, structures and land are physical realities but the image of a collective Caribbean entity which informed much or all of the enthusiasm of my generation is an imagined reality which to us was and continues to be as powerful and worthy of preservation and enhancing as a physical reality. Imagined realities

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have tremendous power, perhaps more power than physical ones. They evoke stronger emotional reactions. I have been taken by Yuval Noah Harari's brilliant book "Homo Sapiens" in which he elaborates on imagined realities. As long as the communal belief persists, the imagined reality exerts a powerful force in the world. As he writes; "Ever since the cognitive revolution, Sapiens have thus been living in a dual reality. On the one hand, the objective reality of rivers trees and lions; on the other hand, the imagined reality of gods, nations and corporations". He goes on to say that over time the imagined realities became much more powerful to the extent that the objective realities may themselves come to depend on the imagined ones.

But let me be clear. I am not advocating a return to the idea of political integration. I am however a firm adherent to regional integration as set out in the terms of the historic treaty of Chaguaramas which saw the Caribbean moving forward in a turbulent world through cooperative action in critical areas.

The basic question I wish to explore is the role of the Caribbean universities in generating that trust and assuaging the fear that is necessary for the maintenance and prospering of the regional integration project. But our universities are not static. The University College which I entered 66 years ago is not the same as the University of the West Indies today and it is a truism that these institutions change and adapt to the social environment in which they find themselves. When Vice-Chancellor Griffith moves the University of Guyana into the zone of modernity as he has promised, it will be significantly different from the institution that began teaching 168 students in Queens College in 1968 and the change will not only be a physical one.



When I entered the University College of the West Indies it was indeed literally a company of masters and scholars, almost in the tradition of the universities that existed during the Renaissance. I had intuitively bought into the concept of the University

producing knowledge to be used more as envisaged by Bacon who believed that it was essentially a utilitarian commodity or as he put it should "not be as a courtesan, for pleasure and vanity only, or as a bondwoman, to acquire and gain to her master's use; but as a spouse, for generation, fruit and comfort. "I was and am



less enthusiastic with the concept of Newman that knowledge was an end in and of itself. I saw us graduates putting our acquired knowledge to work for Caribbean change.

But in the space of 69 years my University has taken the shape of what the famous Chancellor of the University of California, Clark Kerr, called a multiversity. His focus was on the modern American University, but the thinking behind his concept has found expression in universities all over the world. Universities in this form are seen as being critical for human development and serving the many communities and interests that make up the modern state. My University is offering courses and areas of teaching that were never dreamt of 50 years ago. It is no longer a cloistered community of masters and scholars. It has spread geographically over most of the Caribbean with now some 50,000 students and sees itself going beyond the Caribbean and having an international projection.

From what I read of the University of Guyana and to lesser extent the University of Suriname, the same is occurring. There is an extension to physical locations beyond a single campus and there is an increasing richness of academic offerings. There is a commitment to civic engagement and a keen awareness of the political environment in which it must function. A former Vice-Chancellor of the University West Indies said that he would rue the day when the University was a topic on the agenda of a meeting of the CARICOM Heads of Government. He saw the relationship of academia to politics like that of oil to water. How that has changed! These multiversities which, while accepting the basic three activities, see themselves as performing many other roles, first among which is community involvement.

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They must accept the interdigitation of several different communities. There is the community of the graduate and that of the postgraduate; that of the alumni and the students who are the alumni of tomorrow, the communities of the humanists, the social scientists, the life scientists, the community with its theoretical walls and those without. It must accept the multiple divergent interests which seek to pull it in different directions. It must accept the inevitabilities of blended teaching and lifelong learning. It must still accept the responsibility of encouraging and facilitating new cultural values while educating members of the new social elites to play their roles in changing societies. It must retain its institutional character and reputation as this is important for its credentialing function. The proper exercise of this function assures the public that society is receiving men and women who are critical thinkers, are job prepared, conscious of the need to be innovators and ready to fulfill the functions necessary for societal human development, and it must do this while still exercising those basic activities of teaching, service community outreach and research.

One of the attributes of this multiversity is to transmute knowledge into products and services needed for human development in any society. I am a firm believer in the notion of the triple helix of innovation. This involves the intimate interaction among the university, business and government. The University provides the knowledge-the ideas from its research which can be commercialized by business and government provides the appropriate regulatory environment. This is not a function exclusive to universities in Silicon Valley or Triangle Park in the USA. This is a function that is of equal or greater importance to our universities. I am not so arrogant as to suggest that that the responsibility for human development in Guyana or any of the Caribbean countries rest solely with the universities. What I am contending is that they have a deep and abiding responsibility to contribute to it.

Of course, they are some who dislike the term and the idea of a multiversity and its connotation and would prefer the comfort of the cloistered enclave that supported a small band of respected scholars and masters dedicated to knowledge without thought of

its utility. They look with some disdain on the growth of sections such as Institutional Advancement when it focuses on raising funds for the multiple tasks of the institution and including alumni in the quest. They would diminish the aggressive search for research funding and the commercialization of knowledge output through interaction with business. They would see the



institution divorced from public policy because of the often finedistinction between policy and politics. But these are dreams that have no relevance for the multiversities of the Caribbean.

There is a rich literature on universities related to their roles in human development. You will note that I use the expression “human development” and I hope that it will become the norm in the University of Guyana never to use the term development without qualification. The concept of development as being coterminous with economic growth which was once the darling of the economists, no longer has credibility. It is human development that must be the aim of our societies and their institutions. That human development has three domains-the economic, the social and the environmental and it is the intertwining of these as a helix-an imagery which I first heard espoused by the late Angela Cropper, that makes for the sustainability of human development. The multiversities by their very nature and the interconnectedness and interaction of their various communities are uniquely placed to advance that human development.

But I wish to add another responsibility that may be peculiar to these multiversities in regional groupings and one that is central to the concern of your President. There is a dearth of literature on the role of universities in cementing regional groupings, but one fascinating report on the role of universities in the regional integration of Southern Africa argued that state led regional integration has had limited impact and regional identity and citizenship, which are critical ingredients need to develop from the bottom up.

It is universities and other parts of civil society that have the

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critical role in developing and fomenting that regional identity and citizenship. I see them wedded to the proposition that they should seek to strengthen the image and power of the imagined reality of the Caribbean integration project. It might be said that this is a function of all levels of the education system but I would contend that the major responsibility lies at the higher level. It is predominately at this level that the young become convinced of the dignity and worth of the other because of interaction with the other. It is only at this level that there is or ought to be the degree of diversity which would allow for a reduction of that fear and the establishment of trust to which I referred originally. It could be argued that espousing this view is a function of the political leaders, but I am not sanguine about their undertaking it consciously and deliberately. On occasion when I have raised it with some of them, the answer has been that the constraints of the local, national struggles for political survival make it difficult to divert energy in this direction. On occasion I have got ready acceptance of the idea, but the matter rested at the level of acceptance.

I have empirical evidence of the feasibility of my proposition. As Chancellor of the University of the West Indies, I have presided over many graduation ceremonies and one of the features memorable to me has been the performance of the valedictorians who for the most part are eloquent about their appreciation of the integration ideal. So many of them speak with passion of appreciating the diversity of culture, idiom, food and even dance. All of this makes them advocates for the Caribbean and they indirectly indicate to me that they have much less of the fear and the loss aversion which are such key factors in individual and national xenophobia. They are less fearful of the other Caribbean brothers and sisters and therefore more likely to trust them.

I would not doubt that there have been deliberate attempts to inculcate this feeling of Caribbeanness, but I am proposing that there may be approaches our Caribbean multiversities might take to promote it deliberately and intentionally and not leave it to chance interactions. The obvious approaches would be through courses of instruction that speak to the Caribbean of which I am sure there are many. It can be through exchange of students and faculty and through joint ventures either pedagogical or business. There should be closer interaction among them. And here I wish to revert to a proposal your Chancellor made formally several years ago which to me still remains valid. He is the first to admit that his is not an original proposition and there have been many who have previously championed the establishment of a Caribbean tertiary education system. His was one of several efforts to stimulate action in this direction well knowing that there was general agreement about the desirability of such a system but little progress had been made. While acknowledging the differentiation in size, mission and expectations of tertiary institutions in the Caribbean he argued for "creation of a web of institutions held together by formal and informal rules and that is overseen by a body that offers policy guidance and assures accountability." The logic of this proposition is impeccable and we must ask why there has not been progress. I submit that it is the same fear and lack of trust-this time at the institutional

level that has made the theme peak and break as yet another wave on the beaches of CARICOM. It is the fear that seeks the comfort of exclusivity of identity and dims the light of the benefit of cooperation and collaboration across communities-the cross community linkages which at another level are the hallmark of the multiversity.

To those of you involved in Project Renaissance, from the professors to the porters, I say good luck and I wish for you that constancy of purpose and a fixation on the vision which will make the luck good. I look forward to the university of Guyana playing its role as one of the great multiversities of the Caribbean in making a better life for all our people, assuaging the fear and fostering the trust which your President believes are critical for Caribbean progress.

I thank you."

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE SIR GEORGE ALLEYNE

Sir George Alleyne, a native of Barbados is a medical graduate of the University of the West Indies (UWI) where he subsequently pursued an academic career. He worked under Professor John Waterlow in the Tropical Metabolism Research Unit at UWI on the pathophysiology of infant malnutrition and on several aspects of renal intermediary metabolism. He was appointed Professor of Medicine in UWI in 1972 and chair of the Department of Medicine in 1976. He joined the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Regional Office of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1981, became Director on 1 February 1995 and after re-election in 1998, completed a second four-year term on 31 January 2003. In 2003 he was elected Director Emeritus of PAHO. From February 2003 until December 2010 he was the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean. From 2003 to 2017 he was Chancellor of the University of the West Indies and was a visiting professor at the Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University also from 2003 to 2017.

Sir George has received numerous awards in recognition of his work, including honorary degrees and prestigious decorations and national honors from many countries of the Americas. In 1990, he was made Knight Bachelor by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for his services to Medicine. In 2001, he was awarded the Order of the Caribbean Community, the highest honor that can be conferred on a Caribbean national.

He is married to Sylvan Chen and they have three children.

Save the Dates

**Vice-Chancellor Renaissance Lecture V :
Japan and Guyana – Building on 50 Years of Friendship
H.E Mitsuhiro Okada, Ambassador of Japan
Thursday, October 26, 2017, 18:00h
Education Lecture Theatre, Turkeyen Campus, Greater Georgetown**

**Vice-Chancellor's Renaissance Lecture VI:
New Horizons for Food Security in the CARICOM Area
Professor Leonard O'Garro, UWI Cave Hill
Thursday, November 2, 2017
Herdmanston Lodge, Georgetown**

**Renaissance Conversation on Law and Society :
"The Jurisprudence of JOF Haynes a Great Caribbean Jurist"
by Hon. Justice Courtney A. Abel
Tuesday, November 7, 2017 at 18:00 hrs
Herdmanston Lodge, Georgetown**

**Public Symposium: Suicide, Youth Violence, and Professional Psychology.
Thursday, November 9, 2017, 8:30-18:30h.
Pegasus Hotel, Kingston, Georgetown, and
Friday, November 10, 2017, 14:00-18:00h.
Little Rock Suites, 10 Main Street, New Amsterdam, Berbice**

**Hurricane Support Concert
Dave Martins, University of Guyana Distinguished Visiting Artiste-in-Residence, and Friends
Monday, November 20, 2017, 19:00h
Theatre Guild of Guyana,
Cowan and Parade Streets, Kingston, Georgetown**

**Vice-Chancellor Renaissance Lecture VII :
The Role of China in the 21st Century by H.E. Mr Cui Jianchun, Ambassador of China.
Tuesday November 21, 2017 at 18:00 hrs
Education Lecture Theatre, Turkeyen Campus, Greater Georgetown**

**Oil and Gas Symposium
Friday, November 24, 2017
Marriott Hotel, Kingston, Guyana**

**Turkeyen and Tain Talks 10:
Environmental & Climate Change.
Thursday, November 30, 2017 at 18:00- 20:30 hrs
Pegasus Hotel Kingston, Guyana
Thursday, November 2, 2017, 18:00h**

**3rd Annual Human Rights Film Festival
December 3 – New Amsterdam
December 5 – Anna Regina
December 7 – Georgetown
December 10 - Linden**

Artiste-in-Residence

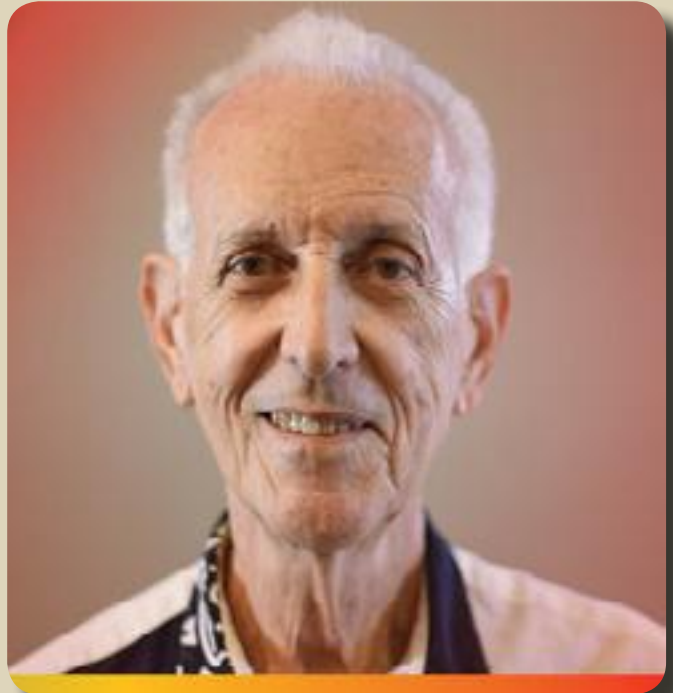
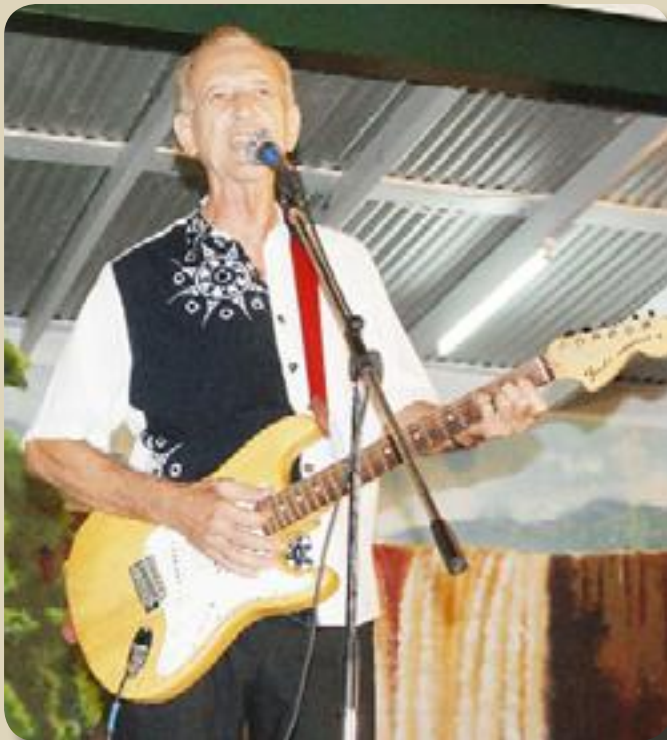
DAVE MARTIN - A GUYANESE ICON

Dave Martin has been an icon in the annals of Guyana for many years. His achievements have been chronicled throughout the region and farther afield; deserving of every accolade. His music captures many pertinent issues. Whether it's a scathing attack on the West Indian cricket administration, a reminiscence of yesteryear (boyhood days) or galvanising unity to stand up to a potential threat (Not a blade of grass).

His music has always been geared towards bringing forth the Caribbean culture. "It's kind of a contradiction as I was living overseas" he mentioned. The Caribbean diaspora, especially those from Trinidad played an important role in his musical development.

His musical development coincided with the inner urge to shelve the colonial perception of the Caribbean region as somewhat second class. His formative years growing up in Guyana and intermingling with Caribbean people foment this inner urge which translated in lyrics depicting the rich culture of the Caribbean.

The musical journey with its nascence in Vreed-en-Hoop matured into world renowned in Canada produced inevitable vicissitude. He drew resolves from his mother whom he credits with instilling life long principle at a very early age; which he has held steadfastly to. honesty, don't lie, be truthful, respect for women" came from my mother. "This ain't the end of it" were words of advice. He laments "you have been given information that will lead to maturity"



*Dave Martin
Guyanese Artiste and Icon*

"What stood out in later years was a five piece bands holding Trinidadian crowds" an anomaly at that time. "Playing at Astor cinema, the first performance outside of Canada for the band" where the musical hits were well received was memorable. "The Carnegie Hall" he mentioned was another momentum occasion for the certain technical aspect that produced a unique quality sound.

"A taxi driver coming to a screeching halt in front of Giftland" and upon disembarking ask "you Dave Martin, Can I take a picture?" Approached by a woman backstage and received a warm hug. A bartender having shaken his hand said "you give me chicken skin". Dave martin sums these as his legacy. They are "more than money more than awards" these reciprocal moments are truly cherished.

A lover of music and the arts Dave is frank about what he describes as a "bleak" situation that faces others in pursuit of a similar endeavour. He highlighted the issues of intellectual property right and the copy rights as two major bear bug.

The arts presents such a transformational mystique, especially that of music. To see proponents unlikely to be adequately compensated due to the intellectual property and copy rights is an issue that needs to be address urgently. Guyana will be better off .

The University of Guyana,
in association with The Caribbean Alliance of
National Psychological Associations (CANPA),

presents

Suicide, Youth Violence, and Professional Psychology

A Public Symposium

- Pegasus Hotel, Kingston, Georgetown
Thursday, November 9th, 2017
8:30 am - 6:30 pm
- Little Rock Suites, 10 Main Street,
New Amsterdam, Berbice
Friday, November 10, 2017
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

With support provided by UNICEF

Admission: FREE

Register by sending an email to pace@uog.edu.gy
Subject: 'Registration for UG CANPA Symposium 2017.'
Email should state: Name, Organization and Contact Information.

Deadline for registration: Saturday, October 7, 2017

For more information call:
623-3159 or 623-3154



Vice-Chancellor's Town Hall meetings with students and staff at Tain Campus on September 26, 2017



Vice-Chancellor's Town hall meeting with students at Turkeyen Campus on September 18, 2017



Vice-Chancellor's Second Cabinet Retreat on September 28 & 29, and October 2, 2017



Vice-Chancellor's Second Cabinet Retreat on September 28 and 29, and October 2, 2017



Announcement of Granting of Radio and TV Licenses to UG on September 27, 2017



Handover on 278 chairs by Hon. Cathy Hughes on September 20, 2017



Vice-Chancellor's Welcome Back Reception for Faculty and Staff on September 22, 2017



Vice-Chancellor's Participation in Major Oil and Gas Conference on September 25, 2017



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JOURNAL OF THE INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
AND THE FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA TURKEYEN CAMPUS

Renaissance

Office of the Vice-Chancellor, The University of Guyana
Publisher: Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, PhD
Editor: Denise Hopkinson-Braam
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Designers: Orpheao Griffith, Delice Adonis, Keon Skeete
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Photo-credits: VC Griffith, Neketa Forde, UG Learning Resource Centre, UG PACE Office, UG PIE Office, Dr Mark Tumbridge, Shamar Semple, Rudolph Daly, Keon Skeete.
Vol 2, No. 6, September, 2017

For our next edition we invite you to submit news items, short articles, poems and high resolution pictures of activities related to the national agenda and consistent with the development trajectory of UG. Share with us how UG has contributed to building industry and livelihoods for citizens both at home and abroad. Do share Renaissance with at least ten of your friends and send us their email contacts to facilitate direct mailing of future editions. We thank you for being part of this transformative initiative.

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