



Renaissance

Office of the Vice-Chancellor, The University of Guyana

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Top: A section of students, in the George Walcott Lecture Theatre (GWLTL) in one of their first classes.

Below: Student activities on campus.



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The VC Speaks

The Value of Values in the Educational Journey

The wisdom of Roy E. Disney's assertion should be embraced, not merely by leaders in the entertainment industry where it was first made, but by stakeholders in institutions such as The University of Guyana (UG), where managing insufficiencies is a harsh existential reality. Thus, I take the opportunity here to share with the entire UG community what I commended to the students who started their academic journeys this semester.

My thoughts were offered in the context of my being a proud UG alumnus, who remembers the first step on his educational journey at Turkeyen many decades ago. Members of the incoming class must have been experiencing that August afternoon what I experienced back in August 1975: anxiety mixed with uncertainty, and a sense of pride that I had made it to UG, along with apprehension about how I might fare, with no role models in my family to offer guidance, having been the first in my family to be admitted to the hallowed academic halls—and walls—of the place called Turkeyen.

I intimated that, thanks to caring and competent lecturers, supportive classmates, and my own pursuit of excellence, not only did I complete my educational journey at Turkeyen, but I made a little history in the process, in being the first person in the annals of our university to graduate with Distinction in Political Science. Our university provided a solid foundation for my post-graduate educational pursuits and a successful career as a scholar and an academic leader.

Yet, I reminded them that each person is key to making a success of his or her endeavours. The nature and quality of their input will help determine the nature and quality of the output at the end of their journeys. "You cannot merely wish to have a diploma or degree," I intoned; "you have to work for it." As the famous Indian writer and Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore reminds us, "You can't cross the sea merely by standing and staring at the water."

Here is where the matter of values came in. My admonition was this: as you pursue your educational journeys, pay attention to three critical values: Excellence, Integrity, and Respect. As it regarded the first value, I asked them to remember the advice of the Greek philosopher, Aristotle, "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, it is a habit." Embrace the habituation of the pursuit of the best possible outcome every time and all the time, I advised.

Integrity also is important. You must earn your course grades, and not cheat to get them; resist the temptation provided by technology to buy your papers or plagiarize, or to take away from your classrooms, labs, or the library items that are not yours. And, remember Respect: for yourself, the academic and other staff, your classmates, and your environment.

Beyond these specific values, I asked the students to appreciate the value of a well-rounded education. Thus, I encouraged them to get involved in something other than classes: a club or sports; volunteer in the community or join the Undergraduate Research Program to be launched this year. So, there is value in valuing values. Needless to say, Excellence, Integrity, and Respect are not the only specific values we should embrace as members of the UG community. But embracing these three is a wonderful place to start.

Keep on keeping on!

Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, PhD
Tenth Vice-Chancellor and Principal



*"It's not hard to make decisions once you know what your values are."
—Roy E. Disney*

Editor's Note



Denise Hopkinson-Braam
Editor

The Office of the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Guyana (UG) presents to you the second edition of *Renaissance*, a monthly newsletter. *Renaissance* is the Vice-Chancellor's medium of sharing with you our University's developments.

This second edition focuses on the University's strategic participation in fostering the national development agenda and our administrative changes. Additionally, you will be fascinated by the heights which our alumni have achieved.

The Vice-Chancellor's vision is for the University, the nation's most prestigious tertiary institution, to become more resourceful and active. The collaboration between the Office of the Vice-Chancellor and the Centre for Communication Studies (CCS) of the University of Guyana seemed natural.

CCS is involved in training students in the art of print, radio, television, and online journalism; public relations; communication research, and consultancy. Most of the articles in this edition are creations of our student interns attached to the publication.

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

UG Holds Successful *Renaissance* in New York

by Dr Dhanpaul Narine

September 2016 was a good month for the University of Guyana Renaissance. A number of successful meetings were held in New York as part of the UG 'Diaspora Engagement' project.

This visit was in response to an invitation from the Guyana Cultural Association of New York Inc. (GCA) to fund and friend-raise at the Association's 2016 Labor Day Weekend events and the meetings were planned and implemented under the leadership of UG's Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Ivelaw Griffith. As part of the UG Renaissance, UG's presence was constituted by a team from Guyana and UG Ambassadors and supporters in the New York Tri-State area, including Professor Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, Vice-Chancellor and Principal; Mr Calvin Bernard, Dean, Faculty of Natural Sciences; Dr Emanuel Cummings, Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences; Mr Dustin Roache, Vice-President, The University of Guyana Students' Society; Dr Nigel Gravesande, Registrar; Dr Paloma Mohamed-Martin, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Designate for Philanthropy, Alumni, and Civic Engagement; and Ms Paulette Paul, Public Relations, Turkeyen Campus.

The first edition of 'Renaissance', the magazine produced by the Vice-Chancellor and his staff, was also released in New York, together with designer T-shirts branding the University. The Vice-Chancellor and his team began their US visit with a fundraising reception in New Jersey and participated in a number of programmes. The UG formal Diaspora Engagement took place at Medgar Evers College in the Natural Sciences and Law Department while discussions on the Health Sciences were also held in Brooklyn.

Tangible Diaspora Support Engagement were facilitated in four critical academic areas: Technology (Architecture, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Mechanical Engineer-

ing); Health Sciences (Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Optometry, and Medical Technology); Natural Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Mathematics, Physics, and Statistics); and Law.

Meanwhile, the Vice-Chancellor and his team crowned their Labor Day visit with a meeting at the Shri Trimurti Bhavan, a Hindu Temple in Queens. This visit was sponsored by UG Ambassador, Dr Dhanpaul Narine, a member of the Vice-Chancellor's New York Area Support Group. Here, 'A Dollar for UG' funds were handed over to the Vice-Chancellor as well as 'I love UG' t-shirts.



TOP: T-Shirts with slogan 'I love UG', donated by Dr Dhanpaul Narine and his family, being presented to the Vice-Chancellor.



ABOVE: The Vice Chancellor and his team at the Renaissance meeting in New York .

Induction of New UG Education Resource Ambassadors

by Dr Dhanpaul Narine



The Vice-Chancellor (in centre) with newly inducted Education Resource Ambassadors

The successful Labor Day weekend set the stage for an Education Resource Ambassador's (ERA) Induction Ceremony in late September in New York. The induction of new Ambassadors was attended by a number of professionals in the Tri-State area. In an impressive ceremony, the Vice-Chancellor outlined his vision for the University of Guyana. He said that he was impressed with the passion that the community has to help UG and he cited the June 2016 visit to Guyana where supporters paid their own passage to Guyana to see the condition of the University. The ambassadors raised a substantial sum to start the UG Renaissance.

According to Professor Griffith, "My inclusivity is one that goes beyond Guyana because there are many people who have a passion to help. I have found that there is a tremendous amount of talent that wants to help and rebuild UG and I welcome that. We have to remember that UG is for national development."

The Vice-Chancellor said that rebuilding UG will take time but all are involved and that he will reach out "beyond all categories" and will include everyone to help rebuild the University. The Vice-Chancellor ended by reminding the audience that, "we cannot rebuild UG without the diaspora". He said that it would be foolhardy to ignore the Diaspora and several of the invitees agreed with this assessment.

Furthermore, the newly inducted ambassadors all promised to work by giving their "time, talent and treasure" to restore UG to its former glory days.

The visit concluded on a high note. According to Vice-Chancellor Griffith, "The Renaissance Weekend in New York has set the stage for considerable financial, human capital, and technical assistance to our university by providing structure to Guyanese and other nationals in the Diaspora to support critical areas of need."

The Vice-Chancellor also highlighted some important tangential benefits of the visit. For example, he noted, "While attending the Guyana Cultural Association Kwe-Kwe, I was introduced by UG Ambassador, Dr Frank Denbow, to Mr Paul Ronald Reece, owner of Fly Jamaica. As a result, the following week, the Fly Jamaica senior management met with me and other senior university leaders and we agreed to a menu of partnership engagements. We expect to sign a Memorandum of Engagement before too long."

There is a lot to do, but Professor Ivelaw Griffith is demonstrating a leadership that includes, invests and inspires; it provides the basis for the UG Renaissance in which we all have a claim.

BELOW: Vice-Chancellor presenting newly inducted Education Resource Ambassadors with their certificates.



Minister David Patterson pledges support to UG

Minister David Patterson pledged his support during the August 28th encounter, which included a campus tour and sit down with the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ivelaw Griffith, and his Team.



The University Announces Major Administrative Changes

At a meeting held on Monday, August 22, 2016 at the Turkeyen Campus, the Finance and General Purpose Committee (F&GPC) of The University of Guyana, the second highest policy making body after the University Council, approved a proposal by Vice-Chancellor Professor Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith to comprehensively restructure the university's leadership. The reorganisation plan reassigns a few existing officials, promotes one individual, and establishes a few new positions. Today, we feature the biographies of these individuals who have been tasked to enable greater levels of efficiency and effectiveness within the University environment and set the stage for innovation in academic and non-academic areas.

Dr Michael E Scott has been married for over 30 years. A parent, grandparent, an educator and social scientist with a working career of over 40 years spanning the worlds of teaching, research, regional examination assessment, public management, academic institutional management and social science assessments and



Dr Michael Emanuel Scott, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Academic Engagement

audits of forests and education institutions, he is former Dean (2016 (ai) and 2005-2010) and Director of Graduate Studies Faculty of Social Sciences (1997-2002 and 2003-2005); lecturer in the Department of Government and International Affairs (1996-present) of the Faculty of Social Sciences.

Dr Scott is also a former Academic Board member of the Commonwealth of Learning (2007-2010); a visiting professor to Clarke Atlanta University and Morehouse and Spellman Colleges (2002); and a member of the ACU Fellows Network on Governance. He is an Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) Post-Doctoral Fellow in Governance and a visiting Fellow to the Political Economy Research Centre, Sheffield University (2003).

"Scotty" as he is lovingly called by friends and colleagues, holds a PhD from Goldsmiths College of The University of London in Social Sciences and Administration 1995; a MA from The University of Sheffield in Methods of Analysis in International Studies 1991, as well he is a British Council Graduate Scholarship awardee 1989. Dr Scott is a proud University of Guyana graduate with a BSocSc in Sociology (Distinction) 1984; and Grade 1 Class 1 Trained Teacher, Cyril Potter College of Education 1977.

He is an author and co-author of more than 25 scholarly pieces of work in books, journal articles, book reviews, working papers, and conference papers on governance and the public sector; other publications, including requested journal articles in other areas of interest, essays, and poetry on diverse subjects; and advisory reports for international development institutions. As the current Chairperson of the Inter-ministry Committee on Social Cohesion in Guyana, Dr Scott is also an elected laity of the General Board, and the International Board of Education (overseeing 53 universities and tertiary level institutions worldwide) of the Global Nazarene Church. He also functions in an advisory capacity at the Regional, Field and District levels of the Nazarene Church. Dr Scott is the Current Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the ACTT (Accredited Caribbean Nazarene College in Trinidad and Tobago) and a member of the Covenant of Christian Conduct (Global Nazarene Church) on Human Sexuality 2016.

Effective from October 1 this year, Dr Scott, will become Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Academic Engagement. In addition to the Faculties within his portfolio, Dr Scott will have oversight over several new units: the Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning; the School of Graduate Studies and Research; and the Office of Undergraduate Research.

Nelson Mandela: "After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb".

Barbara Reynolds is currently Deputy Vice-Chancellor - Planning and International Engagement. In this capacity, Dr Reynolds is responsible for overall planning and provides technical and administrative leadership for the University's regional and international agenda. From 2014 to 2016, she served as Deputy Vice-Chancellor - Academics, where she provided technical and administrative leadership for the University's faculties, schools and institutes, the Library, and the Berbice Campus. Prior to her assignment with UG, Dr Reynolds was Head of Education for Save the Children UK and, prior to that, she spent some twenty-three years with UNICEF in a range of capacities, including representational and programme assignments in education, child protection and innovation in Angola, Botswana,



Dr Barbara G Reynolds, Deputy Vice-Chancellor - Planning and International Engagement

China, Liberia, Nigeria, Zambia and at UNICEF's Headquarters in New York.

Dr Reynolds began her professional career as a teacher at the Central High School in Georgetown, Guyana, then at the Secondary School attached to the then Caribbean Union College in Trinidad, and subsequently as a Teacher and Assistant Principal

Dr Fitzgerald (Gerry) Yaw is a Caribbean and US educated economic development and governance professional who has been working on economic empowerment at the community, regional, and national levels since the 1990s in the Caribbean, the USA and Canada. Prior to returning to Guyana in August 2016 to work as a Special Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor of The University of Guyana (UG), Dr Yaw worked with Statistics Canada in the Edmonton Regional Office. There, he assisted and supported statistical survey operations staff in getting data on business,



Dr Fitzgerald Yaw, Director of Strategic Initiatives in the Vice-Chancellery

At the tender age of 18 years old, Ms Karen Wishart joined the staff of the University of Guyana as a Clerk/Typist II in the then Office of Resource Mobilisation and Planning in 1998. Three promotions later, she became the Personal Assistant/Confidential Secretary to Vice-Chancellor Dr James Rose in 2002. After completing a Bachelors Degree, Ms Wishart was promoted to Research Assistant at the UA Non-Academic staff level in 2007 where, among other duties, she was tasked with conducting research, and preparing reports and other documents required by the Vice-Chancellor. Some six years later, she was promoted again to the position of Programme Officer under the VC Jacob Opadeyi Administration, mainly to coordinate and monitor internal programmes/projects generated by the Of-



Ms Karen Wishart, Chief of Staff, Vice-Chancellery
fice of the Vice-Chancellor. Ms Wishart is now the first occupant of the position of Chief of Staff in the Vice-Chancellery and a member of

at the Westmoreland Secondary School in Grenada. Dr Reynolds has a keen interest in the development response to internally displaced persons, the role of the private sector in education and the integration of computer technologies in education. She is an active human rights professional, and an experienced HRBAP and Gender Mainstreaming facilitator. She is on the Advisory Council of NCD Child, an international alliance of individuals and organisations committed to the prevention, treatment and care of children and adolescents affected by NCDs. She holds a BA Education (USC); MA in Curriculum and Teaching (Howard); Diploma in Distance Education (London); EdD International Education Development/Curriculum and Instruction (Columbia); and M St International Human Rights Law (Oxford). Dr Reynolds speaks Portuguese and has a working knowledge of French. She is active in her home church, particularly in the areas of religious liberty and youth development.

agricultural and social surveys, as well as the Canadian general and agricultural censuses. This experience is going to be very useful in helping Dr Yaw to contextualize the role of UG in Guyana's national development as he works on supporting the renaissance efforts of the UG Vice-Chancellor.

The experiences and vision which Dr Yaw brings to his official role as Director, Office of Strategic Initiatives, include stints at Correctional Service Canada, Millennium 1 Solutions, the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, The University of

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the Vice-Chancellor's Cabinet.

Ms Wishart's academic achievements proves that if you are determined to succeed, you will! Even though she has been at the University for almost eighteen years and has served with four substantive Vice-Chancellors, many are not aware that Ms Wishart was a 'high school dropout', not because of poor academic performance but as a result of issues impacting her family life. Determined to succeed, she eventually enrolled at a private school where she completed two CXC subjects and the Pitman's English and Typewriting courses which were enough, at that time, to gain employment at the Typist level at UG. While working at UG she attended evening classes and completed a Certificate in Commerce at the Government Technical Institute

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Dr Paloma Mohamed, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Philanthropy, Alumni and Civic Engagement

Dr. Paloma Mohamed is a Guyanese born behavioral scientist who was educated at the University of Guyana, Harvard University, and the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. Her area of specialization is social and behavioral change, focusing specifically on how communicative and cultural aspects of life are implicated in change. She recently opened up two critical areas of behavioral research in Guy-

ana, interrogating the effects of new media and stigma. She returned to Guyana in 2007 to help re-establish the failing Centre for Communication Studies at the University of Guyana and, despite major challenges, has remained passionately committed to UG's progress in becoming a top ranking University. In doing so, she has functioned in multiple roles: as a world class academic, researcher, beloved and inspirational teacher, as well as a dedicated and courageous administrator.

As an academic, Dr Mohamed has produced and co-produced over 22 films and documentaries. She has also written and edited 11 books in addition to publishing in several academic journals. Her academic books include Communication, Power and Change in the Caribbean (Hansib, 2012) and Notes on the Media in Guyana (LAP 2014). Her recent contributions "Letters from The Past: The Creole Guyana's Second Coloured Newspaper (1856-1907)" and "National Consciousness and Notes of a Red Woman, Slightly Sane" are expected before 2017

As an administrator, Dr Mohamed has been Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences where she spearheaded the Faculty's reformation process from 2012 to 2014. Prior to that, she became the first Director of the Centre for Communication Studies, University of Guyana, having created and ran the Centre's reform from 2007 to 2012 under the USAID funded Pheonix project with Ohio University and UNESCO. Dr Mohamed became a member of the University of Guyana's Council in 2013 and also served as Chair of The University's 50th Anniversary Committee.

As a teacher, a job she describes as her "first and undying love", she has supervised over 100 undergraduate and graduate research projects, and taught hundreds of students in Guyana and abroad. She currently teaches Research Methods, Social Psychology and Health Behavior at the University of Guyana. Additionally, she has worked as a collaborator or principal investigator on several major international research protocols and served as a technical strategic asset to various local and international organizations. In recognition of her work, The University promoted her to tenured Senior Lecturer in 2010. This made her the most senior female academic on the campus at the time in terms of rank, apart from the Professors Emeritus.

Dr Mohamed's output as an artist, teacher, and scientist has also been widely acknowledged outside of The University.

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Have you seen this sculpture at Turkeyen?

ORINOOKO AND IMOINDA

The Royal Slaves 1669

The sculpture was done in Samon wood and took three years to be completed. The sculptor is Arthur Goodland, an English engineer who worked at the then Bookers Sugar Estate. Goodland, a keen amateur archaeologist, was at one time Honorary Curator of the Guyana Museum. THE STORY behind the story of Orinooko and Imoinda was written by Ms Aphra Benn and published under the title of "Five Restoration Plays" in 1695 by Everymans. It became quite popular and was extensively used by anti-slavery groups. The setting of the story was in Suriname. Orinooko himself was the son of a Koromantee King, who was also a slave trader. White traders thought it would be a good idea to have an African of high rank as a slave in Suriname where he could be used to help keep the slaves in submission.

Orinooko was therefore enticed on board a slave ship at Accra and given liquor to drink. He did not recover himself until the ship was three days out at sea.

In Suriname, Orinooko played his part by going from plantation to plantation to help keep the slaves quiet. One day, he came to a plantation where he saw his sweetheart Imoinda, whom he thought was still in Africa. He took her as his wife and, when she became pregnant, Orinooko felt that his child could not be born into captivity as a slave. Changing his role, Orinooko incited the slaves to rebel. However, the Dutch forces soon quelled the rebellion, and the two lovers died while trying to escape.

You can find this sculpture in the George Walcott Lecture Theatre at the Turkeyen campus.



Orinooko and Imoinda displayed in George Walcott Lecture Theatre (GWLT)

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Dr Fitzgerald Yaw

Director of Strategic Initiatives in the Vice-Chancellery

the West Indies (UWI) Centre for Environment and Development, Office of Planning and Development in the Vice Chancellery of The UWI, and Consultant to York College of City University of New York, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute, and the Inter-American Development Bank. Dr Yaw has a PhD in International Development from the University of Southern Mississippi. The title of Dr Yaw's PhD dissertation is "Cleaner Technologies as an Aspect of Sustainable Tourism: Caribbean Case Studies". Dr Yaw obtained his Bachelors Degree in Economics from The UG and a Masters in Social Studies from The UWI.

Dr Yaw has written on sustainable development issues looking

at the tourism sector, energy, governance, higher education funding, with a special interest in governance in the resource extraction sector. Dr Yaw's educational pursuits were supported by a Consortium Graduate Award to do his Masters studies at UWI and an Organization of American States-LASPAU Fellowship to complete his PhD.

Civic engagement is in Dr Yaw's view, an essential aspect of being a citizen and, in the Caribbean and The Americas, this position continues to be a key part of Dr Yaw's life. The basic act of voting in national and sub-national elections is an essential part of the civic engagement that is so vital to our citizenship, as is organized political activity within the context of our professional lives. Of course, Dr Yaw acknowledges

that our level of political engagement must not appear to bias our ability to provide excellent and fair services and commodities to all our stakeholders.

Dr Yaw has volunteered and served in leadership in the Gender and Development Studies Group at the UWI Mona Campus, the Sierra Club in Canada and the USA, The Jamaican Ottawa Community Association and the Mississippi Chapter of the Guyana-Mississippi Partnership. Dr Yaw's work with the Sierra Club involved significant engagement with stakeholders on renewable energy issues and these experiences are particularly relevant to the current and future work of The UG as well as being a great entry point for his continued civic engagement in Guyana.

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Ms Karen Wishart Chief of Staff

(with Distinction, 2001) and subsequently a Certificate in Industrial Relations and Management (best graduating student, 2002) at the Institute of Distance and Continuing Education, which gave her access to the undergraduate UG programme in Marketing.

In 2007, Ms Wishart graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Management (with Distinction) and in 2008, as part of the University's staff development programme, was awarded a scholarship to pursue UG's first offering of the Commonwealth Masters in Business Administration where she graduated in the top five in 2011.

Ever cognizant of the level at which she started at the University, she is passionate about advancement opportunities for UB (support) staff.

IDCE as a brand of its own

the vision of the institute in the mind of Ms Jacqueline Murray, Interim Deputy Director



Ms Jacqueline Murray, Interim Deputy Director, IDCE

On September 1, 2016, Jacqueline Murray was appointed Interim Deputy Director of the Institute of Distance and Continuing Education (IDCE).

An educator with over 28 years of experience, Ms Murray has built her reputation and character as well as her passion for the teaching profession with inspiration from one of her former lecturers.

As Ms Murray reflects on who might have

stirred up her passion for teaching, the name Anand Persaud entered her thoughts. He was a Managerial Economic lecturer whom she can distinctively remember was able to deliver content without the use of a "crutch" (notes) and fully engage his students in the learning process. The lecturer had aroused a passion in her about teaching which went beyond the walls of chalk and talk. She no longer wanted to just teach but rather, providing the right environment, to facilitate learning.

It is with great zeal that she now enters this new office to embark on fostering a better place of learning for the IDCE program. *"My vision extends far beyond that of the programmes offered by IDCE; I envision IDCE as occupying a space not catered for by others, having a brand all of its own. A*

place which commands respect and where people come to because of the quality and relevance of the delivery of services offered. A place which is able to sustain itself

"My vision extends far beyond that of the programmes offered by IDCE; I envision IDCE as occupying a space not catered for by others, having a brand all of its own."

and contribute meaningfully to the individual, organisational, and national developmental needs," she said.

But there are several areas which can be improved at the institute which is based in Georgetown, Anna Regina, New Amsterdam, and Linden.

Presently, Ms Murray sees the need for a library at IDCE, internet access for students to conduct research, and canteen facilities. At its orientation, the lecturers of the Institute highlighted the need for additional classroom space.

It was decided that short term measures would be put in place to alleviate space constraints and plans of a longer term will encompass the expansion of the present facilities through modification of the present structure or the acquisition of land and the erection of a new structure. In addition, she believes that lecturers need to take

measures to mainstream programmes offered by UG. In this regard a review of the programmes by colleagues with specialist skills will help, she said. "Having the programmes accredited by UG would undoubtedly increase the value of programmes to our customer and consequently impact positively on the demand for them."

Needless to say, these changes will not occur overnight and can only bear fruit if the necessary resources are provided. *"It will take cooperation, dedication, shared efforts, financial, human, technical, physical, and material resources,"* she said. Ms Murray has taken up the mantle and is ready and willing to work, an indication of a woman aspiring for excellence.

Ms Murray believes that to further enhance the package offered at IDCE, corresponding programmes offered by the Institute should be accredited by the University Of Guyana (UG). This is in order for students who are pursuing said courses to use them as entry require-

"The true measure of a man is not what he dreams, but what he aspires to be; a dream is nothing without action." - Mike Norton, White Mountain

The University Announces Major Administrative Changes continued

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Dr Paloma Mohamed, Deputy

Vice-Chancellor of Philanthropy, Alumni and Civic Engagement

Apart from three Guyana Prize for Literature awards, Paloma Mohamed has won several local and international awards for her writing and mentoring work in education and culture, including a Presidential Medal of Service in 2012 and the City of New York Award for Culture in 2013. She became the first woman Caribbean Laureate for Excellence in Arts and Letters in 2015 and was again recognized for her work in education and culture with a National Arrow of Achievement in May 2015. In 2015, she was recognized by the United States Embassy in Guyana as among the top 5 women in Guyana. Known for her indefatigable energy, creativ-

ity, passion, and selfless service, "Doc", as she is sometimes called, has served on numerous national and international bodies including UNESCO, CXC, NCN, and the Guyana Cultural Foundation. She is currently chair of the Theatre Guild of Guyana, was a Founding Director of CineGuyana, Moray House Trust, Healing Arts Inc, and The Institute for Peace Action.

Her new position came on October 1, in the newly created position of Deputy Vice Chancellor -PACE (Philanthropy, Alumni and Civic Engagement) and will see her working to build the new structures, policies, systems, and events needed for a robust endowment

and engagement with UG's 30,000 alum and with local and international organizations in the multi-billion dollar enterprise of the University's renaissance being espoused by new Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ivelaw L. Griffith. In responding to the challenge of filling this new position, Dr Mohamed states that it is way out of her comfort zone as a teacher and researcher. In coping, she recalls a concept she encountered when she was a teenager, by which she lives. It says: "God help me to excel today, and if I cannot, let me be brave in the attempt."

University of Guyana hosts *Turkeyen and Tain Talks 2* -stakeholders discuss suicide in Guyana

The observance of World Suicide Day on September 11, 2016 came at a significant time for Guyana and the country's leading tertiary institution has taken up the mantle of addressing the issue holistically. Rated among the highest in the world according to the Pan American Health Organisation/World Health Organisation (PAHO/WAHO) Country Representative, Dr William Adu-Krow, Guyana is currently experiencing the severity of suicide. According to Dr Adu-Krow, Guyana's average suicide rate per every 100,000 persons stands at 42.2 % compared to a 6.1 % average rate for Latin American and the rest of the Caribbean. The University of Guyana, in its desire to tackle the issue, hosted the second segment of the Turkeyen and Tain Talks, under the theme "Guyanese Lives Matter, Mental Health Matters: Preventing Suicide In Guyana".

As the name suggests, the event was held simultaneously in two (2) regions; in Region 4 at the Duke Lodge Hotel in Kingston and in Region 6 at the University of Guyana's Tain Campus.

Turkeyen and Tain Talks 2, which was streamed live, is expected to be a bi-monthly thought fora with the following aims:

1. To facilitate informed and respectful discourse on matters of public interest that have significant national, regional, or international implications
2. To enable the University of Guyana to serve as a public intellectual broker, allowing the academic, civic, business, diplomatic, and other communities to listen to and learn from each other
3. To offer meaningful evidence-based and policy relevant engagement between UG students, lecturers, researchers and alumni, on the one hand, and the public and private sectors and the international community on the other hand

The event on September 12 featured thought-provoking, informative, and solution oriented presentations from an esteemed and qualified panel which included, the Minister of Public Health, Dr George Norton; Dr Adu-Krow; Psychiatrist, Dr Bhiro Harry; Deputy Director of the University of Guyana, Tain Campus, Ms Paulette Henry; final year graduate student, Ms Liza Marie Merai; and Dr Raquel Thomas-Caesar, Forest Ecologist.

"Death is not extinguishing the light; it is putting out the lamp because the dawn has come"

Rabindranath Tagore

In delivering the welcome remarks, Professor Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, Tenth Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Guyana, conveyed his appreciation to all the persons and organisations that helped to make the event a resounding success. Professor Griffith emphasised the timeliness of this initiative and went on to share one of his favourite quotes by Rabindranath Tagore (above) which he anticipated would provide the general aura to lead the discussions.



Why?

Ms Paulette Henry in her presentation provided a brief definition of suicide, which she described as "a deliberate intent to kill oneself". She asked, "why?" and "What is the 'push factor'; what causes that person to go over the edge?" Ms Henry referred to the stigma attached to mental health issues in Guyana and its possible link to the escalating rate of suicide.

The vibrant and passionate presentation by Ms Henry, who also served as a social worker, focused mainly on causative circumstances which, according to her, include isolation, economic depression, relationship issues, finances, political upheavals, and the crime rate. She pointed to her studies of the Agro-Chemical Industry and the changes made by countries such as China, Brazil, and India that significantly reduced the use of agricultural pesticides, yet are still able to produce good crops. She went on to state that the studies also reveal that in developing countries, such as Guyana, the highest incidences of suicide by poisoning yields from the rural communities where farming is mostly done.

Ms Henry implored the Minister of Agriculture and other policy-makers to review the importation of pesticides and to explore safer alternatives for farming. She asked, "Are we doing right in terms of pesticide importation? Other countries are reducing the importation of these chemicals and are looking at different ways in terms of agriculture and how they farm and are still getting good yield. Can Guyana do the same?"

Additionally, it was pointed out that suicide due to gender based violence was also at its highest in these communities.

Hindus and Pentecostals

In his presentation, Dr Bhiro Harry provided statistics from an ongoing study on Suicide and Suicide Attempts in Guyana. While Dr Harry confirmed that young people between the ages of 14-35 were among the highest reported suicide cases in Guyana, persons over 50 years account for 16% of the total number. In terms of gender, the rate is 4 males to every 1 female of which suicide by poisoning, ranging from the extremely lethal gramoxone to multivitamins, accounts for 65%.

The study also revealed that East Indians account for 80% of suicide cases of which 30% are Hindus, while the second highest are the Afro-Guyanese with an average amount of 30%, of which at least 30% of the total amount are of the Pentecostal faith.

Dr Harry also stated that there are 20-25 reported attempted suicide cases to every one case of suicide. There is also an increase in the use of carbon tablets (rat poison) in suicide cases treated at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation.

Turkeyen and Tain Talks 3 is scheduled for October 20, 2016 at the University of Guyana's Tain Campus at 14:00 hrs - 16:00hrs. The topic will be *Farming, Profitability and Food Security: A Focus on Berbice*.

George W Talbot, CCH – Guyana's Son with an Iron Fist

“Men are born to succeed, not to fail” – Henry David Thoreau

Each person bears within stories grown from experiences in life. Many of the stories shared embody the wisdom of those in their golden years. The wisdom is intended to serve as guideposts to those who must walk the long brick road to claim their destinies. The wisdom givers are the ones who bore life into their young, nurtured and proved to be a pillar of strength for them. Those akin to us in extraordinary ways through genuine respect for those in their golden years can also be our wisdom givers. These folks once possessed the rigorous agility, bountiful joy, and wholesome spirit that youth affords people, but, sadly their features dwindle with the passing of time and turn into a basket of just tales and lessons.

Mr George Wilfred Talbot is a person who took pride in following his folks' teachings and tales. He used them to persistently walk the long adventurous steps to success. In an exchange, Mr Talbot revealed a number of details about himself, including what led him to become such a distinguishable character in life and how valuable were his folks' encouragement and constant support for him as a child. After spending so much time on earth, they possessed the power perfected with the glory of time to see that streak of brilliant artistry in a young one's soul which needed to be ignited. His story is a living testimony of what it means to inculcate old teachings in your life, valuing and employing them as stepping stones to accomplish one's aspirations through assiduous work.

Mr. Talbot is Guyana's Ambassador to Brazil and formerly the country's Permanent Representative to the United Nations. He sits quietly in the room sharing details of himself from different realms. Attired in a diplomat's classic black suit, the formal look coupled with the initial knowledge of his status, only punctuates the atmosphere with a remarkable aura of influence, leadership and authority. Like the game of chess, at face value Mr Talbot appears to be an easily sorted out matrix with small black and white squares that can be maneuvered with perceived appropriate skill. Obviously that is, if you are just staring at the chess board engag-

ing in spot on self-affirmation filled of the emptiness in many 'perhaps' and 'maybes' of figuring out everything. However, he is quite the opposite. His matter-of-fact tone of voice, complemented by his stern look, clearly suggests he is a force to be reckoned with, possessing a number of unpredictable moves which outweigh skill.

Definitely an inherent character trait polished with the glory of years and time. With a first name like George and a middle name like Wilfred, there comes no surprise at the lengths and measures that Mr Talbot has climbed to in his life thus far. He is a living pictorial display of his name: George derived from the Greeks meaning earth worker, among various meanings, which has derivations from the elements "earth" and "work." This derivation is applicable to the fact that, as a current Guyanese diplomat, he assidu-



Mr George W Talbot, CCH
Guyana's Ambassador to Brazil

ously toils his native land's affairs with dedication and diligence bent on arising fruitful in the end. Meanwhile, Wilfred has Germanic origins meaning "will" and "peace", which are applicable to the fact that Mr Talbot's eminent position, which includes effectively representing the country nationally and internationally, rests on being an ordered action-oriented policy negotiator and consultant.

Born in 1962 in London, United Kingdom to George Talbot Sr. and Amy Talbot,

George Wilfred Talbot came as a bundle of joy to the couple who had recently married in the early 1960s. When he was fifteen months old, the family returned to Georgetown, Guyana where he "lived and served" in the years that followed. As a young boy growing up, molded by his family's strong support, Christianity and its firm beliefs, he made a commitment to use God's teachings as a stepping stone to greatness and take each step in his life with Jesus' guidance.

He had aspirations rooted in multiple careers. Amongst the different types was to become an aircraft steward. Mr. Talbot said he previously, and still holds, an immense passion to assist others in unlocking their true potential while believing that each human being is actually a reservoir of potential, and if we dip within the depths of our potentiality we will discover our magnificence. Describing himself as "confident and reserved/quiet," he chose to expound on his choice of words, stating that confidence is needed to sell a country in the spotlight, and his quietness allows him to value and validate people from different calibers of life which is a trait he is glad to possess, for we are human beings and also valuable. We are all deserving of respect. This is actually a motto in his life.

Apart from growing up religiously oriented, Mr. Talbot recounted that his childhood was pleasant and filled with an abundance of stories told by his mother. In particular, the prominent story about Guyanese children from back in the day, whose parents were unable to afford electricity so they would use the street lamps as study lights and persevering until they became great men was one story that inspired him. These inspirational stories were examples to teach a young George the importance of obedience and hard work and how they propel one further in life. He added that his parents exerted good governance and discipline over him during these young days and instilled values like honesty and excellence, which are a prime in his work capacity today. Later on, although he resided with his mother after his parents were separated and eventually divorced, he still recalls that their continued parental support to aim high and achieve success never ceased.

Still climbing the staircase to success, Mr. Talbot conveyed he started the University of Guyana, and in 1991 he graduated, having majored in B.A. Modern Languages: Spanish and French (which he is conversant in presently) and minored in Economics. Moreover, he moved on to study M.A. International Relations at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University. Along life's path, he credited multiple factors for having an influence on who he is as an individual, what he believes in, and to what he is committed in life. Choosing among the many life experiences, "Christian principles, his parents, his teachers like Teacher Georgy who liked to expose students to lots of ex-

periences in many ways, some of his peers and his Ambassador predecessors like Master Critchlow" are some of those that inspired him. Choosing to air another one of his personal beliefs, Mr. Talbot conveyed that he believes every Guyanese is an ambassador in his or her own right since we all represent different things in our life's arenas. This is actually a view held by one of his predecessors.

The Guyanese author H.R. Braithwaite, of the book "To Sir with Love", and the first full time ambassador to the United Nations, once made a point based on his experience that we were all ambassadors. With that being said, Mr Talbot spoke of rewards which accompany his position. As a Guyanese, the onus is up to him to either conform to certain opinions about Guyana and its people or disabuse people of those perspectives. Mr Talbot stated that it is rewarding to have an immeasurable pride at selling Guyana with positive and favorable image and to the best of his ability to people and, in addition, seeing Guyana, a developing country, associating with the developed world.

A lesson Mr Talbot wished to share with those embarking on a similar path "was to do less complaining and to look for ways to learn from the past experience and whatever challenge one is enduring." Persons must be committed to work smart and to the best of their abilities at all times. He revealed that there are absolutely no substitutions to hard work or commitment. Personal attributes such as persistence, perseverance, patience and diligence are keys to assisting one in overcoming and going forward.

He has been graced with numerous for-

mal awards like his degree from Tufts University and degrees he earned from the University of Guyana: Modern Languages Award for Best Graduating Student and at his time Best Graduating Second Year Student in the Faculty of Arts. Recently, the President awarded him with the Cacique Crown of Honor, which he is yet to formally accept. Mr Talbot expressed "that it is an honor to be granted such an award" and to conduct himself in such a manner that is worthy of the award.

Initially it was not Mr Talbot's choice to be in the Foreign Service. Instead, he worked for the Government's Department of International Economic Cooperation before its disbandment in 1992 after the change in

“The reward of my job is being able to bring honor to the name of Guyana.”

political Government. The transfer of the regulatory functions and roles to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs saw the beginning of Mr Talbot's diplomatic journey. As Guyana's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York where his primary role is to represent Guyana in international assemblies on political, social, economical and other national related issues, Mr Talbot expressed his gratitude at being able to contribute, make a difference and be a good example to others while alluding to the fact that his job's reward "is being able to bring honor to the name of Guyana."

Clearly a patriot, he explained that it is his job is to "ensure his colleagues are influenced by his propositions and advance initiatives of importance, and ensure Guyana is being heard and has a place at the table in a constructive way." He is committed to creating strategies that, when implemented at an international level, will aid the development of Guyana. The demanding nature of such a job, according to Mr Talbot, has a lot of challenges which he has learned to maneuver with experience and the use of other tactics, stating that in diplomacy there is the word *Otium* meaning 'no leisure'.

On the other hand, surprisingly, Mr Talbot does have a leisure side. He tries to balance his work and home life, for instance, taking his wife on occasional dates which occurs "not as often as [we] would like since my job is a challenge given its constant demands." He added that table tennis is a fun pastime sport for him, and he even shared that he once liked soccer and was a part of a soccer

team in Georgetown. He also likes playing Sudoku and other mind stimulating games. Safe to say, Mr Talbot is a man who enjoys being challenged. He embodies the saying 'without struggle there would be no progress'.

Mr Talbot reminisced about some challenges he faced, challenges related to one's own advancement. He cited a time in the Foreign Ministry when there was a prolonged period of stagnation of promotions. "I spent a large chunk of my professional career working effectively while acting at higher levels but was effectively on entry level, in terms of ranking within the system." He continued, "But that changed after a long consecutive wait. The professional incentive

was somewhat stymied in terms of those challenges in the system." Undoubtedly, Mr Talbot knew what he wanted and worked to achieve it. Currently, he is on another mission, more like an indi-

vidual one. Disclosing some of his personal goals, he wishes to become proficient in a number of languages. He is currently developing his knowledge in Portuguese, since he has been speaking Spanish for quite awhile, and speaks a measure of French. He wants to improve his education of his country by reading more Guyanese literature pertaining to the land, the geography, its people, and their customs, and he wants to engage in cross-country travel to experience his beloved land. Everything in his life may not have cost him an easy price, but the path he took to gain the prize bearing his determination, perseverance and level of endurance to sustain until the end of the road proved to be priceless.

Mr Talbot further disclosed his assignment to bridge a stronger, productive relationship in many areas between Guyana and Brazil. He wants to ensure the neighbour countries have a strong relationship and future plans, such as building a road, setting up transmission equipment for the connection of electricity and building a deep water port (so as to facilitate the Brazilian trade and export market through Guyana and vice versa), are executed. These plans are the next items on his agenda. He further shared that, in 2018, the two countries shall share a diplomatic relationship of fifty years. He has a vision to strengthen political ties between the two countries and see them move forward.

When asked about the standout moment in his career, he spoke of the time Guyana was able to successfully settle its Maritime Dispute with Suriname in 2000.

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Norman Munroe, Career Educator

"I always try to encourage my students to have a life and be rounded individuals but at the same time be community centred. Your purpose in life is to leave the world a better place. That's my modus operandi and I try to impart that with my students."-Norman Munroe

As a boy, he was intrigued with the way things worked. He would dismantle clocks around the house to inspect their inner workings; jump at the opportunity to make model planes with his uncle; and work all day on making a propeller boat, which he would then promptly take down to a river or canal to race.

"I remember one of my aunts telling my father, 'This boy is going to be a scientist', and that stuck with me."

Now at the age of 66, Norman Munroe is living a different – albeit better – version of his boyhood dream of becoming a scientist and engineer; not only is he an educator with nearly 30 years of experience in Guyana, the United Kingdom, and the United States, but he is also the Chairperson of the Mechanical Engineering Department at the Florida International University (FIU) and has more academic qualifications than many persons even knew existed. His professional accomplishments, along with his stellar contributions to underrepresented groups, have also landed him a nomination as one of the "Top Black Educators" for 2016 by the Miami based Legacy Magazine.

But before the Bachelor's, Master's, Master of Philosophy, and Doctor in Engineering Science Degrees, before he went on to transform the lives of at-risk youths, Munroe was a simple child born in Agricola but raised in New Amsterdam. He lived with his parents and six siblings. His father was the headmaster of the New Amsterdam Handicraft Centre; his mother was a music teacher. His father was also the organist of the All Saint's Anglican Church while his mother was the choir mistress.

"I grew up in a household where education was a premium and each and every one of us had to learn to play music. We did not have much of a choice," Munroe said, before adding with a laugh, "Although, being the youngest boy, I rebelled, so my formal training in music was the least of all my siblings." Nonetheless, music was one of his deepest loves, a love that was fostered each

time he accompanied his father before church for organ practice. He soon discovered that he had a talent for playing by ear, and it was during these sessions that Munroe developed a better understanding of music.

"It was through observation and trial and error that I learnt to play music to the extent that, when I was 16, I joined a music group,

"I always try to encourage my students to have a life and be rounded individuals but at the same time be community centred. Your purpose in life is to leave the world a better place. That's my modus operandi and I try to impart that with my students."

where we played at dances and parties and weddings," Munroe shared. Naturally, this decision did not go over well with his parents. "They thought that it would detract from my grades, and actually it did." However, his academic achievements were still a major part of his life and, in fact, it was completely unavoidable. "My father used to hold lessons for some of his friends' children and my siblings and I had to be part of the group; even after church on Sunday my



Norman Munroe in his office.

father would have lessons."

Similarly, his mother held music lessons at home and his presence was also mandatory for these lessons.

With such a heavy emphasis on education, it was almost impossible for the children of the Munroe household not to excel.

"I was always in the top performers in my class; my parents had begun to expect a level of excellence from me," Munroe said.

He added that he had two older brothers who were very academically successful and it became his goal to supersede their accomplishments. His eldest brother had left the country at the age of 17 to study in England while another brother shined at his 'O' Levels. "I was very proud of my elder brothers and their accomplishments so they more or less set the stage and I had

no choice but to rise to the challenge."

And that he did.

At his 'A' and subsequently his 'O' Levels, Munroe performed spectacularly. "I did seven subjects and, in those days when you were successful at seven or more subjects, you were considered very accomplished. When you accomplished that, it was a tremendous feat."

His performance earned him a spot in an exchange programme to pursue his Bachelor of Science Degree in Physics/Chemistry at the University of Dar-es-Salaam in Tanzania. Before then, he briefly taught at a local high school. He subsequently returned home and took up a post as an Assistant Lecturer in the Chemistry Department at the University of Guyana (UG).

"I was proud to serve my country. For me, it was easy to get a job as a teacher," he said. He continued, "I guess it came naturally. I would often see my parents in front of classrooms so, growing up in that environment, I was immersed; I would wake up and teaching was going on, I would go to bed and teaching was

going on."

In the subsequent years, Munroe would go on to pursue his Master of Philosophy in Mineral Engineering; his Master of Science in Metallurgical Engineering; and his Engineering Science Doctorate in Chemical Metallurgy at the University of Leeds, University of British Columbia, and the Columbia University, respectively. He would also spend some years in Guyana

lecturing at UG, where he introduced new courses on mineral processing in the Chemistry Department. This position gave him the opportunity to train a cadre of new engineers in processes geared for Guyana's bauxite and mining industries. He finally set his sight on the Florida International University, where he has been for the past 25 years. He is currently an Associate Professor at FIU as well as the Chairperson of the institution's Mechanical Engineering Department, a post he has held since 2002.

He admitted that while he had had three loves growing up – cricket, music, and academics – he had been steered in the direction of academics. However, he did not regret this decision, he said. "I do not look at my positions as work," Munroe said. "Being a professor is like having your own enterprise where you have the freedom to craft your own life experiences. You can conduct research on anything you have an interest in; you can consult with industries, which I like because it assists me in having additional income. I love the freedom of not having to punch a clock because I can work wherever I want. That's the flexibility I like."

He further said that his teaching experiences in Guyana significantly aided in his career abroad. "In Guyana, you don't have all the resources you have in the United States so being able to do an effective job at teaching under those circumstances and coming to the US and finding that there's everything here to assist you, I found that I was ahead of the curve. My students gave me high ratings throughout the years."

He shared that when he became a full professor, it had felt like he had finally accomplished the pinnacle of his professional career. "To become a full professor, means you are accepted by your peers and had done enough to be called a full tenured professor; that was a major accomplishment for me," he said.

But for Munroe, his life is much more than his professional and academic achievements. For him, his greatest personal accomplishments are his children and their accomplishments. "Each time they accomplish something, it brings me great joy. I am a father of seven children and I have seven grandchildren."

He also said that teaching provides him with "so much psychic fulfilment".

"Especially when I taught at the high school level in Guyana, I loved seeing young persons transform and become so much better. Now I know so many persons who I taught that are now successful and I'm so proud of them. And I was also a young man when I taught, so my male students looked up to me with admiration and wanted to emulate me."

He further said that he greatly enjoyed positively shaping the lives of other people. "I take pride not just in educating them academically but educating them in life. I educate them on how to make informed decisions; how to



A younger Munroe at work.

develop critical thinking skills; how to be a problem solver; how to be a professional... So I have never been the type of person who is focused on academics. I always try to encourage my students to have a life and be rounded individuals but at the same time be community centred. Your purpose in life is to leave the world a better place. That's my modus operandi and I try to impart that with my students."

Munroe's desire to help others has led him to working with at-risk youth and underrepresented groups to make positive impacts. Since the early nineties, Munroe has been the Advisor for the National Society of Black Engineers.

"The Black male in the world is an endangered species; I've been encouraging most minorities, but particularly the Black male, to be true citizens and to have an entrepreneurial spirit. I think too many persons want to get a job to work for somebody else so I've been preaching for years the importance of self-sufficiency and self-employment and entrepreneurial focus for the future male Black generation."

Additionally, Munroe is a member of his university's 'Education Effect' programme. This programme focuses on strategic community engagement and has seen the adoption of two high schools in the inner city, the Booker

T. Washington High School and the Miami Northwestern Senior High School.

"Those were 'F' grade schools that are now 'A' grade schools and while that might not necessarily be primarily from our involvement, we have worked with them and we have dual enrolment programmes where students can have credits transferred when they move on to college," Munroe said.

Munroe has also created a summer camp where he introduced scholarship programmes for students' attendance. The third year of the summer camp just wrapped up in August 2016. He recalled one student from an inner city community who had gone through experiences some only read about or see in the movies. "This young man had seen murder with his own eyes; he was exposed to drugs and gangs. But he came to the camp and he was a star student. He was even featured on the news for his story and how the camp changed his perspective on life. Now he wants to become an engineer at FIU. That was the highlight of last summer's experience; stories like those are why I do what I do."

It is therefore no surprise, at least to those who know Munroe well, that he recently received a nomination from Legacy Magazine for its "Top Black Educators" of 2016 award. According to Ella Portero, a colleague of Munroe, the award is a "well deserved" one, especially in light of the work Munroe had done for years with at-risk students.

"This type of hands on work, in an environment rich with support, enthusiasm, and fun is indeed the factor needed to connect professional standards of educational excellence in engineering with real world application in a safe environment for these students," Portero said.

"This means a lot to me because, finally, after 25 years of teaching and going to high schools to give pep talks and to establish programmes and be an advisor to student societies, that someone believes I'm worthy of such an award. It's been a very long career of service to students of all religions, societal levels, and races, and I just feel honoured. I know there are others who are doing tremendous jobs and I feel honoured to be working along with these persons to make a difference in the communities we serve," Munroe said.

Today, Norman Munroe is still intrigued with the way things work. However, understanding the inner workings of clocks has become understanding the inner workings of the education system. He now jumps at the opportunity to share knowledge in the same way he jumped to help his uncle with model planes. And, while his trips to the rivers and canals for boat racing have considerably declined, he still makes time to race to his office where he works out new ways to help those in need. And he couldn't be any happier.

MAN OF PERSEVERANCE - STRAIGHT 'A' STUDENT

For as long as he can remember his passion has been to become a broadcaster; this guided him to pursue a career in journalism, a career which is now in its ninth year and growing. Meet Alva Solomon, a straight 'A' student and a father of two who is reading for a Degree in Communication Studies at Guyana's highest tertiary institution, the University of Guyana.

Wanting to be a broadcaster, Alva's hobbies for reading and writing led him to a different path, where over time, he became a superb writer and, with his love for travelling and photography, he also developed the art of descriptive writing.

Alva is employed by the state newspaper, the Guyana Chronicle, which takes up much of his time, but while this line of work may be his passion, his love is his children. A man of little words, a big heart and an intelligent mind, the seasoned journalist says his family matters most and they are placed foremost in his life.

It's ironic, that while as a jour-



Final year communication studies student Alva Solomon (right) as he poses with Dr Vibert Cambridge (left) after receiving the "Godfrey Chin Award for Heritage Journalism" from the Guyana Cultural Association in New York.

nalist interaction comes with the territory, Mr. Solomon does not like the limelight; he prefers doing the works from the shadows. If it requires interacting, he does it, but he is very nervous when it comes to public speaking. However, it is an issue this avid writer is trying to overcome by being more assertive. His self esteem

also gets the best of him, but he says it is what he is working to gain.

The writings of this ambitious young man over the years have paid off, as his spotted talent opened the door for an award. Just recently, Alva received the Godfrey Chin Award for Heritage Journalism in New York. The award, which was undertaken by the cultural Associ-

ation of New York, was created to honour journalists whose works are in tandem with the vision and work of Mr Chin.

A good writer who tries to captures the essence of the story, his passion comes from being able to tell a story descriptively and, while he feels he has completed a long journey, it is one with still much more grounds to cover.

When asked the one question in the mind of any interviewer, "where do you see yourself in the next five years?," his response was, "I plan to have my Masters in a related field, I plan to continue working in the media in a management position, and I also plan to ensure I spend more time assisting the poor. I think my leadership style is 90% complete."

A man who says age is just a number believes education is a man's riches. As his favourite quote, by Allan Bloom, puts it "Education is the movement from darkness to light".

George W Talbot, CCH continued

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During that time, there was the removal of oil exploration facilities from Guyana's waters which had to be settled by an arbitral tribunal under the Law of the Sea. Mr Talbot reminisced, with glee in his voice, on how the activation of that mechanism was a very important moment in his personal career. The dispute was settled after the handing over of important Governmental papers which initiated a peaceful agreement between the two countries.

Mr George Talbot is a respected son of the soil who is decorated with innumerable diplomatic honors. He is loyal to his motherland and enjoys serving

his country and his fellow people. Everyday a young Guyanese wakes up, looks through the window up at the sky with optimism dancing through his or her bones, hopeful that one day he or she will be the next George W. Talbot, to wear that distinguished diplomatic velvet glove which cloaks the iron fist of power.

The production team of *Renaissance* would like to offer warmest congratulations to Mr Talbot on receiving the Cacique's Crown of Honour, the second highest award in the Order of Service.



UG to play key role in Guyana Coconut Festival Revival -Turkeyen campus participates in planning process



A presentation for the Coconut Festival at University of Guyana's Turkeyen Campus.

The University of Guyana is expected to play a major role in the revival of the local coconut industry and several faculties at the Turkeyen Campus have been identified for participation in next month's Guyana Coconut Festival.

The week-long festival runs from October 16 at the Arthur Chung Convention Centre and, at a recently held meeting at the Turkeyen Campus, a general agreement was made between the organisers and other stakeholders and the university.

Key Faculty members from the Agriculture and Forestry, Natural Sciences, Technology, Health Sciences and Humanities were present at the meeting which was coordinated as part of the Faculty of Agriculture's Annual Staff and Student Review Conference held on September 1, 2016.

The conference was held at the Faculty of Agriculture building at the Turkeyen campus and the university hosted the planning committee of the Guyana Coconut Festival for a two-hour session which sought to raise awareness on campus of the festival scheduled for October 15 to 23, 2016.

The Guyana Coconut Festival is a collaboration among the Department of Tourism in the Ministry of Business, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the National Stakeholders Platform for the Coconut Industry Development in Guyana.

Former alumni of the University, Mr Donald Sinclair - Director General in Tourism in the Tourism Department, and Mr. Raymond F Trotz - Chairman of the Stakeholder's Platform, made presentations on the planning of the festival and the role of the University in the development of the coconut industry beyond October's event. Dr Pat Francis, former Dean in the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, moderated the conference, which also saw participation from the student population at UG.

The Coconut Festival is expected to be intertwined with a number of Food Festivals held across the Caribbean in the emerging field of 'agro-tourism'. The Arthur Chung Convention Centre will host various events of the festival such as the Launching on

October 16, the Coconut Cook Out on October 19, the Coconut Industry Forum and Launch of the National Coconut Development Road Map on October 20, the Coconut Summit and Business Meetings on October 21 and the three-day Festival starting on October 21 also with various booths, exhibitions, and entertainment.

The 'Awakening of the Sleeping Giant' is the theme of the festival this year and the University is being seen as ideally suited to provide the necessary support that the coconut industry needs in its re-emergence.

Already the University has long awakened the coconut palm in various research projects such as in the Department of Chemistry and the Faculty of Health Sciences.

Not to be outdone, the Faculty of Technology is gearing itself in playing its part with the development of coconut processing technology of various kinds. With increasing worldwide demand for various coconut products, especially value-added products, research and product development would be essential along with marketing and promotion among many other specializations already on offer by the University. The vast economic benefits to the country arising from the re-emerged coconut industry will see the University itself benefitting from this relationship.

At the conference on September 1, various value-added coconut products such as soaps, oils, skin creams, coconut milk and bottled coconut water among other products were on display.



Items on display at the Coconut Festival.

For additional information on the coconut festival, persons can visit the Facebook page of the Guyana Coconut Festival and its website at <http://www.guyanacoconutfestival.com/>

UG IN BRIEF

With a current enrollment of some 8,000 students, The University of Guyana (UG) has graduated more than 20,000 students who have gone on to successful careers locally regionally and international. The University is also a major contributor to the national economy and to business and industries. Establishment in the 1963 on the part-time basis with share space at Queens College, UG moved to its own Campus at Turkeyen in 1970 and expanded in 2000 with the addition of the Tain Campus. It now offers more than 60 Under-graduate and Post-Graduate programmes including the Natural Science, Engineering, environmental Studies, Forestry, Urban planning and Management, Tourism, Education, Creative Arts, Economics, Law, Medicine, Optometry and nursing. Several online programmes are available and The UG also offers extra-mural classes at four locations through its Institution of Distance learning and Continuing Education (IDCE). The UG also offers the opportunity for students' engagement in debating, sports, and cultural religious and professional activities.

Study Options at The University of Guyana Programmes offered at the Turkeyen Campus - 2016/2017

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY:

Bachelor of Science (Agriculture)
Bachelor of Science (Forestry)
Associate of Science (Forestry)

FACULTY OF EDUCATION & HUMANITIES:

MPhil/PhD in Education
MPhil/PhD in English/Linguistics
MPhil/PhD in Comparative Literature
MPhil/PhD in History
Post Graduate Diploma in Education
Master of Education -
Management and Supervision with Project
Master of Education -
Literacy Studies with Project
Master of Education
(Measurement and Evaluation)
Master of Education
(Management and Supervision)
Master of Education (Literacy Studies)

Master of Education
(Curriculum & Instruction)
Master in Education - Curriculum &
Instruction with Project
Bachelor of Education (Secondary)
Bachelor of Education (Administration)
Bachelor of Arts (Tourism)
Bachelor of Arts (Spanish)
Bachelor of Arts (History)
Bachelor of Arts (Fine Arts)
Bachelor of Arts (English) - Literature
Associate of Arts (Spanish)
Associate of Arts (Portuguese)
Associate of Arts (Music/Creative Arts)
Associate of Arts (History)
Associate of Arts (French)
Associate of Arts (Fine Arts)
Associate of Arts (English)
Associate of Arts (Anthropology)
Certificate of Competence in French
Certificate of Competence in Spanish

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES:
Master of Public Health
Bachelor of Science (Pharmacy)
Bachelor of Science (Optometry)
Bachelor of Science (Nursing)
Bachelor of Science (Medical Technology)
Bachelor of Science
(Medical Rehabilitation) [Speech-Language
Therapy & Audiology]
Bachelor of Science (Medical Imaging)
Bachelor of Science
(Environmental Health)
Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery
Bachelor of Dental Surgery

FACULTY OF NATURAL SCIENCES:
Bachelor of Science (Biology)
Bachelor of Science (Chemistry)
Bachelor of Science (Computer Science)
Bachelor of Science (Mathematics)
Bachelor of Science (Statistics)
Associate of Science (Chemistry) [Biology]
Associate of Science (Chemistry) [Physics]
Associate of Science (Mathematics)
Associate of Science (Physics)
Diploma in Computer Science

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES:
Bachelor of Laws (0850),
Bachelor of Social Science
(Business Economics)
Bachelor of Social Science
(Business Management)
Bachelor of Social Science
(Communication Studies)
Bachelor of Social Science (Economics)
Bachelor of Social Science
(International Relations)
Bachelor of Social Science (Marketing)
Bachelor of Social Science

(Public Management)
Bachelor of Social Science (Social Work)
Bachelor of Social Science (Sociology)
Associate of Social Science (Social Work)
Diploma in Accountancy
Diploma in Banking and Finance
Diploma in Communication Studies
Diploma in Public Management

FACULTY OF TECHNOLOGY:
Bachelor of Engineering
(Applied and Exploration Geology)
Bachelor of Science (Architecture) [New]
Bachelor of Science (Civil with
Environmental Engineering)
Bachelor of Science
(Electrical Engineering)
Bachelor of Science
(Mechanical Engineering)
Associate of Science
(Applied and Exploration Geology)
Associate of Science (Civil Engineering)
Associate of Science
(Electrical Engineering)
Associate of Science
(Mechanical Engineering)
Diploma in Industrial Engineering
Diploma in Technology -
Aeronautical Engineering
Diploma in Technology - Architecture [New]
Certificate in Industrial Engineering

SCHOOL OF EARTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES:
Master of Science
(Environmental Management)
Master of Science
(Urban Planning and Management)
Bachelor of Arts (Geography / Economics)
Bachelor of Arts (Geography)
Bachelor of Science (Environmental Studies)

Additional Study Options Available at The University of Guyana

Commonwealth Master of Business Administration
Commonwealth Master of Public Administration
Master of Philosophy (Biodiversity)
Master of Science (Renewable Energy Technology)
Master of Science in Forest Biology
Post Graduate Diploma in Education - Social Studies
Post Graduate Diploma in Education - Administration
Post Graduate Diploma in Education - Mathematics
Post Graduate Diploma in Education - Science
Associate of Arts (Tourism Studies)
Associate of Science (Environmental Health)
Bachelor of Education (Agriculture)
Bachelor of Education (Business Studies)
Bachelor of Education (English)
Bachelor of Education (Geography)
Bachelor of Education (History)
Bachelor of Education (Mathematics)
Bachelor of Education (Science)
Bachelor of Education - Home Economics
Bachelor of Education - Literacy Studies
Bachelor of Education - Modern Languages
Bachelor of Education - Social Studies
Bachelor of Education - Technical Education
Bachelor of Engineering (Civil Engineering)
Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical Engineering)
Bachelor of Engineering (Geological Engineering)
Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical Engineering)
Bachelor of Science (Rehabilitation Sciences)
Diploma in Occupational Health And Safety
Diploma in Social Work
Diploma in Technology - Civil Engineering
Diploma in Technology - Electrical Engineering
Diploma in Technology - Geological Engineering
Diploma in Technology - Mechanical Engineering
Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Biodiversity

Save the Date: OCTOBER 20, 2016

Turkeyen and Tain Talks 3


Topic: Farming, Profitability and Food Security: A focus on Berbice
Place: Berbice - UG Tain Campus
14:00 hrs - 16:00 hrs



Save the Date: NOVEMBER 15, 2016

Turkeyen and Tain Talks 4

Topic: Implications of the US Presidential Elections for US relations with Guyana and the rest of the Western Hemisphere
Place: The Pegasus Hotel




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Guyana

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University of Guyana Foreign Exchange
Beneficiary Account: Account #001-124-7
Bank Name & Address:
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38 Water Street
Robbstown, Georgetown
Guyana

Bank Swift / ABA / Routing: RBGLGYGG

If Intermediary Bank is requested:

Corresponding Bank: USA
Bank Name & Address: Bank of America
NY Branch,
100 West 33rd Street
New York 10001

ABA Code: 026009593
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SAVE THE DATE!
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ESTABLISHING A CARIBBEAN DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT CENTRE
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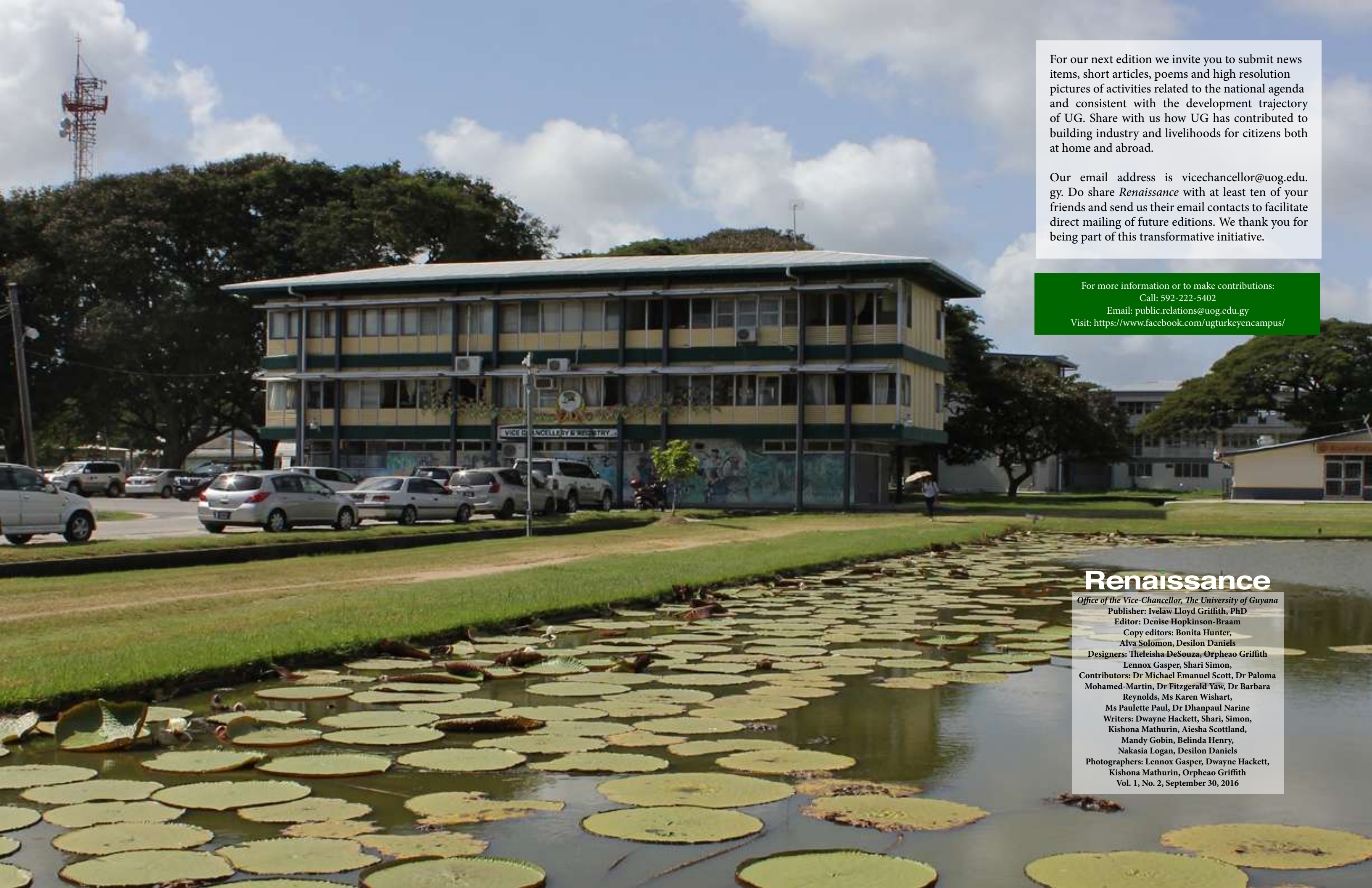
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THERE WILL BE A CALL FOR PAPERS ON THE DIASPORA AND
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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AT THE UNIVERSITY'S WEBSITE: WWW.UOG.EDU.GY
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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.

Our email address is vicechancellor@uog.edu.gy. 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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Renaissance

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