Annual Agriculture & Forestry Review Conference
Lecturers and students from the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry presented the results of their research projects on June 29 - 30. The projects showcased were:
Forest Education in Guyana - Meeting the Challenges of the 21st Century; A study of the relationship between site and growth potential for *Pinus caribaea*; A skills analysis of chainsaw operators of Region 10 in Guyana; The Social Forestry Experience: The Guyana Context. An assessment of perceptions of the responsiveness of the Formal Authorities towards the need for social sustainability; Report on the biophysical assessment of home gardens; An appraisal of the Social Impacts of the Barama Company Limited on the Port Kaituma community in the North Western region of Guyana; Bird watching opportunities within Georgetown, Guyana: a survey of three potential sites; Potential Microbes as a tribute to National wealth; Effect of Timing and Rate of Application of potassium on the grain yield of rice grown under a lowland irrigation production system; Effect of seed rate on the grain yield of five new rice lines grown under a lowland irrigated production system; Influence of water depth on emergence and yield of rice; The efficacy of reduced tillage operation in combination with Glyphosate for the control of weed in rice cultivation in Guyana; Ascertaining the trend of deterioration of insect damage stalks and the impact of deterioration on juice quality of sugarcane; Investigating the reproductive capability and close response of three entomopathogenic nematodes to use as possible biocontrol agents; Evaluation of reduced tillage operations and their effects on sugarcane growth and yields; Evaluation of the performance of broilers fed a multienzyme complex Avisyme and its effects on VFA production and utilization; The effect of feeding multinutritional blocks on growth parameters and carcass quality of rabbits; Ensiling of bagasse and brewers grains - Effect on the nutrient composition and feeding value when fed to dairy heifers; An evaluation of the effects of tapeworms and roundworms on growth parameters of sheep; An evaluation of chemical changes in poultry litter treated with calcium carbonate and aluminum sulphate; and Effect of pH and different sources of nitrogen fertilizer on ammonia volatilization from Whittalker clay in the laboratory. For further information on the Conference click here.

Inter-University Collaboration
Dr Mark Kirton, Dean in the Faculty of Social Sciences, met with officials from the Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers Florida on July 5 - 8, to discuss, among other issues, faculty staff exchange and negotiation.

Hospital Staff trained at CSIH Funded Workshop
The Canadian Society of International Health (CSIH) funded a training workshop on “The Isolation and Identification of *Neisseria Gonorrhoeae*”. The workshop was facilitated by the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC), and was held at the Faculty of Health Sciences on July 6 - 10. Persons were trained in the identification and isolation of the causative agent of gonorrhea, as part of the National Sexually Transmitted Infections Study planned by CSIH. Staff from the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation, Linden Hospital, West Demerara Regional Hospital and the Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association were trained. Two UG members of staff, Ms Ede Tyrell Langvine, Head of Department of Medical Technology and Ms Sabrina London, Health Sciences Technician, also participated.
**Attendance at Conferences/Seminars**
Ms Carmen Same, Lecturer in the Department of Language & Cultural Studies, School of Education & Humanities attended the Fourth International Conference on Socio-Religious Studies form July 7 - 10 in Havana, Cuba. Prof. Aubrey Bishop attended a meeting of Regional Judicial & Legal Services Commission (RJLSC) of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) from July 15 - 16 in Trinidad. Prof. Clive Thomas attended meetings in Trinidad, Cornell and Washington on Agriculture Food Security from July 23 to August 1.

**Overseas-based Guyanese donates books**
On July 8, Mr. Yeon Adams, a Guyanese living overseas and a Graduate of the City University in New York, donated books, periodicals and audiovisual materials to the value of G$775,304.00. Mr. Adams learnt about the limitations of the library’s resources through the Internet newspapers and decided to make the donation.

**IDS conducts workshop on Trade in Nursing Services**
On July 12, UG's Institute of Development Studies (IDS) held a workshop on International Trade Negotiations/Proposals: Trade in Nursing Services. The workshop was part of a consultancy commissioned by CARICOM, to devise a modality to address the issue of managed migration of nurses and the economic returns of skills. The consultants were UG's IDS Director, Prof. Clive Thomas, Barbados-based PAHO Human Resource Development Adviser, Dr Jean Yan, and UWI Lecturer, Dr Roger Hosein.

**Shivraj Maraj Memorial Award for Best Graduating Computer Science Student**
On July 12, Vishnu Panday & Associates Inc., in observance of the Company's 10th anniversary of being in the IT Services business in Guyana and in memory of their grandfather, Mr. Shivraj Maraj, established the Shivraj Maraj Memorial Award for the best graduating Computer Science student. Among other benefits, the student will receive a monetary gift to the value of $150,000. The Company is expected to upkeep the Award for an initial period of ten years after which there will be an option to renew.

**School of Medicine on Caribbean Accreditation Authority (CAA) for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions**
The Caribbean Accreditation Authority (CAA) for Education in Medicine and Other Health Professions was officially launched on July 14 and will be based in Jamaica. The Authority is chaired by Prof. E.R. Waldron (Barbados) with Dr Carl Max Hanoman, UG's Director of the School of Medicine, being the Deputy Chairman. Other members of the Authority are Executive Director, Ms Lorna Parkins, Dr B. Wint (CMO, Ministry of Health, Jamaica), Dr R. Doon (CMO, Ministry of Health, Trinidad & Tobago), Dr Linda Lovell-Roberts (CMO, Antigua & Barbuda), Dr David Hawkins (Executive Director, Association of Canadian Medical Colleges, Canada), Sir Graeme Catto (President, General Medical Council, UK), Dr Patrick Ross (St. George's University, Grenada), Prof. Phyllis Pitt-Miller, Dr Paluri Murti and Dr Winthrop Harewood (UWI, St. Augustine Campus), Dr George Mahy (UWI, Barbados), Mr Leroy Gibbs (St. Andrews Children Centre, Barbados) and Medical students, Astor Robertson (UG) and Ramon Arscott (UWI, Jamaica). The need for the Authority arose because the British-based General Medical Council had announced it was withdrawing its accreditation for medical programmes offered at universities in the Commonwealth, including UWI. The CAA will now assume responsibility for the accreditation of regional medical and other health programmes, and has been approved by the Caribbean Heads of States.
International Relations Association Participates in Model UN General Assembly

Final year International Relations students and members of the UG's International Affairs Association (UGIAA) - Robert Bazil, Carl Damon, Johan David, Jason Fields, Jermaine Grant and Florence LaRose attended the Model United Nations General Assembly in Brasilia, Brazil, July 18 - 27. The Assembly brought together representatives from approximately sixty countries. The UG group were the only representatives from the English-speaking Caribbean, and sat on committees dealing with Special Political Decolonisation (SPEC POL), World Trade Organisation (WTO), Economic & Finance, Human Rights and UN Reform, and received high commendation for their performance. Attendance at the Assembly was facilitated by funds provided by the Faculty of Social Sciences and UGIAA's fundraising activities. In addition, the Brazilian Embassy in Guyana provided bus tickets for travel from Guyana to Manaus and ensured that the students had a contact person who spoke English at every port of entry. Further, in Lethem, Damon and Shirley Melville provided accommodation and hospitality, which was most welcome.

Training Workshop for the HIV Rapid Test Trainers Training

Staff from the Faculty of Health Sciences benefited from a Training Workshop for the HIV Rapid Test Trainers Training held from July 19 - 23. The workshop was funded by the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) and facilitated by staff from the Ministry of Health, Georgetown Public Hospital Corp (GPHC) and the National Blood Transfusion Service (NBTS). The facilitators made use of the laboratory infrastructure (for practicals) and one of the classrooms in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

Summer Reading Programme at UGBC

The Library at the Tain Campus held a Holiday Reading Programme from July 19 to August 6. The programme targeted sixty Grade 6 students of the Tain Primary School and its aim was to improve the reading skills of these students so as to assist them in preparation for the 2005 Secondary School Entrance Examination. The programme was led by Dr Janis Cushnie, VSO Literacy Advisor in the Ministry of Education. Dr Cushnie was assisted by twenty UGBC students who had participated in a pre-programme training session on methodologies for teaching reading strategies. The programme was free of cost to the students and was supported by donations from the Demerara Bank, the Guyana Book Foundation, Spready's Bakery, Tain Supermarket, Banks DIH Ltd., Demerara Distillers Ltd, Church View International Hotel, the Berbice Chamber of Commerce and Development Association, La Caribe Diner and Mr. Ryan Alexander.

Participation in CXC Marking Exercises

A number of staff served as Chief Examiners and Assistant Examiners at the CXC Marking Exercise. Among these were Prof. Joycelyn Loncke and Peter Francis Wintz from the School of Education & Humanities; Dr Michael Scott and Dr Cyril Solomon, Faculty of Social Sciences; Mr. Mel Sankies, Faculty of Technology; Mr. Rayman Khan, Manager Computer Services; Mr. Fitzroy Marcus, Deputy Director- IDCE; Prof Winston McGowan, Walter Rodney Chair and Ms Yvonne Lancaster, University Librarian.

Earned Study Leave

Twenty five academic staff and an Assistant Librarian commenced their three months earned study leave at various institutions across Guyana, the Caribbean, USA and the UK. Staff are expected to resume duty in time for the commencement of Semester 1, 2004.
UG/UWI explores collaboration in Science
Exploratory discussions between the Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of UWI, St Augustine Campus, Prof. Bhendradatt Tewari, and Deputy Vice-Chancellor of UG, Mr Al Creighton, resulted in a visit to UG by Director of Business Development at UWI, Dr David Rampersad, and St Augustine’s Head of Life Sciences, Dr Grace Sirju-Charran, to investigate collaboration in the areas of forestry and biodiversity. Dr Rampersad and Dr Sirju-Charran met with UG officials and representatives of the Guyana Forestry Commission, Iwokrama, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency to explore the possibilities of expanded formal collaboration with UG and associates in academic programmes and field research. Dr Rampersad emphasized that this was a part of UWI’s interest in forging strategic links with other Caribbean institutions and although this meeting was primarily about forestry, biology, agriculture and biodiversity, UWI had intentions of exploring other areas as well. For this purpose, further meetings were planned with UG Dean of Technology, Dr William Wilson who will visit St Augustine. Meanwhile, UWI will continue to work through UG’s Deputy Vice-Chancellor Mr. Al Creighton and Resource Mobilisation and Planning Director Dr Marlene Cox, who, as a former Deputy Vice-Chancellor had re-opened active links with CARICOM.

ACU/OAS Awards
Four staff members have been granted awards from the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) and the Organisation of American States (OAS). Dr Theodosius Velloza, Assistant Dean in the Faculty of Agriculture & Forestry, is the recipient of an ACU award to pursue a 6-month fellowship in Molecular Techniques at the Royal Botanic Gardens, while Ms Stacy Peters, Administrative Officer (Planning) in the Office of Resource Mobilisation & Planning has received the ACU/FCO Award for the MA in Human Resource Management at the University of Westminster. Ms Bibi Rafieza Khan, Lecturer in the Department of Biology, Faculty of Natural Sciences, has received an OAS/Fulbright award to pursue the MSc in Molecular Biology at the University of Arkansas while Ms Felicia Ann De Santos, Lecturer in the Department of Chemistry, has received an OAS award to pursue the MSc in Food Science at the University of Illinois.

Professor spearheads Mushroom Cultivation in Berbice/Turkeyen Project
At the request of the Dean, Faculty of Agriculture & Forestry, Dr. Lalitakumari, a Professor within the Division of Agriculture & Natural Sciences, at the Berbice Campus, initiated a study on the cultivation of edible mushrooms under local conditions. Rice bran, rice straw (paddy hull), coconut fibre, sawdust and sugarcane bagasse were used as substrates for raising oyster mushroom beds. The pure culture of oyster mushroom, obtained from the University of Madras, Tamil Nadu, India, was used to raise the mushroom spawn (seed material). According to Dr Patsy Francis, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture & Forestry, the mushroom project is intended to achieve transfer of the science and technology of edible mushroom cultivation to academic staff and students within the Faculty, and to optimize the conditions necessary to cultivate edible mushrooms on a commercial basis so that it provides an alternative source of income for Agricultural entrepreneurs. For more info about the study click here.

New Basic Admission Requirements
Academic Board re-examined the current basic admission requirements with the aim of implementing measures intended to ensure a perceptible rise in the academic standard at the University. Consequently, it is expected that the basic entry requirements will be raised. Currently, students are admitted with GCE 'A' Level or CAPE qualifications or with CXC/GCE subjects. Changes will be made at the CXC/GCE level. The change has come about in response to concerns expressed over the inadequate preparation and unreadiness of a number of GCE/CXC students admitted to the University. The Academic Board also approved the reintroduction of the Open Entrance Examination. Persons who apply for admission under the Mature Student and other categories will be asked to write this examination. The new entry requirements are expected to take effect from September 2005.
Student Insurance
From September 2004, the University will introduce an insurance scheme to cover student activities on campus (with the exception of accidents arising from cars/motorcycles/bicycles) and while on approved field trips. The University will bear the cost of the insurance during academic year 2004/2005; students will bear the cost in subsequent years.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Lectures at UWI
In June, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Al Creighton, served as Visiting Lecturer in the Post-Graduate Programme of the Faculty of Humanities & Education at the University of the West Indies, St Augustine. He lectured in the MA Programme in Arts Culture and Enterprise Management; his main topics were in the study of folk traditions, the popular culture and the traditional festivals of the Caribbean. The assignment at UWI provided another opportunity for UG’s Deputy Vice-Chancellor to return to the academic sphere in areas in which he has done extensive research and published papers.

Featured Alumni
Ms Sharifa Razack, Director, Education Information and Training, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Ms Sharifa Razack graduated from UG with a BSc in Biology in 1980 and Postgraduate Diploma in Education in 1984. Upon completion of the diploma, Ms Razack obtained a Postgraduate Certificate from the University of Strathclyde, Scotland in 1995 and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Environmental Management at the Dresden Technical University, Germany in 1999. She then returned home and in 2001 completed the Masters Degree in Education at the University of Guyana. Currently an Environment Educator and Director, Education Information & Training at the EPA, Ms Razack oversees the implementation of programmes aimed at building public awareness of environmental issues and at influencing positive environmental behaviour. Prior to her appointment at the EPA, Ms Razack headed the Department of Science at Bishop's High School and has served for many years as Assistant Examiner and on the Syllabus Review Committee of Integrated Science for the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC). She also held the post of Assistant Chief and Chief Examiner in the National Fourth Form Assessment Test (NFFAT) in Integrated Science and Biology, and has been the recipient of service awards from Bishops’ High school and the Caribbean Examinations Council.

This newsletter is a monthly publication created to keep our alumni updated with news at the University of Guyana and alumni. Each month an alumnus will be featured. If you are an alumnus please advise us of recent developments. If you would like to be featured, please send us your CV, a recent photograph and a letter telling us about yourself. These can be emailed here. Feel free to send your questions and/or suggestions here. We look forward to hearing from you!

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