**SEES undertakes Consultancy**

The School of Earth & Environment Sciences (SEES) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Latin America & the Caribbean, the Office of the President of Guyana and the Mayor & City Council of Georgetown, to conduct an assessment based on which they will publish the Urban Environmental Assessment Report. The contract is of thirteen months duration and the assessment will be done by the methodology of GEO Cities.

**New Post Graduate Programmes in Development & Policy Analysis**

The M.Soc.Sc and Post Graduate Diploma programmes in Development & Policy Analysis commenced with an orientation ceremony on September 18 in the Education Lecture Theatre. The aim of the M.Soc.Sc and Post Graduate Diploma in Development & Policy Analysis is to enhance capabilities in statistics, policy formulation and analysis, and research methods. The programmes will therefore provide participants with training in statistics, research methods and policy process and will provide an opportunity for individuals with an academic interest in the social sciences to learn from the practical knowledge of post-experience public sector employees and vice versa.

**Chemistry Graduates have excelled in Food Science**

One of UG’s Chemistry graduates, Ms Felicia DeSantos, recently visited the Department of Chemistry, after successfully completing a Master of Science in Food Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA under an OAS/ALLASPN scholarship. The title of her thesis was "The Effect of Modified Atmospheric Packaging on the Colour of Stored Cooked Pork". Ms DeSantos has returned to pursue a PhD in Food Product Development, through an extension of the scholarship.

**Workshop to address human resource issues**

The University has embarked on a Human Resource Management (HRM) initiative in an effort to improve staff morale and work conditions at the institution. Toward this end, a HRM Workshop is scheduled for October 5 -10. The Workshop is intended to allow staff an opportunity to develop departmental goals, determine content, priorities and first steps for the HRM Action Plan, which is in keeping with the institution’s strategic goal that addresses the need to strengthen management systems and governance. The initiative is also as a result of staff comments and concerns raised during a recent Manpower Audit.

The Workshop will be facilitated by officials from the CARICOM Secretariat, namely Ms Sandra Myers, Adviser, HRM (Lead Facilitator) and Ms Joyce Sinclair, Special Assistant, HRM.

**Professor James examines The Constitution of Guyana**

The Institute of Development Studies (IDS) has released its recent publication ‘The Constitution of Guyana –A Study of its Dysfunctional Application’ by Professor Rudolph James, Lecturer, Department of Law. The book was launched on Tuesday, September 26 in the Education Lecture Theatre, Turkeyen Campus and is said to be a timely publication. Copies are on sale for $3,000 each at the Institute of Development Studies, contact number 222-5409.

**Lecturers receive the green light for research projects**

The University approved the following research projects:
1. ‘An Investigation into the Water Quality of Mangrove Sites along the Sea Coast of Guyana’, Mr. Owen Bovell;
2. ‘An evaluation of vermicomposting utilizing soils, filterpress, mud, cow manure as organic substrates’, by Ms Ida Sealy-Adams;
3. ‘An evaluation of the 4 breeds/crosses of ducks under local conditions’, by Dr Thomas Richmond;
4. ‘The Taxonomic documentation and an evaluation of the economic potential of Guyana’s indigenous edible mushrooms’, Ms Dillon Husbands;
5. ‘A comparison of Drying Times and Rates of three Tropical Hardwood species using conventional air-drying and solar kiln methods’, Mr. Lawrence Lewis;
6. ‘Vermitechnology for Organic Solid Waste Management and its’ Intense Application in Organic Farming’, Dr Abdullah Ansari;
7. ‘The Isolation, Structural Elucidation & Medicinal Studies of Bio Active Natural Products from Plant Species of Guyana’, Dr Jagessar;
Donations to the UG Library

Texaco West Indies Limited ("Texaco"), a wholly-owned indirect subsidiary of Chevron Corporation, donated a laptop, desktop and camcorder to the University Turkeyen library, as part of the Company’s continued efforts to help revamp the Library’s facilities. The equipment was handed over to Vice-Chancellor Dr James Rose, by Mr Kenrick St. Louis, District Commercial and Industrial Manager in Guyana, at a simple ceremony on September 18, in the Library. According to Librarian Ms Gwyneth George, the equipment is a valuable contribution to the Library, since it will strengthen technological capacity to enable it to store and preserve records electronically.

In addition, on September 29, His Excellency Mr. Shen Qing, Chinese Ambassador to Guyana donated one hundred and fifty six (156) books which cover the areas of literature, culture, politics, economics, law, philosophy, history, geography, tourism, religion, martial art, medicine and education. The materials received will form the nucleus of a collection to support the study of the history and culture of China.

2006/2007 Ceremonial Opening

The University held its Ceremonial Opening for the Academic Year on September 18 in the George Walcott Lecture Theatre. The programme included introductions to the Officers of the University, remarks from the Deputy Registrar and the University of Guyana Student Society President, an address by the Vice-Chancellor and music by the Police Steel Orchestra.

SEES offers Harvard Course

The School of Earth & Environment Sciences (SEES) has received permission from the Centre for Health & the Global Environment, Harvard Medical School, to use its course – Human Health & Global Environment Change, and to adapt it to local conditions. The Centre has also asked to be informed about progress and volunteered to give advice if necessary.

Training in use of the EBSCO data base

The University has recently subscribed to EBSCO in order that staff can retrieve information thru' the EBSCOhost. EBSCOhost is an online reference system accessible via the internet or direct connection. It offers a variety of proprietary full text databases and popular databases from leading information providers. These comprehensive databases range from general reference collections to subject-specific databases for public, academic, medical, corporate and school libraries.

CSBD Biodiversity Seminar

The Centre for the Study of Biological Diversity (CSBD) held its “Biodiversity Seminar” with a presentation by Mr. Calvin Bernard of the Department of Biology, entitled “Getting to know the Amazon”. The presentation documented his recent trip through the Amazon that followed the same route of the expedition commanded by the Spanish explorer Francisco de Orellana along the Amazon river, in 1541 and 1542. Mr. Bernard’s journey took us into the rainforest of Brazil, through the ancient lands of Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela.

International Disaster Conference

Department of Architecture Lecturer Mr. William Harris attended the International Disaster Reduction Conference in Switzerland, August 27-September 1. He was selected to sit on a special committee of the Global Alliance for Disaster Reduction (GARD) and will assist in identifying Disaster Projects that are of particular relevance to the Caribbean and Latin America region. Mr. Harris’ attendance at the conference was facilitated by contributions from the Faculty of Technology and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

Equipment provided by Cupide

Ten computer systems, a printer and server were received from the CUPIDE project for the development of online courses. The equipment is housed in the Online Courses Development Lab which is being setup in the Centre for Information Technology.
### Promotions

**Assistant Lecturer to Lecturer I**
1. Spiwe Bye, Coreen Jacobs-Chester and Ingrid Trotman, School of Education & Humanities.
2. Ayodele Collins and Kumarie Ram, Faculty of Natural Sciences.
3. Ferzon Aziz, Faculty of Technology.

**Researcher I to Researcher II**
Jennifer Wishart, School of Education & Humanities.

**Lecturer I to Lecturer II**
1. Rhonda Uurlin-Knights, Faculty of Agriculture & Forestry.
2. Jenny La Fleur, Faculty of Health Sciences.
3. Shionv Sue-Chee and Shanomae Rose, Faculty of Natural Sciences.
4. Hector Edwards, Faculty of Social Sciences

**Lecturer II to Senior Lecturer**
Philip Da Silva and Raymond Jagessar, Faculty of Natural Sciences

**Administrative Officer I to Planning Officer II**
Stacy Peters, Office of Resource Mobilisation & Planning

**Administrative Officer II to Assistant Registrar**
Artene Mc Lean, Registry/Examinations Division

**Library**
Gwyneth George confirmed as Librarian
Hetty London confirmed as Deputy University Librarian
Debra Lowe-Thorne, Librarian I
Carol Paris, Senior Assistant Librarian
Paula Muesa, Terrence Moriah, Nirmala Kissoon and Debra Murray, Library Assistant II

**To Personal Assistant**
1. Bernadette Ageday, Agriculture & Forestry
2. Sophia Collier, Office of the Pro-Chancellor
3. Holly Caesar, Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor

**To Secretary I**
1. Seerana Ali, ORM&P
2. Janet Patterson, Bursary

**To Administrative Assistant I**
1. Shawn Long, IDCE(Linden)
2. Margaret Williams, Social Sciences

**To Accounts Clerk IV**
Nichelle Foster, Bursary

### Attendance at Meetings/Conferences/Seminars/Workshops


Dr. Marlene Cox, Director, Office of Resource Mobilisation & Planning attended CXC SUBSEC & Council Meetings on September 21-23 in Jamaica. Mr. Al Creighton also attended the Council Meeting on September 22.

Dr. Victor Shchigolev, Department of Maths, Physics & Statistics, Faculty of Natural Sciences attended the conference in Trinidad on Mathematics and its Application on September 24-27. His presentation was on Mathematics and It's Applications.

Dr. Mark Bynoe, Director in the School of Earth & Environment Sciences presented a paper on "Macroeconomic Effects of Food Security" at the Regional Training Workshop on Food Security & Vulnerability Analysis September 13-15, Trinidad. On September 25-29 he represented the University at the 19th COTED Meeting in Belize.

Ms. Claudith Thompson, Lecturer in the School of Education & Humanities attended the 5th Project Consultative Meeting on September 22, in Grenada.

Dr. Victorine Solomon and Ms. Claudette Austin, School of Education & Humanities attended the Organisation of American States (OAS) workshop on New approaches to policy and practice for teacher educators on September 26-29 in Trinidad.

Dr. Paulette Bynoe, School of Earth & Environmental Sciences attended the conference on "Population and the Environment in the Amazon" which was held on September 13-18 in Brazil. She presented a paper on "Population dynamics and environmental sustainability. A Study of Georgetown, Guyana."

Ms. Diana Wharton, Department of Curriculum & Instruction, School of Education & Humanities attended the meeting for the 2008 CSEC Food & Nutrition Examination on September 4-5 in Barbados.

Mr. Derek Archer, Department of Language & Culture Studies, School of Education & Humanities visited Wayne State University for one week commencing September 29 to observe and discuss classroom teaching, individual mentoring, and French Language Curricula.
Prof. Aubrey Bishop, CCH, AA, Head of the Department of Law, Faculty of Social Sciences left on the September 29 to attend the CCJ Commission Meeting.

**Earned Study/Leave**

The following lecturers proceeded on Earned Study/Sabbatical Leave during the month:
- Mr. Lenandlar Singh, Ms. Dawn Fox and Mr. Gary Mendonca, Faculty of Natural Sciences.
- Mr. Karyl D. Arthur, Mr. Ferzon Aziz and Mr. Sherwood Lowe, Faculty of Technology.
- Ms. Hazel Simpson, School of Education & Humanities.
- Ms. Ronda Urlin Knights, Faculty of Agriculture & Forestry.
- Mr. Thomas Benjamin, Mr. Thomas Singh and Ms. Eulanie Ouseley, Faculty of Social Sciences.
- Ms. Reeta Gobin, School of Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences.
- Mr. Hansrajie Ramcharran, Readers Services Division, Library.

**Featured Alumni**

**Dr. Parsram Thakur**

Dr. Parsram Thakur was born at Plantation Albion on the Corentyne. The eldest of eight children of Rajkumari (from Rose Hall Town) and Sri Thakur; they moved to #67 Village in 1945 where the family was engaged in rice farming. He attended the Massiah Primary School at #71 Village, Skeldon High School (1952 – 1957) where he obtained The General Certificate of Education and the Senior Cambridge for the Corentyne High School in 1957. In 1958 – 1960 he taught at the #71 Massiah Primary School. In 1960 he commenced studies at the Wisconsin State University in Wisconsin, USA where he obtained a BSc in Education. He then proceeded to the North Carolina University in 1964 and gained his MA in Educational Administration.

Dr. Thakur returned to Guyana in 1965 and was the Senior Master at the Skeldon High School, the Principal of Belvedere Secondary School, Port Mourant, Corentyne in 1965 – 1966. During 1967 – 1970 he was a Lecturer in the Faculty of Education at the UG.

Dr. Thakur continued his education in 1970 – 1975 at the New York University, New York and gained his PhD in Educational Psychology. He then taught at the City University, New York (1975 – 1978) and the Community College of Rhode Island (1978 – 2000).

He returned to Guyana in 2000 and has been the Director of the University of Guyana Berbice Campus, Tain Settlement, Corentyne, Berbice since that time.

This newsletter is a monthly publication created to keep our alumni updated with news at the University of Guyana. 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!