



ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Legislative Drafting Graduation

The Graduation ceremony of the first Post-Graduate Certificate Programme in Legislative Drafting was held on April 4 in the Education Lecture Theatre. The thirteen weeks programme was co-sponsored by the University of Guyana and the Commonwealth Secretariat [COMSEC], and facilitated by Hon. Justice Robin MacLean Webster, Programme Director of the United Kingdom. The programme attracted participants from across the Caribbean. Thirteen students graduated with Ms Sheena Wilson of the Bahamas receiving the University of Guyana Prize for the Best Graduating Student; Ms Sharmaine Williams of Trinidad and Tobago the University of Guyana Prize for 1st Runner-up and Ms Dara Modeste of St Lucia, the Justice Webster Prize for 2nd Runner-up.

New Course - Human Health and Global Environmental Change

The School of Earth and Environmental Sciences will offer the Harvard designed course **Human Health and Global Environmental Change** during the period June to August 2007. The course is constructed over 15 sessions representing 8 credits. The objective of this course is to increase education and awareness on the interdependence that exists between human health and the health of the environment. This course will provide important current information about the basic physics, chemistry and biology of global environmental change and the implications these changes have for human health.

Human Resource Retreat

The Office of Resource Mobilization and Planning scheduled a Retreat with Senior Administrative Group (SAG) on April 17 at the Prairie International Hotel. The primary objective was to produce a response to an HR list of demands titled **Immediate Actions to Address Staff Concerns**. Other concerns to be addressed included

- Berbice Campus Staffing,
- Incentives for Higher Qualification
- UB Pension Plan,
- A Proposal for Disability Access

The UG Human Resource Management Team was established in 2006 to address human resource concerns and issues on the University campuses at Turkeyen and Tain.

Open Entrance Examination

The University of Guyana Open Entrance Examination will be held on Friday, June 29 at various examination centres across the country. The entrance facility was reintroduced in 2006 to provide diagnostic baseline information on varying levels of entrants while at the same time facilitating access to a wider cross section of the population.

Committee to investigate a New Fee Structure

At the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on March 13, 2007, a sub-committee was formed to examine the current tuition fee structure. Members of the committee are Ms Indra Chandarpal, Member of Parliament,(Convenor), Dr Emmanuel Cummings, Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, Dr Michael Scott, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Mr Pulander Kandhi, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Mr. Ifaan Ali, Ministry of Finance. Pro-Chancellor, Dr Prem Misir will act as resource person.

Campus Insecurity

Academic Board once again expressed its concern about the poor levels of security obtained at the Turkeyen Campus. They were alarmed that the process of recruitment has been delayed some six months with successive extensions being offered to a particular security firm. It was felt that the high level of insecurity should not be allowed to continue for much longer.

Asbestos on Campus

The Turkeyen community is concerned about the reluctance of the Administration to rid the Campus of the asbestos threat. Academic Board was alerted to the fact that recurring fatalities, especially among female staff members indicated the urgent need to tackle the asbestos risk with greater rigor. It was decided that a special vote dedicated to the incremental attack on this problem must enjoy the highest priority. Members were reminded of their abiding commitment to the 1974, # 139, Occupational Cancer Convention, the 1986, #162, Asbestos Convention, and the ILC 2006 Resolution which consistently classified all forms of asbestos as know human carcinogens.

Ms Sharon Neita, Pearson Representative

On March 7, 2007, a meeting to promote collaboration between the Pearson's Jamaican-based publishing house and the University of Guyana Library was held between senior library staff and Ms Sharon Neita, Pearson Representative. The meeting produced a promise to supply the Library with complimentary copies of text, Solution and Instructor's Manuals, 2007 Catalogues. Follow-up visits were planned.

Seminars, Presentations and Lectures:

- **Commemoration of the Bicentenary of the Abolition**
The University, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture Youth & Sports, sponsored a **Commemoration of the Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Trans-Atlantic Trade in Captive Africans** on March 26 at the National Culture Centre.

The introduction was done by former Deputy Vice Chancellor, Mr Al Creighton who also chaired the session. Dr James G. Rose, Vice-Chancellor spoke on **An Act for the Abolition of the Slave Trade (25th March 1807)**. The Vice-Chancellor said, *Two hundred years ago, the British Government, at the culmination of what it is claimed to have been the first and most successful public campaign in history legislated against the traffic in human beings, especially the traffic in captive Africans.*

He concluded with the sober reminder that *inasmuch as the act was passed some 200 years ago, the audience ought not to forget that the traffic in captive human beings continues unabated throughout the world today.*

Prof. Dr Winston McGowan gave a brief discourse on *The Trade in Captive Africans*; Prof Doris Rogers presented a timely message on behalf of the rural African folk group RAPAC (Revival, Awareness and the Perpetuation of Africa Culture), the folk group Koworok, featuring a number of UG Staffers, delivered two items and the appreciation was offered by a University Student, Ms Oneika Baird. The landmark **Commemoration Statement** was delivered by His Excellency President Bharrat Jagdeo. In his address President Jagdeo lamented the reluctance of the European nation states, who benefited immensely from the trade in captive Africans to properly acknowledge the great and lasting crime they had committed and to consider reparations to the descendants of the victims.

- **Walter Rodney Lecture Series - I**

Professor Dr. Winston McGowan, Walter Rodney Chair Professor, on March 27 presented the first in the 2007 Walter Rodney Lecture Series at the National Library Auditorium. The title of the presentation was **The Evolution of West Indies Cricket: A Historical Interpretation**.

Prof McGowan examined the evolution of West Indies Cricket from its origins to the present. He divided this evolution process into eight major chronological periods, each marked by distinctive developments. Special attention was devoted to the first and longest of these periods which focused on the birth and early spread of the game in the Region up to the nineteenth century.

- **Walter Rodney Lecture Series - II**

On April 4, Professor Dr. Winston McGowan, Walter Rodney Chair, presented the second lecture in the 2007 Walter Rodney Lecture Series at the National Library Auditorium on **Guyana's Contribution to West Indies Cricket: A Historical Interpretation**. He noted that

the Guyana contribution varied considerably from the earliest times to the present. He argued that in the long initial formative period which ended in 1900 Guyana, then British Guiana, was the main pioneer of most of the significant developments in Caribbean cricket. Similarly, Guyana made an immense contribution to the West Indies success in the two periods of world dominance which the region enjoyed in the second half of the twentieth century. This major contribution was in striking contrast to the country's relatively limited influence in other periods, especially the first half of that century and the current era.

- **International Women's Day**

On the occasion of International Women's Day, the Berbice Campus hosted a public forum and march on March 8, 2007. Present were Members of Parliament, Ms Bibi Shadick, former Minister of Social Security and Ms Geeta Chandan. Director, Dr Parsram Thakur delivered one of the feature addresses.

- **10th Death Anniversary of H.E. President, Dr Cheddi Jagan.**

A forum/discussion entitled: *Cheddi Jagan: Ten Years on/A Retrospective on the Life and Times of the late President* was held by the Department of Social Sciences, Berbice Campus to mark the 10th Anniversary of the passing of the late President Dr Cheddi Jagan. Speakers included Mr Tota Manger, Dean - Faculty of Education and Humanities, Dr Cheddi Jagan: His Legacy and Dr Rishee Thakur, Assistant Director, Berbice Campus, Cheddi Jagan, the PPP and the East Indian Middle Class.

- **World Water Day 2007 Seminar**
The School of Earth and Environmental Sciences held a seminar to commemorate World Water Day on March 22 at the National Library Conference Room under the theme **Coping with Water Scarcity**.

Presentations were made by **Mr Edward Williams**, Coordinator, WES School Project /Ministry of Health/UNICEF on **Water and Environmental Sanitation in Selected Schools in Guyana** and **Mrs Elantrice Davenport**, Headmistress, FE Pollard School on **Water and Environmental Sanitation at FE Pollard**. Facilitator of the seminar was **Ms Shanomae Rose**, Lecturer in the School.

- **International Women's Day**
In observance of International Women's Day, the Social Work Unit convened an activity on March 15, 2007 in the Education Lecture Theatre. **Mr Derek Fields**, Coordinator of the Social Work Unit, chaired the programme. This activity examined the contribution of certain professional social workers [males and females] to the advancement of social work education and practice in Guyana. The Activity was organised by the First and Final Years students of the Degree programme in Social Work.

Students' Activity

- **The Phillip C Jessup Moot in International Law**
Ms Bibian Isoto, Lecturer, Faculty of Social Sciences was the team leader and coach of 6 students who for the first time represented the University and the country at the Phillip C Jessup Moot Court Competition in International Law which took place in Washington DC on March 23- April 2, 2007. The Jessup competition is an advocacy contest in which teams of students write briefs and present oral arguments before the International Court of Justice, the judicial organ of the United Nations. The competition which began in May 8, 1960 has become the premier international law competition in the world bringing 100 countries and over 500 teams together. The Guyana team included **Trevor Williams, Wainewright Noble, Kevin Fogenay, Michael Xavier, Hugh Parks and William Harris**.
- **Occupational Safety and Health Hazards Workshop**
An Occupational Safety and Health Hazards Workshop was coordinated and conducted by four Final Year Social Work Degree Students on April 5, 2007 in the Education Lecture Theatre. Guest Speaker was **Mr Dale Beresford**, Occupational Safety and Health Officer - Municipal City Council. Participants were familiarized with the various tools and techniques employed to identify, evaluate and control hazards in the workplace.
- **Donation to Uncle Eddie's Home**
A project assignment of the class of 2005/2006 Social Work Students as a coursework component of the Diploma in Social Work DSW 221 course saw students attached for 72 hours over 8 weeks to various social work agencies.

A group of six students, attached to the Uncle Eddie's Home, on Tuesday April 3, 2007, donated a toilet set, and \$10,000 to undertake sanitation work in the compound of the Home. The donation was received by Ms Denise Boodie, President of the Home. Also present at the handing over were Ms Rita McEwan, Administrator and Ms Christine Hales, Secretary.

- **Campus Jamboree**
The University of Guyana Student Society hosted a Campus Jamboree on April 9, 2007. The fundraising activity consisted of a Family Fun-Day from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and live entertainment from 4:00 p.m. to midnight.

Gifts to the University

- **Mr Jagdat Persaud**
A presentation of 65 books was made by Mr Jagdat Persaud on March 29. Mr Persaud, a product of West Demerara community, had made two such presentations previously but this was the first time that he was doing so in person. Vice-Chancellor, Dr James Rose thanked Mr Persaud for his donation and wished that others in the community would be influenced to imitate his most thoughtful gesture.
- **Professor, Dr Shamir Andrew Ally**
On March 30, Professor, Dr Shamir Andrew Ally, a former UG student and currently the President/CEO, International Consulting and Financial Services Pennsylvania along with his wife, Dr Maryann Beebe-Ally made a donation of 355 University textbooks. This was the third donation in three years. Prof Ally gave a brief but inspiring address to the large and appreciative audience while the Vice Chancellor accepted and thanked the donor on behalf of the University community.
- **Scientific Equipment from WWF**
As part of the collaborative agreement being pursued between the World Wildlife Fund [WWF] Guianas and the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, the School received two Cold Vapour Atomic Florescent Spectrophotometers for analyzing levels of mercury contamination among miners and gold jewellers.

The Vice-Chancellor offered brief remarks of appreciation for the collaborative effort between the WWF Guianas and the University of Guyana, Prime Minister, Mr Samuel Hinds commended the level of cooperation that existed between WWF and public sector agencies while Dr Mark Bynoe, Director of the School was on hand to receive the gift.

The Presentation ceremony took place on April 5, 2007 at the National Library Annex.

Earth Day 2007

The School of Earth and Environmental Sciences held an exhibition to mark Earth Day, 22 April 2007. This showcased the work of former students and lecturers (research work, projects, publications, field work). They also mounted a poster exhibition which provided information on the theme *Understanding Climate Change and its Consequences*.

Brief remarks came from the Vice-Chancellor and a representative of USAID.

Other activities included

- Mounting of three Banners at strategic locations about the city.
- The production of a 4-page newspaper supplement with articles written by SEES staff and others.
- An Eco-Walk on Sunday, April 22-Earth Day from 7:30 a.m. The 2006 Calypso King rendered a tune on the theme *Climate Change and its effect on Guyana*. This was the theme song for the walk.

World Environment Day

The **School of Earth and Environmental Sciences** will make informed presentations to secondary schools in Regions 3, 4 and 6 during the period of June 3 to June 9 2007.

Three banners will be mounted at strategic locations about the city.

There will be an essay and a painting competition for Secondary Schools in each region. The age categories are 10-12, 13-15 and 16-18 years. Information packages on climate change will be sent to schools in the hinterland regions. An Award ceremony is scheduled for June 5, 2007.

Viewpoints by the Vice-Chancellor, Dr Paulette Bynoe, Joel Chase and Balleeka Seulall will be aired between June 4-8.

A booklet on **Climate Change** specially prepared for primary school children will be launched during the week.

Staff Matters

Promotion

- Congratulations go out to **Mr Donald Sinclair**, of the **School of Education and Humanities** who has been promoted to the position of Senior Lecturer.

- **Secondment**

Mr Donald Sinclair, Lecturer, School of Education and Humanities took up a one-year appointment (October 1, 2006 - September 30, 2007) at the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organisation in Brasilia as Coordinator for Tourism, Transport, Infrastructure and Communications.

- **Illness**

The University wishes **Mr Winston Benn**, ILO, a speedy recovery from the current bout of illness.

- **Obituary**

Former staff members, **Ms Joan Omo-Stayman** and **Ms Gloria Cummings** passed away on March 31 and April 6, 2007 respectively. Ms Omo-Stayman, a former Accountant in the Bursary served the University for 26 years while Ms Cummings, Personal Assistant to successive Deans of the Faculty of Social Sciences offered 19 years of stellar service to the University. The University expressed condolences to the bereaved families.

Scholarly and other Academic Activities

In keeping with its commitment to academic excellence and scholarship, faculty seized upon a number of opportunities to exchange ideas and test research findings.

- **Dr Mark Bynoe**, Director, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences attended a CXC Research Committee Meeting, CXC Headquarters Barbados from March 22 to 24, 2007.
- **The 101st Meeting of the American Society of International Law (ASIL)**
For the past four years, Ms **Bibian Isoto** has been in close association with the Phillip C Jessup Moot in International Law and because of this connection with the ASIL she was granted a special invitation to attend the 101st meeting of the ASIL from 28-31, March 2007 in Washington DC. The meeting discussed the future of international law. It was noted that certain trends were shifting the stakes of the international law. These include among others the gap between the rich and the poorest countries, demographic pressures, global pandemics that pose serious threats to international order as well as resource scarcities and environmental degradation that continue to grow. Also posited was that Military trend will affect the future of international law as ongoing affronts to global security defy traditional concepts of war and peace. The ASIL meeting helped answer these issues and generated new ideas about the future of international law and the role of international lawyers.
- **ACTI -Self Evaluation Workshop II (Accreditation)**
The Guyana Chapter of ACTI held an Evaluation Workshop on March 22, 2007 in the Education Lecture Theatre. **Dr Emanuel Cummings**, Dean of the Faculty was the Facilitator.
- **Ms Claudith Thompson**, Curriculum and Instructions, School of Education and Humanities, is scheduled to attend the 52nd Annual Convention of the International Reading Association between May 12 and 18, 2007, in Canada.
- **Dr Paulette Bynoe**, Lecturer, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, participated in the Pan-Commonwealth Workshop on **Addressing the Marginalisation of Indigenous Women** on April 10-16, 2007 at the Commonwealth Secretariat, Marlborough House, London.
- **Ms Bernadette Indira Persaud**, Lecturer, School of Education and Humanities, attended the **VS Naipaul Lecture and Symposium** at St Augustine Campus, UWI on April 18 and 19.

- **Dr William Wilson, Dean, Faculty of Technology** attended the **Global Water Partnership-Caribbean Annual Meeting** of the General Assembly on April 17, 2007 in Sunset Shores Hotel, St Vincent.
- **Mr William Ivan Harris, Architecture, Faculty of Technology**, attended the **Commonwealth Association of Architects 59th Council Meeting and 18th General Assembly in Melbourne, Australia** from 16-19 April, 2007. Mr Harris, CCA Vice President of the Americas Region, also attended the **RAIA National Architecture Conference** in Melbourne on 20-21 April, 2007.
- **Administrative Professional Week**
To mark Administrative Professional Week, five (5) staff members will be attending a seminar sponsored by the Guyana Association of Administrative Professional on April 25 at Hotel Tower. The theme of the seminar is **Administrative Professionals - The Power of a Positive Image** and the topic for the day is **The Essentials of a Successful Team Player**. The seminar facilitator is **Ms Sandra Plumber, Deputy Programme Manager, CARICOM**.