



## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

### LIFE OF UG COUNCIL EXTENDED

The life of the University Council expired in October 2006. Since then it has been extended for limited periods always some time after its expiration. This means that for some considerable time, between expiration and renewal, the University is in effect without a Council, even though the renewal is usually retroactive. While these extensions to the life of Council are appreciated, the periods in-between, tend to be challenging for the UG Administration since there are University committees that require the presence of Council members to become quorate and cannot therefore function during the in-between periods. Additionally, there have been a number of withdrawals and resignations and inasmuch as the extensions are appreciated, they do not adequately address the accretion that has taken place since Council was first appointed some several years ago. The result is that there is a mere core membership which is not always readily assembled for Council meetings.

### THREE NEW DEANS APPOINTED

As a result of recently held Faculty elections, the following persons were appointed as Deans for the new academic year

- ✚ Dr Brij Bushan Tewari, Faculty of Natural Sciences
- ✚ Mr Dickson Hooper, Faculty of Health Sciences
- ✚ Mr Sherwood Lowe, Faculty of Technology

The following persons will continue their stints as Dean:

- ✚ Dr Theodosius Velloza, Faculty of Agriculture & Forestry
- ✚ Dr Michael Scott, Faculty of Social Sciences
- ✚ Mr Tota Mangar, School of Education & Humanities

The University congratulates these academics and wishes them well during their tenure.

### UG AT 'CONFERENCE ON THE CARIBBEAN', WASHINGTON, USA



Dr Marlene Cox



Dr Parsram Thakur



Tota Mangar



Dr Patsy Francis

Dr Marlene Cox, Director, Office of Resource Mobilisation & Planning; Dr Parsram Thakur, Director, Berbice Campus; Dr Patsy Francis, Lecturer, Faculty of Agriculture & Forestry; and Mr Tota Mangar, Dean, School of Education & Humanities, participated in the Planning

Committee Meetings of the Conference on the Caribbean, from June 19-21, in Washington, D.C. Dr Francis, who served on the Agriculture panel, was funded by the Inter-American Development Bank.

### SECURITY

In light of the fact that the tendering process for a security service for the University is incomplete, the current service has been given a further extension of two months, which will end

on July 31, 2007. The Academic community is not amused by the dilatory fashion in which their security is being addressed and has mooted the idea of the creation of a UG Security Service. Feelings of disquiet were aggravated by a recent letter to the Chief Executive Officer of the current Security Service, which indicated the extent to which the current service to the Campus was undermanned. Over the past two weeks there has been a significant drop in the attendance of security guards on the Turkeyen Campus; for the period June 1-17, there was an average daily absence of nine guards per shift.

### **INFRINGEMENT OF AN ACADEMIC'S RIGHT TO TRAVEL?**

Is it right for the Ministry of Public Service to place unreasonable impediments in the way of young academics who were the recipients of Government scholarships? This is the question which now engages the attention of the academic community as a consequence of a young UG researcher who has twice had her travel plans frustrated. In January, 2007, Ms Michelle Kalamandeen, Scientific Officer II, intended a personal trip to Barbados but had to cancel the trip when she ran up against the bureaucracy. A few weeks ago, the situation repeated itself when the young researcher attempted an approved research encounter in Australia and was forced to cancel because of more bureaucratic humbug. There was a time when some academics found it exceedingly difficult to travel out of Guyana and there are concerns of the re-emergence of a similar situation.

### **DEVELOPMENT TRENDS**

In spite of the many challenges, the University continues to grow in some critical areas.

#### **✚ Annual Staff and Student Review Conference**

The Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry's Annual Staff and Student Review Conference was held from June 27-29. Presentations were delivered by final-year students as well as academic staff; the forum brought together expertise in the areas of Agriculture and Forestry as well as persons from the respective industries who discussed the presentations.

#### **✚ Reintroduction of Switchboard System**

On May 25, 2007, the Turkeyen Campus switchboard, located in the building that houses the Office of Resource Mobilisation & Planning became operational. The switchboard, which is operated by two new staffers - Ms Marcia Solomon and Ms Abiola Spellens, is expected to save the University thousands of dollars on phone bills. The system was installed by engineers from GT&T with able assistance from Mr Maurice Bailey, Maintenance Division, Turkeyen Campus.

#### **✚ Pro-Chancellor meets with Asbestos Committee**

The Asbestos Committee updated the Pro-Chancellor on the formation and mandate of the Committee. The Chair indicated that to date the Committee has: sent out advisory notices to staff, maintenance, off-campus contractors and administration; sourced experts in the area and formed a technical team, which is headed by Chris Cathro (Occupational Health & Safety Officer, GWI); prepared a procedural document and estimated costing; produced a list of sampling equipment required and received quotations for cost of sampling equipment; sourced personal protective equipment (PPE) for which there would be no cost to UG; and located building plans, examined them and identified target buildings (i.e. those constructed in the 1950s and 1960s). In response to a question posed by the Pro-Chancellor about whether there had been reports already submitted on the matter, the Committee (referring to the 1998 and 2007 Ministry of Labour reports) advised that the findings were inconclusive, as no tests were done to confirm the presence of asbestos containing materials (ACM). Members indicated that although the building plans they examined on Wednesday, June 20, indicated the presence of ACM, there was need to conduct a walkthrough exercise to ascertain that the buildings had not been modified.

In response to the Chair's concern about funding, the Pro-Chancellor advised that Council agreed in principle for the funding to be provided. He also indicated that he would speak with the Vice Chancellor in order for the Committee Chair to attend the Council meeting and make a report on the matter so as to convince members about the necessity for funding.

#### ✚ **Nova Southeastern University Awarded M.Ed. Contract**

The Nova Southeastern University, Florida, USA, has been awarded the contract to collaborate with the University of Guyana in the design and implementation of a Masters in Education (M.Ed.) Degree programme. The project will be financed by the Basic Education and Management Support (BEAMS) Programme, while its delivery will be done by the University of Guyana and Nova Southeastern University. The Master's Degree Programme will encompass disciplines relevant to school management, supervision and planning, as well as the production of a thesis.

#### ✚ **Five-year Licence Agreement between COL & UG**

A five-year Licence Agreement was signed between the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) and the University of Guyana which allows the University of Guyana to offer the Commonwealth Executive Master of Business Administration (CEMBA) and the Commonwealth Executive Master of Public Administration (CEMPA) Programmes. Both programmes are scheduled to come on stream in the new academic year.

#### ✚ **MOU between Acadia University & UG**

The University of Guyana recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Acadia University, Canada, to promote educational and academic exchanges between the two institutions. The following general forms of cooperation are mooted:

1. Joint educational and research activities;
2. Exchange of academic materials and academic publications;
3. Exchange of faculty members for research, lectures, and discussions;
4. Engagement of other staff in educational projects;
5. Exchange of students for study and research.

### **UNIVERSITY OUTREACH**

The outreach activities of the University continue to be a very important aspect of its overall programming. Increasingly, through these activities, the Institution has been able to keep faith with the Guyanese community by extending and sharing its expertise with the interested public.

#### ✚ **Guyana Environment Week**

The School of Earth & Environmental Sciences planned a number of activities, including a series of viewpoints, to mark Guyana Environment Week (June 3-9, 2007), as well as to coincide with World Environment Day. Since the local theme for World Environment Day was '**Climate Change - A Reality: How Do We Adapt?**' the Vice Chancellor presented a viewpoint focusing on the *Historical Perspective of Climate Change*.

#### ✚ **Harvard Designed Course on Human Health & Global Environmental Change**

The School of Earth & Environmental Sciences hosted the Harvard-designed course '**Human Health and Global Environmental Change**', from June 4-22 in UG's Learning Resource Centre. The course was designed to provide training and enhance awareness thereby enabling improved management for a sustainable future. The course, coordinated by **Ms Shanomae Rose**, was an intensive three-week programme which incorporated a variety of topics, including the impact of climate extremes on health, climate change and biodiversity, agriculture and mining. Facilitators were drawn from the Caribbean Renewable Energy Development Programme [**Mr Leighton Waterman**], Caribbean Fisheries Mechanism [**Mr Terrence Philips**] and the University of Guyana. The course, which was designed for 25, attracted more than 30 participants.

#### Department of Biology hosts Guest Lecture

The Department of Biology facilitated a guest lecture by Prof. Shamim Farooqi, a Genetics Specialist and Director of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology Research, Crozer-Chester Medical Center, Pennsylvania, USA, on May 31, 2007. The topic of Prof. Farooqi's lecture was, "*Cell Culture and Multicolonality in Gynecologic and Lung Cancers*".

#### 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.

- The Library held a professional seminar on May 29 in the Learning Resource Centre. Discussants/topics were: Mr Edgar Barrios, "*Turnew - Introduction to a New Product Market*" and "*The Impact of the Online Database*"; and Ms Debra Lowe-Thorne and Mr Hector Edwards, "*Human Resource Management with reference to the University of Guyana Library*". Messrs. Barrios and Edwards are both lecturers within the Faculty of Social Sciences, while Ms Lowe-Thorne is the Head of the Readers' Services Division at the University Library.
- Dr Paulette Bynoe, Lecturer, School of Earth & Environmental Sciences, attended the International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA) Conference and Pre-training Course, from June 1-10, in Seoul, South Korea. Dr Bynoe presented a paper on "*Environmental Stewardship, EIA and the Private Sector in Guyana: An Uneasy Alliance?*".
- Ms Talia Choy, Lecturer, Faculty of Social Sciences, attended the International Symposium of Integrated Coastal Zone Management from June 10-14 in Norway. Ms Choy presented a paper on "*Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Guyana: development barriers, opportunities and recommendations*".
- Mr Derek Fields, Coordinator, Diploma in Social Work; Ms Audrey Benn, Programme Officer and Lecturer within the Women's Studies Unit; Mr Rommel Etwaroo, Assistant Lecturer, UGBC; and Ms Lynette Roberts, Administrative Officer, School of Medicine, attended the 8<sup>th</sup> Biennial Caribbean and Social Work Educators (ACSWE) Conference from June 26-30 in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad. Mr Fields and Ms Benn presented papers on "*Male Participation in Sexual and Reproductive Health in Guyana*" and "*Rethinking Social Work Education: Expanding the Social Mission*", respectively.
- Mr Bruce Haynes, Lab Technician and Chairman of UGWU, was invited to participate in a Cricket Umpiring Convention, which was hosted in Guyana by the Guyana Cricket Umpires Council from June 17-22. Mr Haynes, who is a member of the Umpires Council, presented a paper titled: "*The Amateur Cricket Umpire in a Professional Sport*".

#### STAFF MOVEMENT

Universities are important international institutions and the University of Guyana continues to respond to invitations to make its presence felt both within the region and further a field.

- Dr James G. Rose attended the 2007 Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) Council Meetings from June 4-6 in Penang, Malaysia. Dr Rose was the ACU Council Representative for the University of Technology, Jamaica; the University of the West Indies; the University of Cyprus; the University of Malta; the University of Mauritius; and the University of Technology, Mauritius.
- Dr Marlene Cox, Director, Office of Resource Mobilisation and Planning, and Dr Rishee Thakur, Assistant Director, UGBC, were offered a Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC) Award to undertake a training course in Public Policy and Management,

from June 25-29 in Barbados. The awards were issued by the Governance and Institutional Development Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

- **Mr Phillip DaSilva**, Dean, Faculty of Natural Sciences attended the **Development of On-line Sustainable Tourism Course Workshop**, from May 29 to June 7, in Barbados. Mr DaSilva is currently attending a CXC, CAPE marking exercise in Barbados.
- **Dr Marlene Cox**, Director, Office of Resource Mobilisation & Planning, and **Ms Gwyneth George**, University Librarian, attended a Training Seminar on the **Art of Negotiation** on May 30, 2007, in Georgetown. The Training Seminar was hosted by the IDB and conducted by Negotiation Institute Inc.
- **Dr Mark Bynoe**, Director, School of Earth & Environmental Sciences, attended a **CXC Self-Study Writing Workshop** from May 30 to June 1 in St. Augustine, Trinidad.
- **Ms Gwyneth George**, University Librarian; **Ms Debra Lowe-Thorne**, Head, Readers' Services Division; and **Ms Vishallie Singh**, Berbice Campus, attended the **ACURIL XXXVII Conference** from June 1-10 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- **Dr Emmanuel Cummings**, Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences attended the **9<sup>th</sup> Joint Meeting of Caribbean National Epidemiologists and Laboratory Directors**, from June 6-8, in Port of Spain, Trinidad.
- **Mr Aubrey Overton**, Lecturer, School of Education & Humanities, participated in a CXC, CAPE marking exercise in his capacity as Assistant Chief Examiner for Electricity/Electronics, from June 4-9, in Barbados.
- **Dr Parsram Thakur**, Director, UGBC attended the **Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) Conference** during the period June 8-10 in Paramaribo, Suriname. Dr Thakur is the Guyana Coordinator of GOPIO.
- **Dr Winston McGowan**, Walter Rodney Professor, attended a meeting of the **Presidential Committee of the West Indies Cricket Board** from June 6-8, in Kingston, Jamaica. Prof. McGowan is a Technical Assistant to the Committee.
- **Mr Neil Browman**, Chief Accountant, attended a Conference on '**Audit Committees: Making Corporate Governance Work in the Caribbean**', from June 21-22 in St. Lucia. The Conference was sponsored by the Caribbean Association of Audit Committee Members (CAACM).
- **Ms Paulette Paul**, Public Relations Officer, attended a two-day workshop on **Communication Strategies for Academic Institutions** on June 28 & 29, at the UWI Mona Campus, Jamaica. The workshop was held by the Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication (CARIMAC).
- **Ms Gwendolin Tross**, Coordinator, Nursing Programme, will attend the **34<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Regional Nursing Body**, from July 9-13 in Belize City, Belize.
- **Ms Bibian Isoto**, Lecturer, Department of Law, has been selected as a participant in the **43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the International Law Seminar** to be held at the United Nations Office in Geneva, from July 9-27, 2007.

## HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

### Supervisors' Training Seminar

The Office of Resource Mobilisation and Planning is currently conducting a Supervisors' Training Seminar in the Education Lecture Theatre, UG. Discussion topics include People Management, Performance Management, Motivating Employees, Employment Law, Governance and Transparency, and Conflict Resolution. The Facilitators for the Seminar are: **Major General (ret'd) Joseph Singh**, Chief Executive Officer, Guyana Telephone & Telegraph Company; **Ms Sandra**

Jones, Human Resource Consultant in Organisation Development; **Prof. Keith Massiah**, Lecturer, Department of Law; **Ms Kala Seegopaul**, Project Manager of the Programme Support Unit, CIDA; **Ms Gloria Richards-Johnson**, Deputy Chief of Party/Governance Specialist, USAID Guyana Democratic Consolidation & Conflict Resolution Project; **Mr Al Creighton**, Chair, UG's Human Resource Management Team. The seminar commenced on June 7 and will conclude on July 4.

#### ✚ NIS Seminar

In an on-going effort to sensitise and keep staff members informed about the National Insurance Scheme (NIS), specifically as it relates to benefits and claims, a seminar under the theme "NIS and You" was held on June 27, 2007. All staff members were invited to attend the seminar.

### STUDENT ACTIVITIES

#### ✚ Aspiring Leaders Seminar, Mona UWI



Gina Arjoon



Edon Daniels

Ms Gina Arjoon, an Economics major, and Mr Edon Daniels, an Agriculture major, were selected by the University of Guyana to participate in the 'Development Seminar for Aspiring Leaders in the Caribbean', from June 25-29 at the UWI, Mona Campus. The theme of this year's seminar was "*Caribbean Future: Defining Leadership for a Global Environment*", and participants were immersed in presentations on leadership styles, Caribbean security in a global context, Caribbean culture, assimilation exercises and field trips.

#### ✚ UG Entrance Examination

The University of Guyana Entrance Examination was held on Friday, June 29, at the Turkeyen Campus. This examination was re-introduced in 2005 after an absence of more than a decade and is intended to enable Faculties to determine whether those applicants who do meet the basic entry requirements have attained a satisfactory level, to study at the University of Guyana.

#### GENETICS SPECIALIST PAYS COURTESY CALL ON VICE CHANCELLOR

**Prof. Shamim Farooqi**, a Genetics Specialist and Director of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology Research, Crozer-Chester Medical Center, Pennsylvania, USA, paid a courtesy call on Vice Chancellor, James Rose on May 30.

#### BEREAVEMENT

The Turkeyen Campus was deeply saddened by the news of the passing of **Kwesi Nkofi**, a lecturer within the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, who died on Thursday, June 14, 2007. Mr Nkofi served the University from September 1, 1994 and was laid to rest on Monday, June 25. The University extended condolences to the family and friends of the deceased.