UG/COMSEC Legislative Drafting Course
The University of Guyana, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation launched the second Postgraduate Certificate Programme in Legislative Drafting on June 2 at the National Centre for Education Resource Development (NCERD), Georgetown. This training programme which is funded by the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation, has been designed for lawyers serving as legislative drafters and those interested in this field of law. It will provide an in-depth analysis of the principles underlying legislative drafting and a thorough introduction to sound drafting practice, among others. At the end of the programme participants are expected to be competent in the basic essentials of legislative drafting and empowered to produce clear, effective and implementable legislation and directives to comply with the requirements of their individual national constitutions. For the second time, the Honourable Justice Robin MacLean Webster of the United Kingdom was appointed as Programme Director.

Climate Change Forum
As one of the activities in observance of World Environment Day 2008, the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences (SEES) hosted a Climate Change Forum in collaboration with the Guyana Manufacturing and Services Association Limited (GMSA), under the theme *Kick the Carbon Habit! Promoting Energy Conservation in Guyana*, on June 6 at Le Meridien Pegasus, Georgetown. The Forum was chaired by Ms Jocelyn Dow, Board Member of the GMSA and the audience was addressed by the Honourable Mr Robert Persaud, Minister of Agriculture; Dr Patrick Williams, Senior Lecturer at SEES, on behalf of Dr James Rose, Vice Chancellor of the University of Guyana; and Mr Navin Chanderpal, Advisor to the President on Sustainable Development.

The two key presentations delivered were:

- **“Corporate Social Responsibility for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation”** by Dr Paulette Bynoe and Ms Denise Simmons of the SEES; and
- **“Energy Conservation in Guyana”** by Mr Mahender Sharma, Guyana Energy Authority.

The Forum was attended by approximately forty participants who interacted with the presenters during the open discussion session. A positive outcome of the Forum was the expressed desire for the SEES to host another forum on areas of interest to the Private Sector. These include developing indicators for corporate social responsibility and environmental stewardship, as well as proper sanitation and the auditing of waste.

From Left: Dr Patrick Williams, Mr Navin Chanderpal and Mr Robert Persaud
**Walter Rodney Lecture Series, 2008**

On June 13, Walter Rodney Professor Dr Winston McGowan, delivered the second lecture of the 2008 Walter Rodney Lecture Series. The lecture was titled, "Modern Guyana: A Historical Interpretation - The PNC Years, 1966 – 1992".

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**Synopsis of Lecture**

The year 1928 has been chosen as the beginning of the modern era of Guyanese History, which is the subject of this year’s Walter Rodney Chair Lectures. The initial presentation examined some of the main developments in the period between the introduction of Crown Colony government in 1928 and the achievement of political independence in 1966.

This second presentation focuses on the following 26 years when governance was dominated by the People’s National Congress and many aspects of the foundation of Guyana today were established. The approach to be adopted in the examination of this pivotal post-independence epoch is twofold. One is chronological, identifying critical phases in the historical evolution of the country, beginning with the period of the PNC – UF coalition and ending with the tenure of office of Hugh Desmond Hoyte.

The second approach is thematic, dealing with a few major issues such as democracy, economic transformation, education and foreign relations. The lecture will conclude with an evaluation of the state of the country in 1992 especially when compared to 1966.

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The final lecture in the series will be held on Friday, July 18 at 17:00 hrs at the National Library under the theme, “The PPP Years, 1992 to present”. The public is invited.

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**Scholarly and other Activities**

- **Ms Donna Morrison**, Lecturer in the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, participated in an Analytical Skills Development Course which was planned by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, during the period May 30 to June 13 in Helsinki, Finland.

- **Mr John Caesar**, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Biology attended a meeting of the United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre-World Health Organization (UNEP-WCMC-WHO) expert working group workshop on development of indicators for health and well-being in relation to biodiversity and ecosystems, on June 12 and 13 at UN headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The indicators have been mandated by the Convention on Biological Diversity for communities directly dependent on ecosystems. Mr Caesar was previously involved in a global UNEP biodiversity assessment in EIA in 1999-2001.

- **Dr Paulette Bynoe**, Acting Director of the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences participated in the 4th Biennial Caribbean Environmental Forum and Exhibition, the 14th Annual Wider Caribbean Waste Management Conference and the 1st Caribbean Sustainable Energy Forum, during the period June 23 – 27 at St. George’s University, Grenada.

- **Ms Marilyn Ramjeet-Samad**, Lecturer at the Berbice Campus, presented a paper at the 4th Caribbean Environmental Forum and Exhibition which was held during the period June 22 to 27 in Grenada. Mrs Ramjeet-Samad’s paper was titled, “Guidelines for Integrated Waste Management Strategies for Major Events and Festivals in Caribbean Environmental Institutions Members States”.

- **Dr Michael Scott**, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences participated in the CSEC and CAPE Script-Marking Exercises in Barbados.

- **Dr Cyril Solomon**, Director of the Graduate School of Social Sciences participated in the CAPE Script-marking exercise in Jamaica.

- **Mr Kencil Banwarie**, Lecturer in the Department of Language and Cultural Studies, is participating in a four-week programme at the Caribbean Language and Linguistics Institute, at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus.

- **Ms Ramona Dabee-Johnson**, Lecturer in the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences will present a paper at a Geography and Geology Conference during the period July 7 to 11, at the University of the West Indies Mona Campus.
Ms Akima McPherson, Lecturer in the Department of Language and Cultural Studies, will participate in the 2008 CSEC Script-Marking Exercise during the period July 8 to 11 in Barbados.

Mr Francis Glasgow, Acting Director of the Institute of Distance and Continuing Education, will attend the Fifth Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning during the period July 13 to 17 in London, England.

Ms Bibian Isoto, Lecturer in the Department of Government and International Affairs has been invited by the International Law Students Association to be a judge at the Customs Unions or Free Trade Areas (CUFTA) Moot Dispute Settlement Competition and to present a paper at the International Conference, during the period August 13 – 16 in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. Ms Isoto was invited to judge the oral presentations of the Competition because of her previous experience in Moot Competitions – she has taken part in the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition three times. The title of her presentation for the Conference is, “Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law in the Promotion and Protection of Women”.

Mr William Harris, Lecturer in the Department of Architecture has been invited to attend an International Disaster Reduction Conference during the period August 25 to 30, in Davos, Switzerland. It is expected that upon his return from the Conference Mr Harris will hold several workshops with lecturers and students at the Turkeyen Campus to pass on the knowledge and experience gained at the Conference.

Gifts / Visits

His Excellency Mr Fraser Wheeler, British High Commissioner to Guyana, made a donation of twenty copies of Thornton Manual on Legislative Drafting, eighteen computers and related accessories, a projector and screen to the University of Guyana, on June 2. This timely donation serves to enhance the Postgraduate Certificate Programme in Legislative Drafting. Deputy Vice-Chancellor Mr Tota Mangar received the gifts on behalf of the University.

Mission Director Mr Peter Hubbard, on behalf of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), donated two production studios to the University’s Centre for Communication Studies. These studios are to be used as teaching laboratories for television and print production in the Diploma and Degree programmes at the Centre. Registrar Dr David Chanderbali received the items on behalf of the University at a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on June 20. Acting President, the Honourable Mr Samuel Hinds, was invited and gave remarks at the ceremony.

Dr Sergey K. Tarasov, Counsellor from the Embassy of the Russian Federation, paid a courtesy call on Vice-Chancellor Dr James Rose on June 20.

His Excellency Mr Shlomo Cohen, Ambassador of Israel to Guyana, paid a courtesy call on Vice-Chancellor Dr James Rose on June 25.
**Appointment of Assistant Deans**

As a result of recently held Faculty elections, the following persons were appointed as Assistant Deans for the academic year 2008/2009 with effect from August 1, 2008:

- **Mr Arnold DeMendonca**, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry
- **Ms Claudette Austin**, School of Education and Humanities
- **Mr Anthony DeFreitas**, Faculty of Health Sciences
- **Mr Lenandlar Singh**, Faculty of Natural Sciences
- **Mr Hector Edwards**, Faculty of Social Sciences
- **Mr Ivor Alsopp**, Faculty of Technology

**Asbestos Removal Exercise**

To facilitate the removal of asbestos from the Turkeyen Campus, all affected buildings have been cleared and are ready for the removal exercise, scheduled to commence on July 1, 2008. The University's operation bases during the asbestos removal period are:

- the Dennis Irvine dormitory at Goedverwagting, East Coast Demerara for administrative operations
- Tutorial High School, Guyana School of Agriculture, Cummings Lodge Secondary, the Government Technical Institute and the Georgetown Public Hospital for summer courses, and
- University House, Pere Street, Kitty, for library automation.

The schedules for classes are:

- **Tutorial High School**, Woolford Avenue, Georgetown
  - (a) Faculty of Social Sciences (all courses that were time-tabled)
  - (b) School of Education and Humanities (ENG 114, ENG 125, EFN 512, EFN 212)
  - (c) Faculty of Natural Sciences (all courses that were time-tabled)
  - (d) Faculty of Technology (CIV 222, CIV 215, EMT 111, CIV 213, MEC 213, MEC 113)

- **Government Technical Institute**, Woolford Avenue, Georgetown
  - ENG 115, ELE 111, ELE 112, EMT 211, EMT 311 MEC 111, Masters in Education

- **Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation**
  - Faculty of Health Sciences (all courses that were time-tabled)

- **Guyana School of Agriculture**, Mon Repos, East Coast Demerara
  - (a) AGR 322

- **Cummings Lodge Secondary School**, East Coast Demerara
  - (a) DPM 310
  - (b) MNG 410

All classes that have not yet begun will commence on July 8, 2008.

**Student Activities**

- The University of Guyana Law Students Society in collaboration with the US Ambassador’s Grant for HIV/AIDS held a Debate and Award Ceremony on whether Private Insurance Companies should be compelled to provide coverage for persons with HIV/AIDS, on May 30 at the Cara Lodge, Georgetown.

- The Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry’s Annual Staff and Student Review Conference was held from June 25-27 at the Turkeyen Campus. 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.