Office of the Vice-Chancellor

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Commencement of Academic Year, 2006/2007
On September 4, classes commenced for the new academic year 2006/2007 with an estimated enrolment of 1,045 new students. The Ceremonial Opening of the academic year took place on Monday, September 18.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor demits office

Mr Al Gibbs Creighton, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (September 2003 – August 2006), demitted office on August 31, 2006, after serving in the post for a period of three years. The Senior Admin Group and Academic Board commended Mr Creighton for the excellent leadership he provided during his tenure as DVC.

Distinguished Professor to resume duty

Distinguished Professor Clive Y. Thomas is scheduled to resume duty in October, after suffering from a Cardiovascular Incident in April of this year.

UG Lecturer is new Minister of Education
Former lecturer in the Faculty of Social Sciences, Mr Shaik Baksh was appointed the new Minister of Education. Formerly of the Ministry of Housing and Water, Mr Baksh replaces Dr Henry Jeffrey who reappears as Minister of Foreign Trade and International Cooperation. Dr Jeffrey was a former Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences. Dr Desrey Fox, of the Amerindian Research Unit at UG, also assumed office as Minister within Mr Baksh’s Ministry of Education.
Approval of New Programmes
In keeping with its commitment to support and enable the development process as well as to expand the revenue base of the institution, Academic Board at its meeting of September 13, met and approved the following new programmes:

- M.Soc.Sc. Development Policy & Analysis
- Graduate Diploma in Development Policy
- Diploma in Revenue Management

The graduate programmes emerged from the current University of Guyana/Inter-American Development Bank Project to Strengthen Statistics and Policy Analysis Teaching and Research at UG. The aim of the programmes is to enhance capabilities in statistics, policy formulation, analysis and research methods. The programmes will therefore provide participants with training in the appropriate techniques of statistics, research methods and policy processes. The orientation session was held on Monday, September 18.

Core Courses in Information Technology
The University has implemented two core courses (UGC 110 and UGC 120) which were developed to meet the need for all students at the University to at least be able to use the computer to complete assignments and prepare them for the professional working environment. The courses were developed for all students other than those registered to read for the Diploma or Degree in Computer Science.

Senior Academic Launches Book
Professor Rudolph James, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Law, launched a book titled ‘The Guyana Constitution: Its Dysfunctional Application’, on Tuesday, September 26 at UG’s Education Lecture Theatre. Former Vice-Chancellor Prof. Harold Lutchman was invited to give a synopsis of the book.

Strategic Plan Update
As a result of the ongoing effort to obtain the public’s input in the University’s five-year Strategic Plan, September 2006 – August 2011, written submissions were received from the Ministry of Education, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, the School of Education & Humanities, the Faculty of Natural Sciences, Drs Theodosius Velloza and Clyde Johnson of the Departments of Agriculture and Chemistry respectively, Mr Fitzroy Marcus (former Deputy Director of IDCE), and the Berbice Campus. Among the comments were calls for the Strategic Plan to address and include the following:

- the establishment of Regional/International Centres of Excellence for the Study of Biodiversity and Natural Products, Chemistry, Science and Technology,
- the creation of distance and online programmes particularly in fields with a paucity of skilled educators,
- the employment of personnel skilled in proposal writing and fundraising for tertiary institutions,
- the establishment of an Occupational Safety and Health Office,
• the establishment of a Business Office to pursue fundraising, endowments, consultancies and investments (examples of investments were given),

• the improvement in registration and examination processes,

• the marketing of the institution,

• the University’s responsibility to respond to national needs, and

• a revision of the Annual Staff Review form and process.

Security Breaches
Grave concern continues to be expressed at repeated security breaches including thefts and damage to property. To date a number of items including tractor parts, street lamps, and plants have gone missing. A feeling of heightened insecurity prevails on the campus and the Administration is under pressure to effect improvements in the security situation on the Campus.

Capital Works Contracts Awarded
Contracts were signed for five (5) capital works in July, 2006. To date, work has begun as follows:
Repairs to the Communications building - ($1,553,153)
Repairs to the Cafeteria building – ($2,467,162)
Extension and renovation of the Health Sciences Laboratory – ($3,615,870)
Repairs are yet to begin on
Floor of Chemistry Department Laboratory – ($2,405,480)
Bursary – ($1,868,315)
The Administration continues to be concerned at the delay between the award of the contract and the commencement of some of these works.

Staff Development
The programmes delivered and how well the University performs as a tertiary level institution ultimately depend on the quality of our staff and in this regard the University continues to be actively engaged in the process of staff development.

Human Resource Management Update
Having just completed consultation sessions with staff in an effort to spread awareness of the Human Resource Management (HRM) initiative, listen to staff concerns regarding current employment practices and get staff input for the content and direction of an HRM Plan, the HRM Team is now directing its energies towards an HRM Workshop. The Workshop, scheduled for early in the new academic year, will sensitise staff about the HRM Plan in relation to the Strategic Plan, by determining departmental goals and objectives, and setting priorities and first steps.

Immediately following the workshop, the HRM Team will guide the implementation of the detailed HRM Plan and will work along with the Equal Opportunities Committee in order to ensure UG complies with equity laws and promotes a work environment that results in maximum efficiencies for both institutional and employee benefit.

The HRM Plan was developed with the goal of having the University lead the way in employment best practice nationally; the main objectives are to develop awareness of
strategic goals and objectives among staff in order that the institution becomes more goal
oriented, to establish a culture whereby staff are eager to learn and develop themselves,
and to foster good relationships among staff and departments, cooperating for the good of
the University.

Study and Sabbatical Leave
Thirty five [35] lecturers proceeded on approved Study Leave over the period June to
August 2006 and twelve [12] proceeded on a year long Sabbatical Leave as of September
1. These lecturers are expected to complete an approved study programme of original
research during the period of leave and this will no doubt enhance their ability to deliver their
courses.

They were drawn from:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Earned Study Leave</th>
<th>Sabbatical</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture and Forestry</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Education &amp; Humanities</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty of Health Sciences</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty of Natural Sciences</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty of Social Sciences</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty of Technology</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>IDCE</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>35</strong></td>
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Resource Development
The University recognises its limitations and as a consequence is committed to a vigorous
policy of resource mobilisation.

Indian Resource Centre
In order to foster the relationship that exists between the Indian High Commission and the
University of Guyana, the Vice-Chancellor James G Rose met with His Excellency Dr
Avinash Gupta and among other things, accepted the proposal of the High Commissioner to
establish an Indian Resource Centre at the Turkeyen Campus. The Centre is envisaged as
the medium for creating more awareness about India (and research coming out of India)
among the student community of the University.

In the first instance, the Centre would house about 700 to 800 books and approximately 100
DVDs on various subjects, in addition to 15 computers with all the paraphernalia. It would be
located on the ground floor of the New Wing of the Library. The launch of the Centre has
been scheduled for November, 2006.

Virtual Health Library
The University of Guyana Library is in the process of building its Virtual Health Library which
is a collaborative project between the University of Guyana Library and the Pan American
Health Organisation. The aim of the Virtual Health Library is to provide high quality, timely,
reliable and valid health information for consumers and practitioners regardless of the
geographic location, through the use of the Internet. The project has been enhanced by the
receipt of a donation of one desktop computer and a printer which are dedicated to the Virtual Health Library.

As part of the package of the project, the University has free access to the Health Inter-Network Access to Research Initiative (HINARI) database which gives access to the world’s peer-reviewed journals in Biomedicine and related Social Sciences subject areas, with the capability of downloading full-text articles and with links to and from databases, including PubMed (Medline). In an attempt to consolidate the project, Ms Carol Parris, Senior Assistant Librarian and Coordinator of the project will be attached to the PAHO Library during her Sabbatical Leave (2006/2007) to receive further training in the establishment of the Virtual Health Library.

Elton B. Stephens Company (EBSCO) Database
The University of Guyana now subscribes to the EBSCO online library, which provides access to online journals and other full-text databases in some of the well-known databases such as Academic Search Premier, Business Source Premier and Newspaper Source. Academic Search Premier.

EBSCO is rated one of the world’s most valuable and most numerous collection of active full-text, peer-reviewed journals. It consists of indexing for over 8,000 publications, with full text for more than 4,450 of those titles, including PDF backfiles to 1975 or further for well over one hundred journals, and searchable cited references for more than 1,000 titles.

Mr Eric Block from EBSCO visited Guyana in November, 2005, to demonstrate the features and use of the database and two Agents are expected to return on September 20, to train staff members in the use of the Databases. In the meantime the Library is currently assessing the use made of this online facility over the first six-month period.

Computerisation of Berbice Library Catalogues
The computerisation of the Berbice Campus Library Catalogues, which began in December, 2005, has been completed. The Library staff as well as the students can now make full use of the WinIsis Database software to search for books rather than going through the printed catalogues. The books can be accessed by using various search criteria such as Author, Title, Subject, ISBN No., etc.

CUPIDE Computer Laboratory
Based on the request of lecturers and the approval of the Vice-Chancellor, the Centre for Information Technology has set up a computer lab to be used by lecturers for the development and delivery of online courses, under the CUPIDE project. CUPIDE has provided 10 computer workstations and 1 computer server and will also be providing 1 high speed copier/printer. One major issue CUPIDE is working to resolve is the provision of high-speed Internet connectivity to support the delivery of online courses.

COMSEC Donations
The University recently received a donation of laboratory equipment and books valued at approximately US$23,000 from the United Kingdom. The donation was initiated by the London-based Commonwealth Secretariat and the equipment will be used by students in the Faculties of Technology and Health Sciences, the School of Medicine and the Maintenance Division. Demerara Shipping Company, a member of the Demerara Distillers Ltd Group of Companies, facilitated the receipt of the donation by providing free ocean transport for the 40ft storage container via Verraco Shipping and by covering the local landing and transportation costs.

Private Donation
Mr Joseph Singh, Major General (retd) and CEO of the Guyana Telephone and Telegraph Company donated a quantity of books and course materials to the University of Guyana
Library. The donation is an invaluable one, not only to the Faculty of Social Studies but also to the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences.

**Texaco West Indies Ltd**

Texaco West Indies Ltd formally handed over 2 computers and 1 camcorder to the University Library on Monday, September 18. Mr Kenrick St. Louis, Managing Director, made the presentation on behalf of Texaco West Indies Ltd.

**Chinese Donation**

His Excellency Shen Qing, Chinese Ambassador to Guyana, handed over a valuable collection of books to the University of Guyana Library on September 29, in the Foyer of the University Library. The one hundred and fifty-six (156) books cover the areas of Literature, Culture, Politics, Economics, Law, Philosophy, History, Geography, Tourism, Religion, Martial Arts, Medicine and Education.

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**Student Activities**

**CARIFESTA, 2006**

Eleven students from the various Faculties were identified by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, as members of the Guyana contingent to CARIFESTA, 2006 in Trinidad.

**ITU Telecom World 2006**

Two students from the Faculty of Technology have been selected to participate in ITU TELECOM WORLD 2006 as ITU Fellows, to be hosted by the Government of the People’s Republic of China from December 4-8, in Hong Kong. The students are Ms Dione Holder and Mr Olson Abrams.

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**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.

- **Mr McArthur Thomas** visited the UWI St Augustine Campus to conduct a document study as well as engage in data collection as part of the current research titled 'Brands – The Creation of Shareholders Wealth'.

- **Dr Mark Bynoe**, Director of the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, presented a paper at a Regional Training Workshop on Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis, during the period September 11-15, in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad. Dr Bynoe also represented the University at the 19th COTED Meeting during the period September 25-29, in Belize City, Belize.

- **Dr Paulette Bynoe**, Lecturer in the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, participated in a conference on Population and the Environment in the Amazon, in Brazil. Dr Bynoe also presented a paper at the conference titled 'Population Dynamics and Environmental Sustainability: A Study of Georgetown, Guyana'.

- **Ms Diana Alert-Wharton**, Head, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, attended a Paper-setting meeting for the 2008 CSEC Food and Nutrition examination, during the period September 17-20, in Barbados.

- **Ms Dawn Fox**, Head, Department of Chemistry, attended a CSEC paper-setting exercise in her capacity as Assistant Chief Examiner of Integrated Science, at the CXC Headquarters in Barbados.
• **Ms Claudith Thompson**, Lecturer, School of Education and Humanities, attended the 5th Project Consultative Committee Meeting of the Caribbean Centre of Excellence for Teacher Training, from September 21-23, in Grenada.

• **Dr Victor Shchigolev**, Lecturer in the Department of Physics, Mathematics and Statistics, presented a paper at the UWI-sponsored conference on Mathematics and Its Applications, during the period September 24-27, in St. Augustine, Trinidad.

• **Dr Victorine Solomon** and **Ms Claudette Austin**, Lecturers in the Department of Research and Graduate Studies, attended the OAS workshop on New Approaches to Policy and Practice for Teacher Educators, from 26-29 September in Trinidad.

• **Mr Raymond Ramsaroop**, Lecturer in the Faculty of Natural Sciences, is currently attending COLOMBIAPLAST – EXPOEMPAQUE 2004, a fair which showcases advances in the packaging technology, in COFERIAS, Bogota, Colombia.

• **Mr Hector Edwards**, Head, Department of Business & Management Studies, will attend a Pan American Sports Organisation (PASO) Cycling Seminar during the period October 10-16, in Colorado Springs, USA.

• **Dr Patsy Francis**, Lecturer, Faculty of Agriculture & Forestry, is currently attending the 6th Caribbean Week of Agriculture in the Bahamas. The week of activities includes a series of workshops and a trade show.

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**Bereavement**

The University community was plunged into mourning at the news of the passing of former Senior Lecturer, **Dr David James Dodd**, who succumbed to terminal illness. In January, 1974, Dr Dodd was assigned to the University of Guyana by the University College, Cardiff, supported by the Inter-University Council for Higher Education Overseas, on a special assignment to establish a course in Criminology for UG’s Department of Sociology. While at UG, he was part of a formidable team of respected researchers in criminal behaviour under the distinguished leadership of Prof Howard Jones. Dr Dodd’s stint at UG ended August 31, 1978.