

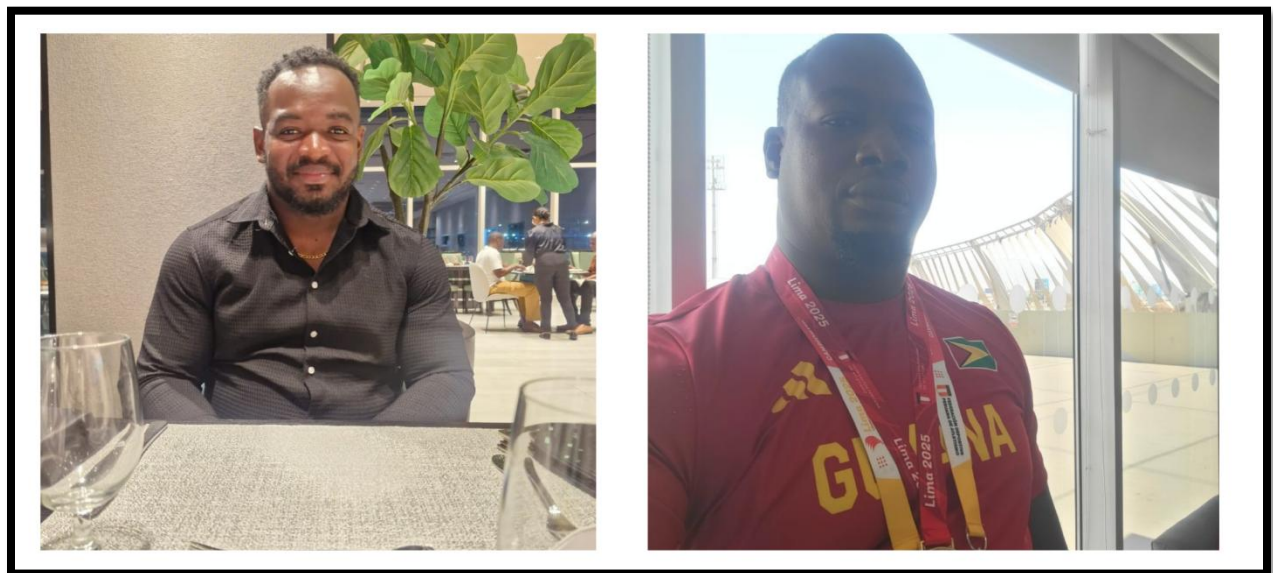
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Proud Siblings Set to Walk UG’s Graduation Stage in November

...detail stories of collective triumphs in face of adversities

As the University of Guyana prepares to host its 2025 graduation ceremonies, several families will share an extraordinary sense of pride. Among the three thousand six hundred graduands who will proudly walk the university’s graduation stage in November, are three sets of siblings whose academic journeys tell stories of faith, perseverance, and love. Their achievements are not merely personal milestones but collective triumphs that speak to the strength of family, community, and determination in the face of challenges.



Jerron Jarvis will be graduating with a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) while Andrew Jarvis will be graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Occupational Health and Safety.

For the Jarvis brothers of Ann’s Grove, East Coast Demerara, this graduation season will be used for deep reflection. Jerron, Justin, and Andrew Jarvis will graduate from the University of Guyana together fulfilling a dream their late mother inspired.

At 25, Jerron Jarvis will graduate with a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degree. ***“At the end of my first year, my youngest sibling died. By second year, I lost a close friend to cancer, and later, my mother suffered a major stroke. It broke me completely, but it was then I found God. He gave me peace when nothing else could,”*** Jerron said.

Jerron’s grief deepened when his mother, Penelope Sertimer-Jarvis, a nurse for over 30 years, passed away just two months before he is set to graduate. *“She always told me I’d be a doctor one day. I wanted to work alongside her...doctor and nurse, mother and son, and though she isn’t here, I know she’s proud,”* he said with much pride.

Despite the unimaginable loss, Jerron persevered, crediting his faith, supportive friends, and siblings for helping him through. *“God carried me. Even when I felt empty, He gave me strength.”* He now hopes to pursue a career in family medicine, guided by compassion and purpose.

For Andrew Jarvis, aged 33, the journey was also one of balancing family, work, and faith. He will graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Occupational Health and Safety. An auto electrician with the Ministry of Public Works for 15 years, and a track coach, Andrew was inspired by his workplace and wife to further his education. *“It was hard juggling everything, especially after losing our mother, but with God’s mercy, he pulled me through,”* Andrew said.

Together, the Jarvis brothers embody perseverance through pain, proof that with faith as their compass, even the darkest storms can lead to brighter days.



Siblings Amelia and Julio Bakhsh will be graduating with Bachelor of Science in General Psychology and a Bachelor of Science in Applied and Exploration Geology respectively.

From long commutes to evening classes, financial strain, and balancing work and family life, Julio and Amelia Bakhsh’s success represents determination in its purest form. The siblings will proudly walk the graduation stage this November with Julio receiving a Bachelor of Science in Applied and Exploration Geology, and Amelia earning a Bachelor of Science in General Psychology from the University of Guyana.

The Bakhsh siblings, who grew up on the East Coast of Demerara, are two of the youngest siblings in a family of seven. ***“It’s like a hallmark to our family,”*** Amelia reflected. ***“Julio and I are the last two to finish our degrees, and it means so much given where we came from and where we are now.”*** Julio echoed the sentiment, describing the moment as one of great pride for their mother and entire family.

After completing a diploma in Geological Engineering in 2016, Julio began working at the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) to support his family. ***“It was difficult because I recently had a child, and most classes were in the evening, but my wife played a crucial role in my success, and I’m graduating top of my programme with a 3.8 GPA.”***

Amelia’s path was equally challenging. Financial struggles initially delayed her degree, but she seized the opportunity to acquire a government scholarship in 2022. Working full-time as a teacher while studying, Amelia often attended late classes and prepared lesson plans deep into the night. Her efforts have paid off, she will graduate with a 3.7 GPA and plans to pursue a master’s degree in Clinical Psychology.

United by love and faith the Bakhsh siblings’ success is a powerful reminder that no obstacle is too great when determination leads the way.



Sisters Devika and Nandani Baljit will be graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science and a Bachelor of Science in Accountancy respectively.

From a small village in Berbice to the University of Guyana’s grand stage, sisters Devika and Nandani Baljit have achieved what once seemed a distant dream. The Baljit sisters, aged 23 and 20, will soon graduate: Devika with a Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science, and Nandani with a Bachelor of Science in Accountancy.

Both sisters, who hail from Betsy Ground Village, East Canje, are the first in their family to graduate from university. ***“This moment feels like a dream we all shared,*** Devika said emotionally.

“My parents made countless sacrifices, and this achievement belongs to all of us. It reflects our hard work and determination but also serves as inspiration for others to build a brighter future,” Nandani added.

Their journey began during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when all classes were online. Frequent power outages and poor internet connectivity tested their patience, but the sisters refused to give up. As in-person classes resumed, Devika moved to the university dorms in Georgetown, while Nandani continued studying from Berbice. The physical separation was difficult, but it taught them independence and perseverance.

“Being away from family was the hardest part. I had to learn to manage everything on my own while keeping up with my studies,” Devika shared. Yet, through the challenges, they remained

each other’s motivation, sharing a Google Calendar to track assignments and check on each other’s progress.

Through sleepless nights and long commutes, their faith in God and their parents’ encouragement became their foundation. Devika hopes to work at the New Amsterdam Hospital Laboratory and advocate for better healthcare in her community, while Nandani plans to become a certified professional accountant and mentor young people to believe in their potential. Their story reflects not only academic achievement but sisterhood.

Across different regions, disciplines, and life experiences, these siblings share one defining truth: the power of unity and faith. As they cross the graduation stage this November, their caps may fly individually, but their success rise together. ***(Feature by the Department of Events, Conferences and Communication (DECC), Office of the Vice-Chancellor, University of Guyana.)***

UG in Brief

The University of Guyana, the accredited national University of Guyana, now in its 62nd year, was founded in October 1963, three years before Guyana became independent. “UG”, as it is fondly referred to, offers over **180** distinct programmes in over **80** disciplines from Certificates, Diplomas, associate degrees, Bachelor’s Degrees, Master’s Degrees to Ph.D.’s. These programmes are offered in online, face-to-face or blended formats. UG delivers through a system of eight campuses. This includes its 37-year-old community-based Institute for Distance and Continuing Education (IDCE) and the second major campus at Tain in Berbice celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2025, as well as the pathbreaking Maoka Taawa Forest Campus. The University of Guyana’s student population is over 11,500.

Through its **9** faculties and **10** Research Institutes and Centers, including an accredited College of Medical Sciences, School of Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation and the Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences which has been ranked # 5 globally, “UG” has provided education, training and research for over 71,000 alumni over its 62-year history with significant national and global impact. Key faculties include the Faculty of Engineering and Technology, the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, the Faculty of Natural Sciences, the College of Behavioural Sciences and Research, the Faculty of Education and Humanities and the Faculty of Social Sciences. The University’s 10 Research Institutes include the recently launched Institute for Marine and Riverine Ecologies and Economies (IMAREE), the internationally important Centre for Biodiversity, the Institute for Food and Nutrition Security, the Institute for Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, the Institute for Energy Diplomacy, the Green Institute, the Institute of Gender Studies, the Institute for Human Resiliency, Strategic Security and the Future, and the International Centre for Excellence in Early Childhood Education.

The mission of the University of Guyana is to discover, generate, disseminate and apply knowledge of the highest standard for the advancement of communities, the nation, and mankind within an atmosphere of academic freedom, transparent accountability, pragmatic innovation and universal respect.

UG’s forward-thinking Blueprint 2040 is currently setting the course for the University’s future design and institutional response to the changing needs of Guyana, the region and the world. It is entering the 2nd of its four phases. UG is currently celebrating its 62nd anniversary with a continued focus on becoming the leading teaching and research University in Guyana.

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