University of Guyana activities have commenced for the start of the Academic Year 2008/2009 in the temporary quarters at the Dennis Irvine Hall of Residence, Goedverwagt, and at other locations as announced from time to time. The full routine of registration, classes and all other matters will resume as soon as normal business returns to the Turkeyen Campus. The exact date of this is not yet known.

Although the work on the buildings has been done, the University has to await the completion of exercises now in progress to sanitise the campus. The sanitisation process is of utmost importance because of concern for the health and safety of students, staff and visitors to the campus. As soon as the institution is assured that the air quality is satisfactory the campus will be reoccupied. A tentative calendar of activities beginning in mid-October, 2008, has already been drawn up and this will be publicised and the time-table announced as soon as the date for return to Turkeyen is confirmed. That calendar provides for the commencement of classes twenty-one days after the University’s presence is re-established on the Turkeyen Campus.

The Admission and Registration process for New Students, and the Registration process for all students are already in progress. The procedure is as follows:

**New Students**
- Obtain place offer letters
- Obtain tuition invoice from University Bursary
- Either pay fees at the bank or apply for loan
- Await announcement of dates for registration

**Continuing Students**
- Obtain tuition invoice from Bursary (present student ID card or Leave of Absence Letter)
- Either pay fees at the bank or apply for loan

Students moving from Certificate/Diploma to Degree programmes are processed as “New Students”.

The Registration process (i.e. Meeting with Department Heads and registering for specific courses) will continue as soon as the University returns to the Turkeyen Campus. “Sponsored students” will present letters of sponsorship for registration at that time.

During the period September 9 to 11, the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences held a series of stakeholder meetings on the Edu-Link Programme. The aim of the meetings was to provide an overview of the Edu-Link Programme on Capacity Building in Urban and Land Management in the Southern Caribbean. This programme, which is being led by the University of the West Indies, plans to overcome limitations at the national level in institutional capacity and student demand, and to achieve its objectives via inter-institutional collaboration in curriculum development and training.

The Senior Administrative Group as well as other academics from the University of Guyana attended and participated in the national consultation on the CARIFORUM/EU Economic Partnership Agreement [EPA] on Friday, September 5 at the Guyana International Convention Centre, Georgetown.
University of Guyana’s Literary Exhibition: CARIFESTA X
At the request of the President, His Excellency Bharrat Jagdeo, the University of Guyana Library mounted a Literary Exhibition in the National Library Conference Room. This was but one of the many literary exhibits of CARIFESTA X Literary Exhibition Committee. The focal point of this exhibition was the shortlisted participants as well as the winners of Guyana Prize for Literature. These were displayed chronologically dating back to the very first Guyana Prize for Literature ceremony. Another important feature of the exhibition were the publications: Kaie; Edgar Mittelholzer’s Kyk-over-al; as well as publications from participating Caribbean countries – Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Antigua, Jamaica, to name a few.

During the exhibition, still and video recordings were done by the staff from UG’s Learning Resource Centre. An exhibition brochure was also published to mark this activity. Glowing comments recorded in the visitor's book bear testimony to the appreciation of the many visitors.

UG/UNESCO National Consultation
The University’s Centre for Communication Studies in collaboration with UNESCO held a national consultation on UNESCO Model Curricula for Journalism Education, on August 12 and 13 at the National Library, Georgetown. The objective of the two-day exercise was to discuss the state of journalism education and practice in Guyana and to find possible synergies and areas contained in the UNESCO draft which may be relevant to the Guyana context. The consultation was conducted by Professor Vibert Cambridge of the School of Media Arts and Studies, Scripps College of Communication, Ohio University. Participants at the consultation included media houses, professional media personnel, government policy makers and senior line staff/gatekeepers.

2008 Convocation Exercise
The University’s graduation exercises are time-tabled in the normal Academic Calendar to take place at the end of the second week in November. The graduands and the public will be advised in good time of any variation in this scheduling caused by the institution’s late return to the Turkeyen Campus.
UG/COMSEC Legislative Drafting Course
The closing ceremony for the second Post-Graduate Certificate Programme in Legislative Drafting was held on August 22 at the Grand Coastal Inn, East Coast Demerara. The twelve weeks programme was co-sponsored by the University of Guyana and the Commonwealth Secretariat, and facilitated by the Honourable Justice Robin Webster, Programme Director from the United Kingdom.

The programme attracted twelve participants from Anguilla, Barbados, The Bahamas, Jamaica and Guyana. This year’s best graduating student was Ms Candace Elias of Guyana while the second best graduating student was Ms Deidre Kinch of Barbados.

Scholarly and other Activities

- **Guyana's Jagdeo Climate Change Initiative**
  **Mr John Caesar**, Head of the Department of Biology, delivered a presentation on Guyana's Jagdeo Climate Change Initiative during the period August 25 to 20, in Umea, Sweden.

- **Regional Literacy Preparatory Conference in Latin America and the Caribbean**
  **Dr Victorine Solomon**, Head of the Department of Research and Graduate Studies, attended the Regional Literacy Preparatory Conference in Latin America and the Caribbean, during the period September 9 to 12 in Mexico City, Mexico.

- **Gender and Climate Risk Management in the Caribbean**
  **Dr Paulette Bynoe**, Acting Director of the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, attended a meeting of the Caribbean Risk Management Initiative (CRMI) Gender Advisory Committee, where the research in progress on Gender and Climate Risk Management in the Caribbean region was reviewed. The meeting was held on September 13 in Kingston, Jamaica.

- **5th Regional Coordination Meeting of the Virtual Health Library**
  **Ms Carol Parris**, Head of the Learning Resource Centre and Virtual Health Library Focal Point of UG, attended the 8th Regional Congress on Health Sciences Information/5th Regional Coordination Meeting of the Virtual Health Library, during the period September 16 to 19 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The theme of this year’s Congress was **Scientific Information and Knowledge for Innovation in Health**.

- **Technical Work Group to the Caribbean Forum of Local Government Ministers**
  **Mr Vincent Alexander**, Deputy Registrar of the University and Lecturer in Local Government, who was recently selected as one of the members of the Technical Work Group to the Caribbean Forum of Local Government Ministers, was one of the facilitators at the National Consultations in the Bahamas, on the draft Regional Policy and Co-operation Framework for Local Government and Democracy in the Caribbean.

The consultation was declared open by the Honourable Byran Woodside, Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister, and participants included local elected officers and administrators across the Bahamas, among others. The objective of the consultations is to draft a regional policy and co-operation framework on Local Government. To that end consultations are being held across the Caribbean. Consultations were already conducted in Guyana and should be concluded by November, 2008. The draft should be completed in January, 2009 after presentations to, and approved by, the Caribbean Forum of Local Government Ministers.
Other members of the Technical Working Group are Prof. Neville Duncan of the Mona Campus, UWI; Dr Bishnu Ragoonauth of the St. Augustine Campus; and Mr Keith Miller, Consultant to the Department of Local Government, Office of the Prime Minister, Jamaica.

**Men as Partners in Promoting Reproductive Health**

Mr Andrew Hicks, Head of the Department of Sociology, attended a workshop which focussed on the theme, Men as Partners in Promoting Reproductive Health, during the period September 23 to 25 in Grenada. The workshop examined the importance of partnering with men in order to promote gender equity and equality.

**13th Monthly Procurement Round-Table Forum**

Mr Quincy Bourne, Internal Auditor, attended the Inter-American Development Bank’s 13th Monthly Procurement Round-Table Forum, on September 26 at the Grand Coastal Inn, ECD. The focus of discussion was on topical issues relating to best practices in procurement procedures and how they relate to Guyana’s circumstances.

**2008 CARISCIENCE 10th Anniversary Celebration**

Professor Brij Tewari, Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, Mr John Caesar, Head of the Department of Biology, and Mr Melvyn Sankies, Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, were invited to participate in a series of activities hosted by CARISCIENCE, on September 29 and 30 in Port of Spain, Trinidad. The activities included: the 2008 CARICOM Science Award and CARISCIENCE 10th Anniversary Celebration, the launching of the Caribbean Diaspora Association and a one-day Conference on the Role of the Diaspora in Caribbean Development.

**Researching Inequality through Science and Technology**

Mr John Caesar, Head, Department of Biology, will present a country brief at a Workshop on Researching Inequality through Science and Technology, during the period October 7 to 8, at the Cave Hill Campus in Barbados. The workshop is being organised by the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES).

**Chief Examiner for CAPE French**

Mr Derek Archer, Lecturer in the Department of Language and Cultural Studies, has been appointed Chief Examiner for French for the 2009-2010 Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations. Mr Archer will attend a meeting of the Examining Committee during the period October 12 to 20 at the CXC Headquarters in Bridgetown, Barbados.

**Canada-Caribbean-Central America Education Partnership Forum**

Dr Marlene Cox, Director of the Office of Resource Mobilisation and Planning, will represent the University at the Canada-Caribbean-Central America Education Partnership Forum during the period November 1 to 6 in St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. The forum will bring together Presidents, Vice-Presidents (Academic/Research/International) and other top higher education professionals from a range of post-secondary institutions across Canada, the Caribbean and Central America. The objective is to develop and reinforce university and college partnerships through providing opportunities to learn more about each other and to discuss possible joint activities.

**Appointment of Assistant Registrar**

Ms Daniella King, former Administrative Officer within the University Library, was appointed Assistant Registrar, Students’ Welfare, with effect from August 1, 2008. Ms King graduated from the University of Guyana in 2004 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Tourism Studies. She joined the staff of the University of Guyana in November 2005 as an Administrative Officer within the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor. The University congratulates Ms King on her appointment and wishes her well during her tenure.
Appointment of Acting Director, UGBC

Recently, the post of Director of the University of Guyana Berbice Campus became vacant when Dr Parsram Thakur demitted office after serving in that capacity for approximately eight years. Dr Rishee Thakur, the most senior academic at that Campus has been appointed to act as Director.

Dr Rishee Thakur graduated from York University with a Ph.D. in Political Science in 1994. In 1976 he was the recipient of a Master of Arts Degree in Political Science from the University of British Columbia, Canada. Dr Thakur, who has a number of publications to his name, joined the staff of the University of Guyana in 1994 as a Lecturer in the Department of Government and International Affairs. Prior to his acting appointment, Dr Thakur served in the post of Assistant Director, UGBC.

UG says farewell after 101 years of service

A number of long-standing employees retired from the services of the University of Guyana in September 2008. These include

- **Mr Asger Esoof**, former Assistant Registrar (Students’ Welfare), who retired after serving in various posts since January, 1975.
- **Ms Hetty London**, former Deputy University Librarian who retired after serving in various posts within the Library since November, 1971.
- **Ms May Daphne Nelson**, former Lecturer within the Institute of Distance and Continuing Education, who gave seventeen years of invaluable service, commencing in November, 1991.
- **Ms Claudith Thompson**, Lecturer within the School of Education and Humanities, who contributed significantly to the development of childhood education at the University and the wider community. Ms Thompson joined the services of the University in September, 1994.

US$25,000 CGX grant to UG

The Faculty of Technology was the recipient of a US$25,000 grant from the Canadian oil company, CGX Resources Inc. This grant was given to the Faculty to build a state-of-the-art computer laboratory, hire staff and enhance the technical capabilities of students.

The handing over ceremony was held in the boardroom of Guyana Geology and Mines Commission where the Dean of the Faculty of Technology, Mr Sherwood Lowe, received the cheque from Mr Jim Fairbairn, Chief Finance Officer of CGX. Also present were Prime Minister Samuel Hinds, Head of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) Mr Brett Maitland, UG’s Deputy Vice Chancellor Mr Tota Mangar, and senior officials from GGMC and UG.

USAID Transfers Assets to UG

USAID’s Democracy and Governance Program, represented by the Guyana Democratic Consolidation and Conflict Resolution Project (GDCCRP), officially closed on September 30, 2008. They were required to dispose of the assets procured under the Project. As a result and in keeping with its commitment to provide support to the University of Guyana, it was recommended that one of the Project’s vehicles, an electronic alarm system and an air conditioning unit be donated to the University’s Centre for Communication Studies, a beneficiary of the said project. To this end, the items, with an estimated value of G$5.5M, were handed over to the University on September 25 at USAID’s Carmichael Street Office. The ceremonial handing over will take place in January, 2009.