Greetings from the University of Guyana!

Bulletin No. 2 February 2010

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Facts about UG – Readers’ Services Division

In addition to its central activity - the borrowing of books; the Readers’ Services Division of the University’s Library offers a wide range of services such as literature and internet searches, and the compilation of bibliographies and holdings lists. Recent additions to the Readers’ Services Division included the Rabindranath Tagore Resource Centre (RTRC), launched on the 8th November 2006, the UNICEF Documentation Centre which was officially opened on 7th July 2009, and the PAHO Knowledge Centre launched on 21st October 2009. These Centres are typical examples of electronic access to information through virtuosity of their information products.

Orientation Programme for New Clerical Staff Members

On February 8-12, UG held its annual orientation workshop for new clerical staff under the theme “Securing Quality Service”. The five-day workshop targeted 37 participants from the Turkeyen and Tain campuses. Some of the topics presented were the functions and functional areas of the University, conditions of service, ethical behavior in the workplace, interpersonal relations & conflict management, and occupational health & safety. The workshop was organised by the Personnel Division.

Lecture - “Challenges & Opportunities for Human & Social Development”

The third lecture of a four-part series on climate change and its impact on Caricom countries sponsored by the University and the British High Commission was held on February 9 at the Regency Suites Hotel. The presentation titled “Challenges & Opportunities for Human & Social Development” was delivered by Dr. Mark Bynoe, Environmental/Resource Economist & Economic Advisor of the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, Belize.

Workshop for New Lecturers

The Workshop for New Lecturers is an annual programme organised by the Personnel Division; its objectives are to enhance the knowledge of new faculty in the University’s system and to provide an opportunity to raise concerns. This year’s workshop was held on February 17-19, 24 and 25 in the Education Lecture Theatre and the Centre for Information Technology. The theme of the workshop was “For the Assurance of Quality in Higher Education”. There were 37 participants from across the Turkeyen and Tain Campuses.

Symposia in celebration of the 40th Anniversary of Mashramani

The University held two symposia on February 19 & 22 at the National Library in honour of the 40th Anniversary of Mashramani. The themes were based on “Science & Technology – Guyana & the Challenge of the Environment”, chaired by Dr. Suruj Narine with panelists Drs. David Singh and Patrick Williams, and Messrs John Caesar and Navin Chandarpal; and “Culture & the Arts – At the Service of Nationhood: Developments in Mashramani & Guyanese Culture”, chaired by Mr. Al Creighton with panelists Ms. Elfrieda Bissember, Dr. Paloma Mohamed and Messrs. Jimmy Hamilton and Walter Melville.

Open/Career Day

The University’s Open/Career Day was held on February 19 at the Turkeyen Campus under the theme “Study Options & Career Choices for Youth Empowerment”. Open/Career Day is held every year to inform prospective students about the
programmes available at UG and career options. Students are also given the opportunity to explore job options and careers within their field of study. Twenty three members of the private & public sectors and faculties/divisions of the University participated in this year’s programme. The annual competition was held among the University’s Schools, Faculties and the Library for the best display of programmes and services; the winner of the Vice-Chancellor’s Cup was the Faculty of Agriculture & Forestry. In second place, the School of Education & Humanities captured the Registrar’s Cup and in third place the Library received the Bursar’s Cup.

Donation of Books
On February 25, the Embassy of Mexico donated 522 Spanish text books and journals, and 9 DVDs to the Turkeyen Library. The items were handed over by Ambassador Fernando Sandoval and accepted by Vice-Chancellor Dr. Lawrence Carrington.

Donate a Tree Project
Mrs. Pamela Bourne, wife of the newly installed Chancellor, Professor Compton Bourne has initiated a project called Donate a Tree. The project is intended to enhance the physical environment of the Turkeyen campus through landscaping with carefully selected trees, shrubs and other appropriate planting material. UG is currently acquiring donations towards this initiative. If you would like to participate in this project, please contact Mrs. Pamela Bourne (petbourn@yahoo.com), Dr. Marlene Cox, Office of Resource Mobilisation & Planning and Ms. Yvonne Stephenson (telephone [Office] 226-7073, nrdocgd@yahoo.com). Funds towards the purchase of trees are payable to the Pamela Bourne's UG Environmental Enhancement Project - Donate a Tree at GBTI (47 Water Street, Robbstown), Account name: University of Guyana Special Funds, Account #: CIUA009886, Swift code: GUTIGYGE.

Career Opportunity
Name of Company: Queens Atlantic Investment Inc
Position: Managerial – Administrative
Salary: Negotiable
Basic requirements: (a) A first degree in Communications/Management
(b) Excellent command of the English Language
(c) Good deportment
(d) Can work with a minimum of supervision
(e) Public Relations experience will be an asset but not required
(f) Will report directly to the Executive Chairman
(g) Previous managerial experience will be taken into account.
Applications should be submitted to: Ms Suzie Mangar Vieira
Group Human Resources Manager
Queens Atlantic Investments Inc.
Industrial Site
Ruimveldt
Cell: 592-662-6803
Office: 592-227-0704 ext. 104
592-227-7283
e-mail: s.vieira@guyanatimesgy.com
Attendance at Meetings/Conferences/Seminars/Workshops

Mr. Miguel Neneve, Lecturer, School of Education & Humanities supervised a thesis defense and lectured at the University of Rondonia, Brazil, February 1 – March 9.

Mr. Rayman Khan, Manager, Centre for Information Technology attended the 4th Meeting of the CARICOM ICT Steering Committee in Grenada, February 2-5.

Dr. Michael Scott, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences attended the Caribbean Nazarene College Executive Board Meeting in Trinidad, February 12-14.

Mr. Al Creighton, Dean, School of Education & Humanities participated in a CARIBNET Meeting, tour/examination of the new Trinidad & Tobago cultural centre, traditional carnival events/demonstration and research in Trinidad, February 12-16.

Mr. Phillip DaSilva, Assistant Director, Tain Campus participated in the Regional Preparatory Meeting of Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organisation (ACTO) Member States in Lima Peru, February 24-26.

Mr. John Caesar, Lecturer, Faculty of Natural Sciences attended the Edulink Academic Management Committee Meeting for the Edulink Regional MSc. Programme in Biodiversity Conservation & Sustainable Development for the Caribbean at Anton de Kom University, Suriname, February 24-27.

Earn Study Leave

Ms. Denise Simmons, School of Earth & Environmental Sciences

Feature Alumnus: Professor Mary Noel Menezes

Prof. Mary Noel Menezes, also known as “Sister” or “Sister Noel” is one of the three individuals that was bestowed the title of Emeritus Professor at the University’s 43rd Convocation on December 5, 2009 for her outstanding service to UG. Prof. Menezes joined the University in 1967 after teaching for two years at colleges in the United States of America. She served as Coordinator of the Master’s Degree Programme in Guyanese & West Indian History which she initiated in 1973 and Head of the History Department from 1977 to 1989. She was promoted to Professor of History in 1980.

Prof. Menezes holds a Noviate of the Mercy Sisters (RSM), AA in Religious Training from Mercy Noviate, U.S.A (1950); Teachers Diploma from St. Joseph College, Jamaica (1954); BA from Misericordia College, U.S.A (1964); MA (Georgetown, 1965) and PhD from the University of London (1973). She is the recipient of the Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the College Misericordia (1983), Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws (LL.D) from the University of the West Indies (2005), Golden Arrow of Achievement Award from the Government of Guyana (1982) and the Outstanding Guyanese Women Award (1989) among others.

Prof. Menezes has produced several books including, “The Amerindians & the Europeans” popularly used in the CXC Caribbean syllabus and “A Guide to Historical Research”, which was later changed to “How To Do Better Research”. She has held membership on numerous committees and councils due to her exemplary stature. In addition to her academic activities, Prof. Menezes has been heavily engaged in charitable pursuits. She worked with the St. John Bosco Orphanage in Plaisance (1968-2003), Cheshire Home in Mahaica (1981-2001) and was a regular visitor to the Mahaica Hospital for patients with Hansen’s Disease. In 2000, she founded and to date manages the Home-Mercy Boys’ Home for boys leaving the St. John Bosco Orphanage who have no refuge.

This newsletter is a monthly publication created to keep our alumni updated with news at the University of Guyana. An alumnus will be featured in each publication. If you are an alumnus please advise us of recent developments. If you would like to be featured, please send us your CV, a recent photograph and a letter telling us about yourself. These can be emailed here. Feel free to send your questions and/or suggestions here. We look forward to hearing from you!

Visit the Alumni website at http://www.ugalumni.org. Remember to add your name to the database and view the Guestbook!