

Address and Charge

On the Occasion of the Orientation Week at Turkeyen

Academic Year 2017/18

Theme: “Unlocking the Renaissance Mind within You”

8/21/2017



**Professor MICHAEL E. SCOTT
(Deputy Vice-Chancellor-Academic Engagement) OIC**

I wish to join with those who have preceded me in welcoming you the key stakeholders, particularly you our new entrants. You are the reason for our being in business as a Higher Education service provider. I must also take this opportunity to congratulate you and your significant others, your family in particular, on your success in satisfying the requirements to be admitted in your respective programmes in your respective Faculties. On behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Ivelaw Lloyd Griffith, Officers and staff at Turkeyen Campus I sincerely thank you for choosing the University of Guyana (UG) as your HEI alma mater.

You are joining a privileged and select group in every country and population the world over who have chosen to pursue University, Higher Education. For some countries it is 15 plus % per annum of the population. For Guyana it is approximately a mere near 2% considering UG plus others. You are now the subject, object and output of our service so you have a serious obligation to first know who you are in this new dispensation. Do you know that each of you have a renaissance mind within you? Then you have to unlock that renaissance mind within you.

You are in a new environment which is different from your secondary school or other institution. The vocabulary is different; the in class interaction is different and the demands are different. There are no subjects but courses; there are course outlines not syllabi; there are lecturers not teachers; there are Faculties and different classrooms where classes are held; there are self-driven assignments and self-driven

note taking; there is an unpardonable scholarly transgression known as plagiarism which you must avoid at all cost, among other things. This new physical, intellectual and social environment require new relational tools and approaches, require new study tools and approaches as well as new attitudes to the diverse UG community. Thus, you need to use this orientation week as the start to unlock that renaissance mind within you that will transform you and your perspective which is necessary for your success at UG.

You are pursuing your education at this level in exciting times. I daresay an era of Guyana's potential renaissance economically and you are the impetus for its intellectual and social renaissance. Thus, new structures, programmes and portfolios are being added at UG e.g. School of Entrepreneurship & Business Innovation (SEBI), Academic Advisement (which diagnostic, advisory, instructional, guidance & counselling for academic success; focus on oil and gas etc.) and curriculum reviews. You are the Renaissance – renewal - so I implore you to be engaged in University life in a holistic way. So unlock that renaissance mind within you.

You will only be able to unlock that renaissance mind within you by being:

1. An Initiator of newness in your own thinking, work ethic and relationships for your intellectual advancement;
2. Intentional in planning for enhanced performance and career pursuits;
3. Independent in your thinking and approach. Your failure to do so perpetuates the deadliest and most despicable and repulsive form of slavery, mental slavery. So you must reject and abhor mental slavery in any form. You are here to learn how to challenge ideas in a systematic, ethical and respectful manner. This brings richness to discussions where there is thinking rather than unthinking parroting of another's ideas;
4. Investigative and enquiring – curious to seek new knowledge and yet being analytical in contending with what is found;
5. Instruments of integrity in a broken and corrupt localised culture.

I therefore charge you to make the best of your opportunity as you orient your mind to navigate your new environment and so unlock the renaissance mind within you in an environment underpinned by renaissance. Your success will be determined by the

path of diligence to unlock that renaissance mind as against following the crowd that offers a shortcut to a form of success where you will leave as you came in.

I implore you to do the best with the opportunity afforded you so that at the end of your short stay you leave as the, real deal, UG branded graduate and not just a mere graduate of UG.

I wish you every success and a rewarding and enterprising sojourn at UG.

May God bless you!!



UG IN BRIEF

With a current enrollment of some 8,000 students, The University of Guyana (UG) has graduated more than 20,000 students who have gone on to successful careers locally, regionally and internationally. The University is also a major contributor to the national economy and to business and industry. Established in 1963 on a part-time basis with shared space at Queens College, UG moved to its own campus at Turkeyen in 1970 and expanded in 2000 with the addition of the Tain Campus. It now offers more than 60 under-graduate and post-graduate programmes including Engineering, Environmental Studies, Forestry, Urban Planning and Management, Tourism Studies, Education, Creative Arts, Economics, Law, Medicine, Optometry and Nursing. Several online programmes are available and UG also offers extra-mural classes at four locations through its Institute of Distance and Continuing Education. UG also offers the opportunity for student engagement in debating, sports, and cultural, religious and professional activities.