The Alumni and Friends of the University of Guyana (AFOUG) held its second Gala at Antuns in Queens Village, last weekend. It was an impressive affair. The turnout was great, the program reflected the dignity of the occasion and the entertainment went late into the evening. There were many highlights to embrace but the address of Vice-Chancellor Ivelaw Griffith was the most memorable.

The Gala was Impressive!

The members of AFOUG worked hard for many weeks to put the event together. They found the time, despite their busy schedules, to confer each other, publish a magazine, and to put the final touches to an event that will be long remembered. The members of the Board comprise Allison Skeete-Hadaway, President, Leslie Stewart, First Vice-President, Philip Smith, Second Vice-President, Terrence Blackman, Secretary, Karen Wharton, Assistant Secretary, Rosalind October-Edun, Treasurer, Dhanpaul Narine, Public Relations Officer, Frank A. Denbow, Parliamentarian, Kishore Seunarine, Executive Advisory Member, and Candace Cummings, Executive Advisory Member.

President Allison Skeete-Hadaway said that AFOUG is an accredited non-profit organization that is dedicated to providing learning opportunities for students and faculty who wish to support the rebuilding of education in Guyana. She pointed out that the rebuilding will be devoid of racial or political bias. The Vice-Chancellor, she added, is a proud graduate of the University of Guyana (UG) who brings to the University more than 30 years of dedicated commitment to education.

It is fitting that messages were given from other distinguished personalities that have a direct connection with the local university. Guyana’s Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Riyad Insanally, was a former teacher at UG. He said that UG continued pursuit of our mission and goals.’ There is no question that since Vice-Chancellor Griffith took over the reins at UG the institution has made tremendous progress. Under his leadership, UG secured the reaccreditation of the School of Medicine, boosted Wi-Fi access at Turkeyen, started the Tain and Turkeyen Talks, published the Renaissance Newsletter, restored the Walter Rodney Chair, began work on a new student’s complex, hosted the first Diaspora Engagement Conference, inaugurated a Distinguished Lecture Series to celebrate the works of Professor Clive Thomas, Professor Sister Noel Menezes, and Dr. Ulric Trotz, and hosted successful student research conferences, among others.

In 2018, UG observed the birth anniversary of former President Dr. Cheddi Jagan, and signed an academic agreement with Power, Producers and Distribution Inc. to enhance and maintain the quality assurance of UG students. The Berbice Director, Professor Gomathinayagam Subramanian spoke on the uses of ‘Soil Micro-Organisms’ and the best practices that are needed to boost production in Guyana.

Vice-Chancellor Griffith reinforced the importance of agriculture in Guyana last weekend. He said that while Guyana welcome oil and gas it should not neglect its agricultural base. The prospects for UG are exciting.

In October 2018, the university will publish a book on the diaspora conference that was held in Guyana last year. This will be a historic publication as some of the proposals will act as a guide for policy formulation and implementation in the diaspora, and beyond.

There is no doubt that AFOUG’s evening was a tremendous success. We salute President Allison Skeete-Hadaway who braved personal challenges to help organize a wonderful event. Her husband Michael also donated his time and the camaraderie for which the organization is grateful. The members of AFOUG should take a bow for working as a team and pulling off another successful evening. But there is more work to be done.

The next event for AFOUG is on Sunday October 21, 2018 when Kishore Seunarine’s ‘Echos from the Plantation’ will be shown at D’Lorice Banquet Hall at 665 Styvesant Avenue, Irvington NJ 07111. It starts at 4pm, please call 1718 848 8831 for further information.

The Alumni and Friends of the University of Guyana:

The Gala was Impressive!

By Dr. Dhanpaul Narine

Alumni and Friends of the University of Guyana:

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