September 8th, 2015

PRESS RELEASE

LAUNCH OF THE INSTITUTE OF GENDER STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA
On Friday 28th August 2015, the University of Guyana launched its Institute of Gender Studies. The Institute’s establishment is the result of two years of collaboration involving York University’s Kamala Kempadoo, coordinator of the Inter-Guiana-Canada women’s and gender studies exchange, academics at the University of Guyana, activists from Guyana’s Women and Gender Equality Commission, officials from the Ministry of Social Protection, and The UWI Institute for Gender and Development Studies.

According to the Head of the Department of Sociology, Dionne Frank, “The Gender Institute will be on a mission to build on the existing strengths of the University of Guyana and its partners to serve as a nucleus for multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary teachings, research, dialogue and local and international issues of women and gender.”

Speaking at the launch, Vice Chancellor of the UG, Jacob Opadeyi said, “Gender studies matters; it improves our understanding of the world around us. It teaches us how to be equitable in our management of our issues.” Professor Kamala Kempadoo added, "The reinvigoration of women’s and gender studies at the University of Guyana is an important step in building gender justice in Guyana. It is an inspiring development, and one that I hope will lead to socially-responsible, transformational scholarship for many new generations of Guyanese.”

Professor Verene Shepherd, Regional Director of the IGDS, and Dr. Gabrielle Hosein, Lecturer at the St. Augustine Unit, also delivered comments at the launch. Professor Shepherd and Vice Chancellor Opadeyi signed a Memorandum of Understanding, on behalf of The UWI and the University of Guyana, to strengthen collaboration. The launch also offered an opportunity to bring together The UWI and UG with the Institute for Women, Gender and Development Studies at the Anton de Kom University in Suriname. One such example of possible collaboration may be an intake of Guyanese and Surinamese students in The UWI St. Augustine’s Philosophy of Gender in the Caribbean graduate course, which will be offered regionally through...
online blended learning strategies from January 2016. Reflecting on the fledgling Institute, Professor Shepherd envisioned

“The IGDS was pleased to contribute to the historic launching of UG’s Institute of Gender Studies on September 8, 2015. We look forward to greater collaboration as together we try to transform gender relations and mainstream gender across all spaces in this our Caribbean and produce graduates that will be well-rounded citizens who are impatient of sexism and all forms of discrimination.”

Prof. Verene Shepherd, Regional Director of the Institute for Gender an Development Studies, and Dr. Gabrielle Hosein, Lecturer, IGDS St. Augustine Unit, represented The UWI at the launch.