



Higher Education for Development (HED)
and
U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

“Guyana: Strengthening Mass Communication and Journalism”

FINAL ASSOCIATE AWARD REPORT
September 12, 2008 – March 11, 2012

USAID/Guyana Associate Award
Cooperative Agreement # AEG-A-00-05-00007-00
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Higher Education for Development was established in 1992 by the six major U.S. higher education associations to engage the higher education community in global development.

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Executive Summary

This associate award provides funding for the establishment of one higher education partnership.

In October 2008, under Associate Award EDH-A-00-08-00008-00 executed September 12, 2008, HED made one award of \$300,000 to Ohio University (OU) for a three-year partnership project titled: “Guyana: Strengthening Mass Communication and Journalism” for a collaboration with the University of Guyana (UG).

The overall goal of the partnership between OU’s Scripps College of Communication and UG’s Center for Communications Study (CCS) is to strengthen CCS’s effectiveness in preparing undergraduate students to meet workforce demands in the media and communications industries after graduation.

The partnership’s objectives are to:

- Upgrade the curriculum and course content at CCS, based on the findings of a baseline needs assessment with particular emphasis on curricular shortcomings;
- Upgrade the education, skills, and experience of CCS faculty through master’s degrees, professional development workshops, and other academic opportunities;
- Upgrade the education, skills, and experience of Guyanese journalists and media professionals including working students and practicing journalists through online courses, in-country workshops, and annual communications conferences;
- Develop a mixed-mode service (Internet, radio, and postal service) to deliver mass communication and journalism education and training to students and journalists in rural and isolated regions; and
- Upgrade the experience for CCS students to include more structured interactions among students, faculty, and local media professionals through joint activities such as co-teaching, internships, and applied research projects.

Since the partnership was established in 2008, OU and UG successfully implemented a variety of collaborative activities that focus on the achievement of the above-listed objectives. Most notably, a baseline and needs assessment was conducted and an entirely new, highly innovative curriculum was developed and implemented; three UG faculty members successfully completed graduate degree programs at OU’s School of Media Arts and Studies; a number of workshops and training modules were delivered to a significant number of students and media professionals; equipment and materials were upgraded through limited grant funds and leveraged funding opportunities; and relationships with public and private sector organizations were established to promote the sustainability of the partnership achievements. Just before the partnership ended, the partners were able to complete their online education platform which will address challenges related to rural geography and flexibility for working professionals. On December 17, 2011 the partners from OU and UG also signed a Memorandum of Understanding to define and encourage collaboration beyond the grant period.

Background

USAID’s long-term goal is to strengthen UG’s Center for Communications Study’s (CCS) effectiveness in preparing undergraduate students to meet workforce demands in the media and communications industries after graduation.

The training of media practitioners is vital to improve the capability of media professionals in Guyana to report responsibly, objectively and contribute to a strong, independent media system which is critical to democratic nations. The University of Guyana, the country’s sole tertiary education institution, requested assistance to redesign and strengthen the programs of study in the Centre. The Centre offers a two-year diploma and four-year undergraduate program in public communication, covering training in print and broadcast media.

U.S. - Guyana Collaborative Associate Award

In collaboration with USAID/Guyana and USAID’s Bureau of Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade (USAID/EGAT), ACE/HED issued a Request for Applications (RFA) on February 14, 2008 with a deadline of April 25, 2008. A thorough evaluation of the applications by an expert peer review panel was conducted, which included a representative from USAID/Guyana. ACE/HED, with Mission concurrence, made an award of \$300,000 to Ohio University in October 2008 for a three-year partnership project titled: “Guyana: Strengthening Mass Communication and Journalism.”

The University of Guyana was pre-selected by USAID/Guyana as the lead overseas partner institution in the RFA. The subagreement between ACE/HED and OU was fully executed on October 27, 2008.

Aggregate Human and Institutional Capacity Indicators

HUMAN CAPACITY BUILDING								
Indicator	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		TOTAL	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
U.S. participants who participated in exchanges	2	4	1	1	1	0	4	5
Host-country participants who participated in exchanges	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	3
Host-country participants who participated in internships	0	0	13	13	0	0	13	13
Host-country participants who received non-degree training	38	34	42	38	203	104	283	176

Host-country participants who completed a professional certificate or specialization program	0	0	42	35	0	0	42	35
Host-country participants who completed a master's degree program	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING				
Indicator	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
New academic programs established		1	1	2
Academic programs/curricula reviewed	1	1		2
New individual courses developed			1	1
Teaching/learning methods improved	1	1	1	3
Improved financial management, service delivery, fundraising, outreach, private sector linkages, and/or personnel policies			1	1
New research activities resulting from partnership activities		2		2
Faculties, departments or programs that have met one or more criteria towards accreditation as a result of USG funding	1			1

Objectives Assessment

Objectives	Intermediate Results	Performance Assessment	
		Did Not Achieve	Achieved
Objective 1: Enhance and update the curriculum and course content	Perform a needs assessment		√
	Curricula review & develop new courses		√
	Advisory board	√	
	External evaluation	√	
Objective 2: Upgrade the education, skills and experience of CCS faculty	3 OU master's degrees for UG faculty		√
	Pedagogy workshops		√
	Communications conferences		√
Objective 3: Upgrade the education, skills and experience of Guyanese journalists and media professionals, including working students and practicing journalist	Specialized workshops		√
Objective 4: Develop and deliver mass communication and journalism education and training to students and journalists in rural regions	Perform a needs assessment		√
	Development & implementation of online courses		√
Objective 5: Upgrade the experience for CCS students	UG library enhanced		√

Intermediate Results by Objective

Objective 1: Enhance and update the curriculum and course content

- In the first year of implementation, the partners conducted a comprehensive baseline assessment and audit of Centre for Communication Studies' curriculum. The review included data collection related to curriculum development needs as well as an assessment of stakeholder perceptions and expectations for an education program focused on mass communications and journalism. The partners also worked closely with the Guyana Press Association to ensure that the new curriculum reflected the current needs of the journalism and communications industry in Guyana.

Objective 2: Upgrade the education, skills and experience of CCS faculty

- Three UG faculty members completed a competitive graduate degree program at OU, earning Masters Degrees from the School of Media Arts and Studies. To increase the sustainable impact of this human capacity strengthening, all three professors returned to CCS and signed 5-year bonded contracts that commit them to the university. The UG faculty also assumed additional responsibilities within the department as Student Affairs Coordinator, Project Coordinator and Outreach Coordinator. Professors from OU traveled to Guyana to act as substitute teachers at CCS while UG professors were working to upgrade their educational capacity in Ohio.

Objective 3: Upgrade the education, skills and experience of Guyanese journalists and media professionals, including working students and practicing journalists

- Over the life of the award, the partners developed and delivered four workshops or "summer clinics" that addressed the challenges identified during the impact assessment at the start of the partnership. In the first year of implementation, the partners delivered a three-week workshop focused on "Television News Production." The partners also delivered three additional short-term trainings focused on "Print Production," "Documentary Production," and "Narrative Film Production." Over 400 students and journalists received training through these four workshops alone. Training programs were developed with innovative curricula and encouraged collaboration among professionals from state-owned and privately-owned media outlets.

Objective 4: Develop and deliver mass communication and journalism education and training to students and journalists in rural regions

- In the second year of the program, the partners fully implemented the new, jointly-developed curriculum in journalism and mass communications at UG. At the close of the grant period, the partners had fully developed and were beginning the pilot of an online distance education system. This distance education program will increase access to education and training for students living in rural areas and working journalists who need added flexibility.

Objective 5: Upgrade the educational experience for CCS students

- In the first year of the partnership, OU and UG collaborated with UNESCO to obtain modern radio equipment to support the establishment of a new radio laboratory at UG. The partners also secured additional funding from Radio Free Asia to establish a campus radio station utilizing the new, upgraded equipment.

- Through the narrative film making workshop delivered in the final year of the partnership, a large cohort of students received training on how to effectively operate the equipment for the short film production and future projects. OU provided CCS with upgraded, semi-professional cinematic lighting and sound equipment to help facilitate the intensive three-month workshop. This upgraded equipment also allowed the partners to create a new, permanent course in Rapid Film Production at UG.
- During the three-month “Narrative Film” program, eight short films were developed and all eight premiered at the Guyana Cultural Association’s Film and Video Festival in New York City and Coventry, England. One of these short films, “Backyard,” was chosen to compete in the African International Film Festival in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. The lead instructor described the workshop as “delivering a 2-year Masters of Fine Arts (MFA) in three months” because students were trained in eight different aspects of technical film making, from basic to advanced theories and skills.
- UG-CCS hosted its Third Annual Student Research Seminar titled: “Virtual Politics in Guyana.” During the seminar, nine students presented research theses that examined the role of the internet and online media in Guyana’s political experience. Two external evaluators from U.S. higher education participated in the seminar and praised the students for successfully navigating extremely rigorous research curricula. In December 2011, just before the award period ended, the partners released a joint publication based on this seminar: “Virtual Politics: The Internet and Guyana’s General Elections 2011 – Student Research.”

Serendipitous Results & Collaborations

- In collaboration with UNICEF and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), CCS students delivered multi-media workshops for primary and secondary school students in Guyana. These workshops were among the first delivered after the formal partnership was established. CCS students and faculty members also delivered Guyana’s first national televised children’s talent competition by leveraging their training under this program.
- Throughout the life of the program, the partners collaborated extensively with the U.S. Embassy in Guyana. In the first year of the partnership, the Embassy worked with CCS faculty to host student forums that featured distinguished members of the U.S. media community.
- The partnership created a 3-DVD set entitled “Great Wonders of Guyana,” which was produced and edited by final year students of the CCS communications program. The development of the DVD set was focused on practical production practices and it was overseen by faculty members from both OU and UG.
- UG entered into a partnership with the “Guyana Times” and CCS students agreed to provide one full page of news for inclusion in the Times on a biweekly basis.
- CCS collaborated with the Canadian International Development Agency, the Guyana Press Association and the Media Corps to develop Guyana’s first Media Code of Conduct.
- UG received \$51,000 in leveraged funds from the Presidential Film Endowment to support film projects and the establishment of CineGuyana, Inc.
- Dr. Paloma Mohamed, the Principal Investigator for UG and the Director of CCS, received the Presidential Medal of Service for Accomplishments as a researcher, teacher, and communications

strategist. The management of the partnership was one of her many accomplishments that contributed to this recognition.

- The OU/UG partnership strengthened the reputation of CCS and increased awareness about the department’s capacity, which has resulted in external interest. This visibility is attracting an increased number of high caliber applicants and faculty members. Additionally, CCS is involved in three new, external projects with funding from other donors. These private sector organizations are providing up to \$25,000 in funding for external projects.
- Only two of the eight short film directors from the Narrative Film Making workshop had ever made films before. Since participating in the workshop, the eight directors joined together and formed CineGuyana, Inc., an organization brand that they hope will help facilitate and promote the continued production of narrative films in Guyana. CineGuyana, Inc. also received endowment funds from the President of Guyana to help stimulate the creation of a thriving Guyanese film industry.

Financial Snap Shot

The table below provides the total cost share and financial expenditure amount reported by the partners from award execution on October 27, 2008 through close-out on December 31, 2011. Auditable expenditure and cost share numbers are tracked by HED through quarterly financial reports. The partnership utilized all of their subaward funding and exceeded their proposed cost-share level.

Amount Reimbursed (through 9/30/11)	
Amount (USD)	% of Total Award
\$ 299,646	100%
Cost Share (through 9/30/11)	
Amount (USD)	% of Total Proposed Cost Share
\$ 93,744	110%

Monitoring & Evaluation

HED Staff Monitoring Visit

Higher Education for Development conducted a monitoring visit of the Ohio University / University of Guyana partnership as stipulated in the Associate Award with USAID. HED staff members Jennifer Sisane (Program Specialist) and Meena Nabavi (M&E) traveled to Guyana May 15-20, 2011 to visit with the partnership directors, key University of Guyana (UG) administrators, USAID/Guyana management, UG faculty, Ohio University (OU) faculty in residence, stakeholders and current and former UG students. The team assessed the partnership’s progress, discussed management issues, clarified progress reports, and brainstormed about opportunities for the future.



*Dr. Vibert Cambridge (OU) and Dr. Paloma Mohamed (UG)
stand in front of the CCS building in Georgetown, Guyana*

Summary of Findings

The Ohio University-University of Guyana partnership is making great strides in building the human and institutional capacity in Guyana. Utilizing a unique model, UG faculty trained at Ohio University while substitute faculty from OU taught courses at the Centre for Communications Studies. Students are benefitting from a jointly restructured and enhanced curriculum and are able to participate in a variety of workshops by visiting faculty. Media leaders participate in newly created workshops to upgrade their skills, and so are able to strengthen the public-serving institutions (television and radio stations and media houses) where they work. Some challenges were also uncovered, which are reported in the section below.

Cancellation of External Evaluation

The partners originally budgeted for a very modest external evaluation to take place at the end of the partnership. The partners submitted a proposal for an evaluation to HED and ultimately HED recommended that the partnership not move forward with the evaluation. HED arrived at this conclusion because of the following reasons:

1. A comprehensive partnership monitoring visit was conducted in May 2011;
2. Given that the Mission in Guyana is closing this year, the utility of the evaluation would appear to be limited;
3. The partnership no longer aligns with current USAID priorities so the lessons learned from such an evaluation will have limited value; and
4. The fact that the partnership is scheduled to end 12/31/11 and the agreement between USAID/Guyana and ACE/HED is scheduled to end March of 2012 does not allow adequate time to plan and conduct a rigorous evaluation.

Challenges and Corrective Actions

The partners described a number of challenges that they encountered during the life of the partnership. Through collaboration and dedication to the initiative, the partners were able to address nearly every challenge before the grant period ended.

#1: Limited Number of Faculty

- **Challenge:** Difficulty in launching two key deliverables (advisory board & distance education courses) due to limited number of UG faculty in Guyana

- **Resolution:** Items were delayed until after the UG faculty returned from their graduate training in Ohio. Upon their return, the CCS program was able to finalize the distance education program. Unfortunately, the partners were not able to implement plans for an Advisory Board before the partnership ended.

#2: Poor faculty Retention

- **Challenge:** Poor pay creates difficulty in recruiting and retaining qualified faculty at UG.
- **Resolution:** International professional development is used at CCS as an incentive for attracting and retaining quality faculty. CCS is also collaborating with OU's Institute of International Journalism to develop a mobility program between the two partner institutions.

3: Limited Resources

- **Challenge:** Over the life of the partnership, CCS has seen a 300% increase in the number of applicants and has increased intake by 85%; this increase has added tremendous wear and tear on equipment and supplies
- **Resolution:** New supplies were provided to facilitate the three-month narrative film workshop. Access to these supplies helps alleviate the stress on the original stock of equipment. Additionally, the equipment allows CCS to work on external projects and the modest funds from these assignments are allocated to the maintenance, upgrading, and replacement of equipment.

Sustainable Impact

When the partnership began in 2008, Guyana found itself in an unfortunate cycle; a lack of high-quality education programs resulted in poorly trained media and journalism professionals, and the absence of well-trained professionals resulted in a negative public perception of the national media. The partnership set out to accomplish several high-level objectives in hopes of breaking this cycle and improving media inadequacies at a national level. The University of Guyana is the country's sole tertiary education institution, and addressing these development challenges through this higher education institution resulted in impacts at the institutional, human and national level.

The core of the partnerships' success was the revision and strengthening of CCS' curriculum and educational offerings both within and outside the walls of the institution. Improving the institution's capacity and, in turn, the public perception of UG, has had a multiplying effect: UG now attracts higher caliber students, faculty members, and widespread interest from local and international organizations that seek opportunities for collaboration. The partners wisely invested in the sustainability of this impact by upgrading the educational capacity of their faculty to continue delivering the new curricula. High-quality and innovative training will continue to produce Guyanese media professionals that report responsibly and objectively. At the macro level, these media professionals contribute to a strong, independent media system which is the foundation of Guyana's democracy. Evidence of this partnership's impact can be seen in the significant increase in applicants to UG's communications program, the number of new, formal collaborations between UG and organizations both within Guyana and abroad, as well as the dramatic rise of Guyanese media on the worldwide stage.

Future Opportunities

On December 17, 2011 the partners from OU and UG signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to promote continued collaboration between the two institutions. In their final partnership

report, the partners expressed their intention to continue collaborating on joint research initiatives, as well as a “mobility” exchange program for students and faculty from both universities.

On May 1, 2012 Ohio University and Guyana officials gathered at OU to showcase the partnership between Ohio University’s Scripps College of Communication and University of Guyana’s Center for Communication Studies. Guyana's ambassador to the United States, Mr. Bayney Karran, Esq., and the director of the UG’s Center for Communication Studies, Dr. Paloma Mohamed, traveled to OU to express appreciation on behalf of the Government of Guyana and the University of Guyana.

The USAID/Guyana Mission is scheduled to close in fiscal year 2012. Core activities under the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) program and the Caribbean Basin Security initiative will continue out of the regional Barbados office.

Appendix A: Ohio University Final Progress Report



Higher Education for Development
Knowledge, Partnerships, Results

Institutional Partnerships Program



Final Partnership Report
Partnership Name

Partnership Execution Date-End of Partnership Activities

Due: 1/31/12

INTRODUCTION

HED administers a cooperative agreement between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the American Council on Education, with five other higher education associations. The agreement (AEG-A-00-05-00007-00) seeks to mobilize the resources of American higher education in support of international development. One portion of the agreement supports partnerships between higher education institutions in the United States and in cooperating countries to demonstrate how they can apply their expertise collaboratively to global, regional, and local development challenges.

Final reports for HED Institutional Partnerships should reflect the ways in which the partnership has contributed toward institutional and development goals. The report should summarize partnership activities and development results **in the host country**. Final reports will be shared with USAID colleagues who will, in turn, share them with other interested parties in the development community. The reports are an important tool for disseminating information about partnership activities and promoting the contribution of higher education to international development. We would, therefore, expect the report to be of professional quality and appearance.

When answering the following questions, we encourage you and your partners to be creative in producing substantive, informative, and aesthetically appealing reports for broad dissemination.

Partnership Title: Strengthening Mass Communication and Journalism

Development Area/Sector of Focus:

U.S. Partner Institution(s):

Scripps College of Communication, Ohio University

U.S. Partnership Director(s):

Name: Dr. Vibert Cambridge

Telephone: 740-593-9178

E-mail: cambridg@ohio.edu

Host Country(ies):

Guyana

Host Country Partner Institution(s):

Center for Communication Studies (CCS), University of Guyana

Host Country Partnership Director(s):

Name: Dr. Paloma Mohamed

Telephone: 011 592 674 8800

E-mail: bluvid@yahoo.com

Partnership Web Site (if any):

INSTRUCTIONS

- Both the U.S. and host country partners should be involved in writing progress reports. It is the U.S. institution's responsibility to submit these reports to HED by the due date. It is also the U.S. partner's responsibility to translate responses to English.
- Please include as much concise information as necessary to answer the questions completely.
- Carefully review the attached **Glossary of Terms** for key definitions to assist you in completing the report accurately.
- Please submit *one hard copy* of your final report, and an *electronic copy* to your primary contact at:

Higher Education for Development
One Dupont Circle NW Suite 420
Washington, DC 20036

In addition, partnership directors are encouraged to send copies of the final report to their international partners, congressional representatives, the president of their institutions, and other colleagues who have been involved in partnership activities or would be interested in its results, e.g., NGOs, private sector organizations, government agencies.

PARTNERSHIP PROFILE

In approximately **one page**, please provide an executive summary of your higher education partnership, including:

The partnership addressed two major development issues in Guyana:

1) At the point at which the partnership began in 2008, the Center for Communication Studies (CCS) had been closed due to lack of faculty, teaching resources and the burden of highly negative public perceptions of the institution. The main objective of the partnership was therefore to change the structure and quality of offerings at the Centre for Communication Studies at the University of Guyana. This included administrative restructuring of the CCS, curriculum upgrade, staff upgrades, provision of teaching supplies, staff exchanges and infusion of new techniques and teaching methodologies from Ohio University's Scripps College of Communication—a Center of Excellence in Culture and Societal Transformation for the state of Ohio.

2) Perhaps as a natural consequence of the inadequacy of the training institution which was supposed to feed it, the media in Guyana had been described as weak, unregulated, generally untrained and at times quite chaotic. As a result, the content of Guyanese mass media had been below par. Since the CCS is the only institution in the country which trains media practitioners (journalists, managers, public relations, producers, directors etc.) strengthening it was seen as critical to re-shaping the national media environment. This task required working with owners, managers and regulators in developing a relevant curriculum for training practitioners and transforming the structure of media operations and policies in Guyana.

Over the life of the partnership (2008 – 2011) the project continuously and consciously restructured the administrative structure of the CCS creating a semi-autonomous unit committed to excellence and led by a Director; with a business model oriented to income generation; an advisory board comprising of eight key players from the local and international media and business environment. Over the three years, the center's 30 year old curriculum was revised to ensure domestic relevance. This re-structuring of CCS was based on a national audience satisfaction survey, objective analysis of data on the media and their own feedback, as well as national and international imperatives. The restructuring was supported by the provision of the teaching supplies with which were required to adequately implement the new curriculum. A major part of this project was raising the educational level of teaching staff in the CCS from 25% (1 person) with an advanced degree to 75% (4 persons) with advanced degrees. The project actually saw 85% as three CCS faculty graduated from Ohio University and a student who graduated when the project began also graduated with a Masters from another university and joined the faculty in 2011.

Over the duration of the partnership, four workshops were held for practicing media workers and media owners. These workshops conducted by faculty from Ohio University became known as the “summer clinics” ---in that they were designed to “fix” problems which were identified by both project directors and the media themselves. These workshops were in (a) television news production (conducted by Mary Rogus, Associate Professor, E.W. Scripps School of Journalism), (b) print production (conducted by Alan Miller, Ohio University alumnus, News Director, *The Columbus Dispatch* and member of the Advisory Board of the E. W. Scripps School of Journalism), (c) documentary production (conducted by Eric Williams, Director, School of Media Arts and Studies), and (d) narrative film production (conducted by Brian Zahm, School of Media Arts and Studies). Over the life of the project about 400 persons benefitted from these workshops directly. Participation in prior media workshops sponsored by U.S.-based agencies had tended to be treated apathetically, even disdain in many quarters. However, due to the participatory methods used by the Ohio University project director, which involved visiting each media house at the outset with the Guyana-side Director to explain the project and encourage buy-in and ownership led to the reversal of this stance. More than 400 hundred benefitted directly from the “summer clinics.” The workshops provided contemporary curricula and encouraged production collaboration among professionals from the state-owned and privately-owned media outlet. In some cases, the impact of these workshops was direct and immediate. For example techniques in production and delivery of news and other genres of television programming learned during the “summer clinics” were immediately applied. The results of these workshops received good domestic and international media coverage. This positive visibility has raised the profile of the CCS within the University of Guyana and wider society. This has had a multiplier effect--attracting more and high caliber students to the CCS, more faculty to the CCS as well as other forms of support from local and international organizations. The end result is a stronger CCS which is poised to play a major role in the changing national media landscape which it, under this project has also helped to improve.

Affecting the way in which the media in Guyana does business is no easy task, there are entrenched interests, attitudes and practices which have become the “culture” given the length of time they have been in force. However, there have been some good indications of a shift since more journalists and other media practitioners are now reaching to CCS for training, and more owners are allowing their journalists time off to study. Over the past three years, the CCS has conducted the first media performance and satisfaction survey in Guyana in 15 years and has emerged as an “honest broker” in the Guyanese media environment. As a result, the center has sat at the helm of important major national developments: the first is the formation of Guyana Media Proprietors Association—an organization of media proprietors which was established in 2011; the Director of the CCS is also chairing a committee which is drafting a General Media Code of Conduct for All Media in Guyana; and the creation of CineGuyana—a mechanism for catalyzing the film industry in Guyana. Through its ongoing study of the media in Guyana the center has established and is nurturing a research agenda for the faculty and students of the CCS. To this end annual public seminars/symposia on student research have been held during the past 3 years culminating in the partnership-supported publication *Virtual Politics: The Internet and Guyana’s General Elections 2011- Student Research* in December 2011. Moreover the CCS ever cognizant of the realities of working journalists and other media practitioners in a geographically challenging and urban-centric country has developed and is now testing its Distance Education platform which will offer flexibility and accessibility of some CCS programmes to students geographically remote areas.

The output model now dubbed as the “rapid low input- high output model” (RLiHo Model) of content creation can be seen as a serendipitous outcome of the project. In fact the many output items created in the project workshops can be viewed as unexpected outcomes. The project has produced 12 documentaries, 8 films, 1 book and 1 distance education delivery system over its life as direct tangible outcomes. Moreover, the Ohio University faculty who taught and produced these outcomes have described their experiences in Guyana as “amazing”, “unbelievable” “technically impossible”, “inspirational” , “hugely rewarding” and “life changing” Similar sentiments have been expressed by the Ohio University students (both undergraduate and graduate) and alumni who participated in the delivery of this partnership. In other words they did in Guyana what they thought was impossible. Recently the new government of Guyana ended a 50 year radio monopoly in Guyana. Though the CCS has not been granted a license yet, it is the only institution in the country capable of training practitioners to manage the 12 new stations set to start operations in the next 12 months. In doing so it will affect in a large way not only what the nation hears but how it hears it and from whom.

The net effect of this partnership then has been to demonstrate by intention, word and action that it is possible to raise the bar of journalism and mass communication education in Guyana and to do it in a short time with success. The effect of this new professionalism in the wider society, because it’s a small society, is not to be diminished if the media is the fourth estate and a major socializing force.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Original Partnership Objectives [Inserted by HED]:

The partnership has five main goals. The partnership will: 1.) enhance and upgrade the curriculum and course content at CCS with particular emphasis on evident curricular shortcomings, findings of a baseline needs assessment, and the importance of practical journalism and media skills and the interaction of media, ethics and society; 2) upgrade the education, skills and experience of CCS faculty through master's degrees, professional development workshops, and other opportunities; 3) upgrade the education, skills and experience of Guyanese journalists and media professionals, including working students and practicing journalists, through online courses, in-country workshops and annual communications conferences; 4) develop a mixed-mode service (Internet, radio and postal service) to deliver mass communication and journalism education and training to students and journalists in rural and hinterland regions; and 5) upgrade the experience for CCS students to include more structured interactions between students and faculty and local media professionals through joint activities such as co-teaching, internships and applied research projects.

1. Did these objectives change during the life of the partnership, and if so, how?

No they didn't.

2. What has been the partnership's greatest **success(es)**?

- Flexibility: willingness to respond to opportunities, challenges and changing realities
- The extensive reach of the project: it has touched faculty and students at Ohio University and the University of Guyana: it has supported external institutions and hundreds of media practitioners outside of the formal UG arena, it has captured local and international attention and it therefore is expected to have radial effects. The successes of the partnership are to be shared at the 2012 annual meeting of the Association of International Education Administrators. The Guyana experience is being featured on a panel dealing with "two critical challenges that affect developing countries: "brain drain" and faculty professional development and retention."
- Faculty exchange where OU students or faculty replaced CCS faculty who were away on scholarship at OU. This not only diversified the classroom and content at UG but also allowed invaluable teaching, research and cultural opportunities of growth for OU faculty. The exchanges also enriched classrooms and curricula at Ohio University.
- Reaffirmation Ohio University's commitment to international education through mutually beneficially partnerships.

3. Briefly describe any **programmatic challenges** the partnership faced and how they were addressed.

- Small staff at the Center for Communication Studies, University of Guyana to implement complex programmes.
- Time needed to make some complex changes proposed by the project was sometimes too short.

4. Outline the partnership's **planned activities/expected outcomes** beyond the HED funding period.

- There has been a new MOU signed by the University of Guyana and Ohio University on December 17, 2011

- There is a project which will develop a strategy to archive all the audio materials in Guyana's National Communication Network. This project will be headed by Eddie Ashworth a professor in Ohio University's School of Media Arts and Studies. This project is to be funded by an 1804 Grant from the Ohio University Foundation.
- CCS is currently in dialogue with Ohio University's Institute for International Journalism on developing a student mobility program.
- There is also the possibility of research collaboration between CCS and OU faculty in the future as CCS orients its research agenda.

5. If this partnership has received or were to receive follow-on funding, how was/would it be used?

To strengthen the CCS research agenda for both staff and students

To create further staff development; there are still 3 faculty members teaching with Bachelor's degrees

To Strengthen the Distance Education Programme

To develop scholarships, better student internships and learning /teaching opportunities; students have pointed this out as a deficiency in the prior programme.

To procure more teaching supplies (the wear and tear on CCS equipment is heavy given the small number of items and the large number of students.)

To provide more Direct Media Training –clinic style (Though the media in Guyana are improving there is much still to be done at the media outlet level.)

To create and support community/children's/youth media (this is a deficient area nationally. Given the importance of youth to any nation's future this area should not be neglected. Today's children are tomorrow's adults.)

To support changing the existing CCS infrastructure (The current CCS building was a canteen which was expended to create a teaching space to house about 50 students and 3 faculty. It was built on reclaimed swampland and has been sinking at a rate of 1 inch per year; because of its location it attracts wildlife and mold which is not good for humans or equipment; the building is old and constantly needs repairs, it is not able to handle the electrical load of new technologies being used in CCS teaching and is not adequate for the 9 faculty members and 300 students who now are expected to be housed in the building. The CCS in collaboration with students of the Architecture Department at the University of Guyana created designs for a new CCS building. ***A new building is now imperative to the programmes sustainability and growth.***)

6. Did your partnership receive a no-cost extension?

If yes, why was the extension granted? NO

7. In your opinion, what will be the impact of this partnership on national development goals?

Present impact:

1) It will raise the status of the CCS thereby allowing it to attract more and better human and material resources;

2) Practicum training in CCS new programme and summer workshops allows the University to directly contribute to the development of relevant and quality content for all aspects of the national media environment.

3) CCS has supported the formation of important regulatory bodies – GAMPA; IMAG; Code of Conduct: Elections Code of Conduct. CCS has also contributed to the dialogue on Broadcast legislation and other regulatory issues such as the now broken radio monopoly.

4) The Distance Education programme is expected to mitigate geographic and work challenges of journalists and media practitioners in rural and hinterland regions of Guyana and to provide CCS with a mechanism to serve regional and international communities

- 5) The CCS will contribute to the delivery of formal, non-formal, and informal education in Guyana through its relationships with The Learning Channel—the national educational television channel. The Director of CCS is a member of the board of this state-owned institution;
- 6) In the context of an open radio environment CCS will provide trainers for this as well as staff. In the future its own broadcast will join the palette if a license is eventually granted;
- 7) The creation of the CineGuyana set of 8 films will undergird a renewed film industry with job opportunities and positive international presence for Guyana. The CineGuyana Organization of Guyanese Filmmakers was also formed under the guidance of the CCS.
- 8) The CCS is set to become a major research institution in Guyana given the return of graduates with advanced degrees from Ohio University and other universities to complement the 1 PhD on staff. This research conducted by staff and students has already begun to provide opportunities for introspection, public dialogue, reference material, baseline from which to grow and the possibility of additional earnings for staff and the CCS;
- 9) The return to CCS of old students to teach and as well as graduate faculty ---makes a Master’s programme at CCS possible. This will not only allow a degree of specialization since the current diplomas and degrees offered are not specialized. It is also expected to lead to higher levels of national competency in areas of media and sustainability of CCS.
- 10) As an “honest broker” contribute to the democratization of the Guyanese media environment and the nurturing of an ethos of participatory communication.

8. in your opinion, the overall partnership outcomes, as stated in the sub-cooperative agreement:

X Exceeded expectations

Met expectations

did not meet expectations

Other: _____.

9. **Include one or two well-crafted success stories related to your partnership.** Please include a high resolution photograph for each, if available. (See attached success story template.)

Success Story 1

Rise Phoenix....

X (Nelsonia Persaud, winner of the Chancellor Medal (in glasses) and CCS graduating class of 2010)

In 2007 Nelsonia Persaud had been expecting to graduate from the Centre for Communication Studies with a *Diploma in Public Communications*. Instead, she was told that her graduation would be delayed indefinitely as the school that she was enrolled in at the University of Guyana was closed due to a lack of staff. Nelsonia and her cohort would have to wait until the University found lecturers to teach the courses the students needed to complete.

On October 24, 2010 Nelsonia graduated the second best student in the entire University of Guyana acquiring a GPA of perfect 4.0 in her Degree programme and 3.98 in her Diploma.

She received the Chancellor’s medal for this achievement. Moreover, of the 12 in her cohort who read for the new Degree in Communication Studies, 8 received distinctions and two passed with credit.

How did these students move from not knowing if or when they would graduate to graduating at the very top of the University’s 2010 graduates?

X Composite pics- CCS students outside the CCS and inside the CCS Teaching TV Lab provided through support of partnership and a prior USAID grant.

In the early fall of 2007, a young PhD , Dr. Paloma Mohamed who had been an alum of the Centre for Communication Studies (CCS) read about the problem and returned to Guyana with the precise aim of helping students like Nelsonia to graduate. At the same time, several other alum of the CCS offered their services to the University. The programme was able to begin again in October 2007.

Nelsonia remembers “back then we had nothing ---really---really. We were so ...disadvantaged because I now know that the quality of education that I received at the CCS and that of the new students is like chalk and cheese. They are so lucky ! We are so envious!”

A United States Department of Higher Education Grant which was part of an overall project to revolutionize Journalism Education in Guyana developed by the new staff of the CCS called “Project Phoenix” radically transformed the CCS and conditions there between 2008 and 2011

. The HED grant was won by Professor Vibert Cambridge of Ohio University (OU) in 2008 from 5 competing Higher education institutions in the US. The grant which among other things provided for 3 scholarships to staff who were teaching with Bachelor’s Degrees to complete Masters Education at OU, a revamping of the CCS curriculum and a series of summer workshops run largely by OU faculty to help upgrade the quality of output of practicing journalists in Guyana as well as the introduction of an advisory board and distance education platform.

X Carolyn Walcott at the OU Convocation Ceremony, June 2010

Carolyn Walcott became the first CCS faculty member to graduate with a Masters in Communication and Development Studies from OU in November 2010.

She was joined by Denise Hopkinson in 2011 and Alexis Stephens who is expected to complete in 2012. They have rejoined the CCS staff along with Nelsonia Persaud and another student Taij Rampersaud who was also one of the students waiting to graduate in 2007. Taij obtained a Masters from Deli University in Television production in 2010. *X(Denise Hopkinson front far right in green T shirt)*

This development now allows the CCS to be one of the few departments at the University of Guyana with an 68% graduate faculty. This also allows the CCS to begin advanced degree programmes of its own to ensure a steady supply of faculty for itself in the future. Additionally, the quality of education that the CCS is can now provide because of this is higher.

Success Story 2

Visioning Guyana for Guyanese

What do Professor Eric Williams and his student Brian Zahm have in common apart from being from Ohio University? They both created visual history in Guyana during the recently concluded HED-OU_UG partnership which supported journalism education in Guyana.

Eric Williams in 2010 brought three students to Guyana (two undergraduates and one graduate). His task was to teach Guyanese television practitioners how to make documentaries. Among his students was Brian

Zahm who he said was phenomenal film maker. The rest as they say now forms a tidy bite of Guyana's recent visual media history.

Williams workshop was the second of 4 workshops for media practitioners planned as part of the HED Ohio University and Center for Communication Studies University of Guyana' collaborative project to support journalism education in Guyana between 2008 and 2011. Prof. Mary Rogus of Ohio University conducted the first workshop in 2009 on television news production. This was highly successful and what the appetite of Guyanese for more. They asked for training in television documentary production. So Eric Williams, a prize winning documentarian, and current Director of the School of Media Arts & Studies was asked to come to Guyana.

Over the summer of 2010, Eric Williams and his 50 Guyanese students along with the three he brought from OU produced 12 documentaries of an average 12 minutes in length on various aspects of Guyanese life. These topics ranged from Guyanese myths to prostitution and homelessness. Williams himself produced two pieces *Margaret* about domestic abuse and *Road to Lethem* about what happened when their bus bound for the Guyanese interior was stranded in the jungle for a day.

The series of three half-hour *Sixty Minutes* –like programmes was called *Guyana Pepperpot* complete with a theme song composed by gifted young musician and student of the CCS Tiffany Vasquez. X
Pepperpot is the national Amerindian dish which is a peppery stewed mix of many things.

When the workshop ended with a closed screening of the programmes, Eric Williams said “this has been a life changing experience “because he “never knew that this much could be done with so little”.

Guyana Pepperpot is the first project of its kind to be implemented in Guyana. It is the production of fifty television practitioners from all across Guyana working together.

X

The next year, Brain Zahm (recently graduated with an MFA from OU's School of Film) who had wished to return to Guyana got his wish granted. He was asked to teach Guyanese to make narrative films. According to Zahm, his goal was to deliver an MFA program in three months. And he did. He along with most others involved survived this journey of immense national importance with many battle stories over which they triumphed. Director of the Centre for Communication Studies, Dr. Paloma Mohamed, who is the Guyana side Director of our HED-OU-UG partnership was also the Director of the *President's Endowment Fund* which helped to finance the project. Zahm and Mohamed, but mostly Zham, designed the programme over a series of emails and Skype conversations while he was still in the US nursing a dying father. Two days after his father's death Brain landed in Guyana and began to work immediately. Students who benefitted from the 3-month project have been high in praise of it. Noting that it is a “*once in a lifetime*” opportunity. They worked like they believed this.

Professor Vibert Cambridge, Ohio University's Project Director of the partnership worked with several persons from USAID-Guyana, Ohio University, and HED Washington including then Mission Director Carol Horning, Ohio University's Office of Research and Sponsored Programs Thea Arocho, and HED's Jennifer Sisane to support the narrative filmmaking project. “*We recognized this as an important moment in Guyana's media and cultural history. With the HED project ending in just a few months, if this opportunity had passed now, it many never have happened again.*” And he was right.

What emerged after 3 months was a set of 8 short films by new Guyanese filmmakers now known as the CineGuyana set. The films have since premiered in Guyana, New York and London to enthusiastic responses. One of them *Backyard* was selected to compete in the 2011 African International Film Festival.

More information and shorts can be found at CineGuyana.com on YouTube and the CineGuyana Facebook page. (645 words)

X Brian Zham demonstrating low angles. Pix by Denise Harris. Copyright Centre for Communication Studies. Permission to reproduce granted.

X CCS students Faizal Deo and Yaphet Jackman on set. . Pix by CCS. Copyright Centre for Communication Studies. Permission to reproduce granted.

X Actress Tencia Defreitas on the set of "Backyard".

The net effect of the work of OU's Williams and Zahm has been to transform the way in visual medium of video has been used by Guyanese practitioners. The public response has been highly appreciative of both the improved technical quality and the sensitivity with which their stories are reflected back at them. Both Peppercot and CineGuyana are positive unexpected outcomes of the partnership's summer clinics.

10. Provide one or two **lessons learned** related to your partnership.

- **Mutual respect & Time:** the project was based on the CCS's own internal Project Phoenix- a multistage envisioning paper of what the CCS needed to do from short to medium term. The OU –CCS project took direction from this document and tried to incorporate many items which were recorded there. A major challenge of the project was the relatively short time in which so much was expected to be achieved, the reality of small resources at the host country institution (both human and material). For instance the Distance Education project was slow in getting off the ground because of administrative challenges at the University of Guyana. The need to pass through several committees and to get approvals from each of them makes the introduction of new programmes quite tendentious at times. At best it is not a quick process.
- **Output oriented:** The importance of mixing theory with practice to create a comprehensive and engaging curriculum has been cornerstone of the new curriculum and the "summer clinics." Further, the new curricular orientation and the inputs from the US government, Ohio University, the faculty of CCS and the administration of UG demanded measurable outputs. To this end, pedagogically, we had to create conditions whereby students who may not be theoretically inclined could learn through application. They would learn by doing and what they did would be a demonstrable outcome for themselves, trainers, donors and all interested parties. This has worked with the number of tangible products and people success stories the project has produced. In other words training input is measurable by intangible and tangible outputs. We believe this curricular and pedagogical strategy did much to create the confidence expressed by the project's various stakeholders

11. We invite you to share any additional information or comments about your partnership.

This has been an amazing project. The ability of the managers to respond to questions, challenges, new ideas and possible opportunities has created something special in Guyana. The Centre for Communication Studies and the University of Guyana wishes to record its gratitude to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID); Higher Education for Development (HED); Dr. Roderick McDavis, President, Ohio University, the faculty and staff of Scripps College of Communication and the Center for International Programs for their unselfish support during the life of this partnership to upgrade journalism and mass communication in Guyana.

Appendix B: Financial Status Reports (SF425) for 10/1/11 through 12/31/11



American Council on Education
Finance Department

January 29, 2012

Mr. Gary Bittner
Division Chief
Bureau for EGAT/Office of Education
RRB 3.09-092
U.S. Agency for International Development
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20523-3900

RE: Federal Financial Report for **EDH-A-00-08-00008-00 (Guyana)**

Dear Mr. Bittner:

Enclosed please find the Financial Status Report (SF-425) for the period ended December 31, 2011.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 939-9333.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Yomi, Moses'.

Moses Yomi, CPA, CGFM
Director, Grants and Contracts

Enclosure:

cc: Jane Carbone / USAID
Tully Cornick, ACE / HED
Jeanne-Marie Duval, ACE / HED
Roy Zimmermann, ACE / HED
File: Associate Award

FEDERAL FINANCIAL REPORT

(Follow form instructions)

1. Federal Agency and Organizational Element to Which Report is Submitted USAID	2. Federal Grant or Other Identifying Number Assigned by Federal Agency (To report multiple grants, use FFR Attachment) EDH-A-00-08-00008-00	Page 1	of 1 pages
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3. Recipient Organization (Name and complete address including Zip code)
American Council on Education
One Dupont Circle NW
Washington, DC 20036

4a. DUNS Number 72638943	4b. EIN 53-0196573	5. Recipient Account Number or Identifying Number (To report multiple grants, use FFR Attachment) 973201GUY (GUYANA)	6. Report Type <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quarterly <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Final	7. Basis of Accounting <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accrual
---------------------------------	---------------------------	---	--	---

8. Project/Grant Period From: (Month, Day, Year) 9/12/2008	To: (Month, Day, Year) 3/11/2012	9. Reporting Period End Date (Month, Day, Year) 12/31/2011
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10. **Transactions** Cumulative

(Use lines a-c for single or multiple grant reporting)

Federal Cash (To report multiple grants, also use FFR Attachment):

a. Cash Receipts	
b. Cash Disbursements	
c. Cash on Hand (line a minus b)	

(Use lines d-o for single grant reporting)

Federal Expenditures and Unobligated Balance:

d. Total Federal funds authorized	\$422,735.00
e. Federal share of expenditures	\$326,552.63
f. Federal share of unliquidated obligations	\$0.00
g. Total Federal share (sum of lines e and f)	\$326,552.63
h. Unobligated balance of Federal funds (line d minus g)	\$96,182.37

Recipient Share:

i. Total recipient share required	\$79,856.00
j. Recipient share of expenditures	\$79,275.45
k. Remaining recipient share to be provided (line i minus j)	\$580.55

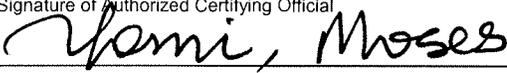
Program Income:

l. Total Federal program income earned	
m. Program income expended in accordance with the deduction alternative	
n. Program income expended in accordance with the addition alternative	
o. Unexpended program income (line l minus line m or line n)	

11. Indirect Expense	a. Type	b. Rate	c. Period From	Period To	d. Base	e. Amount Charged	f. Federal Share
	Provisional	35.51%	10/1/2010	Until ammende	8,192.06	2,909	2,909
g. Totals:					8,192.06	2,909	2,909

Note:

13. Certification: By signing this report, I certify that it is true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent information may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001)

a. Typed or Printed Name and Title of Authorized Certifying Official Moses Yomi, CPA, CGFM Director, Grants and Contracts	c. Telephone (Area code, number and extension) 202-939-9333 d. Email address Moses_yomi@ace.nche.edu
b. Signature of Authorized Certifying Official 	e. Date Report Submitted (Month, Day, Year) 01/29/2012

14. Agency use only:

Standard Form 425
 OMB Approval Number: 0348-0061
 Expiration Date: 10/31/2011

Paperwork Burden Statement
 According to the Paperwork Reduction Act, as amended, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB Control Number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0348-0061. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1.5 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0061), Washington, DC 20503.

Appendix C: Virtual Politics Flyer



**The University of Guyana
Centre for
Communication Studies
PRESENTS**



**THE POLITICAL NET:
USE OF THE INTERNET IN
GUYANA'S POLITICAL PROCESS**
Research Presentations from Final Year Students

**FRIDAY, JULY 29, 2011
FROM 9.30 TO 3PM
CENTRE FOR COMMUNICATION STUDIES,
TURKEYEN CAMPUS.**

**ADMISSION FREE.
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED AT LUNCH.**

Panel 1 : 9.30 – 11.00 am – Political Content in Guyana's Newspapers

Nadine McAl : *A Content Analysis of Political Content in the Stabroek News*
Damien Naughton: *A Review of Political Content in Chronicle Newspaper – September 2010 to July 2011*
Oneeka Brown: *Political Discourse in the Guyana Times and Kaieteur News : Preliminary Notes*

Panel 2 : 11. 10 – 12.10 pm : Blogging about Politics in Guyana

Thelisha Whyte: *Oh! Oh! A Preliminary Look at the Political Content on the "Oh Guyana" BlogSpot*
Eric Adams : *"Living Guyana BlogSpot" – A Review of Political Postings between September 2010 and June 2011.*
Melize Crawford: *Feedback on "Guyana Observer Online" – An Initial Look at Audience Response to Political Stories*

Panel 3: 1.10 – 2.10pm : Electronic Media Online and Political Questions

Wadecia Donald : *Gender and HIV Aids Messaging in Guyana*
Lerato Hodge : *Online Radio and Political Information: What's On Demerara Waves and Guyana Observer Online*
Clarence Brotherson: *Virtual Political Party Presence on the Web in Guyana : A Review of the websites of The PPP, PNC and the AFC.*

Appendix D: CineGuyana Publication

*CineGuyana 2011
Presents
8 Short Films from Guyana
to the World
Produced under the President's Film Endowment*

Cine Guyana

*✓ Backyard ✓ Tradition
✓ The Bottle ✓ Three Cards
✓ Beached ✓ Hope
✓ The Encounter ✓ Luck Beat Handsome*



REPORT ON THE PRESIDENTS
FILM
FILM ENDOWMENT PROJECT
---Dr. Paloma Mohamed---
June 1, 2011



After being approached by Birch Simon and Denis Ward Executives of Kross Kolor Records, in November 2010 the President of Guyana His Excellency Dr. Bharat Jagdeo created a small grant of US\$50, 000 to stimulate the film making industry in the country. He appointed Dr. Paloma Mohamed, Director of the Centre for Communication Studies at the University of Guyana to manage the project which was named The President's Film Endowment Project 2011.

Between January and July 2011, the experimental project grew exponentially in its reach and potential as Mohamed leveraged the resources of several other formal and informal partners – USAID, Ohio University, the Centre for Communication Studies at the University of Guyana, The Theatre Guild of Guyana and several other private organizations.

The President's Project which was originally designed to fund 5 short films by five independent film makers, morphed into a larger 8 film project which would take the film makers from conceptualization, through script design , to production planning, shooting, editing, post production to a world premiere on July 7, 2011 at which the President of Guyana lifted the curtain.

There were no limits except those of cost placed on the filmmakers 6 of whom have never made a film before. In total each film had a cast and crew of at least 30 all of whom went through rigorous 4 month training programme of at least 12 hours a day including weekends. The training was designed and delivered by award winning American film maker Brian Zahm, MFA of Ohio University.

The result is an interesting mix of themes and genres all of which are expected to reflect a rich and often minimized Guyanese culture back to Guyanese and hopefully to the wider world under the CineGuyana brand.

Persons wishing to know more about the films and the filmmakers are encouraged to visit CineGuyan.com and the cineguyana facebook page. There are also shorts and a making of documentary on Youtube.

BACKYARD

Director: Denise Harris - The birth of Denise Allison Dodson Harris can be described as a rose that unfolded its petals on February 17, 1964 to a middle class family. She is the third of ten siblings who demonstrated grave astuteness when confronted with life's difficulties. This glaring quality resulted in her achieving great heights in successfully completing her primary, secondary and tertiary education. She now holds a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Theology from the Caribbean School of Theology, and an Honour Certificate from Lever Brothers as a media coordinator, a profession that she has embraced in excess of thirty years. Denise is the CEO of her own company 'Harris Art'.



Assistant Director/Screenwriter: Tiffany Vasquez - Born on the 16th of September, 1991 to Oslan Vasquez and Myrtle Kryenhoff. As the eldest daughter for both of her parents, she thrives on creativity. From the age of five, Tiffany's passion has always been to write so it came as no surprise when she first started writing songs. Little did she know that was just the launching ground for her skills and talents. Now, at age nineteen she is constantly following her dreams of a becoming a full fledged writer by pursuing studies at the University of Guyana. Tiffany is a Christian and a singer and her whole life revolves around the Arts. She likes to learn so she has an open heart and mind to knowledge.

Actress: Tennicia De Freitas - Born on the 10th December, 1991 in Kuru-Kururu, a village on the Linden Soesdyke Highway, Tennicia Nekeita De Freitas grew up in her grandmother's house-the place she still calls home. Her childhood days were not so easy since she never knew her father and her mother worked assiduously to take care of her and her younger brother. Tennicia spent all of her nursery and primary school years in Kuru-Kururu where she started dancing and singing. She is a rising star having won several awards including the Junior Calypso Crown. All of her successes have come through the strong guidance and leadership of her manager and the Kross Kolor Family.



Actor: Mario Glasgow - Mario Glasgow was born on the 29th April, 1986. He attended the Dolphin Secondary School and graduated in 2003. He describes himself as a very peaceful person who enjoys football and cricket. Strangely, for a guy, one of his favourite hobbies is cooking. In

his spare time he enjoys listening to all types of music and going on long walks to enjoy the beauty of nature. His passion is serving humanity and volunteering his services because he believes giving is better than receiving.



Actress: Lilia Mohamed was born on the 13th May, 1997. She describes herself as an awesome, intelligent and talented fourteen year old who enjoys dancing, acting, singing and playing the steel pan. Lilia is known as a voracious reader and dreams of being a medical doctor. She has performed in the two act play 'ENNEY MEENEY MINEY MO' which was staged at the Theatre Guild. In the most recent short film 'BACKYARD' she appeared as an



Title: Backyard

Slug Line: - Word quickly gets around when a Pop Star moves into a residential neighborhood. Dazzled by her appearance, the geek of the area must find a way to befriend her, but how will he win her over? As Marcus struggles to find his confidence to approach the pop star, one lie leads to another through a Social Network. The question is, will Marcus reveal himself and win the heart of the Pop Star or will he remain in his shadowed world? Backyard will take you into a world of innocence and love.

Running Time: 12mins 06 secs

Audience Rating: General Audience

Writer/ Director/ Producer: Directed by Denise Harris, Adapted and Screen Written by Tiffany Vasquez.

Executive Producers: Dr. Paloma Mohamed, Brian Zahm

THE BOTTLE

Director: Smolana Varswyk, is a 34 year old resident of the Essequibo Coast. She is a teacher at the Cotton Field Secondary School and mother of three lovely children. This is the first film that Varswyk has written and directed. It is based on a tale of the legendary 'baccoo' told to her by her grandmother and mother.



Producer: Crystal Stoll - Born on the 5th of July, 1992 in Georgetown, Guyana to Sherlock Stoll and Olive Obermuller. The third of five children, she attended Annandale Secondary School where she became actively involved in Drama, Music and Dance. Crystal then ventured into the field of Public Communication at the University of Guyana where she developed her skills through the various media of communication. Being a member of the President's Film Endowment, she gained her first experience as a Producer for the short film 'THE BOTTLE'. Ms. Stoll's greatest dream is to continue her work in the film industry, since her passion craves for creativity and satisfying the public with hard work and entertainment.

Lead Actor: Henry Rodney, husband and father of three, grandfather of two and a former Drama Lecturer at the St. Joseph High School, North Georgetown Secondary, St. Roses High School, The Apex Academy and the Cyril Potter College of Education. Mr. Rodney is a well known Stage and Film actor for over 30 years. Some of the movies he appeared in are 'AGRO SEIZEMAN', 'A NEW BEGINNING', 'MUSTARD BATH', 'GUIANA 1838' & 'INVASION OF PRIVACY'. He appears in 'THE BOTTLE' as the father, Ezadore Black who fights for the happiness of his only daughter Zola Black.



Actress: Monique Nkenge Thalia Gittens is a fifteen year old young woman who attends Mackenzie High School and is in level 9. As a pastime, she reads and attends the Theatre Guild where her talent for acting was discovered. Her aspiration is to become a surgeon. Monique resides

on the Mackenzie shore of the mining town of Linden where she was born and raised. Described as very polite and respectful, she is fondly known by family and residents as a comedian.



Title: The Bottle

Slug Line: This film reenacts in a period piece, the myth of the "Bacoo" a Guyanese type genie in a bottle. A poor farmer finds the enchanted bottle as he works in the fields and gives it to his daughter. The wily genie will grant any wish in exchange for the young girl's hand in marriage. Once his offer is rebuffed, all hell breaks loose and the obeah woman in to help.

This film is shot entirely on location in Mahaicony, East Coast Demerara.

Running Time: 13:50 minutes

Audience Rating: General Audience

Writer/Director/ Producer: This film is written and directed by school teacher Smolana Varswyk from Essequibo.

BEACHED

Director: Kojo McPherson - Born on the 20th June 1983 in Georgetown, Guyana. He attended President's College where he started writing predominantly poetry. After leaving school he joined the Janus Young Writers' Guild and from there his popularity grew as he became a known face in performance poetry. Kojo taught History & Literature for a brief period at the Bishops High School. In 2003 he started attending the University of Guyana where he pursued a Degree in International Relations. In 2006, however, Kojo deferred his studies, working as a Scriptwriter – and later Senior Scriptwriter – at Merundo Incorporated. He wrote his first play in 2010 during a Playwriting Workshop facilitated by Dr. Paloma Mohammed and this play was a part of the Theatre Guild's One Act Festival and the National Drama Festival. Kojo is employed as a Producer with the Guyana Learning Channel through the Ministry of Education. 'BEACHED' is the first film he has written and directed. Kojo is also a photographer.



Producer: Mosa Telford - Born on the 19th November 1982 in the village of Buxton. She was introduced to Theatre at a very tender age by attending plays at the National Cultural Centre with her family. At around the age of seven she began writing a few skits and poetry for the church she attended. She was also involved in a Youth Group called 'Youths with a Motive' headed by Mr. Eusi Kwayana. It was during this time that she wrote her first play called 'DREAM LESSON'. Recently she participated in a playwriting workshop conducted by Dr. Paloma Mohammed during which she wrote 'SHADOWS'. Though she had written a number of plays, it is this one that she is most proud of because of the craft she learnt

while writing it. This play was a part of the Theatre Guild's One Act Festival and the National Drama Festival. 'BEACHED' is the first film she co-wrote and produced.

Actress: Leslyn Lashley-Fraser - Born in Georgetown on the 10th July 1975. From the age of three years nine months she started dancing and eventually was introduced to the Performing Arts. Her journey into mainstream theatre however began when she was thirteen years old. She appeared in Harold Bascom's play, 'OLE FIRE WOOD'. Leslyn has performed in quite a number of plays which include 'VISA WEDDING', 'MIRIAMY', 'DEATH AT A FUNERAL', 'WATCH DE RIDE' and most recently 'MISS EDWARDS' which was staged at the Theatre Guild's One Act Festival and the National Drama Festival.



Actor: Randolph Critchlow - Born on the 28th April 1984 in Georgetown but grew up in Linden. He has always had an interest in the Performing Arts as he recalls writing since he was a child. While pursuing a Degree in English at the University of Guyana, Randolph



joined a Drama Group. About a year and a half ago he became a member of the Theatre Guild and appeared in 'MAKANTALI' and more recently 'PIOUS' a play which was part of the Theatre Guild's One Act Festival and the National Drama Festival. He also appeared in other productions including 'MAGNIFICENT MAN' and THE MORI J'VON COMEDY JAM'.



Title: Beached

Slug Line: A man is grappling with the loss of his wife and child following a fire which claimed their lives and everything else from him. At his lowest point he attempts to drown himself on the seawall when he hears his wife calling from the shore. This is a story of love and redemption and was shot on location at the Kingston Seawall and Robb Street in Georgetown.

Running Time: 16:50 minute drama

Audience Rating: General Audience

Writer/Director/ Producer: Written and directed by Kojo McPherson and produced by Mosa Telford

Executive Producers: Dr. Paloma Mohamed, Brian Zahm

THE ENCOUNTER

Writer/Director & Editor: BONNY ALVES is regarded as the Pioneer in the rebirth of our local Music Industry, an effort that started in 1991 and saw the reintroduction of local recordings. Since then he has been a major contributor working with over 100 local & overseas artists, producing & arranging over 700 recorded songs, producing radio & television commercials for some of the major companies, directed over 160 music videos, has 8 road march titles, produced 5 calypso monarchs, and has written, directed and co-produced 6 short movies, making this new movie his 7th. He has performed at the renowned Apollo Theatre in New York and to-date stands at the only Guyanese Composer & Arranger to have won an international song competition (SONG CONTEST OF THE GUIANAS 1985). His productions have been played on Radio & Television Stations in Guyana, the Caribbean, USA, Brazil, France, Malta, Norway, Costa Rica, England and Canada, the high point of which was the achievement of the Album 'CONSCIOUSNESS 2' gaining No 1 Status in Guam KPRG 89.3FM and France Radio 99.2FM. Bonny Alves has received several awards for his outstanding contribution to the Arts.



Producer: Charmaine Blackman - has been singing professionally for 21 years and has contributed quite significantly to the development of music in Guyana. She has done more than 100 Radio & Television commercials for major companies, over 40 music videos and recorded over 300 songs, appeared on stage with the cream of crop of Caribbean & International Artistes such as Michael Montano, Beres Hammond, Alison Hinds and The Manhattans just to name a few. Ms. Blackman has performed in 23 countries, the high point being at the RINGBANG MILLENNIUM CONCERT in Tobago, headlined by Eddie Grant and televised by the BBC to 2.5 billion viewers around the world. Charmaine moved to another level by being the co-producer for the locally produced movies 'RIGHT CHOICES', 'KING OF DRUMS' & 'DECEPTION' all of which she is featured, making this movie her 4th. Her voice was also used in 2 locally produced animated short films. Her versatility, superb range and exceptional talent have helped to establish her as a leading, pioneering and most recorded voice in the



field of music in Guyana.

Lead Actress: Mariatha Causway aka Jennifer Thomas joined the Theatre Guild in 1990. She won Best Supporting Actress for the role of Susanna of Canaan in the play 'THE VIGIL' in 1992 and won Best Actress in the year 1996 for her role in the play 'Ecstasy'. Ms. Thomas has also earned numerous TAA nominations for other plays such as: 'TWO'S A CROWD'. The new artistic group Horizon Arts Production is her brainchild and she is also its Artistic Director. Jennifer has participated in the radio serial drama 'MERUNDO!', 'THE LINK SHOW' and other plays such as 'TIL AH FIND A PLACE', 'WATCH DE RIDE', & 'JUDAS'. 'THE ENCOUNTER' is her first movie.



Actor: Charles Griffith - Charles Griffith is an Insurance Agent by profession with a passion for The Arts which he demonstrated during his primary and secondary school days. He is a competent guitarist and played with a few popular bands in the past. Mr. Griffith is a member of the 'CIRCLE OF LOVE', the best known acapella quartet in Guyana. 'THE ENCOUNTER' is his first movie.



Title: The Encounter

Slug Line: -A love starved murderess haunts a hotel room looking for redemption in requited love of a living man. How this happens is a rollicking ride of fear and fun. This film was shot in Georgetown.

Running Time: 20:09 minute camp-horror-comedy

Audience Rating: Adult, Violence

Writer/ Director/ Producer: This film is written and directed by veteran film maker Bonny Alves and produced by Charmaine Blackman.

Executive Producers Dr. Paloma Mohamed, Brian Zham

TRADITION

Tradition

Director: Margaret Lawrence A.A., Maggie Lawrence (as she is known to many) is an alumna of The Bishops High School and comes from a background of over thirty years in Broadcasting and the Performing Arts. In 1991 she received a National Award, The Golden Arrow of Achievement for Drama & Broadcasting. Ms. Lawrence was trained at The University of Guyana, Carimac, University of the West Indies and The BBC and is the recipient of the Prime Minister's Medal for Public Management (2000). She is the Executive Director of Merundoi Incorporated, a Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) specializing in Behaviour Change Communication by utilizing drama and other media. Maggie is a long standing member of The Theatre Guild and has been trained in acting, writing & directing for Stage, Television, Film and Street (Forum) Theatre by the BBC, Theatre Guild, Trevor Rhone, Denis Scott, Fr. Bernard Gardiner, Al Creighton, Dr. Paloma Mohamed, Rebecca McCutcheon and Brian Zahm. 'TRADITION' is her first film and she thanks God for his continued guidance.



Producer: Richard Pitman - Richard Pitman is a 29 year old, dedicated individual who has been a scriptwriter at Merundoi Incorporated for the past 5 years. He is pursuing a Diploma in Communication Studies at the University of Guyana. Richard has always used writing as therapy to express his emotions whether happiness, sadness, joy or rage. From news reporting, infomercials, public awareness campaigns to poetry, he has always had a creative way of writing to get the message across. Dr. Paloma Mohamed, Trevor Rhone, Rebecca McCutcheon and Brian Zahm are persons who have influenced his writing career so far. His love for television and films keeps him searching for his rightful place in the arena.



Actor: Johann David - Born on August 15, 1985. Employed at the National Communications Network. He began his acting career in church and at his secondary school. In June 2009 Johann joined The Theatre Guild where he participated in a number of productions such as 'SUKANTI', 'EVERY TIME I FEEL THE SPIRIT', 'MASSACURAMAN', 'WATCH DE RIDE', 'OLD STORY TIME', 'LINK SHOW 27', 'VELVET FIST', 'SWINGERS ON THE PLAYGROUND', 'THEATRICAL SPECTACULAR' AND 'MORI JVON COMEDY JAM'. He won the award for 2010 Best Supporting Actor Award for his performance in 'SUKANTI'.



Actress: LaVonne George - Aries born, a mother of two with a wonderful husband of twenty two years. LaVonne is a Nursery School Teacher who enjoys singing, reading poetry and dancing. She teaches nine year old students at the National School of Dance. Mrs. George is an actress for about fifteen years and has appeared in 'HOUSE OF PRESSURE', 'MY BROTHER MY WIFE AND I', 'TIL AH FIND A PLACE 1, 2, 3, 4', 'WATCH DE RIDE 1, 2, 3, 4', 'BUCK POT' and 'LINK SHOW'. She is also involved in the Merundoi Radio Serial.



Title: Tradition

Slug Line: A family is battling with personal loss and the anger that this brings while a young boy is trying to hold on to the traditions of his father and the yearnings of his heart. Through the cultural artifact of the Masquerade, the past, present and future collide in a surprising end. In the year of People of African Descent, it is a welcome moment in the preservation of Guyana's Masquerade which is one of the few Afro based retentions in Guyana. Shot on the historic locations of The Theatre Guild, Girl Guides Pavilion and Tiger Bay.

Running Time: 11:59 minute cultural fiction

Audience Rating: General Audience

Writer/ Director/ Producer: This film is directed by Margaret Lawrence written by Margaret Lawrence, Richard Pitman, Ayanna Waddell, Yaphet Jackman and Russell Lancaster. **Executive Producers:** Dr. Paloma Mohamed, Brian Zham

THREE CARDS

Writer/Director: Michael James - Born in the village of Buxton on the East Coast of Demerara but grew up in Blue Berry Hill Wismar, Linden. As a songwriter and playwright, he has produced fourteen stage plays and numerous Gospel concerts. He recently started on the ambitious venture of making movies. He has directed and produced 'THE COAL POT SAGA', 'OLE HOUSE PUN OLE HOUSE PARTS ONE & TWO' and most recently 'TANTIMERLE AND SHE JUNKY'.

For the 2007 GT&T Song Competition he wrote a jingle and song for Rene Winter who represented Linden. She was awarded second place overall for her efforts. He also wrote the jingle for Malika Boyd who is also from Linden and gained first place in GT&T's National Jingle song competition in 2009



Assistant Director: Wadecia Devonni Donald The birth of a rose came on the 26th February, 1988 and they named her Wadecia Devonni Donald. She grew up among three brothers who helped to mould her into the beautiful scented rose she is. Wadecia is pursuing a Degree in Communications Studies at the University of Guyana. While at University, numerous opportunities arose for her to harness her skills in television production which she put to good use by being a part of the CCS first independent school production titled 'CELLINK KIDSTAGE' and other productions. Apart from her passion for television production, she is an avid dancer and aspiring social researcher. Her aim is to shake the world, realize her true potential and to live a life ordained by the Almighty.



Lead Actor: Floyd Martindale - Born in Georgetown then moved to Linden at age seven. Two years after he started acting on stage at the Christianburg Primary School. Floyd writes and directs stage plays in Linden. He has worked with drama icons such as Grace Chapman, Sperie Lewis, and Michael James. He is also a basket ball coach and a certified mechanic.



Actress: Monique Nkenge Thalia Gittens is a fifteen year old young woman who attends Mackenzie High School and is in level 9. As a pastime, she reads and attends the Theatre Guild where her talent for acting was discovered. Her aspiration is to become a surgeon. Monique resides on the Mackenzie shore of the mining town of Linden where she was born and raised. Described as very polite and respectful, she is fondly known by family and residents as a comedian.



Title: Three Cards

Slug Line: A family drama about how far a father would go to save the life of his ailing daughter and how help can sometimes come from the most unexpected places. The film is shot entirely on location in Linden with a cast also from the area.

Running Time: 16:55 minutes

Audience Rating: General Audience, Violence

Writer/ Director/ Producer: This film is written and directed by Michael James who is a pump operator with the Guyana Water Authority in Linden and produced by Leon Roberts & Ras Leon Saul.

Executive Producers: Dr. Paloma Mohamed, Brian Zham

HOPE

Director/Writer: Shaundel Phillips - Shaundel Phillips is a Guyanese schoolteacher for over 20 years. Ms. Phillips resides in Berbice and enjoys writing about issues reflecting her environment and experiences. Her love for drama and The Arts has led this mother of one to pioneer the teaching of Theatre Arts at the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate level in Guyana. She has a passion for people and their way of life, which are issues reflected in the four plays she has written and staged locally. She enjoys challenges and eagerly anticipates doing what she knows best, which is, making a difference in a person's life.



Lead Actress: Lisa Punch - Born to John Punch and Nafieza Daniels on September 4th, 1992. She is the eldest of six siblings and was born at the Georgetown Public Hospital. Lisa started acting in 1997 in Kindergarten. She's a singer, rapper and actress. She represented Bishop's High School 2004-2009 in various children's school competitions winning the crown several times in the category of Dramatic Poetry. Ms. Punch also won Best Actress in 2008 for 'THE CONCERT'. In 2011 she won the Best Supporting Actress at the National Drama Festival for 'SHADOWS'.



Actor: Urvash Shiwprasad - Urvash Shiwprasad comes from a family of five. He resides in Albion, Corentyne, Berbice. Urvash attended the New Amsterdam Secondary School where he recently completed his Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) Examination. He admits that he is an aspiring actor and has pursued this interest for more than two years in the Theatre Arts Programme. Urvash has represented the New Amsterdam Secondary School and his country at the Caribbean Educative Arts Festival, UWI Barbados and participated in the 2011 National Drama Festival.



Title: Hope

Slug Line: A story of a passionate encounter as two worlds clash in an explosive meet. Ganeshwar Sharma and Ayanna Greene choose the path that fate has thrust upon them, but destiny thwarts their efforts at realization. Hope examines our Guyanese culture from its very core and presents interesting suppositions.

Running Time: 15:01 minutes
Audience Rating: Violence

Writer/ Director/ Producer: Written and directed by schoolteacher Shaundel Phillips and produced by Crystal Stoll
Executive Producers: Dr. Paloma Mohamed, Brian Zham

LUCK BEAT HANDSOME

Errol Chan - Writer/Director - Errol Chan has been writing, directing, performing and producing since 1994. In 1996 Chan directed the winning play which was performed by Bartica Secondary School at the first ever National Drama Festival. He then directed Guyana's play at the Caribbean School Drama Festival which was held in 1997. In 2005 Chan wrote and directed his first play 'SHATTERED' and has since written and directed several other plays such as 'FLAWED ' INFLUENCE' and 'WHEN JASON RETURNED' to name a few. This is Errol Chan's first attempt at writing and directing a movie.



Producer: Troy Azore - Troy Azore has a career in The Arts that spans more than ten years. After starting his career as a singer, performing with one of Guyana's most popular reggae groups "FIRST BORN", Azore found a love for editing and video. He has since produced videos for some of Guyana's most recognised artistes like Fojo and Fire Clann. This is his first time producing a movie.

Actor: Sheldon Brathwaite - has been performing from the age of fourteen. In a career that spans over two decades Brathwaite has performed in many plays such as: 'TWO'S A CROWD' 'WATCH DE RIDE' and 'FULL HUNDRED' which won the 2011 National Drama Festival. This is his first time starring in a movie.



Actor: Richard Narine - is a veteran in Guyanese theatre, with a career spanning over twenty five years and, many, many starring roles. Some of his more recent performances were in the 'MORI J'VON COMEDY JAM' and 'NOTHING TO LAUGH ABOUT'. Narine has performed in other plays such as 'THE LEGEND OF THE SILK COTTON TREE' which was Guyana's signal piece at the Carifesta X in 2008.

This is his first role in a short film.

Actress: Andrea Gaskin - is known more for her singing ability since she is a recording artiste, performing under the name of Empress TG aka Fire Angel. Though starring in her first movie role, this is not her first time acting. She has performed in plays like 'SHATTERED' and 'WHEN JASON RETURNED'.



Title: Luck Beat Handsome

Slug Line: The story of a gambler who is about to be evicted when good luck comes his way. This film was shot on location in Tueville, Georgetown and East Coast Demerara. Even a lousy cat has luck that can change everyone's life for the better.

Running Time: 17:25 minute comedy

Audience Rating: General Audience

Writer/ Director/Producer: This film is written and directed by Errol Chan and produced by Troy Azore.

Executive Producers: Dr. Paloma Mohamed, Brian Zham

Appendix E: Partnership Celebration Article

Guyana Ambassador, Scripps Faculty and Administrators To Celebrate Successful Collaboration

By Kelly Martin
Published Wed, Apr 25, 2012 3:00 pm



On Tuesday, May 1, Ohio University and Guyana officials will gather to showcase a partnership between Ohio University's Scripps College of Communication and University of Guyana's Center for Communication Studies.

Guyana's ambassador to the United States, Mr. Bayney Karran, Esq., and the director of the University of Guyana's Center for Communication Studies, Dr. Paloma Mohamed, will be on campus to express appreciation on behalf of the Government of Guyana and the

University of Guyana.

During "The Guyana Experience 2008-2011" Ohio University's Scripps College of Communication faculty and staff worked to upgrade the University of Guyana's communication curriculum and course content. It also advanced the education and experience of faculty through master's degrees and professional workshops and worked to upgrade the education and skills of Guyanese journalists and media professionals.

The United States Agency for International Development-funded project has been declared a success by USAID and the Higher Education for Development—the Washington, D.C. coordinating agency.

The event will begin at 10 a.m. in Baker University Center's Theater and will provide an opportunity to thank members of the university community for their contributions to the project, to showcase those individuals who contributed to its success and to provide them with an opportunity to reflect on their experiences in Guyana.

From 1 - 3 p.m. screenings of videos from "The Guyana Experience 2008-2011" will take place at the Athena Cinema on Court Street in Athens.

All events are free and open to the public.

Appendix F: Partnership Success Story

SUCCESS STORY

Revived Communications Center Sets the Stage for Guyanese Films

Ohio University/Guyana University Centre for Communications Studies



Photo: Brian Zahm

Writer - Director Kojo McPherson and soundman Troy Azore take a break on the set of the CineGuyana film, "Hope."

Guyana is home to a diverse people of multiple cultures, untouched rainforests, and as of late, a burgeoning film industry. Years ago, the educational opportunities available to communications students wanting to pursue journalism and film left much to be desired, especially when the Centre for Communications Studies at the University of Guyana closed. However, in less than three years, the Centre has experienced a rebirth through a higher education partnership with Ohio University. Dr. Paloma Mohamed, Director of the Centre and Dr. Vibert Cambridge, Professor at Ohio University, collaborated to transform the faculty and curriculum, and increase the Centre's involvement in the Guyanese community. The partnership is funded by USAID and managed by Higher Education for Development (HED).

From a faculty of one Ph.D. holder, Dr. Mohamed herself, UG now boasts three Guyanese faculty, newly graduated with Master's degrees from Ohio University and a master's graduate from the University of Deli. The Centre's renaissance has become a beacon to faculty in other countries because of its communications curriculum which balances theory and practicum, as well as the hands-on training workshops for student and non-student local journalists. "This partnership has been an inspiration to many students, faculty members, and cynics. It has been a demonstration of how much change can be brought about by precious little if there is commitment, if there is will, and if there is love," Mohamed said.

With a more robust Centre in place, Mohamed seized the opportunity to produce quality films under the President's Film Endowment Project 2011 in Guyana. Breaking the surface of a placid industry in 2011, communications students and local Guyanese have written, directed, edited, and acted in eight short films – all produced by Mohamed and U.S. Trainer Brian Zahm from Ohio University, who also designed the film program. "Guyana's communications capacity has grown exponentially; it's not just TV," said Cambridge.

The films represent the spectrum of Guyanese society including religion, mysticism, and cultural tradition, while placing hot-button issues such as race relations, parenting, healthcare and poverty at eye-level. The writer and director of "Hope," Shaundel Phillips, captured audiences' attention with the story of young love between a Hindu-Guyanese priest and Afro-Guyanese dancer. Phillips, a first-time filmmaker and Head of the Department of Language Arts and Drama at Berbice High School, lived and breathed the issue in the coastal city of Berbice, Guyana. In her 22 years of teaching, she learned of parents' fears and prejudices and saw the community difficulties due to a clash of religions and cultures. She said she wanted to show "Children can be responsive and still hold on to their beliefs. They use their religions to actually bring peace." Her film received additional funding from USAID in Guyana. Phillips said she is encouraged by the attention to the story and audience reaction. "I felt all my efforts were validated."