



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Small Business Owner Cops UG Berbice Campus' Best Graduating Student Prize**

#### **....says her Programme in Management Will Aid in the Improvement of Her Business**

Feryal Khan, a small business owner from East Canje, Berbice, is the 2023 Best Graduating Student for The University of Guyana, Berbice Campus (UGBC).

Khan, 36, completed a Bachelor of Science in Management which is offered by UG's School of Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation (SEBI) with a GPA of 3.95, giving her an edge for the coveted prize. "I am elated and extremely honoured to be awarded this title. My hard work, dedication to my studies and ability to persevere through all the challenges were certainly worth it. I have made my mom proud and I am certain, had my father been alive, he would have been one proud dad," Khan said when asked to describe her feelings about being named the Best Graduating Student of the UG Berbice Campus.

Khushal Singh was named the University's 2023 valedictorian across the entire University. The 26-year-old completed a Bachelor's Degree in Public Management with a perfect GPA of 4.0 capturing both the President's Medal for the Best Graduating Bachelor's Degree Student and the Prime Minister's Medal for the Best Graduating Student with a Degree of Public Management. He was awarded both medals a few days ago.



*In photo are (from L-R): UG's Vice-Chancellor, XI, Prof. Paloma Mohamed Martin, His Excellency, President Mohamed Irfaan Ali and Mr Khushal Singh. (Office of the President Photo)*

Khan is the youngest of three children to her parents, Hallima and her deceased father Fajir Khan. She attended the Cumberland Primary School and then went on to complete her secondary education at the Berbice High School (BHS) where she was named her school's Best Graduating Student for the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) exams in 2004 and Best Caribbean Advance Proficiency Examination (CAPE) student in 2005.



***Feryal Khan, UGBC's 2023 Best Graduating Student. She completed a Bachelor of Science in Management with a GPA of 3.95.***

Khan, who resides with her 76-year-old mom is an ardent Muslim. “My father was a hire car driver who plied the Georgetown to Berbice route for some twenty-six years and my mom was a small business owner prior to retiring. My parents always made sure our home was comfortable and conducive to studying and my father ensured that all of his children must attain a university education,” she said.

Like many of her colleagues, Khan said she faced many challenges but was able to overcome them as she was determined to be successful. “Having to attend classes in the online dispensation meant working via WhatsApp groups, and scheduling late night zoom meetings to plan presentations and work on assignments,” she said.



For the past sixteen years Khan has been operating a small business which she indicated has worked out well for her as it provided the flexibility to pursue her academic dreams. She explained that the programme she studied at UG helped her to understand the different business concepts and she was able to apply these to improve her own business.

According to Khan, her overall experience at the University of Guyana was “enriching, rewarding and offered insights into different perspectives. In addition, it allowed me to not accept issues at face value but rather it built on my ability to critically think and analyse for myself”.

Khan, in her advice to other persons desirous of pursuing tertiary education said: “Always fight for what is right, what is fair and what is just even if it means standing alone. Go after your dreams even if it seems impossible. The University of Guyana Berbice Campus has made this journey possible for me and it is also there for others too.”

***The following students also received awards for UGBC:***

1. The Second-Best Graduating Student - for the student who has completed a Bachelor’s Degree with the second highest GPA - Rose Ann Hutson
2. The Best Graduating Student – in the Diploma/Certificate/Associate Degree programmes, who has attained the highest GPA - Angelica Ramgobin
3. The Director, UGBC Award for the Best graduating student with a Bachelor’s Degree who has attained at least a Pass with Credit and has made the greatest contribution in other areas of University activities - Chavez Tyril Edwards.

### **DIVISIONAL PRIZES**

#### **1. Division of Agriculture**

- Best Graduating Student in the Bachelor of Science (Agriculture) - Nareema Alli
- Second-Best Graduating Student in the Bachelor of Science (Agriculture) - Basdeo Bissessar

#### **2. Division of Education & Humanities**

- Best Graduating student in the Bachelor of Education Secondary - Agriculture - Verdica Reshanna Solomon
- Best Graduating student in the Bachelor of Education - Early Childhood Education - Felicianne Rahim
- Best Graduating student in the Bachelor of Education – Primary - Marlina Delanie Johnson
- Best Graduating student in the Bachelor of Education Secondary-Social Studies - Terrence Roswell Benjamin Giddings
- Best Graduating student in the Bachelor of Education Secondary-English - Nirupa Manroop





- Best Graduating student in the Bachelor of Education Secondary-Mathematics - Melissa Annalisa Asregadoo
- Best Graduating student in the Bachelor of Education Secondary (Science Education) - Kismatti Lakshmi Goberdhan
- 3. Division of Natural Sciences**
  - Best Graduating student in the Bachelor of Science (Biology) - Usha Dalloo
  - Best Graduating student in the Associate of Science (Biology) - Lokeshwari Kumar
  - Best Graduating student in the Associate of Science (Chemistry) - Shania Marks
  - Best Graduating Student in the Associate of Science (Computer Science) - Alex Hartman
- 4. College of Medical Sciences**
  - Best Graduating Student in the Bachelor of Science (Nursing) - Shivaughn Hinckson
- 5. Division of Social Sciences**
  - Best Graduating Student in the Bachelor of Social Science (Public Management) Gaitrie Tulsie-Muthan
  - Best graduating student in the Bachelor of Social Science (Social Work) - Shiron Reece
  - Best Graduating Student in the Diploma in Public Management - Raheem Blair
  - Best Graduating Student in the Associate of Social Science (Social Work) - Farzeena Hoosain
- 6. Division of Entrepreneurship & Business Innovation**
  - Best Graduating Student in the Bachelor of Science (Management), Trisanna Edwards
  - Best Graduating student in the Diploma in Accountancy - Nathan Yadram
  - Best Graduating Student in the Diploma in Marketing - Julia Phillips
  - Best Graduating Student in the Diploma in Banking and Finance - Obryan Squires

Almost 200 students of the UG Berbice Campus are set to walk the graduation stage on Saturday, November 18, 2023 at the University Lawns, Tain Campus. They join the close to 3000 from the University's Turkeyen Campus, who graduated last weekend in a series of graduation exercises at the National Cultural Centre (NCC) in Georgetown.

This year's Convocation Ceremonies are extremely special as the University is proudly celebrating its Sixtieth Anniversary under the theme "Consistently We Rise, Changing the World in Infinite Ways".

This year's Convocation ceremonies also saw several new academic programmes producing graduates for the first time, these include; Bachelor of Science in Food Science (Faculty of Natural Sciences), Bachelor of Science in Petroleum Engineering (Faculty of Engineering and Technology); Master in Communication (Faculty of Social Sciences); Master of Education in Early Childhood Development (Faculty of Education and Humanities); and Master in Strategic Development Studies which has already won the 2023 Perry US Centre Award for Excellence in



Security Studies (Institute for Human Resilience, Strategic Security, and The Future), among others.

The University also conferred Honorary Doctoral Degrees on some outstanding Guyanese in various areas of expertise; these include; Baroness Dr Valerie Amos, world-renowned award-winning actress Dr. CCH Pounder, Guyana-based visual artist Dr Bernadette Persaud, flautist and folklorist, Dr. Keith Waite, renowned Caribbean linguist duo; Dr Jeanette and the late Dr Richard Allsopp, internationally-acclaimed Karateka Shotokan Dr Frank Woon-A-Tai, international shipping magnate and UG alumnus, Dr Kenneth Singh and manufacturing and construction czar and philanthropist, Dr Abdool Sattaur Gafoor. Veteran cricket commentator Joseph “Reds” Perreira was conferred with an Honorary Doctorate of Laws for Excellence in Sports and Civic Engagement at today’s graduation ceremony. Legendary Test Cricketer Rohan Kanhai was conferred virtually with an Honorary Doctorate of Laws for Excellence in Sports and Civic Engagement today, Saturday November 18, 2023. *(Feature by the Department of Events, Conferences and Communication (DECC), Office of the Vice-Chancellor.*

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## UG IN BRIEF

The University of Guyana, now in its 60th year, was founded in October 1963. “UG” as it is fondly referred to offers 160 plus programmes in over 60 disciplines in online, face-to-face or blended formats. UG delivers in a Guyana-based system across eight campuses. It is the largest, oldest, most advanced and only state University in Guyana with a student population of over 10,000.

“UG” has provided education, training and research for over 50,000 alumni over its 60-year history. UG’s national and global impact and footprint are significant. Its graduates have risen to populate the commanding heights of national, regional and international organisations of repute in over 150 different disciplines. The mission of the University is to discover, generate, disseminate and apply knowledge of the highest standard for the service of the community, the nation, and all mankind within an atmosphere of academic freedom, innovation and universal respect.

UG’s forward-thinking Blueprint 2040 is currently setting the course for the University’s future design and institutional response to the changing needs of Guyana, the region and the world. UG is currently celebrating its 60th anniversary and is stepping up its focus on becoming one of the leading and most sought-after educational institutions in the world for both staff and students.