



Keynote speaker

"Thriving Through Disruption: Technology, Fear and Resilient Futures"

Professor Paloma Mohamed Martin, PhD, A.A.

Strategist and Futurist Scholar, First Female Vice-Chancellor (immediate former), Prizewinning author and Cultural Leader - Guyana

Overview

Professor Paloma Mohamed Martin is a Guyanese Behavioural scientist, futurist scholar, prizewinning author, and cultural leader who made history as the eleventh Vice-Chancellor of the University of Guyana — the first woman to hold the post in the university's history and in the Anglophone Caribbean.

Widely regarded as a transformative servant leader, she guided the university through four successive periods of change during her six-year tenure (2020–2026), among the longest in its recent history. Under her stewardship, UG rose several hundred places in regional and international rankings, established six new research institutes — in energy diplomacy, economics, resilience and strategic security, and food and nutrition security and marine and riverine economies — raised over US\$45 million, introduced thirty new programmes and seventy new policies, and delivered the first phase of Blueprint 2040, the university's long-term strategic vision. She previously served as Director of the Centre for Communication Studies, the first woman elected Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, and Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Philanthropy, Alumni and Civic Engagement.

Educated at the University of Guyana, the University of the West Indies at St. Augustine, Harvard University, and CAMH in Canada, she specializes in social and Behavioural change, strategy, human communication, and the ways culture and communication drive transformation. She is the author or editor of more than eleven books, over thirty plays, and three collections of poetry; a three-time winner of the Guyana Prize for Literature; and executive producer of more than twenty films as a founding force behind CineGuyana. Her honors include Guyana's Presidential Medal of Service, the National Arrow of Achievement, and recognition as the first woman Caribbean Laureate for Excellence in Arts and Letters (Anthony N. Sabga Awards).

She now focuses on her work as a futurist strategist and her forthcoming memoir, **A Brave and Beautiful Thing** (October 2026), and speaks internationally on education, technology, and the future of human life in Guyana, the Caribbean, and the developing world.

