



UWI TODAY

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES · ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

SUNDAY 26TH JULY, 2009



VAULTS OF MEMORY

What do icons mean to us?

(See centrespread)

PHOTO BY ARTHUR SUKHBIR

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I UWI LIFE

UWI ORIENTATION EVENTS 2009

UWI Life Support

2nd September 2009

(For Parents, Guardians and Spouses Only)

UWI Life Extension

3rd September 2009

(For Mature, Evening and Postgraduate Students Only)

UWI Life Student

4th September 2009

(For First Year/First Time Undergraduate Students Only)



UWI

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UWI LIFE is the official student orientation programme of The University of the West Indies.

■ CAMPUS NEWS

UWI Team receives Can\$ 2 million Grant

An international research team co-directed by Professor Patrick Watson, Director of the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) at The University of the West Indies (UWI), will participate in a unique \$2 million international research partnership that will respond to pressing environmental issues in Canada and the Caribbean.

In partnership with the Canadian Fisheries, Oceans and Aquaculture Management (C-FOAM) at the University of Ottawa, the UWI/SALISES team will execute a project entitled “Managing adaptation to environmental change in coastal communities: Canada and the Caribbean.”

The project was awarded the grant by the International Community-University Research Alliance programme (ICURA), a collaboration between the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). ICURA awarded a research grant of just under CAN \$2 million over a five-year period. Approximately half of the sum awarded will be allocated to UWI/SALISES.

The UWI/SALISES team is headed by Professor Patrick Watson, and includes researchers Dr Michael Sutherland, Dr Michelle Mycoo, Dr Sandra Sookram, Dr Sonja Teelucksingh, Dr Aldrie Henry-Lee and Martin Franklin. A team of 16 researchers, led by C-FOAM Research Associate, Professor Daniel Lane and Professor Watson, along with 17 partner organisations, will work to develop new insights on how protected areas can maximise the delivery of equitable benefits, how to manage human-wildlife interactions and improve the

governance of protected areas. Most importantly, the project aims to mobilise knowledge-sharing among academic researchers and community organisations. The project will focus on vulnerable coastal communities whose livelihoods will be most affected by these changes. The selected communities are located in the Caribbean and in Canada’s Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic regions. Within these regions, particular attention is given to the impact of rising sea-levels and storm surges. The research teams aim to build the capacity of local communities to face the inevitable consequences of climate changes and will develop community awareness of the environmental threat, proposals for new infrastructure and tools for creating adaptation and mitigation strategies.

“This initiative illustrates superbly how social sciences and humanities research can have a direct impact on societies through community-university partnerships,” said Chad Gaffield, President of SSHRC. “The ICURA programme is funding leading-edge international research collaborations that will bring global perspectives to the analysis and understanding of social, economic, environmental and technological issues.”

The SALISES/C-FOAM project was one of four successful projects to receive funding from ICURA, which was designed to benefit projects in the developing world to undertake research on global issues. The three other successful research projects, selected from over 100 applications through a rigorous peer-review process, will focus on the impact of poverty on the environment, services for at-risk youth, and mental health. (See Page 4)



At a team meeting in Trinidad, from left, Michael Sutherland, Sonja Teelucksingh, Patrick Watson, Sue Nichols (Canada), Sandra Sookram, Sheldon Warner (AA), Michelle Mycoo, Dan Lane (Canadian co-director). Martin Franklin and Aldrie Henry-Lee are absent.

EDITORIAL

ALWAYS PUSHING BEYOND MALAYSIA

In challenging financial times, areas earmarked for cutbacks in developmental resources are those lowest on the scale of need. Today, as countries rich and poor seek to establish knowledge-based economies, educational needs have been placed high on national priority agendas.

In mid-June, at the 17th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Education Ministers agreed that although the global downturn had affected poorer countries and small states more substantially, they countered that recovery was only sustainable if knowledge and skills were developed.

The theme of the Conference was “Education in the Commonwealth: Towards and Beyond Global Goals and Targets.” The Conference was opened by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, who noted that, “Malaysia’s new economic model will shift a reliance from a manufacturing base dependent on semi-skilled and low cost labour to one that hinges on a modern services sector dependant upon skilled and highly paid workers.”

To support this thrust, Malaysia spends 23% of its budget on education. With 20 public and 32 private universities, the country expects in 2010 to have 40% of 17-23-year-olds (1.3 million students) enrolled in tertiary education with the ratio of Certificates and Diplomas to Bachelor’s Degrees being close to 2:1. Like Trinidad and Tobago, Malaysia is determined to achieve world class status and has focused on developing one or two of its universities to achieve global ranking through research and development and doing this by having the best leaders, faculty, students and facilities.

Speaking at the Vice Chancellor’s Forum, I emphasized that investing in human capital development can bring rich rewards, and that it is not only about numbers related to access and outputs, but also about quality. The utilitarian purpose of education must also be tempered by the social development of individuals and the need to build caring, tolerant and safer societies.

The UWI Strategic Plan 2007-2012 presents our own framework for the St Augustine Campus and the other three Campuses of The UWI to develop that distinctive graduate who can take our country and region on the trajectory for development. We are committed to making this strategic vision a reality.

CLEMENT K. SANKAT

Pro Vice Chancellor & Principal

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RESEARCH

In at the deep end

How vulnerable are our coastal communities?

The lush foliage of Grande Riviere

The five-year project, “Managing adaptation to environmental change in coastal communities: Canada and the Caribbean,” received a grant of around Can\$2 million (*see Page 3*) after 104 applications were considered and four selected.

Submitted by a multi-disciplinary team led by the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) and partner, Canadian Fisheries, Oceans and Aquaculture Management (C-FOAM) at the University of Ottawa, the project proposes to examine climatic changes and their impact on eight communities in the Caribbean and Canada.

The UWI/SALISES team is headed by Professor Patrick Watson, and includes researchers Dr Michael Sutherland, Dr Michelle Mycoo, Dr Sandra Sookram, Dr Sonja Teelucksingh, Dr Aldrie Henry-Lee and Martin Franklin. With half of the grant available for the Caribbean aspect of the study, the team, like its Canadian counterpart, has identified four communities within which to locate its work: Grande Rivière, Trinidad; Bequia, Belize Barrier Reef and Georgetown, Guyana.

The teams have developed what might be described as a four-step approach to the project. In a nutshell, said Prof Watson, the idea is to enter communities and identify their assets (“What do they stand to lose?”), then to measure the risks, determine the impact of climate change and finally, to provide projections and mitigation strategies.

It is a complex task, requiring the technical expertise to study climate change and the impact of storms and other related activities, and then the sociological and economic input to relate them to the existing natural, social and economic environment to extrapolate data that could be of planning value.

It is part of the reason that the projects under which the grants fall are viewed as campus-community collaborations. The work will entail research and educational components that affect infrastructure, transportation and utilities, water

and sewage distribution and treatment systems, as well as the management of resource sectors in agriculture, aquaculture and fisheries. It is a truly broad scope and it comes from the recognition that the global climate is changing, with sometimes deleterious effects in various regions—and Caribbean states are ranked among the most vulnerable economies in the world.

The team has chosen to study the popular leatherback turtle nesting site, Grande Rivière, on the north coast of Trinidad. This is essentially a small, fishing village subsisting on small crop farming, but is a well known eco-tourism area as it is a protected nesting ground for the turtles. Any changes in sea level will directly affect life in the community, and the team will work with tourism and environmental groups, once it has studied potential threats, to work out mitigating actions.

It will also go into the archipelago of Bequia, whose coral reefs and natural beauty epitomize the universal ideal of “paradise.” Bequia’s reliance on its marine and eco tourism makes it a vital area for this project’s support.

Likewise, the Belize Barrier Reef, island atolls on a 300km section of the second largest reef in the world (the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System), would have its local tourism and fishing industries suffer should there be storm surges on its reefs.

Once the actual increases or drops in sea levels are determined, it might be possible to provide some real protection for the coastal city of Georgetown in Guyana, which lies 14 ft below sea level, and is currently shielded by the famous Sea Wall.

According to Prof Watson, although there is evidence that the global climate is changing, it is not the intention of the project team to enter the study with presumptions.

“We cannot ignore countervailing opinions in science, we are not assuming any preconceived ideas of outcomes,” he said. “Who knows? We might find nothing.”

Either way, the research is important because among

the data to be gathered, will be information gleaned from each partner community on their own specific coping strategies, their ways of life, and what is termed their “resilience factor.”

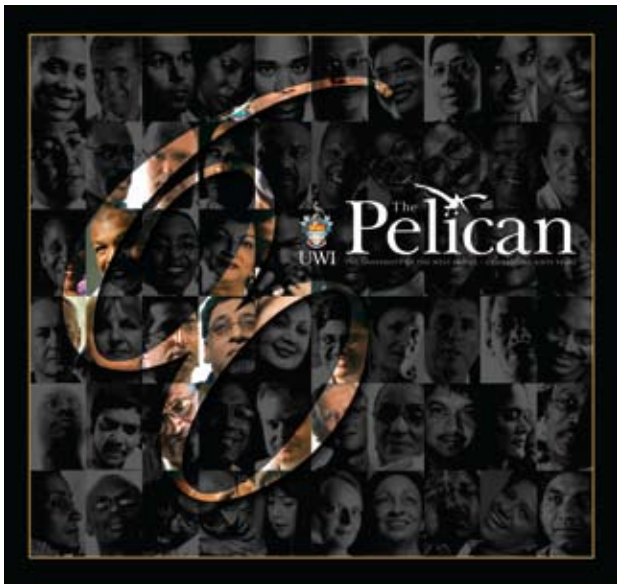
The Canadian communities are Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, a coastal port city of historical value, which is threatened by flooding; Iqaluit, Nunavut, a northern city facing possible melting or destabilization of permafrost areas of the shoreline, which could lead to coastal erosion; Gibsons, British Columbia, a resort town largely depending on eco-tourism, which could be at risk for beach erosion and groundwater exposure to desalination, and Isle Madame, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, another archipelago of coastal communities depending on fishing, aquaculture, and eco-tourism.

Prof Watson makes the point that each of these eight communities share substantial characteristics with countless others around the world, and thus the information gathered and the recommended strategies can be shared universally.

The project proposes to build capacity by training university students and community participants in areas relating to coastal environment impacts through regular workshops, seminars, local field work and reports to the communities. Community Adaptation Action Plans will also be formed to provide templates for broader use, and an electronic data base will enable the sharing of information.

The project then, stands to become a global model for ways to evaluate the coastal environmental changes and to do something about it. Funding that comes up to nearly one million Canadian dollars may seem like a lot over the five-year period, but when you consider the scope of work and potential benefits, it may actually be just the tip of the iceberg.

■ CAMPUS NEWS



■ UWI PELICAN MAGAZINE WINS APEX AWARDS

The international Awards for Publication Excellence (APEX) for 2009 are out, and The University of the West Indies (UWI) is once again in winners' row. The UWI Marketing and Communications Office, under the direction of Dawn-Marie De Four-Gill, took home APEX Awards in two categories: Websites and Photography.

"We always look forward to entering APEX because it is a chance not only to promote UWI's work, but also to have our public relations and marketing activities assessed and recognised by an international panel of experts," said De Four-Gill.

The international APEX Awards for Publication Excellence recognise excellence in publications works by communications professionals. Evaluated on the basis of distinction in graphic design, editorial content and the ability to achieve overall communications excellence, the annual competition salutes outstanding entries in each of the categories. APEX 2009 marked the 21st Annual Awards, and with close to 3,785 entries, the competition in this year's programme was exceptionally intense.



■ ROYTEC JOINS WITH CANADIAN ACCOUNTING ASSOCIATION

Professor Clement Sankat (right), Pro Vice Chancellor and St Augustine Campus Principal of The University of the West Indies (UWI) and John Reuben, President of the Certified General Accountants Association of Canada (CGA) Caribbean signed a new agreement between the UWI School of Business and Applied Studies Limited (trading as ROYTEC) at the Office of the Campus Principal, UWI, St Augustine on June 29, 2009.

■ WHAT MOVED THEM

The Festival Dance Ensemble, Department of Creative and Festival Arts Dance Alumni, returned home from a successful performance at the World Dance Alliance Americas General Assembly at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. The two pieces performed were "Caribbean Praise" and "The Hunt", dances that were part of the 'Celebrating Dance' showcase concert that was held in January 2009 at the Learning Resource Centre, UWI.

The World Dance Alliance, a member-driven organisation that provides information, advocacy and communication for dance organisations and individuals, was initiated in Hong Kong in 1990 with the founding of the Asia/Pacific region. The Alliance serves as a primary voice for dance and dancers throughout the world and encourages the exchange of ideas and the awareness of dance in all its many forms. The Americas joined the Alliance in 1993 and Europe in 1997.

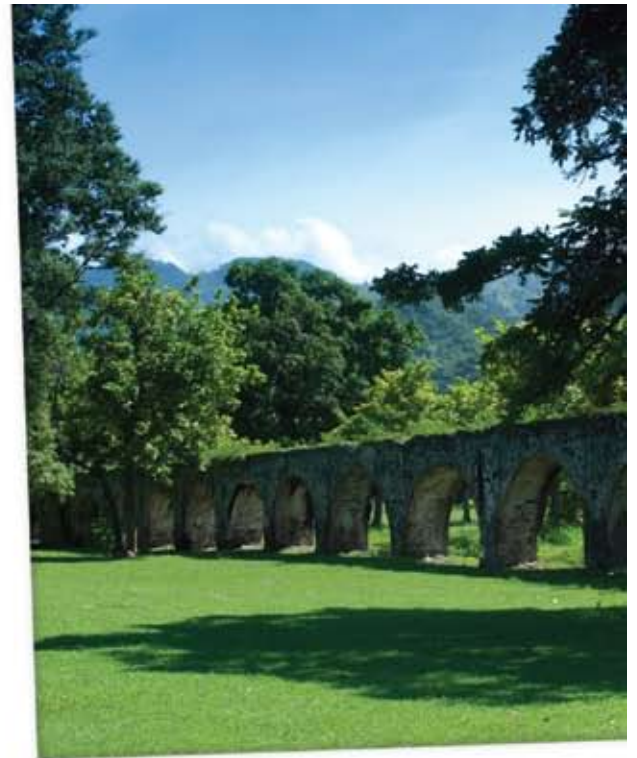




Unlocking



Caribbean



Potential

As the Commonwealth Caribbean's largest and longest standing university, **The University of the West Indies (UWI)** is the recognised leader in Caribbean scholarship.

Backed by a 60-year old tradition of excellence, UWI is a sought-after partner in the delivery of quality undergraduate and graduate programmes, and cutting-edge research focusing largely on the Caribbean and Caribbean issues.

Its linkages extend beyond the Caribbean to over 100 international universities and colleges, and numerous regional and global research partners and institutions.

“Internationally recognised as a centre of excellence on research and teaching related to the Caribbean.”

To explore the potential for partnership with The University of the West Indies, please contact:

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UWI

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UWI offers certificate, diploma, undergraduate and graduate programmes in Agriculture, Education, Engineering, Humanities, Law, Medical Sciences, Pure and Applied Sciences, and Social Sciences and is a primary source for research and expert advice in dealing with complex issues and challenges facing the Caribbean region.

■ CARIBBEAN STUDIES



Caribbean Studies Association President, Prof Patricia Mohammed with Prof Rex Nettleford.

BEING THE CENTRE

The theme, “Centering the Caribbean in Caribbean Studies,” conceptualized by Prof Patricia Mohammed and Dr Diana Thorburn, was itself a subject of hot debate as participants contested the multiplex definitions and identities of the phenomenon known as “the Caribbean.”

That alone might indicate the complexity and depth of the 34th annual conference of the Caribbean Studies Association (CSA), which took place in Jamaica in June.

In crafting the theme, Prof Mohammed’s concern was twofold: What contribution do successive conferences make to Caribbean societies and to what extent have these conferences captured the shifts and changing dynamics which Caribbean Studies have undergone in the last three decades?

“The continued relevance of a framework for thinking about what is Caribbean Studies is not something that can be answered by others but by us—by those of us who live and breathe and work in the Caribbean dust and air, those of us who absorb this long distance and come in to take huge gulps and lungfuls,” she said at the conference, where she was named 2009 President.

Commenting on the theme, PVC of Planning, Dr Bhoendradatt Tewarie, asked two questions. “What impact has the decades of Caribbean Studies had on the Caribbean? What has thinking, discussing and writing about the Caribbean done for the Caribbean?”

The conference raised questions on whether traditional definitions of the Caribbean as a geographical entity in the United States’ backyard and multiple identities due to the historical experiences under British, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Dutch colonialism still hold relevance or should be revisited.

“There has to be a time when we come together unselfconsciously and with self-confidence to celebrate and endorse the condition of non-arrival for it is the fluidity of

exchange and diversity of the region that will keep it alive and relevant to others and to ourselves. At the same time, it is about locating the centre of this process at the point from which Caribbean thought springs,” Prof Mohammed had earlier said.

This assertion that it was time to invert an old process was not the only focus of the conference.

CSA launched other important partnerships with the Inter-American Foundation, and the Organization of the American States. At the close of the OAS General Assembly in San Pedro, Honduras, OAS Assistant Secretary General, Ambassador Albert Ramdin, hurried to catch the last day of the CSA to host the plenary, “Centering the Caribbean in Western Hemispheric Relations,” which questioned what the region will look like in 20 years.

The focus this year was also on adding to the mix of graduates from the United States and Europe and the participation of graduates from Cuba, Haiti, Suriname, Guyana, Trinidad, Jamaica and Barbados to allow them the opportunity to broaden their intellectual horizons and to network with their peers. Principal of the St Augustine Campus, Professor Clement Sankat, was particularly instrumental in this drive toward student engagement and facilitated the process through sponsorship of students to attend the event.

Graduate students were also a priority of the CSA organizers, with a Graduate Student Breakfast held at the Courtleigh Hotel where lecturers bonded, advised and nurtured graduate students. Another panel entitled “Finishing the Ph.D and Getting a Job,” was geared toward assisting PhD students to understand the process of completing their dissertation and preparing them for the job market.

Caribbean scholars still need to respond to the piercing questions of what impact has the decades of Caribbean Studies had on the Caribbean and what has thinking, discussing and writing about the Caribbean done for the region. The answers may partly be found in defining and understanding the role of our academic institutions and the extent to which our intellectuals and scholars are engaged in independent and critical thought and action. Another useful exercise would be an assessment of whether the decades of Caribbean discourse have been translated into concrete policy and the real contributions it has made to the region. Perhaps the most challenging endeavour would be an evaluation of the extent to which personal interests, ego, ambition, corruption and petty politics in the academic, policy and political arenas have debilitated real progress and posed obstacles to the social, political and economic development of the region. – *Dr Indira Rampersad*



Some of the CSA’s 20 multi-lingual student Liaison officers from the Mona campus.

■ ICONOLOGY

It might be far fetched to link the recent death of Michael Jackson and the conversations it stimulated globally to the debates generated by the refashioning of the Administration Building affectionately shorthanded ‘Admin Building’ on The UWI, St Augustine campus. But what links these two seemingly disparate events together is that they are both icons, important for different reasons and equally so to the groups they have touched.

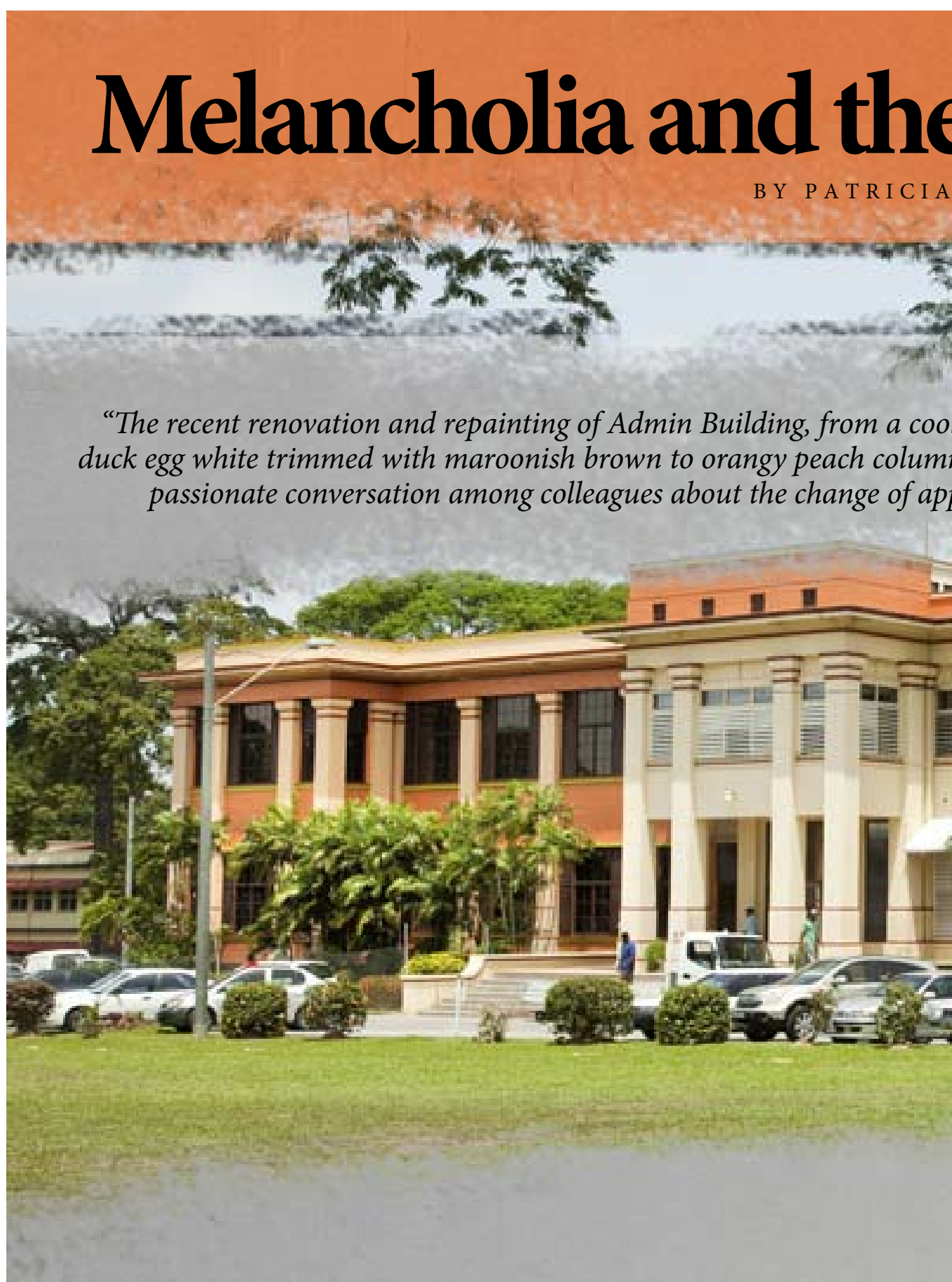
The recent renovation and repainting of Admin Building, from a cool institutional duck egg white trimmed with maroonish brown to orangy peach columns, and walls of terracotta red edged in bougainvillea leaf green (my colour schema, not the architect’s or paint manufacturers’), generated a passionate conversation among colleagues about the change of appearance. The debate was sparked by an email written by one staff member who remonstrated the choice of colours. A spate of emails followed on the campus intranet. Sentiments were divided; the majority resented the colour shift for a range of reasons including the widely shared rationale that this amounted to tampering with The UWI, St Augustine branding: “it was with great interest that I looked on at the renovation of this majestic building. I was happy to note that care was taken to maintain the ‘look.’ So it was much to my horror to see the change of colour,” wrote one correspondent. “Posterity and history are important things...and the Admin Building is useful brand marketing,” added another. Amongst these utterances was concern about the consultative process by which the new colours were selected.

On the opposing side were those who fully welcomed the change of colour. “... our Caribbean warmth and vibrancy as a people is reflected in the change in colours associated with one of the most recognizable brands in this country and the region itself.” Some extended the matter of branding beyond concrete and bricks to the services of The UWI: “May our offerings to our stakeholders be as beautiful as the new colours. Let us embrace and stop holding on to the past.”

I did not participate in this conversation because the email chain missed me for some reason, and because I guess I was still forming an opinion. The repainting job is half finished, some of the façade is still obstructed, zinc fences barricade the new extension under reconstruction. It’s difficult to imagine its majesty while it sits there with parts like a broken limb still bound in plaster.

I was more curious about how the colours infused themselves into my mood as I curved round the building each morning on the way to my own relatively new, still-to-be-named, glass and steel structure called the New Student Administration Building that has as yet to achieve iconic significance on the campus. The colour change caused me to look more closely at the adjacent buildings, to see how the new tonalities were picked up by the red trim of the nearby Dudley Huggins Building and by the postbox red roof of the old Agriculture building westward across the green expanse of field, how the warm adobe feel of rustic red and peach and green resonated with the shades of blue and green student housing complex of Milner Hall spanned by another expanse of greenery. Surrounded by leaves and by a host of flowering trees, African tulip in one season, yellow poui in the next, Admin Building begins to look like a finely crafted terracotta pot set amidst a tropical garden, the feeling of sun on faded red brick rather than the gray of cold and rainy days.

It also brought to mind comparisons between St Augustine and the other physical UWI campuses. The iconic Year of the Child mural on the face of the Mona campus administration building greets one and immediately transmits the message of Jamaican art and creativity and is the focal point of its branding. I thought of the relatively new makeover of the Cave Hill campus, its centre of gravity the manicured cricket oval and tropical pavilion ringed by buildings of many colours, designs and hues added to pick up meanings and significances for this generation of



Melancholia and the

BY PATRICIA

“The recent renovation and repainting of Admin Building, from a cool duck egg white trimmed with maroonish brown to orangy peach columns, generated a passionate conversation among colleagues about the change of appearance.”

decision-makers who will leave their signature, just as the colonial empire had left its own mark on the horizon. What does the present colour change say about this generation of staff and students? What of our souls do we bring to the aesthetic space of the St Augustine campus?

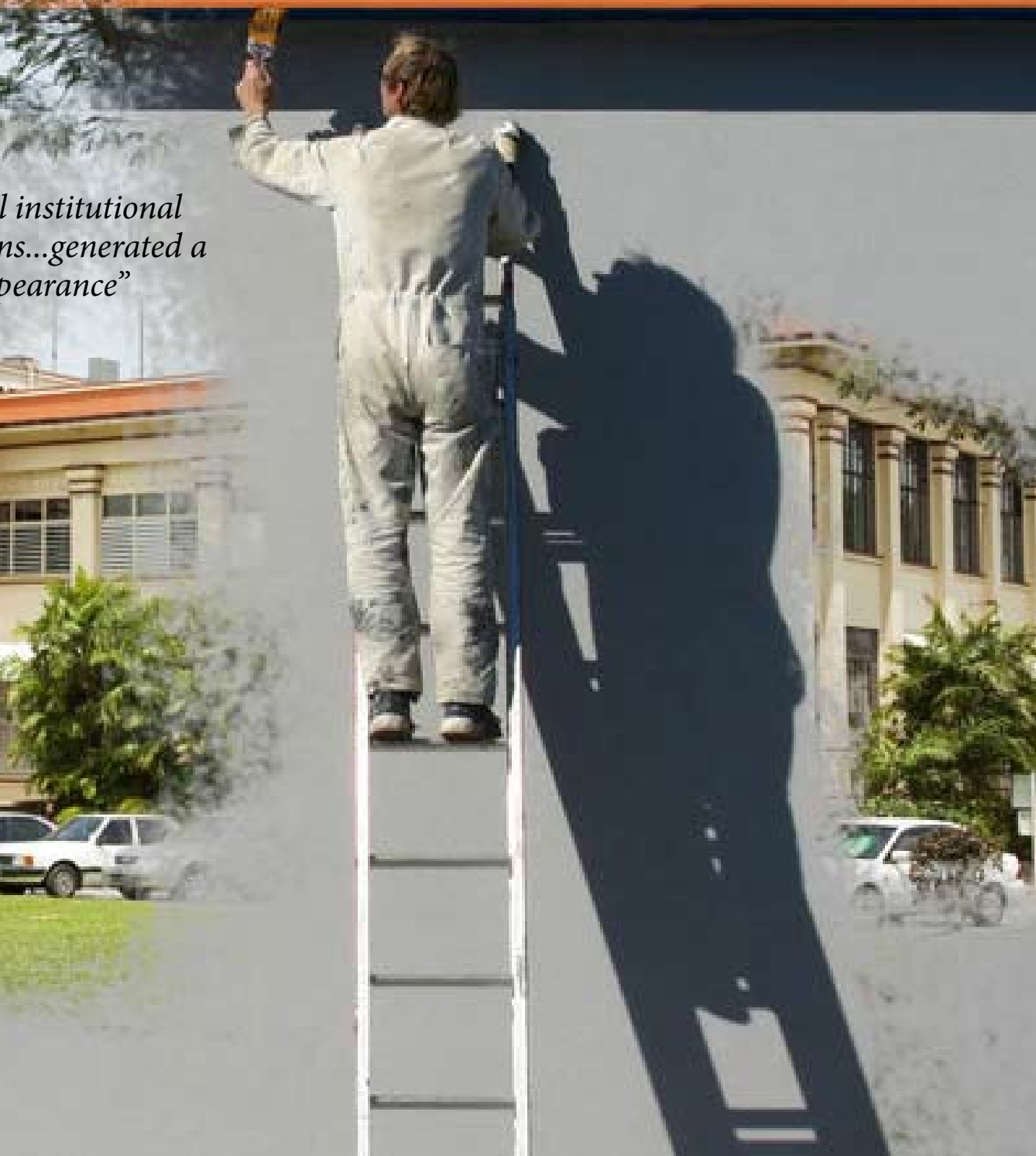
The structure we know as our Admin Building was actually completed in 1935 as the permanent home of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture (ICTA). Established in the early twentieth century, ICTA was originally “regarded as the main training centre in the (British) Empire at

which instruction covering the whole field of agriculture and agricultural science under tropical conditions can be obtained.” (Hansard) The primary purpose of the College then was for training personnel to fill positions on the agricultural staffs of the Crown Colonies and Protectorates? Along with its trained subjects, ICTA also left a handsome colonial legacy in architecture, high columns and ceilings, wide galleries and corridors, and tall windows, all of which permitted the tropical breeze to wave its way past the royal and other palms that signified its British heritage.

The remaking of an icon

MOHAMMED

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The colours were sombre, authoritative, dignified, coolly unemotional as the building and its functions were conceived, never moving beyond the institutional whites, grays and creams that resonated the solidity of marble and stone. That The UWI has maintained the building's façade, despite necessary interior changes, is a testament to its desire to retain the continuities of history and tradition. A building represents more than the stone and mortar from which it is made. They are vaults of memory that predate us. As Derek Walcott says “if a thought can go back for over seventy years

there is hope for us yet in the tropics.”

Buildings are fundamental parts of our iconic landscape, key passages in their creation in fact making them into the iconic significance they become for a country. The famous fire and rebuilding of the Red House (God forbid that it be painted in any other colour, it is after all called the Red House)—which parallels with Westminster in London and the Capitol in Washington. These are the political foundations on which we assume that the still elusive good governance will one day prevail. Institutions also attain

iconic significance and The University of the West Indies at St Augustine itself has undoubtedly become one such icon in Trinidad. This is why those of us who work at UWI get so emotional when a tree dies or is cut down. Benches and classrooms have significance to individuals, and names of buildings like Daaga Hall rise up again like the phoenix from the graveyard of the old.

The Admin Building has undoubtedly come to represent the UWI St Augustine “flagship” as one email respondent dubbed it or as another wrote, “...stands out as a constant and timeless feature in comparison to all other buildings that are located on this campus.” Apart from the continuous past on which it has built, its iconic significance also lies in the functions it serves—the seat of the Registry and Bursary, the main conference room where campus and university meetings were held and PhD oral defences were until recently heard, the repository where faculty went to submit examination papers, and for many years the centre of student administration. How many thousands of students, large manila envelope in hand, have mounted the front steps, nodded or not to the security guard sitting at the landing, and climbed up to the second floor to face their fate?

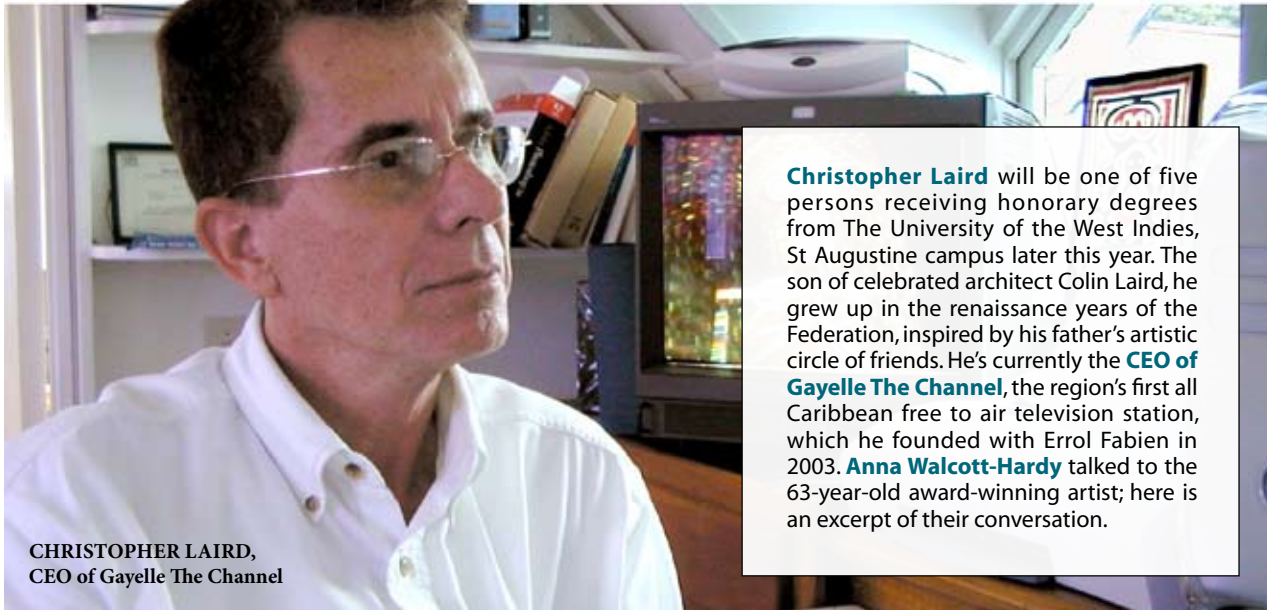
UWI, St Augustine will turn 50 next year, another coming of age. The UWI management has engaged the campus in a discussion on a new plan to re-invigorate the site, to create an environment more in tune with the times, to offer a rewarding experience of work and study, physically as well as intellectually, to welcome its visitors with warmth. Admin Building serves as the cornerstone of the new branding and there is a natural fear that this shift in aesthetic values is more than just the re-colouring of a building. That it signals a departure of the known and familiar, of tradition and dependability. But icons are not static; they are constantly made and remade. The revamping of Admin Building requires us to refocus the lens with which we have viewed the familiar. This does not imply doing away with old forms, rather it sometimes means reinventing their meanings and adding new dimensions that did not exist before.

There is no reason why this discussion on an iconic branding of the UWI related to and beyond Admin Building should be contained within the campus. It would be good for public, alumni, our present and future students to engage with us in this conversation. Despite the notion that icons are timeless, they are continuously reinvented and made relevant with each new age, like Andy Warhol's colourful reinvention of an iconic black and white photo of Marilyn Monroe. With his death, Michael Jackson became a household word to many youngsters who had not grown up with his music. The test of his iconic significance will lie in the inspiring new sounds, dances and imagery that generations will make of his work, not only by the simple rehashing of the legacy that he has left. The debates around the painting of the Admin building are healthy, engaging us in the passion that fuels iconoclasts and traditionalists, both sides equally valuable for progress. Icons ultimately are what we make of them, what we imbue them with, not what they make of us.



Prof Patricia Mohammed is Professor of Gender and Cultural Studies and Campus Co-ordinator, School for Graduate Studies and Research

HONOUR ROLL



CHRISTOPHER LAIRD,
CEO of Gayelle The Channel

Christopher Laird will be one of five persons receiving honorary degrees from The University of the West Indies, St Augustine campus later this year. The son of celebrated architect Colin Laird, he grew up in the renaissance years of the Federation, inspired by his father's artistic circle of friends. He's currently the **CEO of Gayelle The Channel**, the region's first all Caribbean free to air television station, which he founded with Errol Fabien in 2003. **Anna Walcott-Hardy** talked to the 63-year-old award-winning artist; here is an excerpt of their conversation.

Reel Life

Courage to make a dream of his own

Do you have a pet project?

Gayelle was a pet project decades in the making and I have to count my blessings that I have had a chance in my lifetime to be able to confront the dream in reality. It is still a pet project yet to be fully realised.

My other pet project has been to make a film of **Harold Sonny Ladoo's No Pain Like This Body**. I've been working on that for 35 years, ever since I read the book in 1974. **Tony Hall, Errol Sitahal** and I have a great screenplay but that is as far as we have got. Meanwhile I have been working on a documentary on Ladoo and have filmed about half of it. Work on that stopped with the coming of Gayelle The Channel.

For the past 30 years your productions have helped us to see ourselves, to better understand who we are as a people. With the challenges Banyan and then Gayelle have faced over the years, what do you think is the future of film in T&T and of local programming?

The conditions for Caribbean motion picture production are still difficult, but that is the nature of the business. Making films is never easy, anywhere. But as Cuban filmmaker **Gloria Rolando** says, 'you can't stop artists dreaming', even though for nearly half a century of television in the Caribbean we have had to dream other people's dreams.

Nevertheless there are hopeful signs: The Trinidad & Tobago Film Company is a huge step forward despite the fact that the Government has slashed its already inadequate budget [by] 50% this year; there are film courses at UWI and students are coming out of them with some promise. There are many young people out there now who fancy themselves as filmmakers. The technology is doing for film what it did for audio recording twenty years ago, putting it within the reach of everyone. When Gayelle started five years ago people came to us with ideas, now they come with DVDs.

Do you think that subsidizing the industry would help the progression of film or video productions and raise the standard and does this come hand-in-hand with censorship and regulations that may deter creativity?

Subsidies for film production are absolutely essential if the state is serious about developing the industry. Our

market is so small [that] massive investment over a long period is needed to kick-start the industry and establish momentum. This includes investment in developing marketing and distribution channels and infrastructure. The industry will not develop if we don't increase the size of our market and that takes real investment. It is a matter of faith in the real resource we have in the region, the creative drive of our people. This is what has filled the world with Caribbean carnivals; it could be a world full of Caribbean media tomorrow. But the record is more than dismal when it comes to our governments having faith in the worth of our people.

Where do you see Gayelle The Channel in five years?

Gayelle The Channel in five more years will have to still be at the centre of Caribbean media origination one way or the other. It has already radically changed our expectations of our media. Compare the media environment when we began to that of today: the explosion of channels, television personalities, series, shows and people employed in the industry. Yet we are still the only free to air station in the region with close to 100% Caribbean content, 24 hours a day.

In the next few years you can expect a deepening and sharpening of focus as economic realities are driven home, but the shape of the industry in five years will be unrecognisable compared to today. The glory days of broadcast television are way past and the new media is poised to turn established forms on their heads. I expect Gayelle to be in the midst of that. At the very least we will have been the main inspiration and model.

You've always seemed like such an even-tempered, unassuming guy, are you excited about being honoured by UWI, by being on stage, in front of the camera for a while?

I have always been a backstage person. I guess I have appeared unassuming because I know I am no genius and it has taken 300 productions and many years of work and self-analysis of my work to find my particular talent and become secure in that.

I am not a flashy film-maker. If you see my hand while watching a film of mine then I have failed in some respect. The people in my films are the subject of the films not me.



The Laird Journey

"I have always been inspired by the giants of our Caribbean civilisation, James, Walcott, Naipaul, McBurnie, Chang, those who I was privileged to come to know as people as a young person growing up."

"I grew up in a house that was often filled with such presences inspired by the dream of Federation and I saw a whole generation crash and burn with its demise."

"I guess all youngsters want to make movies but I first seriously expressed the aim of becoming a filmmaker at 19."

"I guess I have appeared unassuming because I know I am no genius."

"I see my films like I see my father's buildings. If you walk into a Colin Laird building, its elegance and his exquisite sense of scale will make you feel the dignity and infinite possibility of being human."

"I knew that I had a strong visual sense and a strong sense of mission in terms of expressing the Caribbean reality."

You know, I see my films like I see my father's buildings. If you walk into a Colin Laird building, its elegance and his exquisite sense of scale will make you feel the dignity and infinite possibility of being human. I like to feel you get the same feeling when you watch my best work: the joy and pain, the intelligence and enduring courage that it takes to live our lives together in this world.

I am not alone in believing that in this society the fate of the truly innovative and committed artist is vagrancy of one sort or another, literally and/or figuratively. Our history makes us so brutal with those who don't accept their station. I have seen too many of our heroes talking to themselves in the street to not take it as a caution and know that those who have escaped that fate have done so because someone SAW them, recognised them, loved them, usually a nurturing friend or family member and they were wise enough to accept that love as more important than their dreams.

Recognition and appreciation too often happens here after death. So that The UWI has seen it fit to give me this honour is wonderful. I am deeply appreciative, even while I feel the accusing press of the legions of those still unrecognised and restless warriors who precede me and with whom I still walk.

HEALTH RESEARCH

Unseen Burdens

Study tracks the hidden costs of being ill

BY CARELENE LAKHAN

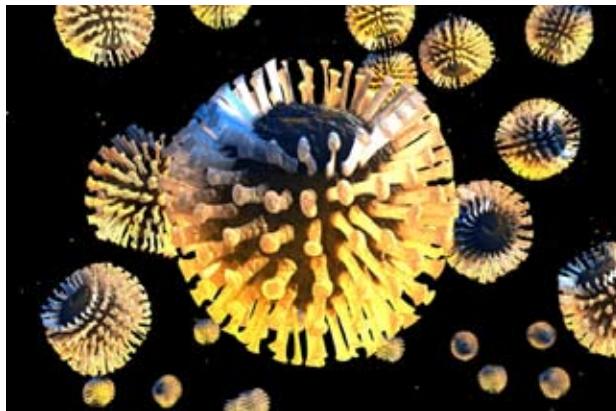
By the age of five, nearly every child in the world has been infected at least once with Rotavirus, the leading single cause of severe diarrhoea among infants and young children. With each infection, immunity develops and subsequent infections are less severe. Adults are rarely affected.

Rotavirus falls into a category defined as Food-Borne Diseases (FBD), caused by consuming foods and beverages contaminated by disease-causing microbes, pathogens or even toxic chemicals and other harmful substances. The World Health Organization estimates that half a million children die from Rotavirus infection globally.

Rotavirus infects cells that line the small intestine and produces an enterotoxin, which induces gastroenteritis, leading to severe diarrhoea and sometimes death through dehydration.

In an attempt to prevent Rotavirus in the USA, a human-bovine rotavirus vaccine, RotaTeq, was recommended for routine use among infants from November 2007 to May 2008. The results indicated a delay in onset by 2-4 months, and there was a reduction in magnitude by >50%. Although hygiene and sanitation have improved generally worldwide, Rotavirus diarrhoea has not been significantly reduced and the vaccine may be the best way to protect infants.

However, for this vaccine to become available in Trinidad and Tobago, we must determine the prevalence of this virus in our communities as this is unknown. A study on the Burden of Illness (BOI) is currently being done to help ascertain the levels. Data from this study will help the Ministry of Health to decide on whether this vaccine should be introduced to infants as part of their routine vaccines.



Rotavirus

The Burden of Illness (BOI) can be defined as the incidence and prevalence of morbidity, disability and mortality associated with acute and chronic manifestations of diseases (WHO, 2006). Simply put, this is the burden associated with having an illness.

This burden may be either direct or indirect costs. Direct costs include expenditures for hospital or other institutional care, drugs, physician care, or any additional direct health expenses.

Indirect costs would be the value of economic output lost because of the illness. These would include the value of time lost, activity days lost due to short-term morbidity costs, time lost from work (perhaps loss of a workday or two) and leisure activities by family members or friends who care for the patient.

The BOI related to FBDs and specific food-borne pathogens is currently unknown in the Caribbean. To determine its extent, a Caribbean Burden of Illness Study is being conducted in seven Caribbean countries to find the prevalence and estimate the burden of acute gastroenteritis (the key syndrome related to food and water-borne infections), undifferentiated fever and fever and respiratory illnesses and the priority pathogens commonly transmitted by food.

Data obtained from Trinidad and Tobago will be presented in the larger Caribbean study. These studies form part of a larger WHO initiative to understand the global burden of food-borne diseases. It supplements ongoing proposals implemented through CAREC, including: PAHO's regional cooperation in Food Safety and Emerging Infectious Disease program and WHO/Global SalmSurv (GSS) activities in the Caribbean.

Making *Campylobacter* media

Carelene Lakhan looking at the morphology of microorganisms

THE BOI STUDY CONSISTS OF TWO CORE COMPONENTS

A population based component: The population-based component consists of a population survey based on self-reported cases of acute gastroenteritis, acute respiratory illness and undifferentiated fever. It was administered as a retrospective population based survey with data collection via standardized questionnaires administered by trained interviewers.

A laboratory based component: The laboratory-based component includes a baseline survey of the major public microbiology labs in Trinidad and Tobago to determine laboratory testing protocols and the proportion of specimens that are tested for specific food-borne pathogens. Laboratory testing for a wide range of food-borne pathogens will be done for one year at the Trinidad Public Health Laboratory.

The study in Trinidad and Tobago is now in its second year. The population survey has been completed and data analysis is in its preliminary stage. The research also aims to estimate the cost associated with food-borne illness, its causes and related effects. A cursory look at the data has revealed that the estimated direct cost associated with having mild to severe forms of gastroenteritis in Trinidad and Tobago ranged from \$12-\$700, with an average of \$105 per case of gastroenteritis. This figure does not take into account the indirect costs.

Currently there is consistent laboratory testing at the Trinidad Public Health Laboratory for the suspected range of pathogens. This testing is scheduled to end in December 2009.

However, the study has not been all smooth sailing since the Trinidad Public Health Laboratory has not been receiving sufficient diarrhoeal stool specimens to test for the range of pathogens, although numerous efforts have been made to encourage people to visit their nearest health centre or hospital if they have signs and symptoms of gastroenteritis.

Discussions with key health representatives indicate that one of the major reasons for the diminutive number of stool specimens submitted to the lab was because people are too embarrassed to submit samples. Physicians often do not request that patients submit samples to determine the cause of their conditions, instead they prescribe medication to treat short term problems, leaving underlying causes unknown.

The only way we can find out what bugs are present in the body is if a diarrhoeal stool specimen is submitted. The information can then be used to explore risk factors for infection, identify gaps in surveillance and provide the basis for guiding appropriate prevention and control measures for food-borne. The University of the West Indies seeks the cooperation of the public to achieve the objectives of the BOI study.

If you are experiencing signs and symptoms of gastroenteritis (nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain), please visit the nearest doctor, public health centre and hospital and submit a diarrhoeal sample. Containers for the collection of samples can be obtained at health centres.

■ SUMMER COURSE

“**Ethnography?**” I was delighted to hear the word ethnography used recently in a global television news report. On the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., a reporter used the word to explain how well King understood his community and how his observations, participation and involvement in his community were essential ingredients in the development of his ideas and actions.

What then, is ethnography? In a sense, people from a very young age have some instinct towards the process of ethnography. A baby bird hopping along the walkway caught the attention of a young boy, and then myself. The boy ran after the bird, studying it. Apparently, he had spent the week observing the bird, feeding it, studying its nest, observing its habits, the food it ate, the number of siblings it had, and so on. The child then got a camera and began to photograph the bird, its actions and its environment. Without any formal training, we see these types of actions in ourselves when we travel, go to the market, need to solve a problem, design a space or even purchase an item for our homes. This intuition and investment in a topic in a holistic approach can be developed and transformed to enable us to apply methodologies and skills to projects at work, in business, in community and in the greater society.

“Human beings are by their very nature amateur ethnographers. We observe others and our surroundings. The skills taught in this course enable students to fine tune natural human capacities and to learn to observe while simultaneously participating and withholding immediate and ethnocentric judgment. These multiple abilities transform the amateur into a skilled qualitative researcher,” explains Dr Diana Fox, the cultural anthropologist who will teach the course.

Today, ethnographic studies inform many of the services and facilities in numerous areas of work and life such as in agriculture, arts, business, culture, design, economics, education, film, health care, life sciences, religion, science, sports and even theology. In recent times, it has become key to the development of solutions and to the design and creation of strategies, and has been used in both governmental and non-governmental organizations and in the private sector.

Seminar themes for the three-week course *Doing Ethnography: the Poetics and Politics of Qualitative Research* include: The crisis in representation: how to ‘represent?’; Position Self; Writing power?; Writing ethnography; Writing women’s stories; Diachronic vs synchronic analysis of observer and observed: the indigenous anthropologist; New Theoretical Frontiers: Black Feminist Anthropology; Visual Anthropology: Photography, Film and the ethnographic gaze; Ethnography as a tool for policy making?

Dr Fox, Associate Staff of the IGDS, created this course during her first Fulbright scholarship in Trinidad. She is Professor of Anthropology and Chair of the Department of Anthropology, at Bridgewater State College, Massachusetts, USA. (*Details in Calendar on Page 16*)



Dr Diana Fox, Research Associate of the IGDS and Course Lecturer of the Specialized Summer Course *Doing Ethnography: the Poetics and Politics of Qualitative Research*, talking to Rose Rajbansee a key informant while conducting ethnographic research in Plum Mitán, Trinidad.

Poetics and Politics

Doing Ethnography: the Poetics and Politics of Qualitative Research is a summer course offered by the Institute of Gender and Development Studies beginning on August 6.

BY KATHRYN CHAN



Dr Diana Fox with her daughter and research assistant visiting community members in Mt D'Or, Trinidad.

■ CAMPUS LIFE



Quiet enablers

A small Unit of care makes a big difference

BY OMEGA FRANCIS

He cannot climb steps, he cannot walk for even short distances comfortably, but he is as dedicated and studious as any Humanities student could be. How has he managed to cope? In five letters: AADLU.

What is AADLU? Established in 2007 after The UWI recognised that there was a need to provide adequate support for students with disabilities, the Academic Advising Disability Liaison Unit emerged from a new policy and has helped champion the cause of students who would have otherwise had a difficult time at the St Augustine campus. AADLU exists primarily to smooth the way for students with disabilities, to hear their woes and to liaise between them, administration and faculty to provide solutions.

According to Jack,* AADLU has helped him “immensely,” and that is an understatement, he declares. AADLU acted on his behalf to shift his upper level classes to a ground floor and thus made his life easier.

The Unit currently operates out of offices just opposite the entrance to the Library on the southern side of the St Augustine campus. It is headed by Anthony Jackman, with the assistance of three members of staff. It keeps a database of students with disabilities, primarily gathered from information provided by the students when they register with the Unit. Currently there are around 180 students registered, with disabilities ranging from dyslexia, the most

common, to cerebral palsy and physical impairments.

“Staff and students tended to look down on students, but since the policy has been set up, there is a recognition that the student population is changing. We have to meet international standards” said Jackman.

And that is what they have been doing. Jack’s story is not an isolated one, in fact, the students we spoke with have all said that the AADLU has played a large part in their ability to settle into university life and has given them the support, and at times, the necessary lifeline to deal with all that is thrown at them daily.

Take Shamlia who has Cerebral Palsy, she is passionate in her appreciation of how much the AADLU has helped her. Her experience at The UWI has been a wonderful one where, because of the intervention of AADLU, she has received the support she needs from both her lecturers and friends, who have learnt how to accommodate her every need and help her manage.

For Camille*, the AADLU has helped her write her exams in comfort, despite her visual impairment and all her requests have been met. Judging from responses, it won’t be a stretch to say that the staff at the AADLU act like family to all of their students as they are continuously described as considerate and approachable.

But AADLU is still young and its effect on the UWI is yet to be fully felt by those who do not have direct contact with them. Jackman himself knows that education is the key to changing the atmosphere of the UWI to one that will be less wary and more open to those with disabilities.

“We’ve embarked on educational programmes for staff. We’ve had workshops, two on dyslexia. We take part at the orientation programme, sometimes sharing a booth with the Ministry of Social Development,” he said.

But still the reality is far from ideal.

“The system is still not fully operational” he concedes, but they have not let this stop them from working towards their goal of making campus life as smooth as possible for students with disabilities.

“We have made some inroads in terms of bringing it [awareness] to the academic and student population,” he said, but he acknowledges that it is difficult to change the culture. “Some lecturers are still reluctant to accommodate students’ needs.”

This is felt by all students who register with AADLU, who know that to fully cope they need the support of the unit. On countless moments they have all used this support to try a little harder to overcome the obstacles.

Candace, a Criminology student who has Dyslexia, knows this all too well. She credits the AADLU for helping her understand her disability as well as showing her strategies and mechanisms to deal with its frustrations.

“Most people believe that you can watch someone and tell they have a disability. With me, you can’t and people need to understand that,” she says.

She understands that she needs support; support from family, support from AADLU and friends who at times act as editors for her many papers. This is all necessary for her to get through university and even though it is a hindrance at times, it’s something she needs to do to move forward. For her each mistake and hindrance is just another opportunity to work harder to achieve greater things.

Candace and the other students vehemently agree that the university population needs to be sensitised about the work of the unit as well as the types of disabilities there are so as to prevent discrimination and insensitive behaviours.

To these students AADLU is their saving grace, their champion, their support in times of frustration and discrimination. AADLU provides the voice that they would never have had and is in fact, a necessity, at a University that is taking great leaps and bounds into the future. Just ask them, they will tell you.

**Names have been changed for privacy.*



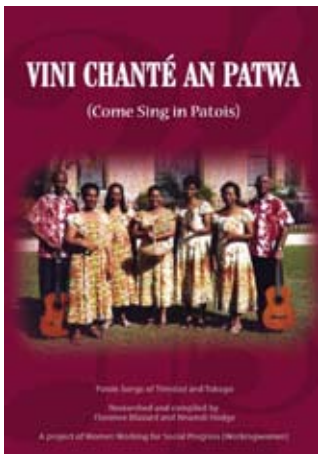
AADLU staff: Gabrielle Rousseau, Anthony Jackman, and Jeannette Reyes.

BOOKSHELF

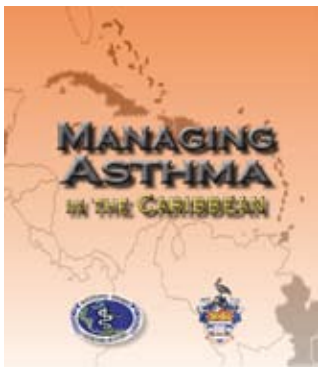
■ PRESERVING PATOIS

A new songbook and CD, called *Vini Chanté an Patwa* (*Come Sing in Patois*) was launched at the Centre for Language Learning (CLL) Auditorium, UWI, last month. They were created to ensure the posterity of the French Creole (Patois) language in Trinidad.

This songbook showcases 29 traditional Patois (Kwéyòl) songs, along with a monologue. Everything is translated into English, alongside explanations detailing the modern spelling system used for Patois. The project was organised by Florence Blizzard and Nnamdi Hodge, and was made possible by the grant of a bpTT Spirit of Community Award in Arts and Culture to the organisation Women Working for Social Progress (Workingwomen). The songbook also provides readers with a brief history of the language in Trinidad.



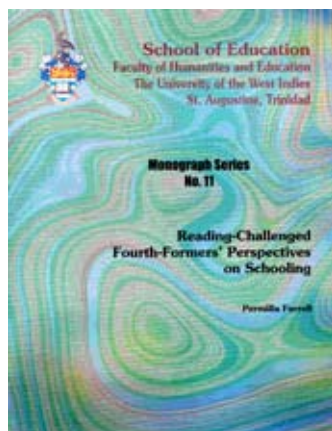
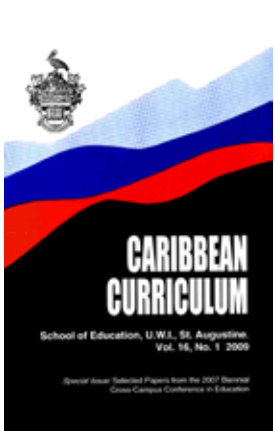
The CD, which accompanies the book, features the voices of members of the Vini Chanté choir, born out of a Workingwomen Patois class taught by Hodge. He is a graduate of UWI, where he read French-lexicon Creole (Patois) in the Department of Liberal Arts. The songbook is published by the UWI-based Society for Caribbean Linguistics.



■ NEW GUIDE FOR ASTHMA CARE

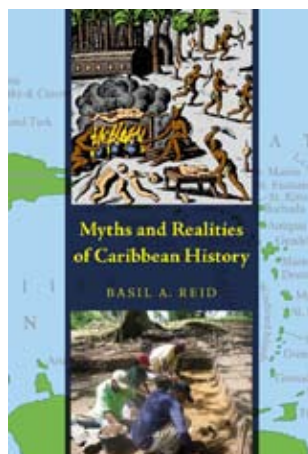
“**Caribbean Asthma Guidelines**,” a book targeting medical practitioners, especially in terms of recent changes in asthma care in the Caribbean, was launched at the end of June.

The lecture and launch were hosted by The Faculty of Medical Sciences, UWI in collaboration with The Caribbean Health Research Council, and Professors Lexley Pinto Perreira (Department of Para-Clinical Sciences) and Terence Seemungal FRCP PhD (Department of Clinical Medical Sciences) were there to speak on the updated material.



■ LEARNING AND TEACHING

The School of Education (SOE) has published Volumes 16 (1), and 16(2), 2009 of its journal *Caribbean Curriculum*. Volume 16(1) is a special issue containing selected, refereed papers from the 2007 Biennial Cross-Campus Conference in Education. Vol. 16(2) contains the following articles: “Secondary Science Teachers’ Metaphors: A Case Study, Parts 1 & 2,” by Susan Herbert; “Lower Secondary Science Students’ Misconceptions of Ozone Depletion and Global Warming,” by Rawatee Maharaj-Sharma; “A Qualitative Evaluation of the Lower Secondary SEMP Science Curriculum of Trinidad and Tobago” by Dorian Barrow and Jerome De Lisle; and “Factors Impacting on Student Learning: A Preliminary Look at the National Test of



■ UNLOCKING NARRATIVES

By Kevin Farmer
The relevance of *Myths and Realities of Caribbean History* in relation to Caribbean history syllabi, as well as CXC and CAPE examinations was emphasised during the book’s launch, as well as by its author, Dr Basil Reid during a public lecture at the Barbados

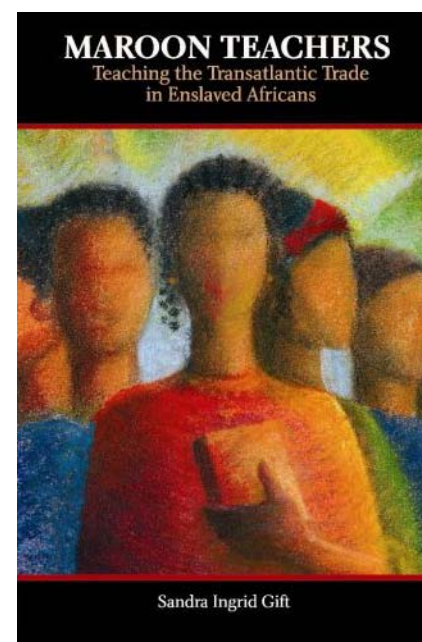
Museum and Historical Society (BMHS) in April. Given that the book is based on the most current archaeological research, the author recommended it be included as a required history text for secondary students throughout the Anglophone Caribbean.

Both the launch and public lecture were attended by members of the public interested in the history of the Caribbean from 7,000 years ago to the period of Spanish contact in the late 15th century and early 16th century. Dr Reid, a Lecturer in Archaeology at UWI, St. Augustine stressed that contrary to popular perceptions, the Caribbean did not begin with the arrival of Columbus in the region in 1492, but with the arrival of natives from South America who settled Banwari Trace in southwest Trinidad in 5000 B.C.

The lecture debunked several assumptions about the region’s history relating to the use of the terms Arawak and Carib, Ciboneys and Island-Carib cannibalism etc. Dr Reid also placed scholarly spotlight on emerging definitions of history, the multiplicity of cultural groups that inhabited the Caribbean for thousands of years as well as the origins and spheres of influence of these groups. Dr Reid’s presentation showed the continuing relevance of archaeology in unlocking many narratives of the Caribbean past.

The BMHS’s lecture room was full to capacity during the lecture which was followed by a very lively 30-minute question and answer session. Among those attending were Ronald Jones, Minister of Education and Youth Affairs in Barbados, Alissandra Cummins, Director of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society, and Maureen Grazette, Assistant Registrar of the Caribbean Examination Council., all of whom received complimentary copies of the book.

Kevin Farmer is Curator of History and Archaeology at the Barbados Museum & Historical Society.



■ A STARTING POINT

Sandra Gift, of the Quality Assurance Unit of the Office of the Board for Undergraduate Studies, UWI, has transformed her doctoral dissertation (she has a PhD in Education) into the book, **Maroon teachers: Teaching the Transatlantic Trade in Enslaved Africans**.

The book was featured in Choice a publication of the Association of College and Research Libraries (US) in a review by H.M. Miller of Mercy College.

Miller found that, “Teaching about slavery remains a challenge for many educators, suffused as the topic is with elements of blame, shame, guilt, anger, and ongoing issues of racial strife,” and that in the US the focus is primarily on the South and its plantation system with slavery depicted as an evil of the past.

“A strength of this book is that it adds to the literature by looking at slavery from an international perspective—as viewed by educators in Africa, the Americas, the Caribbean, and in Europe,” he wrote.

The book builds on descriptions and excerpts from interviews with educators, and Miller recommends it for graduate and research collections, though he felt it lacked a “roadmap for slavery education that could be adopted by classroom teachers.” Overall, he found the book full of insights into slavery studies and suggests that it could be the starting point for curriculum development in this area.

The book is available from Keith Khan’s Books Etc. 58 Frederick St Port of Spain and 14 Navet Road, San Fernando. It is also available from Ian Randle Publishers Kingston, Jamaica.

Trinidad and Tobago,” by John O. Anderson, June George, and Susan Herbert.

The School has also published the following monograph in its Monograph Series: “Reading-Challenged Fourth Formers’ Perspectives on Schooling” by Permilla Farrell (Monograph No. 11).

Copies of all three publications are available from the School of Education: Issues of Caribbean Curriculum from the SOE Library a cost of TT\$20. Enquiries to (868) 662-2002, Ext. 3718.

Copies of the Monograph from the Caribbean Educational Research Information Service (CERIS) at a cost of \$35. Enquiries to Leah Gordon, (868) 662-2002, Ext. 4048.

Careless Whispers

How misinformation feeds discrimination



Dr Derek Chadee makes his presentation to the audience.

The ANSA McAL Psychological Research Centre, the Department of Behavioural Sciences, UWI, and the Tobago HIV/AIDS Coordination Committee Secretariat (THCCS) hosted a seminar on **HIV/AIDS Stigmatization and Discrimination** in June.

The seminar aimed at fostering collaborations and networks with and among stakeholders in Tobago on HIV/AIDS related issues. The audience included health care professionals, HIV/AIDS advocates, stakeholder organisations and representatives from the public and private sector.

Among presenters were Dr Derek Chadee, Senior Lecturer and Director, ANSA McAL Psychological Research Centre, Rosanna Yearwood, and Jannel Philip, two MPhil candidates researching HIV/AIDS stigmatization and discrimination.

Presentations focused on research pertinent to HIV/AIDS-related attitudes, in particular HIV/AIDS-related stigmatization. According to the World Health Organization, “stigma and discrimination are the major obstacles to effective HIV/AIDS prevention and care.” Additionally the UNGASS country report for Trinidad and Tobago reported that “Stigma and Discrimination remains pervasive particularly against persons living with AIDS and most at-risk groups and thus create barriers to accessing testing and treatment services.”

Dr Chadee’s presentation *HIV/AIDS Knowledge Beliefs and Attitudes* highlighted findings from research in Tobago such as the role of attitudes in the expression of stigma towards people living with HIV/AIDS. He pointed out misconceptions of modes of HIV/AIDS transmission and the importance of the media (in particular television) in disseminating HIV/AIDS related information.

More specifically, the study revealed that the majority (92%) of the sample population thought that people were discriminated against because they have HIV/AIDS. Of the respondents, 31% were unwilling to interact with persons with HIV/AIDS in a social capacity. This included attending social gatherings and eating next to an individual with HIV/AIDS. Furthermore, 35% had negative attitudes towards persons with HIV/AIDS, saying they would not employ the individual, rent an apartment to them or live next door to them.

Over 10% of respondents were misinformed about HIV/AIDS transmission via casual contact and interaction. Some of the misconceptions were that HIV can be spread by sharing plates, forks or glasses with someone infected and

that HIV/AIDS can be spread by using public toilets.

Concerning the importance of the media in disseminating information on HIV/AIDS, television and newspapers combined accounted for 70% of HIV/AIDS information. People got most of their HIV/AIDS information from the television (50%) and newspapers (20%).

Jannel Philip’s presentation, *Health Care Providers’ Attitudes towards People Living with HIV/AIDS and Perception of Occupational Risk*, focused on health care providers’ willingness to treat people living with HIV/AIDS. The research captured the expressed concerns of health care providers for occupational exposure to HIV/AIDS. The availability of resources to deal with accidental HIV exposure as well as providers’ awareness of post exposure prophylaxis and care were other concerns. These concerns influence health care providers’ willingness to interact with patients with HIV/AIDS.

Research has shown that health care professionals have a tremendous influence on the physical and emotional welfare of people living with HIV and AIDS. An understanding of health care workers’ concerns is important to improve provider-client relationships. This research hopes to provide an opportunity for dialogue with health care workers to determine these concerns and to subsequently make meaningful contributions towards addressing issues affecting interaction among health care providers and patients living with HIV.

Rosana Yearwood’s presentation, *HIV/AIDS: Stigmatization, Fear, Perception of Risk and Barriers to HIV Testing*, examined how blame contributes to stigmatizing attitudes directed at people living with HIV/AIDS. Fear of contracting HIV/AIDS, and perception of risk of contracting HIV through non viable routes were expressed as two critical factors contributing to the stigmatization. Social and psychological barriers to HIV testing and the stigma that accompanies them were presented as critical elements impeding the reduction of the spread of HIV/AIDS.

This study hopes to provide information integral to breaking the cycle of misinformation, fear, blame and stigma. It addresses the psychological barriers to HIV testing. Testing has been sighted as a major factor in fighting the HIV epidemic.

Participants asked questions at the end of the presentation and discussions moderated by Father Phil Isaac Chairman of THCCS ensued. Among the attendees were experienced nurses and a doctor, who shared some of their experiences.



UWI Professor named for CHOGM Commonwealth People’s Forum

In the lead-up to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in November 2009, Professor Timothy Shaw, Director of The University of the West Indies (UWI) Institute of International Relations (IIR), has been appointed to the new Advisory Committee for the Commonwealth People’s Forum (CPF).

CHOGM, which is the meeting of the supreme body of the Commonwealth, will be hosted in Port of Spain, Trinidad from November 27th to 29th, 2009. Held every two years, CHOGM brings together Commonwealth leaders to discuss global and Commonwealth issues, to agree upon collective policies and initiatives, to review global, political and economic developments, and to conduct a strategic overview of the Commonwealth’s work in support of the interests of member countries.

“I’m proud to be associated with advancing the CPF here, having been part of the previous pair in Kampala and Malta. The Forum and related People’s Space provide a unique opportunity to showcase the rich diversity of Commonwealth networks, concerns, contributions and possibilities,” said Prof Shaw.

The People’s Space, a component of this year’s CPF programme, is an interactive area with performances and mini-workshops, open to participants and visitors alike. The programme will also include an opening plenary session, workshops on key issues and the CHOGM theme, and field trips. The CPF assembly themes include deepening democracy, environment and climate change, financial crisis, gender, health & HIV/AIDS, HR, peace & conflict. The CPF, which will take place in the week preceding CHOGM, aims to raise the profile of civil society organisations and to strengthen links between them. It also seeks to create opportunities for dialogue between civil society and government ministers on priority issues in the Commonwealth. Inputs from the CPF are eventually presented to CHOGM at the round table with Foreign Ministers.

The CPF is organised by the Commonwealth Foundation, together with civil society and the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GORTT). Prof Shaw is engaged as a continuing member of the Civil Society Advisory Committee to the Commonwealth Foundation in London.

For more information, please visit the CHOGM website at <http://www.chogm2009.org/cpf.htm>, or contact the Institute of International Relations at The University of the West Indies, St Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago at (868) 662 2002 Ext. 2010 or 2011, or visit the IIR website at www.sta.uwi.edu/iir.

UWI CALENDAR of EVENTS

JULY – SEPTEMBER

Turtle Conservation and Sustainable Development Conference

July 28th-29th, 2009

Learning Resource Centre (LRC), UWI

The Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social & Economic Studies (SALISES) will host the conference, "Turtle Conservation, ecotourism and sustainable community development." The conference will serve as a forum for ideas on the critical issues related to the environment and its link to sustainable development.

For more information, please visit <http://sta.uwi.edu/conferences/09/turtle/> or call (868) 662-2002 Ext. 2391.

Strategies to Cope with Global Uncertainty

September 4th, 2009, Kingston, Jamaica

The Caribbean Centre for Money and Finance will host a seminar entitled "Strategies to Cope with Global Uncertainty—Choices for Caribbean Business and Finance." This seminar is intended to assist Caribbean CEOs and top managers of business and financial companies in planning strategies to cope with global financial and economic turmoil. The seminar will feature presentations by Prof Avinash Persaud, Member of the UN Special Committee on the Global Financial Crisis; Dr Auliana Poon, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Tourism Intelligence International (Germany and Trinidad & Tobago), Dr Andre Gordon, Managing Director of Technological Solutions Limited (Jamaica), Mr Suresh Sookoo, Chief Executive Officer of RBTT Financial Group.

For further details, please call the Caribbean Centre for Money and Finance at (868) 645-1174 or e-mail ccmf@sta.uwi.edu

UWI Life 2009

September
2nd-4th, 2009

UWI SPEC,
St Augustine
Campus



The UWI official student orientation programme is set to kick off in September. The three-day event is expected to welcome the estimated 5,000 undergraduate students entering the institution in the 2009/2010 academic year. The programme consists of three sessions geared towards family and supporters of the enrollees, part-time and mature students and first-year undergraduate students.

UWI Life Support: September 2, 5.30pm

For parents, guardians and spouses

UWI Life Extension: September 3, 5.30pm

For mature, evening and postgraduate students

UWI Life Student: September 4th, 9am

For first year/first-time undergraduate students

Guild Orientation 2009

September 7th-12th, 2009

St Augustine Campus

As is customary, the Guild of Students has a week-long slate of activities for new students. There's something for everyone, with activities ranging from aerobics, a 5K run, debates, all-fours and video games. There is also a heavy cultural aspect with tassa and African drums presentations, a Caribbean delicacies tasting, a comedy show, karaoke and gospel presentations, and the annual fresher's party. Orientation week will draw to a close with 'UWI Style', a show dedicated to fashion and featuring some of the local fashion industry's best.

Doing Ethnography: the Poetics and Politics of Qualitative Research

Tuesdays and Thursdays

August (6,11,13,18 and 20), 2009

Seminar Room, Institute of Gender and Development Studies, UWI.

Five seminars including lectures, discussions and a research component. The cost of this course is TT\$1200, plus a Registration Fee of TT\$50, that includes course packages.

For more information and to register, email or call: Kathryn Chan: Kathryn.chan@sta.uwi.edu Phone 662 2002 ext 3566, or Avril Patterson-Pierre, cgds@sta.uwi.edu. Phone 662 2002 ext 3549, Institute of Gender and Development Studies, UWI, St. Augustine.

UWI TODAY WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU

UWI TODAY welcomes submissions by staff and students for publication in the paper. Please send your suggestions, comments, or articles for consideration to uwitoday@sta.uwi.edu.



Campus Film Classics Continues

June 9th-August 18th, 2009

Centre for Language Learning (CLL), UWI

The UWI Film Programme is continuing its Campus Film Classics' series. The free, public screenings of classic films features some of the best films from the Caribbean, India, China, Senegal, the USA and more.

July 28: Hoop Dreams

Steve James/USA/1994/170'

Two African American boys struggle to become college basketball players in hopes of becoming professionals.

August 4: Rue cases nègres

Euzhan Palcy/Martinique/1983/103'

An adaptation of Joseph Zobel's novel about a young boy growing up on a cane plantation.

August 11: Affair in Trinidad

Vincent Sherman/USA/1952/98'

A night-club singer and her brother-in-law try to find her husband's killer.

August 18: Amores Perros

Alejandro González Iñárritu/
Mexico/2000/154'

A horrific car accident connects three stories, each involving characters dealing with loss, regret, and life's harsh realities, all in the name of love.

Films start at 5.30; except asterisked films which start at 4.30.

For more information, visit the Campus Film Classics blog at www.uwifilmseries09.blogspot.com or find it on www.Facebook.com, or contact Dr Christopher Meir at Christopher.Meir@sta.uwi.edu or (868) 662-2002 Ext. 4233.