



# UWI TODAY

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES · ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

SUNDAY 24TH JUNE, 2012



## They Built this City

Education. Youth. Art. Culture.



Panel names from left, top: Reflection. Synergy. Vision. Legacy. Innovation. Bottom: Cornerstone. Empowerment. Consolidation. Growth. Trust. PHOTO: VIBERT MEDFORD

Citi Trinidad chose to support four pillars of civilization for its local celebration of the bicentennial of their institution. Having decided on art, they chose the Queen's Park Savannah for their canvas. The next natural step was a partnership. Given UWI's international reputation as a distinguished Caribbean institution, it seemed a most desirable partner for such an initiative, said **Sterling Frost**, Senior Vice President Latin America Human Resources at Citi.

"The process included student immersion in our environment and meeting with our most valuable resource, our employees, who form and inform our culture. The students proved Gertrude Stein

true when she said, 'A writer should write with his eyes and a painter paint with his ears.' Capturing our identity in a unique, beautiful body of work, with attention, commitment and dedication to the vision from all involved from the inception through completion, was nothing short of exemplary," he said.

The work was created by students of the Department of Creative and Festival Arts of The UWI under the directorship of artist and senior lecturer, **Ken Crichlow**.

The mural: "200 Years: Past, present and the future," is made up of 10 interlocking panels of ideas, and is explained this way: a past that is represented in the spirals unfolding out of

the Trinity Hills, symbol of the landscape that continues into a present symbolized in the mobius strip and the hour glass that connect the buildings, our present environment of communication and its growth to a future seen optimistically as blue skies and symbolized in the steel pan of innovation, cultural identity and the foundation of the family group in the eternal symbol of unity, fertility and peace.

The student artists are: **Camille Bartholomew, Ramattie Chaitoo, Tamara Herbert, Makesi Lamont, Kevin Vincent, Noel Nottingham, Denique Ruiz, Shannon Yip Ying, Tovya Headley, and Myer Fisher.**



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■ Errol Simms and Carlisle Pemberton





## ■ BOOT CAMPS

# COMPUTING FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The Department of Computing and Information Technology (DCIT) will host its second Computing Boot Camp from July 23-27, 2012. The camp is for secondary school students of forms 4, 5 and 6, although undergraduates interested in computing are also welcome.

The founder of the boot camp, Dr. Permanand Mohan, a Senior Lecturer in DCIT, ran the first production in July 2011. This year, the DCIT hopes to increase the capacity of students from last year's camp by offering a number of scholarships.

The main objective of the camp is to expose students to the degree options offered at DCIT, as well as to raise interest in the field of Computing and Information Technology by providing hands-on experience with some of the global leading technologies in the field.

The camp covers Programming, Web Development, Mobile Application Development, Wireless Networking,

Database Systems, Hardware and Software Essentials and Mental Mathematics. These will be offered via a mixture of seminars, labs and practical demonstrations. In addition, university projects, competitions and computer organizations for students will be showcased. The camp will run from 9am to 4pm daily and will be managed by DCIT lecturers and postgraduate students.

Participants will hear representatives from leading international companies talk about the latest in Computing and Information Technology. Additionally, the camp includes field trips to see technology in action at some of the companies in Trinidad. Finally, participants will get the chance to see technology at play through the use of various Local Area Network (LAN) games and the popular Kinect Xbox station.

Interested parents and teachers can find further details at  
<http://sta.uwi.edu/fsa/dcit/Bootcamp.asp>  
or on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/dcitbootcamp>.

# BUSINESS FOR UNIVERSITY GRADUATES

The UWI in partnership with the National Entrepreneurship Development Company (NEDCO) and the Entrepreneurial Training Institute & Incubation Centre (ETIIC) invites you to be part of the first ever Entrepreneurship Boot Camp.

This new initiative is open to all recent university graduates and final year undergraduates. Participants will be given exclusive insight into the real life challenges of successful entrepreneurs and will also be equipped with essential business plan writing skills in a dynamic and interactive environment. Main highlights of the Boot Camp include:

## ■ THE FINAL PROJECT/BUSINESS IDEA COMPETITION

The three most innovative final projects or business ideas will be recognized and awarded.

## ■ THE BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION

The top three business plans will be selected for financial consideration of their project by NEDCO.

## ■ OTHER ACTIVITIES

There will also be a field trip and cocktail event on the last day of proceedings.

The camp runs from July 2-6 and 20, 2012 and costs \$350.  
The registration deadline is June 27 and it can be done at  
<https://sta.uwi.edu/ebc/>

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### *A New Approach to Research and Development*



On June 4, a very important report was presented by the Health Economics Unit of the Department of Economics, led by Professor Karl Theodore, which is featured in this issue. This collaborative UNICEF report, "Situation Analysis of Children and Women in Trinidad and Tobago," is the first of its kind to be done in Trinidad and Tobago and addresses the progress made in fulfilling the rights of women and children. It is a clear example of the strategic partnerships between our Campus and other organizations to advance real solutions to the myriad challenges to our society.

We often hear from members of the public that they are not aware of the research conducted by The UWI and its impact on their lives. We continue to work at more effectively promoting what we do and in March of this year, the UWI St. Augustine Campus launched a major initiative—the UWI-Trinidad and Tobago Research and Development Impact Fund (RDI Fund)—which is specifically geared towards producing more relevant research by providing funding for projects that address pressing issues in six thematic areas: Climate Change and Environmental Issues, Crime, Violence and Citizen Security, Economic Diversification and Sector Competitiveness, Finance and Entrepreneurship, Public Health, and Technology and Society.

The RDI Fund is unique in that it goes beyond providing financing for research. Its operational guidelines and monitoring and evaluation framework incorporate mechanisms for strengthening linkages between UWI research, scholarly outputs (such as peer-reviewed articles, technical reports and publications) knowledge transfer and dissemination and impact on regional development. This is a first for The UWI and based on the feedback, we are confident that it is a step in the right direction. I encourage multilateral donors as well as public and private sector agencies to contribute to this Fund as it could serve as a catalyst for shaping new partnerships between academia, industry and public sector organizations that drive policy formulation at the national and regional levels.

We look forward to the results of these projects, which will guide the development of new policies, products, services, etc. and in so doing, promote a better understanding of the impact of UWI research on society and help to maintain UWI's preeminence in the area of research and knowledge transfer in the Caribbean.

**CLEMENT K. SANKAT**  
Pro Vice Chancellor & Principal

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■ CAMPUS HISTORY

# Chancellor and Champion

BY PROFESSOR BRIDGET BRERETON

In a ceremony in October 2011, the handsome new building on Warner Street housing the Health Economics Unit was formally named for UWI Chancellor, Sir George Alleyne. It was an inspired choice, for Sir George is a lifelong and passionate worker in the cause of improved health in the Caribbean and beyond.

As Chancellor, Sir George chairs the University Council, works for UWI—often behind the scenes—and presides each year over the many graduation ceremonies held for our four campuses. He is the first UWI alumnus to serve as Chancellor: he was one of the early cohorts of medical students at UCWI, Mona. The founding Professor of Medicine, Professor Cruikshank, is said to have described him as “the brightest student to pass through” the University.

Sir George, a Barbadian, was a member of the Faculty of Medicine at Mona for some years, but then became involved in the wider sphere of regional and hemispheric public health. Throughout the 1970s, he served on PAHO’s Advisory Committee on Medical Research, and he joined PAHO as a full-time staff member in 1981. After holding increasingly important posts at PAHO, he was appointed its Director in 1995, serving two terms in that position. Sir George was the first PAHO Director from the Caribbean.

After he demitted office as PAHO Director, Sir George remained extremely active in regional health issues, using his many contacts and networks in the cause of promoting better lifestyles to combat disease and ill health. He was made UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean in 2003, and also Chair of the Caribbean Commission on Health and Development. This body produced an important report laying out a blueprint for responding to the region’s public health challenges.

In recent years he has crusaded for healthier lifestyles in order to reduce the crippling burden of chronic and non-communicable diseases—the main killers in many parts of the world, including this region, once the infectious diseases had been eradicated or brought under control.

Indeed, Sir George is himself something of a poster boy for this cause: he is a strikingly fit man who exercises regularly and watches his diet carefully. (I once met him in Kingston’s Emancipation Park when we were both in Jamaica for University meetings; we were both walking around the jogging track early in



the morning. He chatted politely for a time, then tactfully moved away since he was walking very much faster than me—and he is, let’s just say, quite a few years older...)

Sir George has received many honours for his service to medicine and public health, including a British knighthood and the Order of the Caribbean Community. He is one of the best known Caribbean persons and uses his international profile, and his many contacts, in the service of the University.

A very proper Barbadian gentleman of the old school—he makes no secret of his disapproval when relatives of graduating students make too much noise during graduation ceremonies—Sir George “Champ” Alleyne is, indeed, a Champion for the University and for the cause of better health in the region. The new name of the Centre for Health Economics—apparently the first building ever to be named for him—testifies to his stature and to the esteem the University holds for him.

*Bridget Brereton is Emerita Professor of History and author of the 2010 “From Imperial College to The University of the West Indies.” She has been writing this series of articles giving the background to the buildings that have been named after members of the university community.*

■ CAMPUS NEWS



From left: The Honourable Nizam Baksh, Minister of Community Development; Professor Alvin Wint, Chair, Board for Undergraduate Studies and Pro Vice Chancellor, The UWI; the Honourable Jack Warner Minister of Works and Infrastructure; Senator the Honourable Fazal Karim Minister of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education; Professor Hazel Simmons-McDonald, Campus Principal, Open Campus, The UWI and the Honourable Stephen Cadiz Minister of Trade and Industry at the cutting of the ceremonial ribbon at the dedication of lands to commemorate the construction of the MSTE Complex and The UWI Open Campus in Chaguanas on May 18, 2012.

## ■ ENVIRONMENT

**Climate change refers** to an identifiable change in the mean and/or variability of the properties of the climate that persist over an extended period of time. It refers to both natural and human induced factors. Weather patterns are becoming unpredictable and farmers must now adapt to intense temperatures and greater frequency of storms. Caribbean farmers must implement adaptation strategies to cope with climate change to safeguard food production. These adaptation strategies refer to adjustments in ecological, social, or economic systems. It also refers to changes in practices and structures, to reduce potential damages or to benefit from opportunities associated with climate change.

The Trinidad Government recently announced its aim to increase agriculture's contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to 3% in five years. On a macro level, agriculture contributed only 1.02% to GDP in 2004 but proves to be a significant employer in rural society (5%), according to the Ministry of Agriculture. The agriculture sector has been in relative decline for several decades. The Trinidad Government's objectives for agriculture include increasing farm profitability, international competitiveness and expansion of irrigated areas under cultivation and to reduce risk from praedial larceny.

Some techniques which farmers can adopt to help cope with climate change are sustainable water use and management, crop management, soil conservation and farming systems.

Sprinkler irrigation involves the application of adequate water to an area of land using machinery in the form of a spray, so it acts as ordinary rainfall. Climate change has a great effect on the ecosystem and growing seasons; which imperil food security and the lifestyle of humans. Rainwater harvesting helps to reduce flood, runoff, pollution of surface water and erosion. Sprinkler irrigation and rainwater harvesting methods are feasible in the Caribbean. They can generate large savings in water allocation, increase the productivity of agriculture to develop the wellbeing of farmers and alleviate the problem of poverty.

Scientists and multi-national corporations have developed new seed varieties with built-in pest and disease resistance using biotechnology, reducing the need for chemicals. These varieties enhance plant productivity, quality and nutritional value. They can also cope with water and heat stress. Genetically modified (GM) crops can cope with climate change and are resistant to new diseases. Conventional seeds are cheaper but the cost of GM seeds is offset by profits from the higher yields. There is an ongoing debate between GM and organic farming. Caribbean countries are yet to fully accept biotechnology. GM varieties have been introduced to cope with viruses. Cuba has a well-developed biotechnology sector, which produces GM varieties, bio-pesticides and bio-fertilizers. Jamaica and the Dominican Republic have put mechanisms in place to support the development of GM foods.



# Changing with the CLIMATE

*Caribbean farmers must implement adaptation strategies to cope with climate change to safeguard food production.*

Organic agriculture is important in helping farmers reduce emissions that contribute to climate change and increase carbon sequestration, so that they can be better adapted. Organic agriculture deals with practices including crop rotation, green manure, compost, agro-forestry and minimum tillage which help in the maintenance of soil productivity and fertility. Caribbean farmers are posed with problems such as drought. Farmers can practice crop rotation which uses available water and helps in reducing pests. Less pesticide use will reduce GHG emissions. Green manure and compost increase soil's organic matter and microbial activity which allows plants to withstand diseases. In Latin America and the Caribbean small scale farmers are involved in organic agriculture. Farmers experienced profits by adopting organic agriculture. Caricom countries are encouraged through government incentives to practice organic agriculture since it provides economical and environmental benefits.

Agroforestry is another means by which farmers can adapt to climate change. It is the incorporation of trees into agricultural farming to provide economic, ecological and social benefits.

It includes alley cropping, boundary planting, contour planting, Taungya (system) and intercropping. Agro forestry prevents soil erosion, forest degradation, improves soil fertility, medicinal value, provide construction materials, etc. Benefits of agroforestry outweigh the costs and Caribbean farmers can adopt this method of farming. Small scale Caribbean farmers may have limited land and other resources so the adoption of the agro forestry practice will be slow but beneficial since they can market the secondary products. It is also beneficial to medium and large scale farmers. It is difficult for farmers to adopt strategies on their own. Support programmes are required to provide capital and knowledge to help farmers adapt to climate change.

*Students in the Faculty of Science and Agriculture doing a Semester I course in Environmental Economics were asked to work in groups and produce papers on various environmental issues. This is an extract from the paper presented by a group comprising Kurina Baksh, Leean Ramdass, Ruqayyah Thompson, Natasha Mohammed, Sintra Benasrie, Neshia Mangroo and Chantelle Foote*



# Caribbean Farmers and the RACE AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

BY KURINA BAKSH

**Climate change is already happening.** Despite efforts to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases on an international level, the climate will continue to adjust to past and present emissions for the next few decades.

With the world population finally crossing the seven billion mark and the corresponding increase in demand for food and nutrition, climate change is a real concern for the sustainable development of agriculture, both globally and within small island developing states (SIDS). According to the United Nations Environment Programme, 2008, SIDS have a limited capacity to adapt to climate change. The main barriers to adaptation include inadequate data on appropriate options, limited financial resources and a shortage of farm labour. As a result, there is a crucial need for the development of a policy framework that promotes and rewards investments in capacity building and stakeholder organization.

Capacity building and stakeholder organization will play essential roles in both the mitigation of emissions and adaptation to climate change as related to agriculture, and will require open markets, protection of intellectual property rights and government support, such as agricultural extension programmes.

Extension involves the distribution of research knowledge and information and is a key component in supporting agriculture's role in capacity building. Extension programmes can help farmers prepare for greater climate variability, create contingency measures to deal with exponentially increasing risk, and reduce the consequences of climate change by providing advice on how to deal with droughts and floods. Extension can also help with mitigation of climate change by providing links to new markets as well as to new government priorities and policies. Establishing a Farmer Field School (FFS) is one agricultural extension element that can be employed to promote capacity building and stakeholder organization.



FIGURE 2: The following diagram illustrates some of the key capacities in the Caribbean region that are relevant to information on climate change.

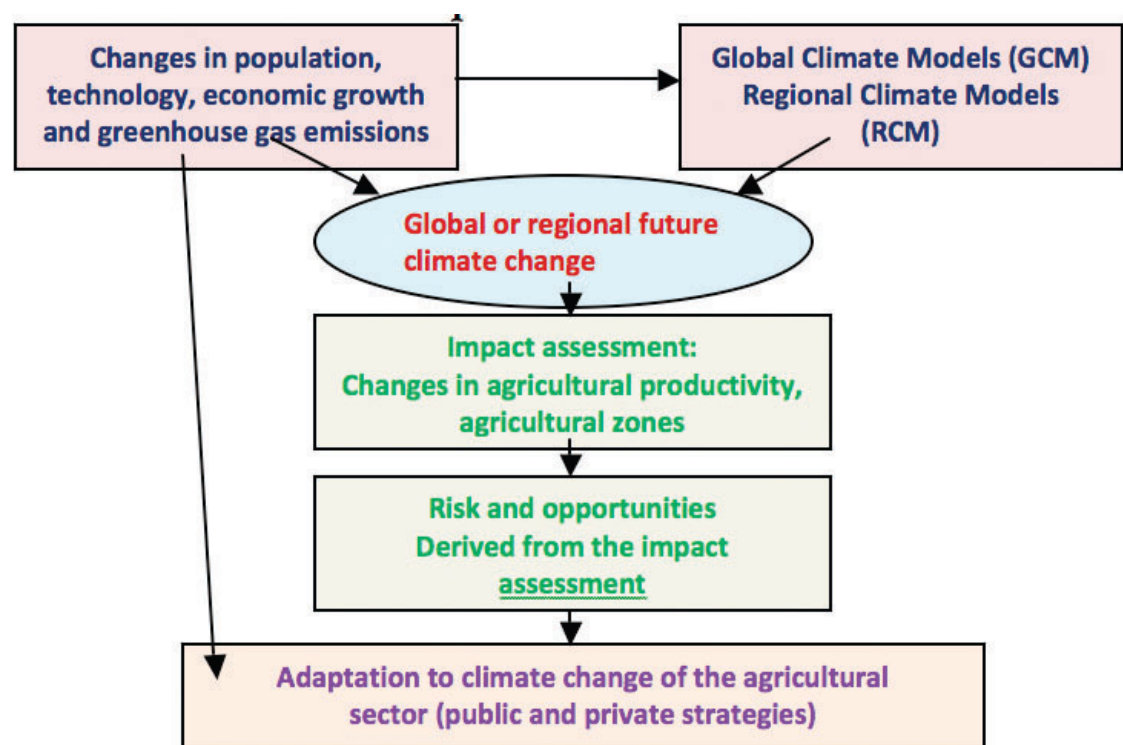


FIGURE 1: Links between climate models and scenarios for the evaluation of climate change impacts, risk and opportunities, and adaptation options in agriculture. Source: AEA Group

The FFS is a group-based learning institution that was designed by the Food and Agricultural Organisation in 1989. FFS aims to integrate concepts and methods from agro-ecology with experimental education and community development by reinforcing the farmers' understanding of ecological processes that affect the production of their crops and animals. This is achieved through field observations, conducting experiments and the analysis of groups. Climate change gives rise to many unpredictable changes that affects the farmers' ability to manage their farms. FFS helps farmers adapt to climate change by helping them to understand the various processes that can affect the performance of their production systems. The advantages of adopting this type of technology include reaching larger numbers of small scale farmers through group training, enabling farmers to adapt training methods, and giving them a feeling of greater control in agricultural development.

However, this method requires a lot of time from both farmers and extension agents as opposed to if technical recommendations were given, and experiments may not always be successful. It also requires substantial changes to the capacity of agricultural extension with respect to policies and execution.

Responses to climatic changes should not be subjected to a local level only. There is need to encourage responses

by the government on a national level since this will positively affect the speed and extent of adaptation. One study recommends that governments should further encourage adaptation on the local level by ensuring that farmers have access to affordable credit; land to increase their ability; flexibility to change production strategies in response to climate change, and that extension services of the Ministry of Agriculture reach rural farmers. Additionally, it recommended that governments encourage research; training and communication among farmers, and wider involvement of extension practitioners and research institutes concerning the most appropriate adaptive options.

Capacity building and stakeholder organization is only a part of the overall climate change adaptation framework. Emphasis must be placed on observing the current state as well as modeling and predicting the future states, which are crucial factors to climate change adaptation activities in SIDS.

*(Editor's Note: Trinidad and Tobago has conducted more than 40 Farmer Field Schools, and The UWI has participated in 'Training of trainers' exercises to spread the FFS concept throughout the Caribbean.)*





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 ■ MENTAL HEALTH

# VIOLENCE *as a* Way of Life

“Violence that begins in schools is also a predictor of future criminal behaviour and there is evidence that this future criminal behaviour can be prevented through curbing it in the schools. An important component of this process is the reduction of bullying. Bullying is also a predictor of criminal behaviour, as well as other negative outcomes such as depression and suicide for both perpetrators and victims.”

BY PROFESSOR GERARD HUTCHINSON

**Violence and violent behaviour** continue to plague societies, especially in the developing world. Latin America and the Caribbean is a region with some of the highest per capita rates of violent acts, both toward persons and property. Why is this so?

Recent studies suggest that risk factors which increase the chance of becoming addicted to substances also increase the risk of engaging in violent behaviour. These include being brought up in homes where there is marital instability, homes in which members had chronic mental health problems and where one or both parents had criminal records. None of these are mutually exclusive and may reflect an overriding genetic risk made manifest in different ways.

A social atmosphere of violence, benign tolerance and lax law enforcement also contribute to the social facilitators of violent behaviour. Substance use is a great predictor. One study in the United States suggested that alcohol use was the single greatest predictor of violent behaviour among adults.

Studies of violent behaviour found many contributing factors to violence. These have been identified as predisposing though not necessarily predicting violent behaviour. They may be categorized as follows:

- *Socioeconomic*
- *Psychological*
- *Psychiatric*
- *Familial*
- *Cognitive*

## ■ SOCIOECONOMIC

There is a high correlation between lower socioeconomic class and violent behaviour. People who come from poorer backgrounds are overrepresented in the serious offender population and it has been shown that socioeconomic deprivation at age eight is one of the best predictors of adolescent delinquency. For some children, exposure to violence in their community, also correlated with socioeconomic status, was a reliable predictor of their own violence. This has not been a consistent finding and may be mediated by other factors.

Socioeconomic deprivation is also associated with substance abuse and drug users tend to fight more, including committing assaults after drinking alcohol.

## ■ PSYCHOLOGICAL

Some personality traits are particularly associated with violence. They include high degrees of impulsivity, decreased empathy and an external locus of control. An external locus of control refers to functioning with a sense that the factors that influence the course of one's life are located outside of oneself. It creates a tendency to blame others for one's situation without taking enough personal responsibility.

Early aggressiveness and conduct disorder are associated with later violent offending and specific antisocial acts such as fire-setting and cruelty indicate later dangerousness. Predictors of these personality traits include experience of childhood abuse and exposure to chaotic home and community environments.

## ■ PSYCHIATRIC

Some psychiatric disorders influence violence. While psychotic illness is not overrepresented in the violent population, violence is frequent in the psychotic population when compared to other psychiatric sub groups. One study found that all homicidal adolescents interviewed fulfilled DSM-III criteria for a major depressive episode. Also, youths exposed to family or street violence may suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). This may contribute to violent behaviour, as discussed in the sections on socioeconomic status and familial factors. Developmental conditions such as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) are also associated with an increased risk of aggression and violence likely related to the increased impulsivity seen in these conditions. Hyperactivity alone is a risk factor for later aggression and delinquency.

## ■ FAMILIAL

Developmental impairment is the strongest predictor of violent behaviour in adolescence and adulthood. The factors influencing this impairment include severe marital discord, large family size, paternal criminality, maternal mental disorder and foster placement. Mental disorder, marital discord and paternal criminality may indicate underlying biological predisposition, passed on through genes as well as developmental experience.

While no one factor in particular predicted impairment, the more that were present indicated





criminal behaviour. Educational disabilities occur as a result of cognitive deficits and while not all disabled youth are delinquent, school failure and educational disabilities significantly increase the risk for involvement with the courts and for incarceration.

Another finding for those who exhibit aggressive, delinquent or violent behaviour is their tendency to make cognitive misattributions and to have impaired social judgement. Specifically, violent individuals are more likely to label neutral cues in their environment as hostile, thus increasing the likelihood that they will react aggressively to a particular situation. Males with restlessness and concentration difficulties were five times more likely to be arrested for violence than boys without these characteristics.

Indirectly, cognitive deficits influence other factors (such as psychiatric disorders and drug abuse). Improved cognitive skills can help an individual cope with other factors (such as familial and socioeconomic factors), and contribute to an increased propensity to resolve difficult and violence-inducing situations.

### Outcomes of Violence

While there are many predictors of violent behaviour, violence itself has been found to predict more serious problems in the lives of those who exhibit it. The obvious consequence is the risk of incarceration and a criminal record. In addition, there is a greater chance of becoming unemployed, being separated from family and becoming socially ostracised. In younger people, it is likely to decrease educational progress and facilitate criminal activity.

There is an intricate relationship between substance use, crime and incarceration. Numerous studies have found relationships among the three, so that the prevalence of substance use is a predictor of criminal behaviour and vice versa, and the presence of either is a predictor of adult incarceration. Societies with high levels of violence have co-existing high levels of substance use and abuse. International multi-country research found exposure to violence in a

variety of settings to be a significant predictor of later substance use in adolescents. This study controlled for any violence that the subjects were exhibiting, and so shows the effect that violence can have on young people who are not directly involved in violent behaviour. Violence that begins in schools is also a predictor of future criminal behaviour and there is evidence that this future criminal behaviour can be prevented through curbing it in schools. An important component of this process is the reduction of bullying. Bullying is also a predictor of criminal behaviour, as well as other negative outcomes such as depression and suicide for both perpetrators and victims.

Domestic violence in adulthood has numerous predictors, but being constantly exposed to violence as a means of conflict resolution creates the basis for an increased tendency to be violent in intimate relationships. This is in addition to the risk factors listed above; the most powerful of which is alcohol use. Children exposed to repeated domestic violence are more likely to engage in bullying and more overt violent behaviour in schools.

Recent evidence suggests that suicidal behaviour can emerge in individuals who are constantly exposed to violence and are therefore more likely to be aggressive. Risk factors for suicide include both victimisation and perpetration of violence.

Apart from the contribution to general social malaise, the impact of increased violence in a society falls on every member of that society. It affects how people perceive their environment, affects the business and industrial climate and the developmental trajectory of the younger population. To address it requires a multidisciplinary response incorporating mental health and social scientists, perhaps more necessarily than legal and law enforcement input.

*This is the final of a six-part series on mental health issues by Professor of Psychiatry, Gerard Hutchinson. Professor Hutchinson is the head of Department, Clinical Medical Sciences, School of Medicine, Faculty of Medical Sciences, EWMSC, UWI.*

a greater chance of developmental impairment. Social and psychological developmental impairment is usually consistent with violence.

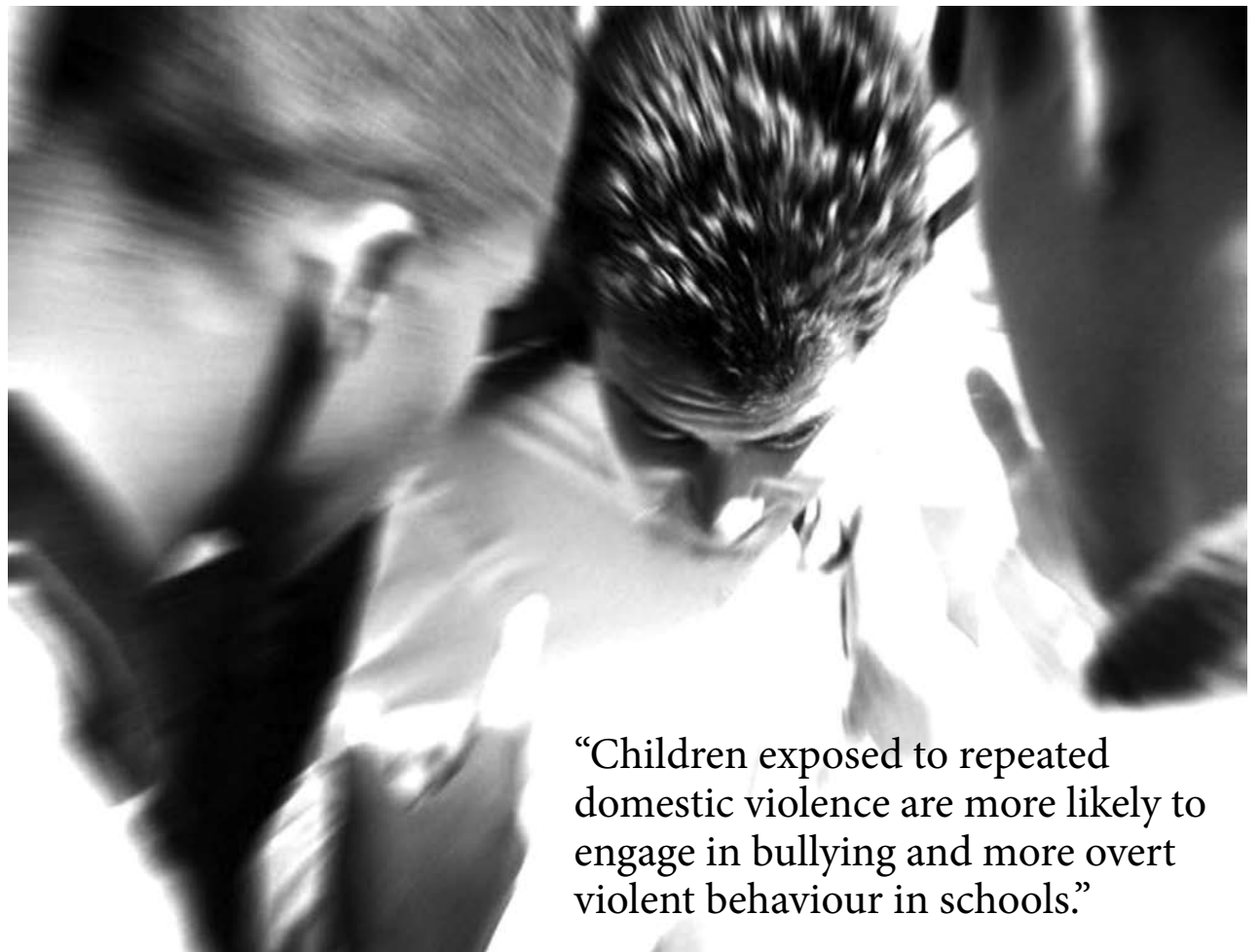
It seems that maladaptive parenting and childhood maltreatment—potential consequences of the above factors—affect the risk of violence. This may be mirrored by an elevated risk for interpersonal difficulties in relationships at every level.

### ■ COGNITIVE

Interestingly, in all the mentioned studies, some reference was made to improper cognitive functioning. Cognition is the process of thinking and learning. It is involved in decision-making and problem-solving. Cognitive skills include a range of skills, like IQ, language ability, non-verbal communication, critical thinking, reasoning and problem-solving. It also refers to some social skills, such as appropriate emotional reactions, ability to interpret situations, and ability to assign emotions (accurately) to others.

Limited intelligence (low IQ) has been associated with poor problem-solving skills, poor social skills, and risk for aggression and violence. IQ scores for delinquent youth is approximately eight points lower than the general population, after being corrected for race, family size and economic status. Low levels of abstract and moral reasoning as well as inappropriate interpretation of others' behaviours correlate with violent behaviour in youth.

In terms of cognitive disorders, a clear correlation has been established between the presence of an educational disability, school failure and subsequent



**“Children exposed to repeated domestic violence are more likely to engage in bullying and more overt violent behaviour in schools.”**



## ■ CRIME

# Guns and gangs



BY RANDY SEEPERSAD



**The most recent data** on gangs in Trinidad and Tobago come from a United Nations Development Programme survey of 1595 adults in T&T. Respondents were 18 years and older, with data collected in November 2010. It was found that 14.5% of respondents indicated that gang violence occurred in

their neighbourhoods in 2009, while 13.9% indicated that there was a criminal gang in their neighbourhood. Fully 18.4% of respondents indicated that gang violence was a somewhat serious, serious, or very serious problem in their neighbourhood. When the sample is restricted to persons who indicate that there is a criminal gang in their neighbourhood, fully 71.7% indicated that gang violence was a somewhat serious, serious, or very serious problem in their neighbourhood. When the entire sample is considered, 12% of the respondents indicated that gangs made their neighbourhoods less safe, while only 0.6% indicated that gangs made their neighbourhoods safer. When the sample was restricted to only neighbourhoods with criminal gangs, 82.4% indicated that gangs made their neighbourhoods less safe, while 3.2% indicated that gangs made their neighbourhood safer. Overall, 15.2% of the sample indicated that their neighbourhoods experienced a small amount of gang violence, 8.1% lived in neighbourhoods with some gang violence, while 2.3% lived in neighbourhoods with a large amount of gang violence. When the sample was restricted to only neighbourhoods with criminal gangs, 34.2% of the sample indicated that their neighbourhoods experienced a small amount of gang violence, 45.5% indicated that their neighbourhood had some gang violence, while 14.4% indicated that

their neighbourhood had a large amount of gang violence. Quite importantly, it was found that 16% of respondents in neighbourhoods with gangs reported some form of criminal victimization, as opposed to 9.6% of respondents in neighbourhoods without gangs. Persons in neighbourhoods with gangs were almost three times as likely to be victims of violent crimes compared to persons in neighbourhoods without gangs (10.1% vs. 3.7%). Where property victimization is concerned, 5.3% of persons in neighbourhoods with gangs reported such victimization compared to 4.2% of persons in neighbourhoods without gangs.

Additional evidence that gangs are responsible for a disproportionate number of violent crimes derives from homicide data from the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service. Fully one third of all murders for the period 2001 to 2009 are attributed to gangs. Even more troubling is the finding that the proportion of murders being committed by gang members is increasing over time. Whereas the proportion of murders committed by gang members for the period 2001 to 2003 was 11.3%, the proportion rose dramatically to 45.6% for the period 2007 to 2009. Gang murders exhibit a consistent increase for the period 2001 to 2008, with a slight decrease in 2009. It should, however, be noted that the observed increase in gang related murders could be due to increasing awareness and emphasis on gangs, or to the improved ability to solve murder cases. This argument implies that the proportion of gang related murders may have been high, even in the past, but is now only coming to light due to greater awareness of gang involvement in violent crime. At the same time, given the previously mentioned limitations in Trinidad and Tobago in assessing whether or not murders are gang related, it is quite possible that official data underestimate the proportion of murders which are committed by gangs.

Gang activity is becoming more violent as

evidenced by the increasing number of murders committed by gang members. Data from the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service also indicate that firearm usage has increased dramatically over time where murders are concerned. For the period 2002 to 2010, a total of 3264 murders were committed, of which 2421 or 74% were committed with the use of a firearm. Indeed, firearms have become the weapon of choice where murders are committed. Prior to 2000, firearms were used in fewer than one third of all homicides in Trinidad and Tobago, whereas after 2000, firearm usage in homicides consistently increased to the point where at present, firearms represent by far the predominant type of weapon used in homicides. These data imply that at least an appreciable proportion of gang related murders are committed with the use of firearms.

The link between gangs and firearms is a troubling one. Firearm usage has increased over time for a range of additional crimes including wounding with intent and shooting with intent. For the period 2002 to 2010, a total of 2164 woundings with intent were committed, with an annual average of 240. For this period, wounding with intent increased by an annual average of 13.4%. Shooting with intent exhibits similar upward trends. For the period for which data are available, there were a total of 1204 such shootings, with an annual average of 134. Shootings with intent increased at an average of 5.4% per annum. The only crimes in which firearms were used and in which there were decreases were robbery with aggravation (an annual average decrease of 2.7%) and robbery with violence (an annual average decrease of 0.3%). While there were observed decreases in these crimes, the quantum of such crimes nevertheless is cause for concern. With respect to robbery with aggravation, the annual average number of such crimes occurring is 1637 while the annual average number of robberies with violence is 455.

*This is an excerpt from Randy Seepersad's study, which will be published, in full, later this year in Professor Anthony Harriott's book, "GANGS IN THE CARIBBEAN: Their Rise and impact on the patterns of crime, state and politics."*



# FEARSOME FINDINGS

## SITUATION ANALYSIS OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

A UNICEF Report

*By the HEU, Centre for Health Economics, UWI*

**At the most general level** there are three main findings of this Report. The first is that from the point of view of appropriate legislation to protect children and women the country is in very good shape. The second is that in spite of the excellent legislative frameworks in place there are instances of horrendous violation of the human rights of children and women. The third finding is that Trinidad and Tobago has the potential to address the main areas of violation of rights.

When these findings are put together it becomes obvious that how we fare as far as respect for the rights of women and children is concerned really depends on the attitudes espoused by the population and the priority given by the government to the protection of the rights of the vulnerable.

An initial review of the legislation in place to protect the rights of women and children showed that almost everything required was in place: we were in very good compliance with the major UN human rights standards. This was true in respect of both the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

With the Children's Authority Amendment Bill 2008, the Domestic Violence Act of 1999, and the Sexual Offences Act of 1986, all in place, Trinidad and Tobago could certainly be considered a country committed to looking after its children and women.

This is why it was something of a surprise to find that the country had one of the highest infant and maternal mortality rates in the region. It was also worrying to note that more than half of all male students were involved in a fight, and more than 20 percent of students reported instances of bullying. Perhaps the most distressing finding of all was the number of cases of child abuse reported in calls to main NGO (ChildLine) dealing with this problem. Linked to this was the finding that there were children aged between 10 and 16 living on the streets, a phenomenon caused by parental substance abuse or physical and sexual abuse.

The reality is that the violation of the rights of children is very much a part of the social landscape in Trinidad and Tobago.

However, the Report is by no means a document of doom and gloom. The country's very high per capita income of more than TT\$ 100 thousand means that Trinidad and Tobago has the economic capacity to do much better in respect of its treatment of children and women. It is also true that public policy is now showing a greater awareness of the problems, and measures are being put in place to address them. It was therefore not a surprise that most of the young people interviewed for the Report were generally positive about the society and looked forward to a better future.

The first main recommendation of the Report was a call for more collaboration between government and the NGOs in an effort to make Trinidad and Tobago a genuinely caring society. Complementing this is the need for the Government to take the necessary steps to ensure that it is getting value for money in its social spending since children and women are usually important beneficiaries here. Where resources are scarce, it becomes essential that they be used efficiently and that we get the most for whatever is spent.

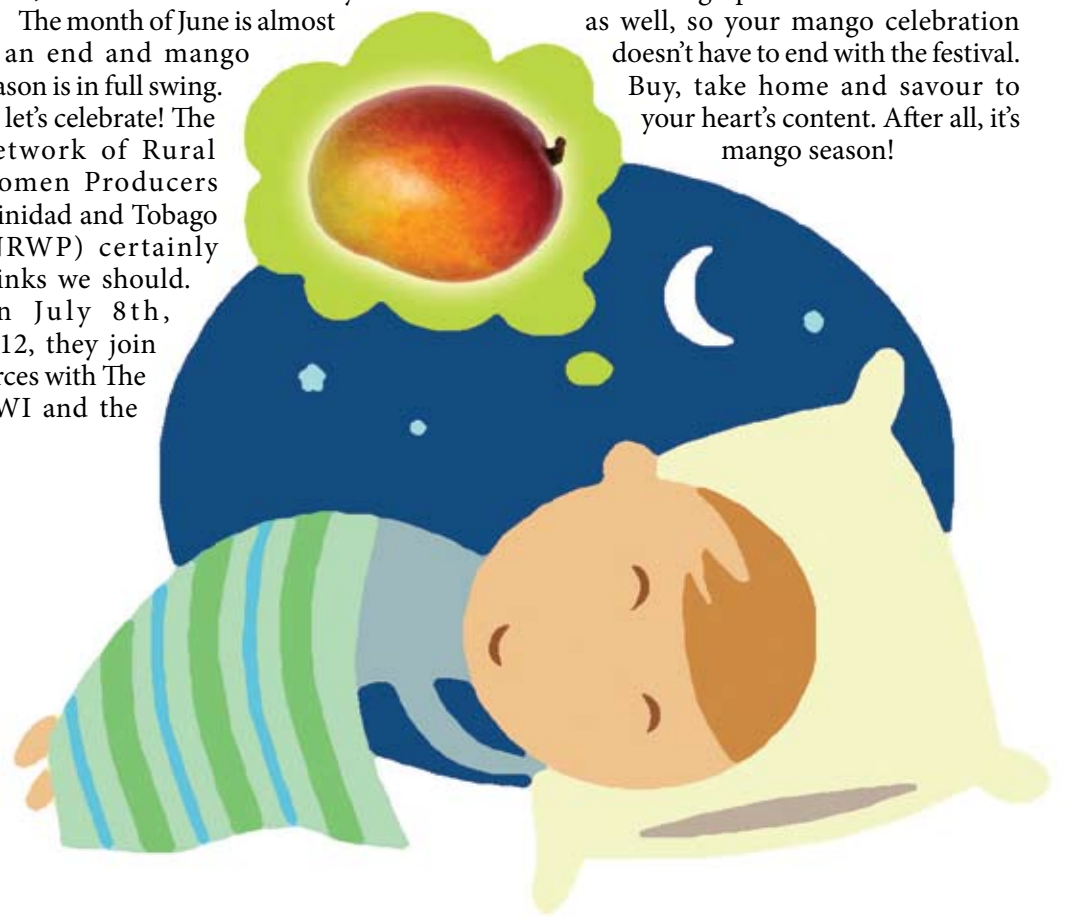
# I dream in mango

BY SERAH ACHAM

Here at the M&C Office of The UWI, all my colleagues and I need to do is look out the windows of our offices and we're accosted by the sight of not one, but two large mango trees. I step out the door and look straight ahead, and I can spot a cluster of no less than seven Julie mangoes, still mostly green, but I can see the tops starting to turn red—I think they should be nice and ripe by the end of next week. But, I don't have to wait that long. A further survey of the tree and I see more and more. Red and yellow bulbs peek out at me from behind the leaves at the top of the tree and I see big ones, hanging off the branches like golden Christmas decorations. A slight turn of my head to the left and there's the other tree, this one filled with giant, juicy Graham mangoes. They're too high for me to reach, but I want one oh so badly.

The month of June is almost at an end and mango season is in full swing. So let's celebrate! The Network of Rural Women Producers Trinidad and Tobago (NRWP) certainly thinks we should. On July 8th, 2012, they join forces with The UWI and the

Ministry of Food Production, Land and Marine Affairs, to host the 4th Annual Mango Festival. This year's festival is themed "A celebration of the utility and diversity of mango," and just \$10 gets you in to see the displays, sample the treats and participate in the competitions (or look on). Learn about the 32 different types of mango dispersed throughout our islands, and find out what this diverse fruit can yield—mango paper, soap and even beauty products. Feast on a cupful of mango ice cream while you root for your favourite in the mango sucking competition. You think your grandmother can make the best mango chow or curry mango in T&T? Well, you can head on over to the mango chow and curry mango competitions and find out. Mango products will be on sale as well, so your mango celebration doesn't have to end with the festival. Buy, take home and savour to your heart's content. After all, it's mango season!



*The month of June is almost at an end and mango season is in full swing. So let's celebrate! The Network of Rural Women Producers Trinidad and Tobago (NRWP) certainly thinks we should.*



# For Food and Agriculture

**DR CARLISLE PEMBERTON** will officially take over as Acting Dean of the new Faculty of Food and Agriculture on August 1, 2012. A Senior Lecturer in the Department of Agricultural Economics & Extension, Dr Pemberton will fill the post for one year. He talked to UWI Today about his vision.

## **UWI Today: What do you see as the benefits of the split in the faculty?**

The new Faculty of Food and Agriculture allows the University to pay greater attention to the problems of agriculture in the region. Also the formation of a new Faculty of Science and Technology on the St Augustine Campus and the renaming of the Faculties on the Mona and Cave Hill Campuses as Faculties of Science and Technology will increase the relevance of these Faculties to Caribbean society by their orientation to a greater technological focus.

But focusing on Food and Agriculture, the formation of the new Faculty will allow the University to concentrate on the development of the new technologies and systems that are needed to revolutionize agriculture in the Caribbean. And I say here the “University”, since the Faculty of Food and Agriculture, although located on the St Augustine Campus remains a single Campus Faculty with responsibility for the teaching of Agriculture for all the contributing countries of the University.

## **UWI Today: What do you see as the immediate challenges?**

- To mould the new Faculty into a force for change in the regional agricultural sector.
- To meet the great expectations of stakeholders for the solution of the various problems facing the regional agricultural sector. For example:
  - regional farmers are expecting the University to provide solutions for the rapid death of their coconut trees,



Dr Carlisle Pemberton

- many Governments of the region want to find solutions to the decline in cocoa and coffee production
- St. Vincent and the Grenadines would like the University to assist in solving the problem of declining arrowroot production.
- CARICOM Ministers of Food and Agriculture are expecting the University to contribute meaningfully to the perennial problem of food and nutrition security in the region, and the areas where the Faculty is expected to contribute

are readily identifiable in the recent CARICOM Regional Food and Nutrition Security Policy (RFNSP).

- To attain the highest academic standards within the Faculty and to ensure that all our programmes are internationally accredited.

## **UWI Today: You are interim Dean, but you must have a vision, would you care to share it?**

I look forward to a Faculty offering programmes so attractive to young people leaving high schools and other first-time University entrants from the region and beyond, that we become largely a Faculty of first choice. Also to become a Faculty offering to the region a stream of technological innovations and operational solutions that could assist the region's agriculture to be a developmental vehicle and a meaningful contributor to the alleviation of our food and nutrition security concerns.

## **UWI Today: How long have you been at the Faculty?**

I was a student in the Faculty since 1967 and after graduating in 1970, I went on to do the MSc (Agricultural Economics) here at the then Department of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management. After doing my PhD in Canada, I returned to the Faculty as a Lecturer in 1976 and I have been here since then, with short stints of teaching at the University of Georgia and Florida State University.

## **UWI Today: What in your view was the most significant change that took place while you have been there?**

I suppose the most significant change has been the increase in the number of females on the staff and in the student body of the Faculty. But academically the most significant change has been the expansion of the range of programmes offered in the Faculty. When I was a student, the only undergraduate degree offered in the Faculty was the BSc (Agriculture) General degree. Now our offerings include programmes in Agribusiness Management, Human Nutrition and Dietetics, Geography, Family and Consumer Sciences, Tropical Landscaping and Environmental and Natural Resource Management. The Faculty also now offers a wide range of graduate degrees.

## Agriculture Blog Winners

The **Agribusiness Society (ABS)** of The UWI has won the first edition of the Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation's (CTA) Yobloco Awards (Youth in Agriculture Blog Competition).

Last year the society began a blog which highlights technologies, techniques and methods, both old and new that can be applied to the agricultural sector at any level. The blog won in the Institutional Category for the Caribbean Region. As part of the prize package, winners in that category as well as the Individual category were invited and sponsored to attend the 3rd International Association of Agricultural Information Specialist (IAALD) Africa Chapter Conference in Johannesburg in May.

The Caribbean was represented by Keron Bascombe, author and creator of the blog and representative of the ABS. Other regional representatives include Barbadian, Keeley Holder of the Caribbean Farmer's Network and Jamaican Ivy Gordon of Jefferson Farms. The winners, runners-up and their prolific blogs can be found at the CTA ARDYIS website.

The society's blog is entitled "Technology4agri" (<http://technology4agri.wordpress.com/>)





# New Dean says it's about students

**MR. ERROL SIMMS** officially succeeds Dr Hamid Ghany as Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences for a three-year term from August 1, 2012. Mr Simms is a Senior Lecturer in Marketing and International Business in the Department of Management Studies, The UWI, St. Augustine. Prior to academia, he worked in the private sector in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago in senior managerial and marketing positions.

**UWI Today: In your career, what would you say was the one area that you are particularly passionate about?**

If I am to choose one area, it would be student development. We are operating in a globally competitive space and increasingly, our performance is being judged by the quality of our graduates. The Faculty therefore needs to continue to focus its efforts on the practice of student centeredness and ensuring that each student reaches their full potential.

**UWI Today: In your personal space, that passion is for?**

My voluntary service to the community and the church. By strengthening both our community connection, and moral foundations, we will be better prepared to face the current and future challenges in our region.

**UWI Today: What do you view as the overarching mission of the Faculty you are now going to lead?**

The overarching mission of the Faculty is to provide quality education to our students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, and to proactively engage in research aimed at finding solutions to the many pressing socio-economic needs of the country and the region.

**UWI Today: What are your immediate plans for it? Will there be any major changes, or even minor?**

One of my immediate plans is to get staff buy-in for the strategic imperatives laid out in the University's Strategic Plan, particularly in relation to Teaching, Learning and Student Development; Research and Innovation; and National and Regional Engagement. In order to achieve these strategic objectives, some change will be inevitable.

For instance, some reorganization will be required at both the Departmental and Faculty level, in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our teaching and education process by way of staff redeployment and Departmental restructuring. Urgent consideration will also have to be given to revamping the Assessment and Promotion procedure for staff so as to achieve greater alignment with the objectives of the University's Strategic Plan. In essence the Assessment and Promotion procedure needs to be more inclusive, and with appropriate weighting for research and publication, teaching, student development, community outreach, public service, etc.



Mr. Errol Simms

“The overarching mission of the Faculty is to provide quality education to our students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, and to proactively engage in research aimed at finding solutions to the many pressing socio-economic needs of the country and the region.”

**UWI Today: Social Sciences attract the most students, why do you think this is so?**

Over the years, The Faculty of Social Sciences has been very innovative in its approach to curriculum and course offerings. Indeed it has developed a reputation for being very proactive in responding to the human development needs of both the public and private sectors in Trinidad and Tobago and the wider region. It is my intention to continue with this innovative practice of curriculum reform and enhancement to satisfy the emerging national and regional needs.

## OPTOMETRY POSTERS

The first class of students in the Optometry Programme of the Faculty of Science and Agriculture at St. Augustine participated in research poster presentations on a wide range of subjects recently, under the supervision of assistant lecturer, Sandra Wang-Harris. The posters were on the following subjects:

- The Influence of Central Corneal Thickness and Race on Intraocular Pressure Readings using Goldmann Tonometry, Perkin's Tonometry, Icare Tonometry and Non-Contact Tonometry
- Health and Safety Assessment of Company Office Workplace
- Prevalence of undetected Ammetropia in school aged children between the ages of 6 and 13 years in North Trinidad.
- The hereditary aspect of glaucoma and investigation of its prevalence in Trinidad.
- An Evaluation of the Validity of US Designed Visual Information Processing Tests on English Speaking Caribbean Children
- Optimal ergonomic design of standardized engineering workplaces.
- Visual Outcomes of Cataract Surgery at the Sangre Grande Hospital, Trinidad from September 2011 to April 2012
- Impact of Sports Vision training on Cricketers



Sandra Wang-Harris



# FIRST GRADUATES



The Faculty of Social Sciences graduated the final-year students of its UWI/FIFA/CIES Post Graduate Diploma programme in May 2012. A collaboration between The UWI, The Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) and the International Centre for Sports Studies (CIES), these students are the first in Trinidad and Tobago to successfully complete the programme, offered through the Faculty's Department of Management Studies. The graduation ceremony took place at The UWI Learning Resource Centre Auditorium, St. Augustine.

The UWI/FIFA/CIES programme offers courses in Strategic Management of Sports, Sports Marketing, Law and Sports, Communication in Sports, Sports Finance, Sports Facilities Management, Event Management and Human Resource Management (HRM) in Sports.

Professor Clement Sankat, UWI St. Augustine Campus Principal, who delivered a speech at the ceremony, indicated that the programme is the first of its kind to be offered in the Caribbean. He challenged the new graduates, "our sport professionals," to "go out and do something big! Consider yourselves pioneers in this new and evolving discipline. Put the knowledge and skills gained from this programme to work and leave your mark on society."

Following the distribution of diplomas and entertainment by Arts in Action, the Theatre-in-Education Outreach Unit of The UWI's Department of Festival and Creative Arts (DCFA), valedictorians Shawn Garcia and Brent Phillips delivered valedictory addresses.

In October 2012, the Department of Management Studies will host a one-day seminar on Sports Marketing in collaboration with the CIES and FIFA.

*"The UWI/FIFA/CIES programme offers courses in Strategic Management of Sports, Sports Marketing, Law and Sports, Communication in Sports, Sports Finance, Sports Facilities Management, Event Management and Human Resource Management (HRM) in Sports."*

For further information, please contact Ms. Charisse J. Broome at 662-2002 ext 83724, or via e-mail at [Charisse.Broome@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:Charisse.Broome@sta.uwi.edu).

## UWI Girls Kicking it

By Sean Taylor

Last season the UWI men's team clinched the tertiary football league championship final for the fourth year in a row. Their campaign wasn't comparable to previous years in terms of dominance, but their collective effort was still enough to consolidate first place. In the world of tertiary football, UWI has developed a reputation for their quality. An already staggering trophy cabinet is a testament to their superiority. So when the UWI women placed second in the Eddie Hart Women's League last season, it was an achievement that went understandably unnoticed.

The UWI women's team has lived in the shadow of its male peers for years, but they seem ready to emerge.

The women's team has been around for three years and have been guided under the auspices of men's team coach Hayden Martin and fitness and assistant coach Denise Arneaud. Without fail this dedicated group trains three times a week on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 5pm until 7pm. Karesia Alexis who is one of the team's latest recruits, never played football before attending UWI, but has been integrated into the team without a problem. "I think the mix between the senior players and newcomers is a good thing because the seniors help us along the way," she said.

Balancing sport and education definitely applies here, and several members of the team attest to it.

"There is the physical aspect of it, as I personally don't believe in doing schoolwork only. You have to be balanced. It's a different atmosphere to just having your head in your school books and schoolwork all the time. It's relaxing, as well as the physical part where you keep active and fit; which is just as important as your school work," said Captain Sterle Timothy when asked what was on offer to someone wanting to join. Seasoned campaigner Candacé Brewster, formerly from the St. George's College and Petrotrin football teams said socialisation, teamwork and the opportunity to travel to represent your country were valuable benefits.

Three years of football competition has brought a lot of valuable experience to the squad. They participated in the UWI Games in 2011 and were defeated by both the Cave Hill and Mona teams. However in last season's women's league, they finished in second place—an achievement which has left them very optimistic about this year's campaign. Captain Timothy said that although they placed second last season in the Eddie Hart League and Knockout they want to move forward from that, build on what they learned and come out on top this time. The positive approach to their long term goals is embodied by the skipper who also believes that they can eventually surpass the achievements of the men's team as long as they put in the hard work and practice, even with the constant squad rotation caused by exams and other factors. Regardless of this, the UWI women seem on course for big things this season. Look out for them.



# A Volley in St Lucia

BY KAREN WICKHAM



Children who participated in the Kids Clinic PHOTOS: KAREN WICKHAM

The UWI St. Augustine Volleyball Team travelled to St. Lucia from the 24-30 May, 2012 with three objectives; to initiate a volleyball exchange programme, to develop their volleyball knowledge and skills and to conduct an outreach programme.

The tour was well received by officials from the Ministry of Sport, the St. Lucia Volleyball Association and the Ministry of Education.

The team visited Morne Fortune, one of the principal battle grounds between the French and the British for possession of St. Lucia and the remains of Fort Charlotte, where the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College is now.

Following the sightseeing day there was an early morning coaching exchange session at the Beausejour Indoor Facility with former St. Lucia national coach Terry Verdant and his team, Dig Set Point. Mr. Ali and Mr. Verdant coached the combined teams for two hours. This gave both teams an opportunity to experience different coaching styles as well as to mingle and get acquainted.

The UWI team played two games during their stay in St. Lucia but rain washed out the third. The first game was at the Vigie Sports Complex in Castries, against Jetsetters Volleyball Men's and Women's Teams. The women won their game 3-0 and the men lost 3-2. The second game was at the Sir Ira Simmons Secondary

School against Le Club Volleyball Men's and Women's Teams. The women lost 3-2 and the men won 3-0.

To enhance their theoretical knowledge of the game, a FIVB Game Rules Seminar was facilitated by a local FIVB International Referee, Wendell Baptiste.

One of the highlights was the Kids Clinic facilitated by the UWI team at a basketball court in the Mabouya Valley for primary school students from five different schools in the Mabouya Valley and Ciceron area. Approximately 70 children attended the clinic, which lasted four hours. They had never been exposed to volleyball before, as this sport is only played in the urban areas of the island.

Two of our UWI Volleyball athletes, Lee Leon and Kervin Jean, both St. Lucia citizens, must be acknowledged for their hard work in making the arrangements in St. Lucia for this tour. The majority of this tour was funded by personal funds of the athletes, donation cards from the Sport and Physical Education Centre (SPEC) and corporate sponsorships that were all solicited by the athletes themselves with the assistance of SPEC. The team was accompanied by their Coach, Macsood Ali and Sports Coordinator, Karen Wickham. Photos of the tour can be found on the UWI SPEC Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/UWISPEC>



The UWI Volleyball team

## Yee, the Chess man



**"I am happy about the victory,"** says Frank Yee about his second win of the Knights Open Chess tournament recently. It is the kind of laconic and neutral response one might expect from Yee, the Network Systems Administrator, at Campus Information Technology Services at The UWI.

The Knights Chess Club has been running this annual tournament for 39 years and it is considered a prestigious win. But Yee has already won all the big chess prizes, and later this year, around September, he will be seeking the one that eluded him: the national championship held by the Trinidad and Tobago Chess Association.

Yee is a member of the Paladin's and Checkmatters Chess Clubs.

He is a FIDE Master (FM), a chess master title bestowed by the World Chess Federation on players who achieve certain performances in international chess tournaments. He won the FM title in Guayaquil, Ecuador in 2004. Founded in Paris in 1924, the World Chess Federation (Federation Internationale des Echecs, known as FIDE from its French acronym) was recognized by the International Olympic Committee as an International Sports Federation in 1999. Chess is an affiliate member, or fully recognized by, National Olympic Committees in 115 countries, and chess as a sport is recognized in 105 countries.

*"The Knights Chess Club has been running this annual tournament for 39 years and it is considered a prestigious win."*



# UWI CALENDAR of EVENTS

## JUNE – JULY 2012

### LAST TRAIN

27 June 2012

San Fernando City Corporation Auditorium

The Department of History, Faculty of Humanities and Education, UWI St. Augustine, hosts In The Fires of Hope: 50 Years of Independence in Trinidad and Tobago with a panel discussion, The Last Train to San Fernando??? featuring Historian, Michael Anthony, San Fernandian, Penelope Beckles, Journalist, Louis Homer and businesswoman, Diane Seukeran. There will also be a special exhibition by the National Archives of Trinidad and Tobago, Ministry of Arts and Multiculturalism.

For further information, please contact Dr. Debbie Mc Collin at [debbie.mccollin@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:debbie.mccollin@sta.uwi.edu) or at 662-2002, ext. 83079

### HAIRSPRAY

29 June-8 July, 2012

Queen's Hall  
Port of Spain

The Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA) and Must Come See Productions present the 8th annual Broadway musical, "Hairspray." The musical begins at 7.30 pm on the following days: 29th, 30th June; 1st July and 4th to 8th July. "Hairspray" is directed by Louis Mc Williams, with musical direction by Jessel Murray.

For further information, please contact Ms. Marissa Brooks at 645-1955 or via e-mail at [marissa.brooks@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:marissa.brooks@sta.uwi.edu).

### CREATIVE WRITERS' WORKSHOP

8-19 July, 2012

Trinidad and Tobago

The 7th Caribbean Creative Writers' Residential Workshop is sponsored by the Cropper Foundation, and organised in partnership with The UWI's Department of Creative and Festival Arts and Department of Liberal Arts. Ten writers who have not as yet published any of their works will be chosen from across the Caribbean to join this year's residential workshop which will focus on writing fiction, plays and poetry. The workshop will be facilitated by Professor Funso Aiyejina and Dr. Merle Hodge at a secluded, writing-inducing setting somewhere in Trinidad.

For further information, please contact Dr. Dani Lyndersay at 628-4792, Ms. Rhoda Bharath at 779-7457 or Ms. Marissa Brooks 662-2002 ext. 83040, or via e-mail at [marissa.brooks@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:marissa.brooks@sta.uwi.edu)

### POECILIID CONFERENCE

25-28 June, 2012

Daaga Auditorium  
UWI St. Augustine

The Department of Life Sciences hosts the 5th European Conference of Poeciliid Biologists. This conference is held every two years and this year, for the first time since its inception, it will be held outside of Europe. Approximately 100 delegates from USA, Canada, Mexico, South America, Britain, Europe, India and Australia will visit The UWI St. Augustine Campus to attend the conference, scheduled to take place from 8 am-5.30 pm each day.

For further information, please contact Dr Amy Deacon or Professor Indar Ramnarine via e-mail at [poeciliid2012@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:poeciliid2012@sta.uwi.edu).



### DCIT COMPUTING BOOT CAMP 2012

23-27 July, 2012

UWI St. Augustine

UWI's Department of Computing and Information Technology (DCIT) hosts its Computing Boot Camp 2012 at The UWI St. Augustine Campus. The camp is open to all Secondary School Students and Prospective Undergraduates, and aims to introduce them to the Computing and IT fields at UWI. Campers will participate in a range of fun and intellectual activities conducted by lecturers, postgraduate students and professionals in the industry.

For further information, please contact the DCIT Office at 662-2002 ext. 83080

### CLUSTER MAPPING

9-13 July 2012

Institute of Critical Thinking  
UWI St. Augustine

The Caribbean Centre for Competitiveness (CCfC) hosts a workshop entitled "Building Technical Capacity in Cluster Mapping," the first initiative of a series of exercises, as part of the CCfC's Cluster Development and Technical Capacity Building Project.

For further information, please contact the CCfC Office at 224-3715 or 662-2002 ext. 83938/84134/84135, or via e-mail at [ccfc@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:ccfc@sta.uwi.edu).

### GEOGRAPHY OF REASON

19-21 July, 2012

UWI St. Augustine

The UWI collaborates with the Caribbean Philosophical Association (CPA) to host the CPA's 2012 annual meeting, themed "Shifting the Geography of Reason IX: Racial Capitalism and the Creole Discourses of Native-, Indo-, Afro-, and Euro-Caribbeans." Under this broad heading, the CPA will examine the impact of the global capitalist crisis on old and new thinking in the Creole discourses of the region.

For further information, please contact the Caribbean Philosophical Association via e-mail at [caribphil@gmail.com](mailto:caribphil@gmail.com).

## 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](mailto:uwitoday@sta.uwi.edu)