



UWI TODAY

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES • ST AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

SUNDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2019



Facing the Future



Young faces from the 2019/2020 academic year at UWI St Augustine are all smiles as they enjoy the presentations at UWI Life, the student orientation programme. UWI Life, held on August 28 at the Sport and Physical Education Centre (SPEC), is part of the campus' First Year Experience (FYE) programme, designed to make students' transition to university as welcoming, informative and enriching as possible. Life on campus can be both thrilling and challenging. Having campus support makes it better. In a few years time these same young people will be in their graduation gowns, preparing for the next chapter of their lives and looking back on this one. *Here's to a rewarding UWI Life.* PHOTO: DAVID RAMCHARAN

CARIFESTA XIV - 07

Majesty of Islands

Region's creative brilliance on display



VS NAIPAUL

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Words of Solidarity

Ngũgĩ Wa Thiong'o speaks to us



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E-asy Rider

Young inventor creates electric-powered beach bike



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY - 15

Innovation Protection

IP Help Desk provides tools to safeguard ideas and inventions



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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

A Welcome, and Challenge, to New Students

On Wednesday, August 28, a host of fresh-faced first-year students came together with the campus community at UWI St Augustine's Sport and Physical Education Centre (SPEC) for "UWI Life". The annual student orientation day event and part of the First year Experience (FYE) programme, UWI Life gives newcomers an opportunity for information, interaction and fun. In his UWI Life address, Campus Principal Professor Brian Copeland used the FYE theme "Dare to Be" to challenge the new students to strive for more in their time at UWI and beyond. *Included below is an abbreviated version of his address.*

My dear students, it is truly my pleasure to officially welcome you to our campus and to thank you for making the choice to #BeUWI! But I need to warn you that today, you are at the start of a journey that goes very quickly. You may not be old enough to realise it but, if you think of it, you would realise that time is not measured by the tick on the clock but by the passage of events marked by the number of activities that you will be engaged in. Just imagine, you will be back in this very space within the next three to five years for your graduation and you will remember today as if it were yesterday. Take a moment to take that all in... and, by the way, welcome to adulthood.

A university is traditionally defined as a place of higher education where students work towards a degree and where staff teach and/or engage in ground-breaking research. More recently, universities have become places where we discover, gather and disseminate new knowledge as before but then begin the process of applying that new knowledge to world problems. Some of you will have the opportunity to participate in that knowledge discovery and application process even as you work towards your degree. In the ultimate, you will be breaking new boundaries and casting away old concepts. For all our achievements, mankind does not have knowledge of all things.

Your presence here this morning is a clear sign that you have taken that first step to equip yourself with the knowledge, the tools, the experiences, and the network on your lifelong journey of **becoming**, of being all that you can be. I want to warn you: this journey of becoming requires determination, focus, and action. In this regard, I have some challenges to issue to you this morning.

Many of you have heard or seen that the theme of your First Year Experience programme is "Dare to Be". With that in mind, I want you to remember that theme and to fully realise that you have the power to become. My experience suggests that many of the limitations that prevent us from realising our fullest potential are embedded in the grey matter that lies between our ears. So, regardless of your circumstance, the influence of friends, family and others around you, it is really up to you. All you need is the courage to be.

Quick story: George Dantzig is recognised as a mathematician who discovered linear programming. Linear programming is a family of mathematical optimisation techniques that have proved effective in solving resource allocation problems, particularly those found in industrial production systems. How Dantzig solved this problem is a clear example of the power of the mind. He arrived late to class one day and copied two homework problems that were on the blackboard. He took longer than the submission deadline to hand in his homework solutions but the lecturer accepted it when he finally did so. Six weeks later, Dantzig found his professor, Jerzy Neyman, banging excitedly on the front door of his apartment. What Dantzig had copied off the blackboard was not homework but examples of two famous unsolved problems in statistics. One of them was the linear programming problem. Neyman wanted to send out one of his papers for immediate publication. I doubt Dantzig would have solved that problem if he knew they were not homework problems.



PHOTO: DAVID RAMCHARAN

So, I dare you.

I dare you to choose the path that requires you to "go beyond". As Alexander Haig, former United States Secretary of State said "Dare to the level of your capability then go beyond to a higher level." Do not settle for "good enough", as so many of our counterparts do, but rather "go beyond" those limitations as Alexander Haig has recommended. Remember too that there is no such thing as overnight success. Life doesn't give its rewards that easily. At the very least you have to set goals, plan the work, and then faithfully and often painstakingly work the plan.

I dare you to let your voice be heard. As you go beyond and stretch your imagination, you will sometimes risk being unpopular. But as the saying goes, a lot of progress can be attributed to people who took unpopular positions and went beyond the boundaries of knowledge. As unpopular as he is today, the one thing about Christopher Columbus that I admire is that at a time when the popular European belief was that of a flat earth, he had the courage and conviction to travel beyond the horizon and otherwise.

So, in the classroom, in the guild, in student associations, **let your voice be heard.** Significantly, dare to challenge your lecturers and what is presented as knowledge in your texts and scholarly papers – academics are also on a path of learning and knowledge discovery. Be a leader, even if it's within that space of your theories and convictions but make sure that they are based on fact and can be defended. Recall again that this is a university. It is not high school. It is not forms 7 and beyond. The new knowledge that I spoke of will not be attained if we sit in our knowledge comfort zone, never venturing to even pelt a brick at the boundaries of current knowledge.

I dare you to bring your ideas to the fore. This is aligned to my last dare but goes a bit further. Did you know that you are joining our campus community at a very opportune time? We are ushering in a new and probably long overdue era of innovation and entrepreneurship. We are setting up systems and processes that will support the development of your new potentially innovative ideas to the point of commercialisation. The aim here is to strengthen our vulnerable Caribbean economies by flooding it with

small and medium enterprises that are lead by you and your colleagues. Your mission is to collectively establish that new economy by the year 2034 – that is not far away. This is really an urgent matter. Start by engaging in intuitive thinking, motivated by problems waiting to be solved but grounded in learned facts. This often leads to the most brilliant designs, inventions and innovations.

I dare you to be committed to the vision of those who established this institution back in 1948 and take on the challenges I have given you to join in the mission to use our research, our knowledge, and our innate creativity, to deliver solutions to issues plaguing every country in the Caribbean. The big ones are poverty, crime, economic instability and ecological sustainability. Your mission cannot be a self-serving one – no man, they say, is an island. So again, collectively, we must create a sustainable economy, a sustainable society and a sustainable ecology for the peoples of this region. Dare to want more for your country, your region, your family, and yourselves.

Last but not least, **dare to connect with fellow students from the region, Latin America and beyond.** There will be more than enough opportunity to do so. UWI is now global in many respects, having set up centres on almost every continent and has established exchange arrangements with counterpart institutions almost everywhere.

Students, I wish you every success during your UWI life-changing experience. As UWI students and UWI alumni, may you live long and prosper. Thank you.

Brian Copeland

PROFESSOR BRIAN COPELAND

Campus Principal

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OUR CAMPUS

There was laughing, dancing and even moments of solemn reflection as young people from 10 countries came out for UWI Life, the St Augustine Campus' landmark student orientation event. Both local and international students congregated on Wednesday, August 28 at The UWI Sports and Physical Education Centre (SPEC) for the event created to welcome them to the campus community.

The 2019 incoming class includes students from France, Canada, the US, Nigeria, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, Antigua, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Bahamas. UWI Life is part of the Campus' First Year Experience (FYE) programme and provides a forum for new students to meet campus management, faculty deans and support staff. FYE was created to provide a well-rounded student experience and to integrate them into the campus community. This year's programme is themed "Dare to be" and is a compilation of orientation and transition events embracing every aspect of university life. FYE is one of the largest and most anticipated series of events at UWI St Augustine.

Campus Principal Professor Brian Copeland issued six dares to the incoming class, in keeping with the theme of the FYE programme. He dared them to choose the path that requires them to "go beyond", to let their voices be heard, to connect with fellow students from the region and beyond, and to be committed to the vision of those who established The UWI in 1948. (A shortened version of Professor Copeland's address can be viewed in this issue of UWI Today's Principal's message.)

Professor Copeland also dared the new students to bring their ideas forward as The UWI ushers in the era of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, by setting up systems and processes that will support the development of ideas to the point of commercialisation.

Students were also given advice for enhancing their university experience during a "Meet the Grads" UWI alumni panel discussion featuring four young entrepreneurs; Riesa Sumair – Founder of Lion's Den Seafood, Ajala Pilgrim – Marketing Director and Founder of the Annex Group, Afiya Francis – Founder of InSeason Tours and Kheston Walkins – neuroscientist and Co-Founder of Allegori Innovations Limited.

The event was hosted by social activist, artist and UWI graduate Amilcar Sanatan and also featured energetic performances by artistes Preedy and Jimmy October.

Welcome to "UWI Life"



International students at UWI Life. PHOTO: ATIBA CUDJOE



UWI Got Talent dancers limbo dancing at UWI Life. PHOTO: ATIBA CUDJOE



Peli the Pelican, the UWI St Augustine mascot, gives a bounce and a hug to a member of the Guild of Students. PHOTO: ATIBA CUDJOE



New students take part in a question and answer session. PHOTO: DAVID RAMCHARAN



Campus newcomers move to the performance of soca star Preedy. PHOTO: DAVID RAMCHARAN

HISTORIC MOMENT

UWI Celebrates Opening of Five Island campus in Antigua



Professor Stafford A. Griffith

The UWI has hosted landmark events to mark the historic opening of its Five Islands Campus, in St John's, Antigua. The events began on September 1 and included a ceremonial opening on September 3.

The Five Island Campus is the fourth landed campus and fifth campus of The UWI, joining its sister campuses in Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados, and the Open Campus, in providing world-class education as a global university rooted in the Caribbean. It officially began operations on August 25 and began registering students for programmes across three schools: Health and Behavioural Sciences; Humanities and Education; and Management, Sciences and Technology.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles noted that "this is a matter of great pride for The University of the West Indies as it continues its onward march across the Caribbean, serving the development needs of our countries."

He added, "The UWI was created to serve all our people equally. These are difficult financial times for the region but we must not succumb to self-doubt. Rather, more than ever we must stand together."

Established to provide a development platform for Antigua and Barbuda, the new Five Islands Campus is also



intended as a hub for the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and will expand The UWI's regional capacity to deliver higher education. The new campus represents the culmination of several years of planning and negotiation between The UWI and the government of Antigua and Barbuda as well as other regional governments.

Professor Stafford A. Griffith, who has been appointed as Interim Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal from August 15, 2019 to July 31, 2020, will steward the campus in its first year of operations. A formal search is in progress to permanently fill the position, along with other major posts.

Formal launch activities began with a public ecumenical service at The St John's Cathedral on September 1. Dignitaries included Antigua and Barbuda's Governor General Sir Rodney Williams and Prime Minister Gaston Browne. Dean of The St John's Cathedral, the Very Reverend Ernest Flemming, officiated at the service which began with an academic procession comprising principal officers of the university, including Sir Hilary and Professor Griffith. A ceremonial opening of the campus in Five Islands Village followed on September 3.

The Five Island Campus is the fourth landed campus and fifth campus of The UWI

UWI Engineers Develop Affordable Cocoa Industry Equipment

Among the reasons cited for the decline in cocoa production in Trinidad and Tobago is the significant cost of establishing production facilities such as chocolate factories. In an effort to help producers, the Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering (DMME) at UWI St Augustine has developed a line of affordable and efficient processing equipment. The equipment was showcased in August at its "Engineering Innovations for the Cocoa Industry" symposium and exhibition.

The event featured a display of nine equipment prototypes and models developed by staff of the DMME for the affordable harvesting, fermenting, pre-processing, processing and finishing of cocoa and cocoa products. A total of 13 prototypes and models were developed under the 2016 Regionally Relevant Cocoa Equipment Project (RRCEP), funded by the European Development Fund (EDF) through Trinidad and Tobago's Ministry of Education. The project centred on field research, mechanical design, machine development, fabrication and preliminary testing of prototypes.

The project also inspired a new generation of mechanical, industrial and agricultural engineers to develop machinery for the cocoa industry, with 20 additional machines being developed by students. These exist as proof of the fact that the equipment of the cocoa industry can be developed using local expertise.

For more information on this project, the models and prototypes, please contact Dr Renique Murray, Project Coordinator, at 662-2002 ext. 83173 or renique.murray@sta.uwi.edu.



Campus Principal Copeland, DMME Head Dr Jacqueline Bridge, and Mr Winston Rudder, Chairman of the Cocoa Development Company of Trinidad and Tobago, examine a cocoa bean grader.



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STILL #1

The only Caribbean University to be ranked
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UWI NEWS



SUPPORTING THE BAHAMAS post Hurricane Dorian

The UWI is providing tactical support to The Bahamas after the catastrophic category five Hurricane Dorian pummeled the country's northwest and central islands.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles expressed, on behalf of The UWI, his deep sadness and concern for the people of The Bahamas and reiterated the University's commitment to regional colleagues and partners. Vice-Chancellor Beckles advised that The UWI Disaster Risk Reduction Centre (DRRC), established in 2005, will again work closely with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) to advise on and support the needs of the country as necessary.

"The extreme vulnerability of our region is now finally globally recognised as an existential threat caused by climate change and global warming. Once again we have witnessed this truth in the extensive destruction and tragic deaths caused by the growing intensity of hurricanes. As we mourn the human loss in our Bahamas family and lament their massive property destruction, the University urges policy framers to fast track the application of science in building out the region's future resilience," said Vice-Chancellor Beckles.

Speaking earlier in the week, Mr Jeremy Collymore,

Resilience Consultant/Advisor in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor, acknowledged the need for emergency assistance. He noted that UWI's recently endorsed Operations Plan for interfacing with the Regional Response Mechanism would inform its internal coordination and external support to the impacted state. UWI engineering experts were available, he said, to participate in the Rapid Needs Assessment Team; a team of psycho-social professionals is also on standby.

"The University of the West Indies", Collymore added, "is committed to championing the proposition of a Resilient Caribbean State and, while sharing its services, will further identify lessons to inform our teaching and research towards this end."

UWI research conducted in Climate Studies, Environmental and Coastal Zone Management, Marine Ecology, and Disaster Vulnerability have and will continue to form the basis of advice and recommendations to the governments and people of the region. Combined with expertise in Engineering, Disaster Risk Management, Sociology and Social Work as well as Public Health Management, this demonstrates The UWI resources available as the regional institution continues to offer short, medium, and long term responses.



Ewart Williams, Pelham Goddard among 10 to receive UWI honorary degrees



Pelham Goddard

Ewart Williams

Former Central Bank Governor Ewart Williams and legendary musician and composer Pelham Goddard are among ten people who will receive honorary degrees during the 2019 graduation ceremonies at The UWI.

The honourees, approved by the University Council, are recognised for making significant contributions to the region and the wider world in their respective fields of expertise, including the Arts, Business, Religion and the Sciences. They join a select group of some 500 individuals that have been conferred UWI honorary degrees since 1965 when Queen Elizabeth received The UWI's first honorary degree (DLitt). This prestigious tradition has seen honorary graduands recognised annually since then.

The 2019 honorary graduands and degrees to be conferred are:

CAVE HILL CAMPUS

- Ms Maxine Williams of Trinidad and Tobago for Leadership – *Doctor of Laws (LLD)*
- Mr Stedson "Red Plastic Bag" Wiltshire of Barbados for his work as an Entertainer – *Doctor of Letters (DLitt)*
- Mr Alan Emtage of Barbados for Scientific Invention – *Doctor of Science (DSc)*

MONA CAMPUS

- Mr Patrick AA Hylton of Jamaica for his contribution to the field of Finance – *Doctor of Laws (LLD)*
- Mrs Thalia Lyn of Jamaica for Entrepreneurship – *Doctor of Laws (LLD)*
- Reverend Dr Burchell Taylor of Jamaica for Theology – *Doctor of Laws (LLD)*

OPEN CAMPUS

- Sir SW Tapley Seaton of Saint Kitts and Nevis for Public Service – *Doctor of Laws (LLD)*

ST AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

- Mr Ewart Williams of Trinidad and Tobago for Leadership and his service to the region – *Doctor of Laws (LLD)*
- Mr Pelham Goddard of Trinidad and Tobago for his work in music production and entertainment – *Doctor of Letters (DLitt)*
- Professor Emeritus Harold Ramkissoon of Trinidad and Tobago for his work as a Mathematician and his contribution to the development of Science and Technology in the Caribbean and beyond – *Doctor of Science (DSc)*

The Open Campus will launch UWI's 2019 graduation ceremonies on October 12 in Antigua and Barbuda; followed by Cave Hill Campus, Barbados, on October 1; St Augustine Campus from October 24-26; and Mona Campus, Jamaica, on November 1-2.

■ CARIFESTA XIV



The Lull in the Party by Marinna Shareef.



Pastoral Sydenham by Christopher Ross-Dick.

A YOUTHFUL DISPLAY

Emerging artists from The UWI's Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA's) gave regional guests and the national community a display of their work for **Carifesta XIV**. From August 17 to 25, the exhibition "Enter the Picture" was held at the National Academy for Performing Arts (NAPA) in Port of Spain. The recent graduates of DCFA's Visual Arts Programme are **Reanna Ali, Alex Kelly, Sarah Knights, Shane Hanson Mohammed, Christopher Ross-Dick and Marinna Shareef.**



Social Studies II by Alex Kelly.



August by Sarah Knights.



Flower Face (Growth) by Reanna Ali.



Basic Yellow by Shane Mohammed.

■ CARIFESTA XIV



ART, IDEAS and a Community of Islands

UWI and Carifesta, two regional institutions, come together for one glorious week

BY ZAHRA GORDON

At this year's 14th biennial Caribbean Festival of Arts (Carifesta), UWI St Augustine played a major role in revamping the tradition of regional scholarship by hosting the symposia "Journey Round Myself: Crossing Borders, Strengthening Connections, Breaking Boundaries."

The four-day event held from August 19 to 22 during the week-long festival was headquartered at the Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA) and included numerous master classes, workshops and 89 paper presentations by scholars from regional institutions including the Universities of Guyana and the British Virgin Islands, UWI Cave Hill and the Edna Manley School of the Performing Arts in Jamaica.

Although symposia have been a part of Carifesta since its 1972 inception, "Journey Round Myself" Chair, Dr Suzanne Burke, said the tradition had waned.

"We have found that over the years the role of symposia has been marginalised and the emphasis is more on the performative aspect of who we are as a people. What we've tried to do with this staging of Carifesta is reengineer the symposia as a central piece of discussing Caribbean creativity," said Dr Burke, who is also Cultural Studies Lecturer in UWI St Augustine's Department of Literary, Cultural and Communications Studies in the Faculty of Humanities and Education.

The symposia theme celebrated the 20th anniversary of a seminal article of the same title by playwright and historian Errol Hill, which focused on the importance of national theatre. "(Hill) said that for us to be able to envision ourselves as Caribbean people and be Caribbean people in the world, the arts had to play a central part; but for us to do that we have to be self-reflective and interrogate. We can't operate in silos. It was only fitting at the 20th anniversary

of this seminal article that we again look within to reach out," Burke added.

True to its theme, the symposia broke boundaries with the inclusion of practical workshops and master classes on topics ranging from the business of art to the building of Ramelela effigies. Conventional scholars shared spaces with the likes of musician Etienne Charles, playwright Tony Hall, Ramelela artist Trevor Seunarine and dancer Marlon Simms, artistic director of the Jamaican National Dance Theatre Company.

"We are trying to bridge that gap that we sometimes see in the cultural ecology between what we as academics write about and do and what the artists actually practice and the activism that can emerge if we do those kinds of things together," Burke explained.

Burke's sentiments were reiterated by Dr Heather Cateau, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education in her address at the symposia opening. She said the university was a "natural home" for regional symposia adding that The UWI and Carifesta have a common history both socially and politically.

"Both the UWI and CARIFESTA provide a critical forum for the integration and development of the people of the Caribbean. We both feel in our hearts the need for self-affirmation as a people, the need to deepen awareness and knowledge, the need to facilitate documenting and assimilation of art, culture and the work of our artists and artisans. We are both in the business of education by bringing the very best professionals, researchers and masters in their fields and our young people together," said Cateau.

"We both understand the importance of creative and cultural industries not just for historical, social and political reasons; we also see their economic value. Perhaps most



Certified cannabis expert Marcus Ramkissoon moments before he took part in the spotlight session titled "Marijuana and Sustainable Livelihoods in the Caribbean".



Dancers take part in the Kieron Sargeant and Shakiel Jones Dance Workshop, “The Experience: Senegal to Trinidad”. PHOTOS: VISHALA JABAR



Jazz musician, composer and arranger Etienne Charles.

importantly we fully understand that we can never achieve true and holistic economic development without this sector. It is clear to me that this is what has been lacking on all our development stages thus far. Just maybe we will get it right this time.”

THINKING CRITICALLY ABOUT ART

The symposium was not the end of DCFA’s Carifesta involvement. DCFA lecturer and Visual Arts Unit Coordinator Dr Marsha Pearce also curated an exhibit for the visual arts segment of the festival held at the National Academy for Performing Arts (NAPA). Titled “Enter the Picture” the exhibit featured six recent graduates of the Visual Arts Programme: Reanna Ali, Alex Kelly, Sarah Knights, Shane Hanson Mohammed, Christopher Ross-Dick and Marinna Shareef. The featured works engaged subject matter such as consumerism, illusions of progress, identity and bipolar disorder.

While Pearce felt fortunate for the opportunity to showcase these “practitioners to watch” on a large platform, she believes there needs to be more space created for greater complexity and a more nuanced representation of the Caribbean through the arts. “Festivals in their ideal form should be spaces of creative implementation and not what is ordinary or what we are used to. It’s the ideal space to expose audiences. But it is not just a joyous celebration without criticality and reflection or just about the audiences relaxing without being challenged,” she said. “Enter the Picture” aimed to both expose audiences to new ideas and challenge notions of Caribbean realities. The exhibit included interactive installations, allowing patrons to further engage with the complex subject matter.

While acknowledging the importance of the symposia, Pearce felt that academia has not been fully integrated into the discourse of Carifesta. “The university needs to continue to inject that greater element of research and a critical eye to all art forms into Carifesta that’s not confined to symposia or formal presentations. It should be felt in the other programming as well so that it’s not just seen as a space of escape or abandonment.”

STUDENTS, GRADUATES SHINE

UWI students not only attended the event, but many were featured in the programming.

DCFA alumni, artist and filmmaker, Kenderson Noray debuted the short film *Voices* at the Carifesta edition of the Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival (TTFF). *Voices* is a coming-of-age story of a young man raised in a rural fishing village



“Journey Round Myself” Chair, Dr Suzanne Burke, pauses during her packed schedule for a moment with DCFA Head, Louis McWilliams.



Jamaican writer Kei Miller.

who has to come to terms with the generational gap between father and son. Noray said Carifesta provided him with a unique opportunity and experience. “It was eye-opening. I got to see and experience the cultures of many islands and make friends. I got more exposure and it’s a story that not only Trinidadians can relate to but it’s relatable across the Caribbean.”

Leeanna Boyce, the artist, DCFA graduate and school teacher from Moruga that was featured in the March 2019 issue of UWI Today (“Fassness, flair and a deep deep love of culture” https://sta.uwi.edu/uwitoday/archive/march_2019/article10.asp) installed her Folk Characters Haunted House at the Carifesta Youth Village. It was a terrifyingly magical experience for many attendees.

“I honestly was not expecting it to go so far,” Leeanna said of the enormously positive reception she received. “I am really thankful to Dr (Jo-anne) Tull (Lecturer and Coordinator of the Carnival Studies Unit at DCFA) for pushing me to do this. In the March article it was revealed that The UWI graduate’s innovative take on the traditional haunted house was so well received that Community Development, Culture and the Arts Minister Dr Nyan Gadsby-Dolly invited Leeanna to mount it at Carifesta XIV.

A CARIBBEAN FESTIVAL

The Caribbean Festival of the Arts (Carifesta) is a biennial festival hosted by the Caribbean Community (Caricom). The earliest version of the festival was held in San Juan, Puerto Rico in 1952. A similar staging of the festival was also held in Trinidad and Tobago to commemorate the creation of the West Indies Federation in 1958. Carifesta in its current institutional structure was first held in Guyana in 1972. Since then, seven other Caricom member states and Caribbean countries have hosted the event – Barbados, Cuba, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Carifesta 2019 was Trinidad and Tobago’s fourth time hosting the event which was also held here in 1992, 1995 and 2006. The Carifesta 2019 theme was “Connect. Share. Invest” focusing on both the tangible and intangible aspects of cultural heritage and development. This year’s festival included over 200 activities hosted countrywide, ranging from theatre arts, dance, community tours, craft, trade and technology expos, art exhibits, fashion shows, live music and a film festival. All these events were made possible through partnerships with over 20 organisations including Boca Lit Fest, TTFF, the Environmental Management Authority, and the National Library and Information Systems Authority.

Zahra Gordon is a poet, writer and communications lecturer.

Gifts of Sight and Compassion

Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o meditates on Naipaul, the Caribbean's literary influence on Africa, and his own legacy

BY JOEL HENRY



“There are two writers I have always felt that make me very mad - Joseph Conrad and VS Naipaul,” said Professor Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, almost at the very beginning of his lecture.

Ngũgĩ, one of the greatest living writers today, was at UWI St Augustine's Institute of Critical Thinking, speaking at the Launch of the “Lines of Life” Project and Annual Memorial Lecture for the late Sir Vidya S Naipaul. Yet he did not shy away from a critical assessment of Naipaul, a fellow giant of literature and contemporary of the colonial and post-colonial era.

The author of *A Grain of Wheat*, one of the 20th Century's foundational anti-imperial novels, said both Naipaul and Conrad had gratitude to “the empire” and grudges against the empire.

“But why do we come back to their work again and again?” he asked rhetorically. “Both writers had the gift of sight. And no matter how uncomfortable he may make you, Naipaul forces you to look again and again.”

It's that capacity for nuance, that ability to work through uncomfortable ideas and information, and a moral core that defaults toward compassion and understanding that have made Ngũgĩ one of the most beloved figures in literature.

The Kenyan author, now 81, was certainly beloved by the audience at the Institute of Critical Thinking on August 17, which included UWI staff and students, lovers of literature (Ngũgĩ's, Naipaul's and writing in general), aspiring writers, and even members of the Naipaul family. Among them was former UWI St Augustine Campus Principal and Member of Parliament for Caroni Central Dr Bhoendradatt Tewarie. Dr Tewarie established the institute during his tenure as principal.

Professor Kenneth Ramchand, renowned scholar and master of Caribbean literary criticism, was also present, to the delight of Professor Ngũgĩ. In his address he mentioned Ramchand directly:

“I looked desperately,” Ngũgĩ said, after discovering West Indian writers in the 1960s, “for any other scholars who were digging into this wonderful literature and the only one I could find at the time, was Kenneth Ramchand.”

The launch and lecture were hosted by the Department of Literary, Cultural and Communication Studies (LCCS) within the Faculty of Humanities and Education. The chair of the event was Dr J Vijay Maharaj, lecturer in LCCS as well as coordinator of the Lines of Life project. Lines of Life is a digital platform containing a trove of information on Naipaul and his work.

“I would never have dreamt that it would be VS Naipaul who would be the occasion of my first foot in Trinidad,” Ngũgĩ said after thanking Dr Maharaj for the invitation to the country.

He told the audience of his relationship with Naipaul, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Caribbean. Ngũgĩ has a surprising depth of knowledge of Caribbean literature and history. He spoke about the “large debate about the place of Africa in the Caribbean collective self-consciousness”

Trinidad, he said, “has been at the centre of the quest for answers.

Ngũgĩ spoke of Trinidadians such as Henry Sylvester Williams (organiser of the first Pan African congress in 1900), George Padmore (organiser of the 1945 Pan African Congress in Manchester), Kwame Ture/Stokely Carmichael (leading black socialist during the American Civil Rights Movement) and Claudia Jones (social activist and founder of the *West Indian Gazette*, England's first major black newspaper).

He spoke of his meetings with CLR James, another of Trinidad's greatest writers and thinkers, and their shared appreciation of Caribbean authors such as Naipaul.

“Our mutual interest in Naipaul drew us closer together,” Ngũgĩ said.

Most surprisingly, the Kenyan writer spoke of the impact that Caribbean writers such as James and Barbadian George Lamming had on Africans. Ngũgĩ recounted how Jomo Kenyatta, Kenyan anti-colonial activist and leader, while on trial was asked by the imperial prosecution how he, an African, came to know about slavery.

“He cited James's *The Black Jacobins* as his authority,” Ngũgĩ said. “I narrate that to show the global reach and effect of the Caribbean writers of the Lamming and Naipaul generation.”

Lamming's *In the Castle of My Skin*, was particularly influential on Ngũgĩ himself, he said, “I felt Lamming's narrative power speak to me and my Kenya situation so directly, that, as I have acknowledged in my memoir, *Birth of a Dream Weaver*, it influenced the theme and the writing of my second novel, *Weep Not Child*.”

He said his contact with the Barbadian writer would eventually lead him to “struggle to move the centre” (a concept of breaking the stranglehold of Western culture

as well as oppressive norms within indigenous cultures).

“I would pay the price of prison and exile for that very struggle. But it is a price I am proud to have paid,” Ngũgĩ said, describing his time of imprisonment by the Kenyan government for the uncensored and highly progressive works produced by the Kamiriithu Community Education and Cultural Centre. After his release in 1978 he was forced into exile for over two decades.

Ngũgĩ's description of this time in his life was particularly powerful. “I found myself a prisoner with only a number for a name” he said. For three weeks he was held in “internal segregation”. The other prisoners were not allowed to talk to him. Isolated, he imagined himself a bird, first flying out to visit family, then, as his fantasy developed, flying to play tricks on the guards.

“Then one day, it dawned on me,” he told the engrossed audience at the Institute of Critical Thinking, “this going out and coming back at will, was what I did night and day. I visited my family. I walked the streets. Suddenly I realised I had the wings of a bird: Imagination was my wings of glory.”

This revelation he said, gave him the power to write the novel *Devil on the Cross*, on prison toilet paper.

“The capacity of the arts and artists to make us look again, feel again, touch again, listen again, even challenge us to make us realise that the human is a continuous invention, that to me, is still the greatest function of the writer and also the challenge,” Ngũgĩ said in the remaining moments of his address.

Like Naipaul, like Lamming, like all those that have emerged out of the colonised East and West, he has provided that function with a powerful eye and pen, but with his unique gift of empathy.

He told the audience of his relationship with Naipaul, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Caribbean. Ngũgĩ has a surprising depth of knowledge of Caribbean literature and history.



Walls as Windows

Students use art to make murals for environmental protection, mental health

BY OMEGA FRANCIS

If you've had the opportunity to walk the halls of the Faculty of Science and Technology (FST) recently, you would have been greeted with a particularly bold message painted on the walls. The words "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" placed strategically on an ocean-scape being polluted. The message is clear and powerful – we must do what we can to save the environment.

The flags of our region border the mural, signifying that all of us need to have a hand in the hard work that has to go into saving our region from pollution and the effects of climate change. But how did this mural get here? Was it a random artistic whim, or a project done by campus management?

Neither, actually. This mural was the collective work of The UWI Biological Society's former Project Manager (now President) Felicia Collins, and students from the Department of Creative and Festival Art's (DCFA) Visual Arts' Certificate course. The DCFA students are Nemai Ali and Saniyah Bedeshi (under the guidance of Visual Arts lecturer Adiel Mahajam).

Collins knew the message she wanted to send to the campus and sought the expertise of the DCFA to make it come to life. She wanted to use the power of art to start a conversation around the key issues of pollution and climate change and how it affects the environment: "artivism" in its truest sense. The mural that now graces the wall at FST has done just that—started a conversation.

This conversation around art and its many dimensions is being championed by Dr Marsha Pearce, Lecturer and Visual Arts Unit Coordinator at the DCFA. Dr Pearce has held this post for the past two years and within that time has seen it as one of her mandates to continuously make it known that art does not just beautify or decorate but has many facets that can be utilised by all.

In fact, in early 2019, the DCFA got a chance to showcase their skill when the North West Regional Health Authority reached out to have some artwork done on the walls of their newly constructed Children's Treatment and Assessment Unit at the St Ann's Psychiatric Hospital. When Dr Pearce heard about what the hospital needed, she could not say no and tasked one of her students, Kadeem Aguilera to gather other students in the Visual Arts Degree programme to get the project underway.

Kadeem did not have a problem gathering a group of students to volunteer their time and skill to this project. They included Jordon Briggs, Sabrina Acham, Jonathan Francis, Nicolin Harris, Joshua Morales, Ashley Sylvester, Jessica Resall and Kirsten Rampersad. Each of them saw the project as an opportunity to have a totally different experience from their regular art jobs.

"As young artists, most of our artistic practice is individual work," says Nicolin. "An opportunity to team up and brainstorm was a welcome challenge and an opportunity to learn from my peers. In addition, a chance to contribute to the betterment of an institution that deals with mental health could not be ignored."

During the month of June the students undertook the task of painting three murals to cover the dining room, activity room and timeout room at the Assessment Unit. This did not come easily however, as Kadeem noted, they had to do their "homework" to make sure the theme, colours and objects they represented on the walls were not triggering or made anyone uncomfortable. For them, this was not just



PAINT IT BLUE: Nemai Ali and Saniyah Bedeshi hard at work on the FST mural. PHOTO: SHEREEN ALI



A portion of a mural at the St Ann's Psychiatric Hospital. PHOTO: ANEEL KARIM

For them, this was not just a job, it was an opportunity to work on something artistic and ensure that the children received something beautiful.

a job, it was an opportunity to work on something artistic and ensure that the children received something beautiful.

The students knew that what went on the wall needed to be done with care. After completion, everyone who was a part of the project was extremely proud of their work – even though their critical artistic eyes saw where they could have done better — and their work was met with love, praise and admiration. This recognition was all the pay they needed.

The hospital staff was impressed by not only the skill of the students, but by their commitment to the entire project.

In fact, the St Ann's Psychiatric Hospital's Administrator, Gillian Baptiste, praised the students work, saying, "The NWRHA's goal was to create an environment unlike that of a traditional ward setting, and the management's goal was communicated to the students and expressed in the excellent murals portrayed."

The intent of both of these mural projects was achieved: a move to shift the way art is seen and understood, and to make a connection between how we can all use art in creative ways to serve a positive purpose.

UWI PEOPLE

On a typical beach day in Mayaro, you'll come across stretches of sand, coconut trees, maybe some washed up jellyfish—and if you're lucky, you might catch Elisse Ramsubir cruising down the shore on the electric tricycle she designed and built herself.

Elisse recently graduated from the Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering (DMME), and for her final year project she wanted to build something she could use at her favourite spot on the island. "The beach is my favourite place to be. Mayaro especially is close to my heart, because growing up I spent a lot of time there with my family." And so Mayaro became the perfect spot to test out her very first Electric Beach Tricycle, or E-Trike.

As an avid beach-goer, Elisse also feels a sense of responsibility for its environment. According to Head of the DMME, Dr Jacqueline Bridge, "She was concerned about the fact that there were people on the beaches using gasoline powered buggies... she felt it would be a nice idea to explore electric vehicles. They don't make too much noise, and they have no emissions during operation."

"I wanted a safer alternative to all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and cars on the shore," says Elisse. While people are becoming more aware of turtle nesting areas and other ecological concerns, there is still far to go to coexist sustainably with the life on our coasts. "Not many people respect the safety of the wildlife on the beach, or even safety of other beachgoers. ATVs can weigh between 300-700 pounds, while the E-Trike weighs 70 pounds—so the damage that can be caused is significantly less. ATVs and cars also contribute to pollution."

As our beaches get busier, air and noise pollution can affect the environment, the wildlife, and even other beachgoers. Now more than ever, people like Elisse are looking into greener ways to live in harmony with the world around us.

"In Mechanical Engineering, we're looking at alternative methods," says Dr Bridge, "There's a move away from gasoline and emission-based transportation to cleaner forms of transportation." So instead of filling up at a gas station, you just plug into the nearest outlet and charge up the lithium ion battery before pedaling on your way. With Elisse's E-Trike, one full battery gets you 3-6 hours, depending on your speed.

After researching and designing for 6 months, Elisse put together the E-Trike in two hectic weeks. "It assists the rider on rough terrains with minimum human effort. We tried to ensure maximum comfort and maximum performance on the beach especially," she says. At every stage, Elisse tried to consider the needs of the rider, creating a design that would allow riders with low mobility, like the elderly or disabled persons, to use and adjust the E-Trike with ease. "I like that mechanical engineers design things that make people's lives easier," she says. "That's why I decided on that type of engineering to study."

The three-wheeler earned Elisse first place at the DMME's Conference and Exhibition in May of this year. But building her first Electric Trike is only the beginning for Elisse. "I would like to commercialise it, make more, change up the design a little bit and introduce it to tourist-y areas like hotels or even on campus," she says. But first and foremost, she had one thing in mind when she started up this project— she wanted to have fun. With a laugh, she confesses, "I knew I wanted to make something I could play with after!"

While there are many functional or commercial uses for Elisse's design, recreation was where she hoped to put it to use first. For Elisse, recreation is best had doing something hands-on; or as she put it, "getting my hands dirty". Growing up, this was always a trait of hers, and one her parents nurtured into the love of building things that she has today.

Although she has not taken it back to Mayaro Beach since her test run, the E-Trike and Elisse have been cruising around her home and streets across T&T. "Even if you're not on the beach, it still works well. It could be used on the road too," she says.

With any luck, you might spot her on a terrain near you.



Sun, Sand and a Sustainable Ride

Young inventor Elisse Ramsubir designs and builds the Electric Beach Tricycle

BY AMY LI BAKSH



A Campus Cartographer

GIRI Group member Adam Thomas wins international Young Scholars Award

BY JOEL HENRY

Adam Thomas, 24, is always moving. As an engineering technician in the Department of Geomatics Engineering and Land Management you might spot him in the first days of the new semester leading groups of new students around the campus. If you work on campus you might have seen him in your office, taking measurements as a member of the Geospatial Information Research and Innovation (GIRI) Group.

It's as a member of the GIRI Group that Adam, his colleagues, and team lead Dr Earl Edwards (Lecturer in Geospatial Information Science), recently won the coveted Esri Special Achievement in Geographic Information Systems/Science (GIS) Award (see UWI Today's August 2019 issue <https://sta.uwi.edu/uwitoday/article19.asp>). The group developed an enterprise GIS (in layman's terms a super advanced map that combines data with geography) of the St Augustine Campus.

Apart from his achievement as a member of the GIRI Group, Adam also won recognition through the Esri Young Scholars Award programme. Launched in 2012, the programme "recognises the exemplary work of current undergraduates and graduates majoring in geospatial science disciplines at international universities".

It was "honestly overwhelming," he says of his recognition.

Adam and 30 other scholars from six continents travelled to San Diego for the Esri User Conference in July 2019. Esri is the global leader in the field of GIS. The User Conference included over 20,000 GIS professionals that took part in a week of presentations, workshops and social events.

UWI Today spoke with Adam Thomas.

UT: Can you tell us about your award?

AT: This year, a poster submission was required (for the Esri Young Scholars Award). The winners are provided with the opportunity to attend the Esri User Conference in San Diego. We also attended the Education Summit at the User Conference. The award is collected at the Special Achievement in GIS (SAG) award ceremony at the Conference, and winning posters are given a space at the conference map gallery.

UT: What was your submission?

AT: I was given the opportunity to submit a poster for nomination by UWI St Augustine. This poster, which was submitted to Esri Regional Distributor, Spatial Innovation Ltd, told the story of one of the first GIRI projects, our campus enterprise GIS. This is an ongoing project which was my first interaction with GIS, in 2014. The GIRI Group set out to create a system which would be used to facilitate operational needs and provide academic value to the campus, through location intelligence.

UT: How does it feel to have won?

AT: Being a 24-year-old from a tiny island with relatively little experience in GIS, winning the Young Scholar Award and collecting the SAG Award on behalf of the GIRI Group at the biggest GIS conference in the world were honestly very overwhelming, but humbly so. I was surprised to be nominated for the Young Scholar Award, and then to actually win.

I was also surprised beyond belief for GIRI's SAG Award, being given the opportunity by the GIRI Team Leader, Dr Edwards, to collect the award on behalf of the GIRI Group, and the (Geomatics) Department by extension. It is constantly an uphill battle with hard work and long hours, but it was a surprising relief to gain some recognition. Another surprise (although not an award) was when Esri approached me to present at the Caribbean Regional User Group Meeting at the conference, which was accepted positively by Esri staff and the attendees.

And even more so, it gave me validation and hope that our national and regional potential is to be world class industry leaders. I feel determined to continue the professional growth of myself, and build the region's GIS potential through my contributions to the industry.

UT: How has UWI contributed to your personal and professional growth?

AT: My educators, colleagues, interns, and students at the UWI have taught me more than I can say. Academically and technically, I have been educated sufficiently in Geomatics, Geoinformatics and related disciplines. Where there are new developments or projected



developments in industry capabilities (or if there are personal interests for research through inquisitive thinking), the support, creation of projects and provision of resources are tackled by GIRI and the Department, providing me with more than enough support to grow professionally.

For the numerous GIS projects that are attempted, I have had the opportunity to meet many professionals and have been given many real-world responsibilities. In my transition from academic education to professional, I always see these opportunities and responsibilities as a form of immersive learning with the guidance of Dr Edwards and UWI, particularly collaboration with UWI Staff for the Campus Enterprise GIS. In a similar way, I try to facilitate teaching students and interns like this as well, and learning from their experiences. Personally, staff members many times have gone beyond their contractual obligations to assist in my professional growth, and this is common in the Department (speaking as a staff member here as well). Winning these awards requires significantly more than the bare minimum, and without my educators, colleagues and my wider support network from UWI, these awards would not have been possible.

My educators, colleagues, interns, and students at the UWI have taught me more than I can say. Academically and technically, I have been educated sufficiently in Geomatics, Geoinformatics and related disciplines.

CENTRE FOR LANGUAGE LEARNING

receives commendation from Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan has awarded UWI St Augustine's Centre for Language Learning (CLL) the Commendation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

CLL, the only Japanese language teaching institute in Trinidad and Tobago, has been offering courses to more than 1,400 students, and has been contributing to the promotion of mutual understanding between the two countries for more than 20 years.

In response, CLL Director, Dr Beverly-Anne Carter noted, "The CLL is humbled and deeply honoured by this award, which is a testament to the excellent work of our Japanese teachers and learners. But the pride is shared by all the staff (teaching and administrative) and learners of the many languages we teach. We aim to be a centre of excellence for languages. An award such as this one is not only deeply gratifying but it also serves to encourage us to continue in pursuit of excellence."

This year marks the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Trinidad and Tobago.

The Foreign Minister's Commendations are awarded to individuals and groups with outstanding achievements in international fields, in recognition of their contributions to the promotion of friendship between Japan and other countries. The commendations also aim to promote understanding and support for the recipients' activities among the Japanese public.

Register for Japanese or any of the other foreign languages on offer at CLL online at <https://sta.uwi.edu/fhe/cll/register-for-courses>.



(From left): Chancellor of The UWI Mr Robert Bermudez, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education Dr. Heather Cateau, Director of CLL Dr Beverly-Anne Carter, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, HE Tatsuo Hirayama and Campus Principal Professor Brian Copeland at the short ceremony to bestow the commendation.

Remembering the Big One

Seismic Research Centre Commemorates Earthquake Anniversary with Open House Tours

It was early evening on August 21, 2018, when Trinidad and Tobago, along with the rest of the Southern Caribbean, experienced the most powerful earthquake in the last 50 years. The shaking was the longest ever experienced (90 seconds).

To commemorate this powerful display of nature, UWI's Seismic Research Centre (SRC) invited the public to two open house tours on the one-year anniversary of the earthquake.

The two tours were fully subscribed and the public was taken through the inner workings of the Centre. The SRC staff sought to bust myths and clear any misconceptions people may have about earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis.

The public was taken along the "Data Trail" as they followed the path from earthquake generation to processing of the event. Earthquake and tsunami information and safety videos produced in-house were shared with the visitors. They also saw a display of research projects conducted by SRC that focused on understanding geological hazards.

Attendees were invited to use seismic tomography instrumentation that comprises part of the Trinidad and Tobago Microsonation Project. Dr Ilias Papadopoulos, SRC Engineering Seismologist and project lead, explained the process:

"It is a digital seismograph, a series of geophones and cables to connect everything. It is triggered by a piezoelectric crystal which is activated when a sledgehammer hits the ground and starts timing. The whole experiment lasts a few milliseconds, as the waves travel at the shallow subsurface and arrive at the geophones. From the data, we can determine the stratigraphy and velocity of the subsurface, which is used to determine the seismic hazard, among other things. It can also be used for fault determination, geotechnical characterisation, karst identification and environmental solutions. The Centre currently employs this technique, among others, at the Banwari Trace as we do forensic Geophysics to help the archaeologists and the National Trust to investigate the area for more artifacts?"

The public ended the tour with a viewing of volcanic hazard videos and demonstrations of equipment used to monitor and better understand volcanoes and their associated hazards.



A member of the public swings the hammer as part of the Trinidad and Tobago Microsonation Project demonstration. PHOTO: COURTESY UWI SEISMIC RESEARCH CENTRE

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The **steel pan**, the national instrument of Trinidad and Tobago, is not patented. The US-based licence once claiming it has lapsed.

How does such a major invention go without a patent? What has been the cost of this oversight? How can our inventors of today sidestep similar errors? For administrators and academics at the St Augustine Campus - this question is particularly important at this time. The campus has embarked on an innovation and entrepreneurship (I&E) agenda tied to the goal of local and regional development.

Enter the Intellectual Property (IP) Desk at the Alma Jordan Library (AJL), UWI St Augustine.

“On this campus, a key strategic goal is to create an enabling environment that embodies all of the systems required to nurture an innovative culture and foster entrepreneurship,” says Campus Librarian Frank Soodeen. “IP plays a fundamental role in moving the research from innovation to commercialisation and entrepreneurship.”

Launched just over one year ago at the AJL, the IP Help Desk provides staff and students free access to education, information, training and advisory services in the field of intellectual property. It is an initiative of the AJL, UWI’s Office of Research, Development and Knowledge Transfer (ORDKT), and the Intellectual Property Office in the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs.

The shift of focus to I&E is a major transformation for The UWI. In world rankings such as the *Global Competitiveness Report*, the Caribbean has traditionally not performed strongly in categories such as research and development. In its *Triple A Strategy 2017-2022*, The UWI has set targets like the creation of spin-off companies and commercialised patents. In line with this, the IP Help Desk was created to assist campus innovators in protecting their work.

“A key focus (of the university) is entrepreneurship,” said Professor Stephan Gift, UWI’s Pro Vice-Chancellor for Graduate Studies and Research, at the launch of the Help Desk on July 31, 2018. “We are talking about taking the many ideas of our students and staff from the laboratory into the marketplace.”

Speaking at the launch as well, Regan Asgarali, Controller of Government’s IP Office, expressed the initiative much broader national significance. “Yours is a very important task – to turn this country around. And together, as patriots, we can once we utilise these areas – intellectual property, innovation and disruptive technologies.”

For the team at the AJL, intellectual property and Library and Information Science are a good marriage. “It’s information. What you do with information. How you handle it,” says Georgia Alexander, Librarian, Circulation and Access Services Division, at the AJL. Alexander is a key member of the set-up and development team of the IP Help Desk. Following her attendance at an IP workshop, facilitated by the AG Ministry’s IP Office and ORDKT at the campus, she felt that such training would greatly benefit her colleagues. She approached Soodeen about hosting a similar workshop for librarians and the wider campus community.

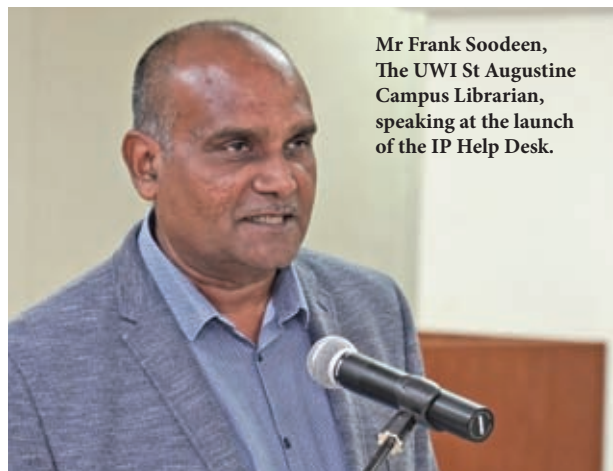
This subsequently resulted in a networking breakfast and workshop entitled - *Intellectual Property Introductory Training Workshop: Patents and Patent Mining* held in February 2018. The event was coordinated by fellow librarian Gerard Rogers and Alexander. This marked the genesis of the IP Help Desk – it was here that Mr Soodeen approached Professor John Agard (then Director of ORDKT and now Director of the St Augustine Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship) to have a dedicated IP presence at the AJL.

Laloo Ramlal, Specialist in Technical Information – IPO, came up with the framework for the service. After realising the need for more understanding and education



Table of Content

Celebrating its One-Year Anniversary - the Intellectual Property Help Desk at The AJL boosts innovation by protecting it



Mr Frank Soodeen,
The UWI St Augustine
Campus Librarian,
speaking at the launch
of the IP Help Desk.



Louise van Gruenen,
Director of the
Building Respect for IP
Division of the World
Intellectual Property
Organisation (WIPO).

on IP issues, Ramlal decided to see, “if we could find a central location where all could access us.” The Alma Jordan Library seemed an obvious choice and Mr Soodeen was in full agreement.

In July 2018, the IP Help Desk was launched by Louise van Gruenen, Director of the Building Respect for IP Division of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO). “It is your moment of glory,” she told those in attendance. “I think this initiative is just incredible. It is a real stride in the direction of a knowledge-based economy and I am sure we will see the difference.... This is a fantastic initiative to make information, documentation, and assistance available.”

The UWI St August Guild of Students 2018-2019 was represented at the launch by then Guild President Darrion Narine and Treasurer (current Guild President) Justin Subero. Subero spoke on behalf of the Guild.

In May 2019, the IP Help Desk hosted a lecture presentation entitled “IP and the Future” by Mr Asgarali along with Mr Ramlal and Lyrinda Lisa Persaud - Attorney at Law at the IP Office. Inventor Rhona Jack also made a special guest appearance and gave a very inspiring talk about her journey to date. Ms Jack works closely under the guidance of the IP Office, and has made her mark internationally through her development of the *Udazzle Fashion Ruler* - a product to make measuring much easier.

What are some of the services offered?

“Members of the campus community can call, email or walk in and freely discuss their ideas in confidence, and we will treat with them. The staff will then conduct preliminary searches on their database to see if (their ideas) already exists,” says Ramlal. “For a business, we can show them the different IP issues they need to address.”

He adds: “when someone has a creative spirit we stay with them. We provide coaching as they develop their ideas. We give them technical support to help commercialise and protect their ideas.” The desk also provides guest lecture presentations in IP for classroom sessions as part of any course, and enrolls staff and students in WIPO’s online distance learning courses through their Worldwide Academy.

Lauren Boodhoo, Manager of IP at ORDKT, says the work of the IP Help Desk is “based on demand”. “Although it is a walk-in service, we would like to encourage staff and students to contact the IP Help Desk via email as well. This way, the IP Office can ensure that the most appropriate subject-matter expert is present to provide guidance.”

Innovators are encouraged to use the facility’s walk-in service on the second and fourth Thursday of every month, from 1pm to 4pm, or contact the IP Help Desk for an appointment.

■ **Staff and students can contact** the UWI’s IP Help Desk at the AJL - ajliphelpdesk@sta.uwi.edu or (868) 662-2002 ext. 84026.

UWI Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER 2019

Increase your statistical know-how with a short course September 14 to October 19 • UWI St Augustine

The Faculty of Social Sciences (FSS) Computer Laboratory invites you to register for the Introduction to R for Statistical Analysis course, where you can learn about R – an open source software package that can be used for statistical computing and graphics. The course takes place from September 14 to October 19 from 9am to noon (six Saturdays, 18 contact hours) at the FSS Computer Lab and costs \$2,000.

For more information, please visit the **Campus Notices and Announcements** page at <https://sta.uwi.edu/news/notices/>.

Share your thoughts at IConETech-2020 Submission Deadline: September 15

Submit your papers for the International Conference on Emerging Trends in Engineering and Technology (IConETech-2020). The Faculty of Engineering has issued a call for papers on themes such as: Advancing the Chemical, Food and Petroleum Sectors; and Sustainable Built Environment among others. The deadline for submission of abstracts is September 15. The conference takes place from March 13 to 15, 2020 at The UWI St Augustine.

For more information, please visit:
<http://conferences.sta.uwi.edu/iconetech2020/index.php>.

Matriculation and Welcome Ceremony 2019 September 18 UWI St Augustine

All first-year students are invited to attend their Matriculation and Welcome Ceremony – the ceremony that formally recognises them as members of the academic community and the University. RSVP for yourself and your special guest for the event happening on Wednesday, September 18 at 5pm at The UWI Sport and Physical Education Centre (SPEC).

For more information visit <https://sta.uwi.edu/matriculation/>.



Confucius Institute Day September 27 • UWI St Augustine

Look out for special activities that will be featured during the Confucius Institute's Confucius Institute Day under the theme, China Kaleidoscope 3, including paper cutting, calligraphy, a tea ceremony and more. You will want to save the date, September 27 from 9am to 2pm at JFK Auditorium, to experience it in person. To RSVP, please email Janine.Lutchman@sta.uwi.edu.

For more information, please visit the **Confucius Institute's Facebook** page: <https://www.facebook.com/Confucius.UWI/>.

Call for Papers – Diversification in the Era of Non-Normal Submission Deadline: October 10

There has been a call for papers for the Latin American and Caribbean Chapter of the Academy of International Business' (AIB-LAC) 10th Annual Conference under the theme, "Diversification in the Era of Non-Normal". The deadline has been extended to October 10. The conference is hosted by the Department of Management Studies and takes place from March 11 to 14, 2020 at The UWI St Augustine

For more information, please visit the **Campus Notices and Announcements** page or <https://lac.aib.world/2019/07/11/aib-lac-2020-trinidad-tobago/>.

The UWI SPEC International Half-Marathon October 20 The UWI SPEC

Registration is open for the 16th Annual UWI SPEC International Half-Marathon.

This year's marathon will highlight and support sport scholarships. The race begins from The UWI Sport and Physical Education Centre (SPEC) at 5am. Individual and relay teams are invited to participate.

For more details, please visit: <https://sta.uwi.edu/spec/marathon/>.



The UWI St Augustine 2019 Graduation Ceremonies October 24 to 26 The UWI SPEC

Celebrate the graduating Class of 2019 at this year's Graduation Ceremonies which take place as follows:

Thursday, October 24:

- 10am – Faculties of Science and Technology and Food and Agriculture.
- 4pm – Faculties of Engineering and Law

Friday, October 25:

- 10am – Faculty of Social Sciences surnames A-L undergraduate graduands only and Arthur Lok Jack Global School of Business (ALGSB) graduands.
- 4pm – Faculty of Social Sciences surnames M-Z undergraduate graduands only and postgraduate graduands from the Faculty of Social Sciences, Institute for Gender and Development Studies, Institute of International Relations, and the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies.

Saturday, October 26:

- 10am – Faculty of Humanities and Education
- 4pm – Faculty of Medical Sciences

For more information and updates on all of The UWI's 2019 Graduation Ceremonies, please visit <https://sta.uwi.edu/graduation/>.

**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

