



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

ST. AUGUSTINE, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, WEST INDIES

OFFICE OF THE CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Clement Sankat, *BSc (UWI), MSc (UWI), PhD (Guelph), FIAGR, CEng, FAPETT*

50th Anniversary Book Launch

‘From Imperial College to University of the West Indies - A History of the St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago’

Central Bank Auditorium

Tuesday 12th October, 2010 6.30pm

Introduction to Professor Bridget Brereton

Salutations

- Governor of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago and Chairman of Campus Council for the UWI St. Augustine Campus, Mr. Ewart Williams
- Professor Bridget Brereton, Professor of History, UWI St. Augustine Campus
- Members of the University’s Executive Management and the UWI St. Augustine Campus Management
- Colleagues, specially invited guests, ladies and gentlemen
- Members of the Media

- Good evening.

- I am deeply honoured to introduce to you this evening one of the most outstanding graduates ever produced by The University of the West Indies - our very special and distinguished guest of honour, Professor Bridget Brereton.
- I have the utmost respect and admiration for Professor Brereton who has served diligently the University and the St. Augustine Campus, in particular, for over 40 years in several capacities - Temporary Assistant Lecturer, Head of the Department of History, Deputy Campus Principal, Interim Campus Principal and Professor of History.
- Best described as the ‘Olympian Academic’, Bridget attained many ‘firsts’ while at the UWI St. Augustine Campus. She was the first PhD student of the Department of History at St. Augustine; the first female PhD graduate of the Department; the first female Head of the Department of History (1985-1987 and 1988-1994); the first female Deputy Principal (1999-2002); the first female in the role as Acting Principal (2001) and as Interim Principal (2007) and the first female to have served at every level in the University from Part-Time Lecturer/Tutor to acting Principal of the institution.

- But Professor Brereton's service to the University does not stop here! Bridget has also served as Moderator of Caribbean Studies 1977-1982, Joint Coordinator, Women and Development Studies Group, 1985-1986, member of several Boards and Committees including; University Finance and General Purposes Committee, the Vice Chancellor's Special Committee to Review Post Graduate Programmes, 2005-2006, Quality Assurance Review team 2006, Vice Chancellor's Committee to consider criteria and procedures for professorial promotions and appointments, 2006-2007, member of the Board of Directors, Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business 2008 and Campus Steering Committee for Accreditation in 2009.
- Not only has her service as a UWI administrator been exceptional, but her scholarly contribution to the field of Caribbean history has been immense. Professor Brereton has authored 7 books including, "Race Relations in Colonial Trinidad, 1870 – 1900" in 1979 and "A History of Modern Trinidad, 1783 – 1962" in 1989. She has edited and co-edited 10 books, published 61 articles, made 54 conference paper presentations and currently has 5 items in press. All of which continue to be central not only to young historians of Trinidadian and Caribbean history, but also for many courses taught across the three Campuses and for teachers and students preparing for CAPE and CXC examinations. In

addition, she has supervised 9 successful PhD students, 5 MPhil and 17 MA research papers, served as Internal Examiner for 9 research theses and External Examiner for 8 students at other institutions. She also belongs to the genre of Caribbean historians who have moved the historiography of the Caribbean into its present phase with a unique perspective that stimulates research in new directions.

- Beyond the UWI, Bridget has also distinguished herself as a prolific researcher having served as a Visiting Professor at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, in addition to serving both as Secretary-Treasurer, and later as President, of the Association of Caribbean Historians, and past Editor of the Journal of Caribbean History. She has been Chair of the Board of the National Library and Information System Authority (NALIS), and also chaired the Cabinet-appointed Committee to consider the nation's highest award, the Trinity Cross and other national symbols and observances.
- Distinguished guests, in addition to all of those outstanding academic achievements, I must mention that Bridget has served and continues to serve as a mentor to staff and students in the Department of History. Always supportive and accessible, Bridget continues to provide kind words of wisdom, a ready ear

and invaluable assistance to all who approach her. A contribution such as Bridget's is certainly not easily paralleled.

- Distinguished guests, on behalf of the St. Augustine Campus of The University of the West Indies, I would like to express our deepest appreciation to Bridget, especially as you embark on the next phase of retirement. We thank you for your outstanding contribution to the development of the Department of History, the Faculty of Humanities and Education, the St. Augustine Campus, as well as the wider University and Caribbean community.
- But there is more. It must be noted that your retirement coincides with the 50th Anniversary of our Campus which is today. You are giving to our Campus on this special day a gift of immense value, a treasure for our Campus, the UWI, Trinidad and Tobago, the Region and for generations to come.
- Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in resounding applause as we welcome to the podium our very distinguished Professor Bridget Brereton – author of our 50th Anniversary book *‘From Imperial College to University of the West Indies – A History of the St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago’*.