THE CABI COLLECTION
Zoology Museum makes new acquisition

CHOCOLATE TROVE
CRU anniversary celebrations

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ON THE COVER
There are at least 50,000 spider species in the arachnid family. The Zoology Museum at UWI is a treasure trove that has been expanded with the recent addition of the CABI Collection. A popular stop on the Campus Tour, the Museum has a wide range of arthropods, and this tarantula is just one of the many on display. Committed to collecting, preserving and documenting the fauna of Trinidad and Tobago, you can read about the Museum’s offerings in this issue of UWI STAN.
I WILL NEVER FORGET my Graduation Day at the St Augustine Campus, it was an emotional time. As I walked forward to accept my certificate, I felt a combination of accomplishment, anxiety and exhilaration. I had travelled from Guyana as a teen just three years prior, and was leaving much more mature and ready to face the world with confidence, as a graduate in Mechanical Engineering. It was 1972 and I had decided that my next steps would take me even further, to Canada, to continue my studies.

These emotions return each year at The University of the West Indies, St Augustine Campus Graduation Ceremonies, as I look out at the thousands of students who are also about to make a similar transition and see the faces of the teachers, administrators and professional/technical staff who have worked assiduously to help them accomplish their dreams. I always feel profoundly proud of our UWI family. I am also touched by thousands of families that have supported their children and the great pride they exude in their accomplishments.

Teaching is a calling, a vocation, not just a job, but a collaborative, multi-faceted, fluid journey, and we are proud to have helped our hardworking, innovative students make that step towards gaining their independence. We have learnt from you as well and we are confident that you will continue to hold true to the ideals of the Academic Vow which you took on entering UWI at the Matriculation Ceremony: “to love learning, to advance true knowledge … to show respect… and to lead a seemly life and set a worthy example of good behaviour”.

These words may sound archaic and old fashioned to many, but they will keep you in good stead and bring lasting rewards. As we celebrate our country’s fiftieth anniversary of independence, I cannot help but look at the St Augustine Campus’ contribution to country and region and our strides over the years. Our 5,000 new students and 11,000 current ones will benefit from the newly constructed teaching and learning facilities, refurbished dormitories, new Faculties, including the Faculty of Science and Technology, the Faculty of Food and Agriculture and the Faculty of Law, blended learning courses, postgraduate programmes and innovative new research programmes. We are also focused on the construction of our South Campus at Penal/Debe which should open its doors in 2014; and we continue to develop our facilities in Tobago, and work toward bringing our new agriculture field station at Orange Grove into reality.

We know that our staff are dedicated and hardworking members of the community, and so we were truly excited about the opportunity to celebrate “our own” at The Retirement and Employee Recognition Award Ceremony in June. Our retirees are the pillars of this institution and in paying tribute to them we are also honouring the core values of UWI - the pursuit of excellence, a keen sense of individual and social responsibility and a commitment to the development of the region. You can read about this milestone event in this issue of UWI STAN.

I am honoured to be part of our UWI St Augustine history and to be able to contribute to the legacy built by those before me: Sir Phillip Sherlock (1960), Professor Dudley Huggins (1963), Professor Lloyd Brathwaite (1969), Professor George Maxwell Richards (1985), Professor Compton Bourne (1996) and Dr Bhoendradatt Tewarie (2001). They were all dedicated Principals who were committed to serving our institution and region. Interestingly, I see this altruism in you, our staff, our retirees and graduates and I hope that you will continue to build on this tradition of giving back, imparting your experiences and expertise to the younger generation. I hope our graduates view our Campus as a second home and return often, and I know many of you have been here before, as undergraduate students. Thanks for your faith in us.

As we enter our new strategic plan initiative (2012-2017), I look forward to working alongside you all to ensure that we continue to develop this great University, this West Indian tradition, all in the service of the peoples of the Caribbean.

This is the 50th year of our independent Charter as a Regional University – another milestone for The UWI.
OUR APRIL-JUNE ISSUE was well received by our readers and we appreciate your comments and kudos. We are also aware that our Staff members are keen to share many of their achievements with us and we look forward to your letters, calls and emails so that we can celebrate our stories with the UWI community. We also want to thank those who took the time to take part in our UWI STAN Cover Photo Competition. The innovative photos have been rolling in and we will announce our winners online very soon. Keep checking our website for updates.

UWI STAN ONLINE POLL
Do you think that equal opportunity rights should be granted to Trinidad and Tobago citizens regardless of their sexual preference?

CORRECTIONS
In the “Breaking the Silence” article: “the Institute for Gender and Development Studies” was incorrectly referred to as “The Institute of Gender and Social Development”. The article referred to the UN Trust, but the organisation’s name has been changed to the UN Women (the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, now called UN Women).

We apologise for these errors and any inconvenience they may have caused.
Calendar of Events JULY – SEPTEMBER 2012

50th Anniversary Display at Alma Jordan Library
3 August-12 October, 2012
The Alma Jordan Library
UWI, St Augustine Campus

The Alma Jordan Library marks the 50th anniversary of Trinidad and Tobago’s Independence with a special display titled, ‘Forging the Nation’s Identity: Trinidad and Tobago in 1962.’ All are invited to view the display at the ground floor of the Library until 12th October, 2012, as well as online until December, 2012.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
Please contact the Alma Jordan Library at 662-2002 Exts. 82132, 82131 or 84030

Teaching begins
3 September, 2012

Global Value Chains and Industry Competitiveness in the Caribbean
8-12 October, 2012
Institute of Critical Thinking
UWI, St. Augustine Campus

The Caribbean Centre for Competitiveness (CCfC) hosts a workshop titled ‘Global Value Chains and Industry Competitiveness in the Caribbean; Identifying Opportunities for Growth,’ at the Institute of Critical Thinking. At this workshop, participants will gain an understanding of how to map value chains and identify lead firms, key markets and trends occurring in specific industries, in addition to other skills.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
Please contact the CCfC Secretariat at 662-2002 Exts. 83938, 84134, 85481, or via e-mail at ccfc@sta.uwi.edu

COTE 2012
11-12 October, 2012
Learning Resource Centre
UWI, St. Augustine Campus

The Department of Economics, UWI, St. Augustine, hosts its sixth annual Conference on the Economy (COTE) at UWI’s Learning Resource Centre. COTE 2012 is an annual landmark event of the Department at which findings from quality research and other studies are presented to inform our stakeholders on economic and social policy. This year, COTE 2012 coincides with the 50th Anniversary of Trinidad and Tobago’s Independence and the conference will focus on the theme ‘50 years of Managing for Development in an Ever Changing Economic Environment: Lessons learnt and the way forward.’

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
Please contact the COTE 2012 Secretariat at 662-2002 Exts. 83231, 83852, or via e-mail at mailtocote@sta.uwi.edu
UWI SPEC International Half-Marathon
28 October, 2012
Sports and Physical Education Centre
UWI St. Augustine Campus

The UWI St. Augustine Campus once again hosts its signature UWI SPEC International Half-Marathon sponsored by First Citizens. This year the 13.1 mile route of the Half-Marathon remains unchanged. The race will continue along the traffic-free Priority Bus Route (PBR) to the La Resource junction in D’Abadie, before doubling back to UWI SPEC. The course will be complete with markers and water stops at every mile for the running convenience of the athletes from around the world including the Caribbean, USA, Latin America and Europe.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
Please contact The UWI SPEC at 662-2002 Exts. 82660, or 83556 or specinfo@sta.uwi.edu

Korean Film Week
7-10 November, 2012
Centre for Language Learning
UWI St. Augustine Campus

The Centre for Language Learning collaborates with the Embassy of the Republic of Korea to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, to host Korean Film Week. Five Korean language films will be screened over the four days at the CLL auditorium, exposing patrons to the language and culture of the Republic of Korea.

FILM SCHEDULE:
7th November, 6–9pm
8th November, 2–4pm
9th November, 3–5pm
10th November, 11am–1pm and 3–5pm

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
Please contact Vanessa Williams at 662-2002 Ext. 83896 or Vanessa.Williams@sta.uwi.edu

A Solutions Agenda to Key Competitiveness Challenges
5-6 November, 2012
Hyatt Regency Trinidad
Port of Spain

The Caribbean Centre for Competitiveness (CCfC) hosts the region’s first Competitiveness Forum, themed ‘a Solutions Agenda to Key Competitiveness Challenges’. This forum will address the critical competitiveness challenges facing the Caribbean, including unlocking financing for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), human capital development models for competitiveness and the internationalisation of SMEs.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
Please contact Karen Lee Lum, Project Officer, CCfC, at 662-2002 Ext. 83938/9 or ccfc@sta.uwi.edu

Improvement in Health Care Quality and Delivery: Making a Difference
17-19 January, 2013
Hyatt Regency Trinidad
Port of Spain

In light of the country’s recent challenges regarding quality health care, the Faculty of Medical Sciences recognises the need for the creation of a committed workforce within the Caribbean’s health sector. As this is one of its major responsibilities, the Faculty will address these challenges with its conference, titled ‘Improvement in Health Care Quality and Delivery: Making a Difference’.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
Please contact the Conference Secretariat, at 663-6311, 645-3232 Exts. 5020 or 5025 or conferencehcq@sta.uwi.edu
UWI St. Augustine Campus
Graduation Ceremony
25-27 October, 2012

The University of the West Indies (UWI) St. Augustine Campus will confer eight honorary degrees at its annual Graduation Ceremonies to be held from Thursday 25th to Saturday 27th October, 2012. The honorary Doctor of Law degree (LLD) will be conferred on Mr Ronald Harford, Father Clyde Harvey, Mr Alloy Lequay, Mrs Maureen Manchouck, Mr Michael Mansoor and Mr Deokinanan Sharma. Mr Davan Maharaj (Journalist) and Mrs Therese Mills (Journalist) will receive the Doctor of Letters degree (DLitt).

On October 25th, the Faculty of Science & Agriculture will process in the morning, and the Faculties of Engineering and Law in the afternoon. The Faculty of Social Sciences will process on October 26th, both in the morning and afternoon, and on October 27th, the Faculty of Humanities & Education and the Faculty of Medical Sciences will process in the morning and afternoon respectively. Morning ceremonies will begin at 10am and afternoon ceremonies will begin at 4pm.

A total of 20 Honorary Graduands have been named by the regional University. The degrees will be conferred by UWI Chancellor, Sir George Alleyne, at graduation exercises beginning with the Open Campus ceremony, to be held in St Kitts on October 13th; the Cave Hill Campus ceremony, in Barbados on October 20th, the St. Augustine Campus ceremony in Trinidad and Tobago from October 25th to 27th, and the Mona Campus ceremony in Jamaica on November 2nd and 3rd. As is customary, honorary graduands will address audiences at various graduation ceremonies.
GRADUATION VALEDICTORIANS 2012

Kiron Neale
Faculty of Science & Agriculture

Maryam Mohammed
Faculty of Medical Sciences

Nayaatha Taitt
Faculty of Humanities & Education

Denilson Christopher
Faculty of Engineering

Sameer Alladin
Faculty of Social Sciences

Nara Anderson-Figueroa
Faculty of Social Sciences

Teaching ends
30 November, 2012

Examinations begin
5 December, 2012

Examinations end
21 December, 2012
Out of the Box
ARTISTS ARE OFTEN SEEN AS SUPERFLUOUS, questioned for their influence and relevance, often ignored for their ability to mirror the society and reveal, almost prophetically, uncomfortable socio-economic truths. In Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean we have an unusually high concentration of artists per capita, per island even. These three artists have been featured at a new and exciting space in Woodbrook, Port of Spain, the Medulla Art Gallery. As we celebrate our “Independence”, we see our reality mirrored in the work of these artists, (current and former) members of the UWI community, Brianna Mc Carthy, Luis Vasquez La Roche and Wendy Nanan.

Enlightenment 1, by Wendy Nanan
Papier-mâché, acrylic, enamel, gold-leaf, 2012,
Photo: Joshua Lue Chee Kong
Brianna McCarthy

AFTER COLOUR

Brianna McCarthy is a mixed media artist who lives and works in Trinidad and Tobago. Her work takes on the intricacies and dynamics of representing Afro-Caribbean women who are portrayed as being strong, long-suffering, exoticised and picturesque beings against a backdrop of poverty, hardship, abuse and/or scorn. McCarthy’s constructions and representations revolt against and subvert the stereotypical trends of representing the black body. Through various media: collage, drawing, illustration, and painting she constructs and manipulates a range of deeply personal and emotional experiences within the constructions. Her work exposes a new range of depth of expressions and emotions, which for the most part, are non-existent in the recorded cultures of the Caribbean landscape.

Working in beauty and repetition, the faces and beings she assembles will add to, and possibly change perceptions and allow for a societal awakening of the ways in which relations and relationships are communicated and changing in an increasingly small world. McCarthy takes pencil to paper, ink to vellum and knife to cloth, to mend the parts of her experience, to fill in its gaps with beauty, questions and expressions of the social and relational.

Her latest exhibition, “After Colour” (15th-29th March) takes a look at the contemporary dynamic of complexion defining beauty in diasporan women. It examines the representation of women of different shades of skin, by themselves and by others, and the idea of ‘shadism’, both in Trinidad and within a wider, global discussion that’s happening right now. Exploring the levels of value and beauty associated with skin colour and hair texture, the show, comprised of five separate bodies of work and mining inspiration from local classified ads, youth culture, anonymous online statuses from all over the internet and the artist’s personal experiences, presents a new work as its focal point – McCarthy’s “Colour(ed)s” – imagined representations of women in a possible future, after racial markers and shade have lost their status as such greatly defining characteristics.

– Geoffrey MacLean
“My drawings are different representations of my personal experiences in this newly adopted space and culture. I question my nationality, origins and race in search of an answer that could explain who I am - taking into consideration that I was raised in Venezuela by a Chilean father and a Trinidadian mother. I have always been exposed to these three cultures. At times one was more predominant in my life than others. Growing up, I was not conscious of the Trinidadian influence and I only recognised it when I moved here. Trinidad and its culture has made me question myself in many different ways, traits that I thought were part of my core personality have probably transformed over time. In the past ten years spent in Trinidad and Tobago I have lost track of the person I once was. The older I become the blurrier the lines of the mass called “I” seems. Are we one person or are we many different persons in one? A description of ourselves would always be open to another’s judgment. What we are, probably goes beyond what we can explain. We have a tendency of changing.

The use of different drawing mediums, from charcoal to graphite, reflects a transition in my concepts. The charcoal drawings explore a more emotional and confusing beginning of my search. The drawings with graphite on paper are more contained and logical, almost mathematical. Even though the figures seem to be geometrically accurate and proportioned, slight variations and adjustments have been made to make the drawing imperfect. These drawings explore more in depth questions like: which nationality represents me? which race do I feel more identified with? which culture I am most influenced by? And what are the traits of this new culture that I wish to adopt?”

– Luis Vasquez La Roche 2012

Luis Vasquez La Roche was born in 1983 in Caracas, Venezuela. He moved to Trinidad and Tobago in 2002. He later studied Visual Arts at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. He has participated in several group shows including Erotic Art Week in Trinidad, (2010); Mensajes Positivos in Chile, (2011); PFC (pon una foto en la calle) in Venezuela, (2012); and special guest as P&E (Pinky and Emgrante) at Woma in Grenada, (2012). He has also been part of urban art projects including P&E, (2011); Who Am I?, (2012); and Urban Heartbeat, (2012).

– Geoffrey MacLean
In 2003, Turner prize-winning artist Steve McQueen published *Queen and Country* as a tribute to Britain’s war dead. The artist/film director had been commissioned by the Imperial War Museum’s Art Commissions Committee. The result was the impressive, weighty publication of 155 sheets filled with stamps featuring portraits of soldiers who had lost their lives for their country. They replaced the traditional portrait of HRH Queen Elizabeth II. Pure genius.

While Mc Queen looked back in remembrance, Wendy Nanan’s latest exhibition looks towards *Independence*. As Trinidad and Tobago celebrated its fiftieth anniversary of Independence from Great Britain in August 2012, Nanan’s exhibit was on-point, being both endemic and innovative. Four works comprise the show: *Queens; The Baby Krishna; The Nation Morphs;* and *A Buddhist Meditation Work – Enlightenment Is.*

The *Queens* collection is outstanding. Like Mc Queen, she has sought to re-interpret seemingly inane symbols of colonialism that have pervaded our consciousness and affected our perception. The result is a brilliant, three-dimensional interpretation that uses British and colonial stamps as the flesh, covering well-defined, deftly sculpted papier-mâché moulds of male and female busts. The portraits are of post-colonial peoples from across the Commonwealth. The stamps used in the collage are painted pink, blue, green and purple. The Queen is present in almost all, with one exception being the Trinidad and Tobago head. These have local stamps that spiral up the cornucopia of an elegant, island-like horn. The faces of the Queens are touchingly familiar, filled with gravitas, each feature echoing the mix of cultures and ethnicities that make the Commonwealth so unique. Atop several of the heads is the homeland – be it continent or island.

“The making of Queens, papier-mâché heads collaged with stamps, was first inspired by the hosting of CHOGM (The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting) here in Trinidad and Tobago, and then by the celebration of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee. The work raises questions of British Colonial Imperialism and that colonial brainwashing has formulated the thinking patterns of the now ‘independent’ peoples,” Nanan explained recently.

“In the year of the Golden Jubilee, black faces are absent from the crowds celebrating the royal pomp and splendour,
the faces from the empire on which that pageantry has thrived and survived…We are not truly independent until we divest ourselves of the bowing and scraping to others whom we are told are better than us because of religion, race and class. Instead we seem to have adopted these same prejudices in the quest for power and control."

The Baby Krishna consists of four parts also: Food and Oil; Agony and Ecstasy; Fauna and Flora; and Sugar and Salt. The Krishnas combine ideologies and imagery, the Renaissance-like postures of the cherubs are combined with the Eastern religious icons, and painted in powder-blue hues that are echoed in so many of our national festivals, from the heavily pigmented Blue Devils to Phagwa’s abeer. Again Nanan has tapped into our diverse iconography.

“The Baby Krishna appears as an angel or cherub to succour our impoverished states. In Food and Oil he appears to show that when the last drop of oil has run out of our once overflowing enamel cups, when we have stopped relying on external vagaries for wealth and growth, we can turn (to) native inventions born from local needs, created by a people of rich cultural juxtapositions. We can learn to rely on ourselves.”

Nanan explained in July 2012.

Independence is the second show this year by Nanan and follows her Books and Stupas exhibition at Medulla Art Gallery in March. Born in Trinidad and Tobago in 1955, Nanan studied at Manchester Polytechnic and Wolverhampton Polytechnic. She has exhibited in France; England; Canada and Dominican Republic and is perhaps best known for her popular series Idyllic Marriage in 1997.

Art critic/writer, Anne Walmsley in July wrote that, “I hold Nanan’s work in high regard, prizing in particular its embrace of artisan traditions of the past, including those of Mas; its attentiveness to the properties of different materials; its rootedness in her inherited, creolised cultural practices; its wit and wisdom, concerns and integrity.”

The symbolism of Independence is in-your-face and the wit heaviest in The Nation Morphs. Here the island literally transforms into a banana (republic); this may be the least original of the lot, but for many, the most apt. As for the arresting Enlightenment is stop-animation-like piece of the seven golden suns awakening, wickedly blazing bright and then beginning to drowse again, the cycle of life, politics, nature… is superbly painted and imagined.

Trinidad and Tobago is truly a juxtaposition, as Nanan states, and her layered work underscores this point. The sculpture is crafted from temporal material, there is no marble, no bronze, but more traditional materials and processes. There is a Minshalesque embrace of “artisan traditions of the past”. In fact one can safely state that in our country some of the best sculptures are those that highlight the temporal, like the monumental effigies that are burnt at Ramleela, the ornate tadjahs that are set adrift in the sea for Hosay, the intricately wire-crafted Carnival Kings and Queens, Fancy Sailor and Bat costumes that are built to last just for the Festival. With a message steeped in renewal and longevity, contrasted with one of mortality and the ephemeral, Independence is truly a state of mind. This exhibit is a must see for all students. Nanan remains like the up-and-coming artists she has inspired at UWI, a master sculptor, and interpreter of truths.

– Review by Anna Walcott-Hardy
The new Strategic Plan utilises the internationally recognised Balanced Scorecard (BSC) framework which allows for the linking of the institution’s vision with strategic goals and objectives and effective monitoring of implementation of the Plan.

The foundation elements of the Plan include realignment of the mission, vision and core values and six integrated strategic perspectives on which attention will be focussed for the next five years:

1. Financial
2. Employee Engagement and Development
3. Internal Operational Processes
4. Teaching, Learning and Student Development
5. Research and Innovation
6. Outreach

These six perspectives and their corresponding themes, goals and objectives are linked together in an integrated strategic framework, and each element is integral to the process of achieving the mission and vision of The UWI.

Operationalising the Plan
Realising the objectives set out in the new Strategic Plan will depend on effective execution at all levels of The University and require the involvement and commitment of all members of the university community. Moreover, a culture of mutual accountability at all levels and effective communication must become an integral part of the fabric of the institution, from the highest organisational levels down to each individual employee.
Across the region, at each Campus and within the Vice Chancellery, multidisciplinary teams drawn from across all levels are working on developing Operational Plans aimed at linking strategy to vision through the creation of a system of objectives, initiatives and projects, measures/indicators, timelines, responsibilities and resource needs to ensure the proper implementation of the Strategic Plan.

In May 2012, just one month after University Council's approval of the Plan, St. Augustine Campus Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal, Professor Clement Sankat rallied his troops, appointing his Campus Operational Planning team, led by Mr. Errol Simms with support from the Campus Office of Planning and Institutional Research, and comprising a number of working groups, each focussing on one of the key strategic perspectives outlined in the Plan. Over the last three months, these working groups have been playing critical roles in reviewing the objectives and identifying priority areas for the Campus' first biennial Operational Plan under the new strategic framework, while bearing in mind the Campus’ responsiveness to the national developmental needs.

All Campus Operational Plans are expected to be presented at the October 2012 Executive Management Team's Retreat for approval, and thereafter be ready for implementation. These plans will also use the Balanced Scorecard (BSC) framework, and each department will be required to chart its progress against the Operational Plan's targets and generate annual reports on performance.

The overall strategic planning process will be coordinated by The University's Executive Management Team (EMT), headed by the Vice Chancellor, with The University Office of Planning and Development (UOPD), in association with Campus Planning offices, providing support in monitoring and evaluating the Plan's progress.

To view a copy of the UWI Strategic Plan 2012 – 2017, please visit The University Office of Planning and Development’s website at [www.uwi.edu/planningoffice/default.aspx](http://www.uwi.edu/planningoffice/default.aspx)

The new Strategic Plan utilises the internationally recognised Balanced Scorecard (BSC) framework which allows for the linking of the institution's vision with strategic goals and objectives and effective monitoring of implementation of the Plan.
AS A YOUNG GIRL, just five years old, Abigail Perreira knew that she wanted to be a doctor. Her mother was nurturing and supportive of her daughter’s passion for medicine, telling her on a daily basis that she could be anything "she wanted to be". Today, Abigail is a third year medical student at UWI, reading for the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery programme and she is also a mother. She is about to “transition into the clinical aspect of medicine” and is looking forward to the next step with the support of her family, including her son, who is about to enter primary school.

Abigail was recently selected from thousands of entrants as a Scholar/Essay winner by the prestigious New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) for her essay, "Harnessing Technology To Improve Health". This then led to her being invited to attend the Harvard Medical School symposium, "Dialogues in Medicine", in June in Boston, Massachusetts. The symposium focused on HIV/AIDS, Breast Cancer, Maternal and Foetal Health and Cardiology. On her return, Abigail spoke with Anna Walcott-Hardy about her plans for the future.

In my article, I discussed ways in which the doctor-patient relationship can be strengthened by incorporating the internet and social media for communication.
Seems to me that you have to be a special type of person to be a surgeon. To operate on someone, open a heart, cut into a limb, takes great confidence, training and technique. Would you agree?

I would definitely agree that for a profession as such, all these attributes are necessary. In addition, to becoming a professional in any field of work, these qualities are required.

How do you feel about winning this award – being published in this prestigious journal of medicine?

I feel truly blessed and winning has been enlightening to say the least. It has opened my eyes even more to the world of medicine and the importance of science, research and technology in further developing health care.

Can you tell us about your article and why do you think it was selected? It must have been quite an essay.

In my article, I discussed ways in which the doctor-patient relationship can be strengthened by incorporating the internet and social media for focused communication. In addition, I focused on new ways in which medical professionals at different hospitals around the globe can communicate especially by the creation of a worldwide secure database where a patient’s records can be accessed when required. As to the exact reason whereby my article was chosen, I’ll have to consult the editors at NEJM for that information.

Many in the medical profession are accused of choosing this field for monetary reward and social prestige, rather than for altruistic reasons. How can we ensure that our future medical practitioners are committed to the care of others and not just students selecting a career that will ensure they “make money”?

I can only answer for myself, knowing it has been a lifelong goal of mine to be in the medical field caring for others, and to actually be fulfilling this dream is a reward far greater than anything the world can offer. In addition I truly believe that love, empathy and passion are all necessary for administering proper health care to patients and these are traits that each student should possess.

Our hospitals are in dire need of professionals – are there areas where you think you can help to improve our national health care system?

I do believe that our nation’s hospitals are made up of excellent professionals right now, however I think we need some more to reduce the time the patient spends waiting to see a doctor.

Why did you decide to study medicine at UWI? What would you say are the strengths and challenges of the programme?

Trinidad is my home and it was just natural for me to study here at UWI. In addition, I knew the medical education offered is great. The strengths of the programme will be the fact that it is well-rounded and all aspects of medicine are incorporated from the very start. So far I have not encountered any challenges with the programme especially since education is student-centered at this institution.

Do you have mentors at UWI who have inspired you along the way?

Every one of my lecturers has been a mentor to me. They all have been gracious and willing to impart their wisdom and knowledge of medicine both inside and out of the classroom.

So you’re enjoying university life?

I am having the best time of my life! UWI is great and I thoroughly enjoy every part of my time here. Time flies when you’re having fun. From the moment I entered the MBBS programme to now, all my lecturers have been truly dedicated in providing us with an exceptional education. My peers are really like family away from home, someone is always willing to be of assistance whenever you need it. I am also very grateful with all the opportunities available for young people at UWI.

After graduation, what are your plans?

After medical school, I will definitely consider specialising, however I wish to explore all there is to offer before making a final decision.

Fifty Trees for Fifty Years

“What we do to the environment today will be the legacy we leave for our children and grandchildren to inherit tomorrow,” Professor Clement Sankat, Principal and Pro Vice Chancellor of The University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine Campus, stated as the Campus commemorated the 50th anniversary of Trinidad and Tobago’s Independence on Monday 27th August with the “Fifty Trees for Fifty Years” launch.

The 50 trees that will be planted on the Campus, which include Balata (manilkara bidentata), Lay Lay (cordia collococca), Soap Seed (sapindus saponaria) and Serette (byronsonima spicata), will not only enhance the lush Campus but the trees will also be integral to teaching and research at The UWI.

Dr. Carlisle Pemberton, Dean of the Faculty of Food and Agriculture, reinforced Professor Sankat’s point on the importance of trees to our country, adding that Trinidad and Tobago’s agricultural sector is vital to the rural population and, therefore, necessary for “rural poverty alleviation”, research, as well as flood prevention and protection of our watershed. Speakers at the ceremony included Honourable Ramona Ramdial, Minister of State in the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources; the Honourable Ganga Singh, Minister of the Environment and Water Resources; and Dr. Shobha Maharaj, Acting Curator of the National Herbarium at The UWI St. Augustine Campus.

Awards for Research

In October, the Office of the Campus Principal, in partnership with the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago will host the Research Awards Ceremony to celebrate some of the University’s most outstanding and accomplished researchers. Staff members and postgraduate students who have distinguished themselves in this category over the past three years will be recognised. This ceremony also aims to build awareness within the wider community of the research that is carried out at The UWI. The Master of Ceremonies will be Mr. Anthony Harford, and remarks will be provided by UWI’s Vice Chancellor, Professor E. Nigel Harris; NGC President, Mr. Indar Maharaj; Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training, Senator The Honourable Fazal Karim; and Pro Vice Chancellor and UWI St. Augustine Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat.

For more information contact the Office of the Campus Principal at 662-2002 ext. 83937.
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The CABI COLLECTION

Zoology museum expands to over 50,000 specimens

MIKE RUTHERFORD often spends his weekends exploring local rainforests in search of insects. At times he’s accompanied by a camera crew from the BBC, Discovery Channel or a group of UWI students. On other days he makes the solitary trek to the home of a collector who wants to share unique items, which may range from whale bones to butterflies. As The UWI Zoology Museum’s curator, he works alongside colleagues, Raj Mahabir and Jenna Ramnarine, to examine, catalogue and include several of these finds into the impressive collection housed at the St. Augustine Campus. Recently, the museum expanded significantly and is currently home to the largest insect collection in the country.
About the CABI Collection

In July 2012, The University of the West Indies Zoology Museum (UWIZM) acquired the CABI (Centre for Agricultural Bioscience International) Insect Collection. This merger of the largest and second largest insect collections in Trinidad and Tobago, means that in this one room there are now over 50,000 specimens.

The collection dates back to 1949 when Freddie Simmonds moved to Trinidad to study the insect predators of the invasive weed Black Sage (Cordia curassavica) and it grew from there.

Probably the most important contributor to the development of the collection was Fred Bennett. For the more than 30 years that he worked at CABI he collected many specimens and got much material named. As the Entomologist-in-charge he was also the person who allocated resources to create a collection room, buy the cabinets and organise all the locally made insect trays.

Many CABI staff entomologists prepared project collections based on their research interests including Matthew Cock, who did the majority of the Lepidoptera collecting, Rachel Cruttwell (now Rachel McFadyen) and the late Maajid Yaseen. Some would have made collections of other groups of insects that interested them, or insects that caught their attention.

Various visiting researchers also gathered specimens and left some or all to be added to the collection, these included Joanna Darlington, Marinus Sommeijer, John Noyes, Dick Baranowski, June & Floyd Preston and Julius Boos.

The bulk of the material is from Trinidad, but specimens have been added from Tobago and from other Caribbean and Latin American countries on an opportunistic and project-driven basis.

In the 1990s, Michael Morais was responsible for the collection and in the 2000s Perry Polar looked after it for a short period. In the late 2000s it was decided that the collection was no longer being utilised properly at CABI, as research projects had moved into new areas, and that a merger with the UWIZM would be the best way to preserve it for future generations.

– Michael Rutherford
How does bio-diversity help humans?
The importance of biological diversity for human well-being and even survival has become increasingly clear in recent years. Arthropods make up nearly 90% of the estimated 30 million animal species on our planet. Of these, insects are the dominant group with about 80% of all animal species. Disappointingly, it is estimated that more than 85% of all insects remain uncollected and have yet to be described. The situation is particularly acute in the tropics, and Small Island States (SIDs) such as those in the Caribbean are no exception. The situation in SIDs is further exacerbated by the thrust of infrastructure development and lack of trained human resources. Added to this is the reluctance of the donor community to invest in SIDs whose importance would seem to be relatively lower compared to the continental landmasses.

It is common knowledge that of the Caribbean states, Trinidad and Tobago has the most diverse flora and fauna and it would be most unfortunate if the means could not be secured that would allow further development and utilisation of this rich natural resource. This would not only be of benefit to Trinidad and Tobago but also the region as a whole.

Arthropods we can’t do without…..
Arthropods provide a wide range of utilitarian, ecological, scientific, aesthetic and cultural values. In addition to being the dominant group of animals which influence a great deal of ecosystem function and thus ecological sustainability of our planet, there are numerous direct benefits. For instance, arthropods play a significant role in nutrient cycling and indeed, the group can compose half the animal biomass in some tropical forests. From an agricultural standpoint, most people will be familiar with honey and silk production but few are aware that about one third of the world’s crop production depends directly or indirectly on pollination by insects.

“...To be effectively used, arthropod diversity must be discovered, described, and organised.”
...and some we can do without! Despite the beneficial aspects, it is also true that arthropods and particularly insects cause untold losses and misery. Many are serious pests of crops, livestock and humans, causing direct damage or as vectors of serious diseases. Indeed it is perhaps not surprising that because of this much of the general public has a strong feeling of anxiety, antipathy, and revulsion towards arthropods.

While such attitudes can be changed through public education, clearly a major challenge is how to manage those arthropods we don’t need while conserving those we do need. As mentioned above, IPM is widely accepted as the solution. IPM is a knowledge rich strategy which requires an in-depth knowledge of the cropping systems including natural enemies.

Arthropod conservation
Concern for conserving global biological diversity has been fostered as well by an awareness of increasing numbers of species becoming endangered or extinct, particularly in association with widespread habitat destruction by humans. The status of arthropods from a Caribbean context is less clear due to the poor state of knowledge. However, extrapolating from agricultural situations, one can only conclude that it is vital that conservation of arthropods be taken as seriously as conservation of other groups. Unfortunately despite the possible catastrophic extinction of species including arthropods, the general public and most policymakers are largely unaware of how such a loss may affect human well-being in the long-term.

“[RESEARCH] This merger of the largest and second largest insect collections in Trinidad and Tobago, means that in this one room there are now over 50,000 specimens.”
Why do we need Collections?
One of the main obstacles to beneficial use of insect and terrestrial arthropod resources as well as their conservation is inadequate scientific reconnaissance of their diversity. **To be effectively used, arthropod diversity must be discovered, described, and organised.** Material so collected is reposited in a collection and becomes a basis for reference, identification and training and public awareness.

Collections in Trinidad
The largest arthropod collection in Trinidad and Tobago, the CABI has been merged with The University of the West Indies collection. There are two other sizeable collections: the Barcant Collection maintained by Angostura Ltd and the Urich Collection. There are also several small collections at the Ministry of Food Production, Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC), the National Museum and Caroni (1975) Ltd. There are several other collections covering other groups but the most notable is the National Herbarium which provides a service to the region.

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*Excerpt from an article by Moses Cairo*
CHOCOLATE TROVE

THE COCOA RESEARCH UNIT TURNS 50
AND EXPANDS ITS REACH AND RESEARCH

Serah Acham
By now we all know that Trinidad and Tobago is home to the coveted 100 per cent fine or flavour Trinitario cocoa – so called because it was conceived and came to life in our soil, a hybrid of the flavourful Criollo and robust Forastero varieties that grew there previously. Yet, few are aware that for the past 50 years we have also had the bragging rights to one of the largest resources in the global cocoa and chocolate industry – The UWI’s Cocoa Research Unit (CRU).
“The Cocoa Research Unit has been one of The University of the West Indies’ hidden treasures of excellence,” said Professor Dyer Narinesingh, then Dean of the Faculty of Science and Agriculture. “Hidden,” he continued, because not many in T&T know of “the pivotal role it has played in establishing cocoa industries, not only in the Caribbean but internationally” as well. A leading authority in everything cocoa, researchers, scientists, farmers and chocolate makers throughout the world come to the CRU to take advantage of the first class knowledge, skills and technology it has to offer.

So it’s no surprise that on this, the jubilee of its “treasure,” The UWI is pulling-out all the stops.

The CRU’s 50th anniversary celebrations kicked-off with flair at The Spirit of Chocolate, a unique tasting experience starring Trinidad’s Trinitario cocoa beans. On Saturday July 21st investors and beneficiaries of the CRU gathered at the Hilton Trinidad’s Grand Ballroom to learn about the Unit, the type of work done there and its value to the world’s cocoa and chocolate industry.

The evening began with an exhibition of cocoa. The CRU, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Cocoa and Coffee Industry Board and the Tobago Cocoa Farmers Association were among those who set up display booths. Pods, beans, a miniature cocoa house and cocoa-carrying donkey were on display and those who visited the CRU’s booth were given a review of the chocolate making process, from bean to bar. As guests moved from one booth to the other, they sampled truffles, bonbons and other chocolatey morsels all made with local high quality Trinitario beans. Cocobel, Exotic Caribbean Mountain Pride, Gina’s Chocolate Truffles and

Prof. Dyer Narinesingh, Former Dean, Faculty of Science & Agriculture, The UWI, St. Augustine is greeted by Prof. Pathmanathan Umaharan, Head, CRU and Ms. Frances Bekele Research Fellow at the CRU
Violetta Fine Chocolates were all front and centre, offering guests a taste of the fine quality chocolate that our cocoa can produce.

An Opening Ceremony followed where Mr. Sharan Singh, Director of the International Office; Professor Dyer Narinesingh; Professor Pathmanathan Umaharan, Head of the CRU; and (representing the Honourable Minister of Food Production) The Honourable Mr. Jairam Seemungal, Minister of State in the Ministry of Food Production, spoke of the CRU’s accomplishments and its sterling reputation – locally, regionally and internationally.

Next-up was the pièce de résistance – a unique tasting experience featuring select dishes, each pairing chocolate made from T&T’s finest cocoa beans with a meat or vegetable and a spirit, either rum, wine or beer – introduced by its creator, World Chocolate Ambassador, Chef Bart Van Cauwenberghe.

“The cocoa you have here is the top of the world, believe me,” Chef Bart affirmed, declaring his surprise that few people are taking advantage of this and manufacturing on a large scale. “Who is making the chocolate?” he asked. “Nobody …maybe just one or two… I was astounded.”

The tasting was meant to highlight the diversity and complexity of chocolate and to promote the quality of the cocoa.

“It’s a little bit bizarre,” he said of the flavour combinations in each of the appetizers, but he urged the guests to give them a try as he ushered everyone to the tables where they were being served.

The evening ended with the room awash with enthusiasm as guests walked from station to station sampling the fare and trying to determine what exactly they were eating. While there
were some flavours that could be discerned quite easily, others were more layered. Chocolate was combined creatively with *pancetta*, *Foie Gras*, *Chicken Coco*, fish and a *Sabayon*, along with fruit “*Passion in a Glass*” and *panna cotta*. Each delectable combination was perfectly complemented with a select spirit.

On their way out of the ballroom, guests were given a token of two chocolate truffles, tucked cosily in a decorative box and tied with a bow. By the end of the evening, all were certain of two things: they were eating the finest chocolate in the world, and without the CRU, this may not have been possible.

“The cocoa you have here is the top of the world, believe me”

World Chocolate Ambassador, Chef Bart

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*The original version of this article first appeared in the August issue of UWI Today*
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ON YOUR MARKS, get set, GO! Moving into residence; meeting faculty and staff; charting a career path; making new friends. UWI Life has begun.

Over the past years, student orientation at the St Augustine Campus has been evolving. In 1999 we started with a three-tier of the UWI Life events – UWI Life Support, UWI Life Student and UWI Life Extension. Since then, official university orientation has grown into a yearlong initiative called the First Year Experience (FYE) programme. Championed by Dr Deirdre Charles, Director of Student Services, this new FYE programme is a range of yearlong experiences that include seminars, workshops, tours and discussions designed to assist first-year, first-time students with their orientation and transition to university life.

What’s the difference? Well, the First Year Experience programme is internationally recognised and no longer focuses on a single first-year forum or an orientation week. Instead, it offers a combination of yearlong orientation and transition activities that are in sync with the diverse needs of the student population. Dr Charles, in recognition of this, teamed up with the Offices of the Instructional Development Unit and Marketing and Communications to commence the review of campus-wide student orientation activities. The team’s proposal to redesign and implement a more holistic and integrative approach to orientation and transition, drew the support of Campus stakeholders.
The implementation of the FYE programme marries traditional orientation events with novel additions. Services such as the Meet & Greet and the Check-In programme for first-time, first-year international and regional students are well established. The Meet & Greet service assisted students who needed advice on transportation available to take them to their respective residences, while Check-In encouraged students to participate in a host of structured activities designed to provide them with insight into Campus life as well as the culture of Trinidad and Tobago.

Other FYE events were also enhanced. As new students collected acceptance packages, we began to introduce them to the physical layout of The University via a Campus Tour. Know Your Faculty, engaged hundreds of students interested in understanding the rules and regulations of their respective faculties while the Welcome Home forum instructed students about coping with the challenges of resident life. Students also met with Campus administration, learnt about the student support services and how to get involved in Campus life at the UWI Life Student, Information Village and UWI Guild Fest. Other channels for support include: library tours as well as career planning and development opportunities – Career Seminars. Guardians/spouses of new students are not neglected as they also have an opportunity to be informed about the facilities and services available to students via the UWI Life Support forum.
Moving a step further, the FYE programme offers transitioning workshops for new students. Therefore, they are encouraged to register for upcoming workshops like UWI Clicks, which teaches them how to navigate the University website as well as the student portal. Other new innovations include Study Skills workshops that will introduce students to strategies on differing study plans and patterns, while Health and Well Being workshops seek to educate students on health related matters and counseling services. Similarly, students will be encouraged to get involved in volunteerism and community engagement via the Service Learning Seminars and even Co-curricular Seminars.
Indeed, the FYE programme is off to an exciting start. Intent on one purpose, this year’s edition of FYE is themed MY UWI L.I.F.E. and it inspires students to embrace the tenets of L.I.F.E. – Learn, Imagine, Focus and Engage – as they navigate through The University. With this new line-up of events, first-year students have an opportunity to fully embrace and engage with many aspects of Campus life.

Looking to the future, Dr Charles foresees that students who participate in FYE activities can learn to master skills in three principal areas, namely: developing academic skills, adjusting to UWI life and career and academic goals. These skills will help to develop more holistic and well-rounded students who in turn add to the pool of distinctive UWI graduates. Beyond the first year, Dr Charles advises students to embrace other developmental opportunities available to support them during their tenure at this university.

– Student Advisory Services
Championed by Dr Deirdre Charles, Director of Student Services, this new FYE programme is a range of yearlong experiences that include seminars, workshops, tours and discussions designed to assist first-year, first-time students with their orientation and transition to university life.
ON FRIDAY AUGUST 3RD a group of senior Faculty, Administrators and Alumni returned from a three-week academic immersion experience in India. This project was organised by the UWI St. Augustine Office of Institutional Advancement & Internationalisation and led by Prof. Kapil Kumar, a visiting lecturer holding the post of Chair of Contemporary Indian Studies.

The group completed a highly successful and extensive schedule in eight cities and visited several of India’s leading academic institutions and cultural centres, including the Indira Gandhi National Open University, the National Museum, the Centre for Electronic Communications, Amity International University, the National Institute of Design, the Institute of Hotel Management and the Indian Institute of Travel and Tourism Management. These meetings generated great interest in pursuing collaborative initiatives with the Caribbean, as well as The University of the West Indies. The group enjoyed lectures and seminars by prominent Indian academics in the fields of education, history, agriculture, science, small industry, business, mythology and culture, in an effort to understand the complexity and uniqueness of contemporary India. They were also hosted by various private and public organisations and networked with a wide range of Indian leaders.

This academic immersion experience was the first in the ‘UWI Discovers’ series, which was recently launched at the St. Augustine Campus. Through this
initiative, groups of university students, staff and alumni will be exposed to the leading countries over the next four years. After this inaugural visit to India in 2012, Brazil, South Africa and China will each be added over the next three years. The purpose of the ‘UWI Discovers’ series is to further the internationalisation agenda of The University, an issue which is central to The UWI Strategic Plan for the period 2012-2017. Participants will be immersed in all contemporary aspects of these countries, with the aim of ensuring that Caribbean leaders (current and future) are aware of and engaged in the unique cultures, customs and opportunities for the region to engage in constructive partnerships.

The Indian High Commission in Trinidad & Tobago and the Trinidad & Tobago High Commission in India played critical roles in helping to develop the programme and secure opportunities for the group whilst in India. During the tour, the group’s activity generated significant interest and media coverage. The UWI group engaged in several unique activities, including a panel discussion which was televised live across the country. The discussion focused on the West Indian contingent’s experiences and perspectives of India. Group members spoke from their areas of expertise which included engineering, the humanities, management, mediation, social sciences and medicine. Participants have expressed an extremely positive reaction to the project and The UWI looks forward to ‘Discovering’ Brazil, South Africa and China!
ON JUNE 15TH hundreds turned-out to pay tribute to the Campus’ retirees at the “Celebrating Our Own” Retirement and Employee Recognition Award Ceremony at UWI Sport and Physical Education Centre (SPEC), St Augustine.

“Our University could not be the outstanding institution it is, without staff such as you. Collectively, your diligent service and commitment have contributed to the success of our Campus and University. I commend you, our retirees and the families that have supported you through this UWI journey,” Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat, stated at the ceremony.

The Campus Principal also added that ‘our retirees are the pillars of this institution and in paying tribute to them we are also honoring the core values of UWI – the pursuit of excellence, a keen sense of individual and social responsibility and a commitment to the development of the region’.

Ms. Mona Hernandez, Mr. Steve McKell, Ms. Felicia Hernandez and Mrs. Lisa Holder-Romain all formerly of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Mt. Hope accept the Excellence in Entrepreneurship Award from Deputy Campus Principal, Prof Rhoda Reddock.

Ms. Marsha Gibson, Centre for Language Learning, accepts the Excellence in Entrepreneurship Award from Deputy Campus Principal, Prof Rhoda Reddock.
Dr. Sydney Thomas, Senior Lecturer in Reaction Engineering, Petroleum & Natural Gas Processing, Department of Chemical Engineering receives retirement award from Prof. Hariharan Seetharaman, Professor of Anaesthetics, Anaesthesia & Intensive Care Unit, School of Medicine.

Mr. Seepersad Bangar, Former Foreman of the Grounds Section of The Division of Facilities Management, receives retirement award from University Registrar, Mr. C. William Iton.

Mr. Hamid Ghany, Former Dean Faculty of Social Sciences presents retirement award to Ms. Una Simon formerly of The Alma Jordan Library.

Mr. Michael De Gazon, Former Senior Lab Assistant at the Engineering Workshop, with his wife at the event.

Mr. Kennis Thomas of The Alma Jordan Library, receives the Excellence in Community and Outreach Award from Deputy Campus Principal, Prof. Rhoda Reddock.

Mr. Hollis Nicholas, Former Director of the Human Resource Department, presents the Team Award for the Department of Chemical Engineering to Ms. Veronica Corbie, Senior Administrative Assistant for the Department of Chemical Engineering.
At the Ceremony, members of staff were also presented with employee awards in diverse categories. The winners included: Marsha Gibson, Clerical/Accounting Assistant at the Centre for Language Learning who was recognized for her Excellence in Entrepreneurship; Geeta Kissoon, Microsoft Office Specialist Trainer, Campus Information Technology Services who was first choice for Excellence in Customer Service; Kennis Thomas, Accounts Supervisor, The Alma Jordan Library, won for his Excellence in Community and Outreach; while Jeevan Persad, Engineering Technician - Projects, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering was recognized for his Excellence in Creativity and Innovation.

The Department of Chemical Engineering was celebrated for spearheading a photography exhibition highlighting the former Heads of the Department. The commitment, collaboration and professionalism that came to the fore during the execution of the project led to the team winning the Excellence in Collaboration and Teamwork award.
Mr. Martin Lee John of the Faculty of Engineering shares a word with the Campus Principal and PVC, Prof Clement Sankat.

Mr. Audit Ramlogan, formerly Foreman for Transport of the Division of Facilities Management, receives retirement award from University Registrar, Mr. C. William Iton.

Mrs. Melan Soo Ting, former Senior Secretary, Office of the Campus Registrar, with husband Mr. Patrick Soo Ting at the Awards Ceremony.

Prof. Phyllis Pitt-Miller, former Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, with husband, Mr. Heathcliffe Miller at the Awards Ceremony.

Ms. Patricia Jordan, formerly of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, and daughter Ms. Stacey Jordan.
AS A TEENAGER, I could hardly be called a fan of Caribbean literature. To my underexposed mind, it was the stuff of high school class rooms or worse, exams. Captivating stories, lovable characters and poetic language were overshadowed by the assigned quota of pages to read per night, character sketches and essays hurriedly written the night before they were due. Then the Bocas Lit Fest came around and I was forced to change my mind.

Only in its second year, T&T’s national literary festival has amassed quite a dedicated following. Readers and writers of Caribbean literature throughout the region and diaspora cleared their calendars for four days, from April 26th to 29th, and made their way to the National Library (NALIS) in Port of Spain for the Bocas Lit Fest 2012.

This year’s festival featured a schedule chock-full of literary, cultural and educational events. There were workshops on how to improve your writing skills, readings by new writers, film screenings based on Caribbean books, discussions on music, art, fashion, culture and science, performance poetry sessions open to anyone confident enough to step up to the mic’ and a midday intrusion by the Midnight Robber.

This festival “is definitely an avenue for the generation of knowledge about literature, about art, about culture generally,” says Professor Funso Aiyejina, an acclaimed poet, Dean of UWI’s Faculty of Humanities and Education, as well as one of the organizers of the festival.

a convergence of dreams
Serah Acham
Mercury by Nikolai Noel
courtesy the Bocas Lit Fest 2012
The idea for a Caribbean literary festival was brewing in two minds, apparently at the same time. Professor Aiyejina had just organized a book fair for The University’s 60th anniversary and he wanted to make it an annual event. Unfortunately, the economic climate at the time didn’t allow for it and the idea was cast aside. Sometime later he was contacted by Marina Salandy-Brown, who related her own hopes of establishing a means of celebrating Caribbean literature. He shared his idea with her and the Bocas Lit Fest was born. "I’ll call it the convergence of dreams," he says.

As the Caribbean’s annual literary festival, Bocas is a celebration of books, of writers and of writing, says Professor Aiyejina. So many talented writers come out of Trinidad and Tobago and the wider Caribbean that we have long been in need of such a form of recognition. This festival sets out to achieve just that. Names like George Lamming, Sharon Millar, Erna Brodber, Rabindranath Maharaj, Merle Hodge and Myriam Chancy, littered the Bocas Lit Fest’s schedule in panels, short and long lists, workshops, readings and performances.

Yet, Professor Aiyejina says, this recognition should also be in relation to the rest of the world. "We see the Caribbean as the centre of the world. So we focus on the Caribbean," but, "we live in an interconnected world and there is no reason why one should be insular. While you celebrate yourself, you celebrate yourself in the context of self and others because that is the only way your celebration of self can be meaningful to both you and the world."

“…anything that we do to help the development of literature, is definitely going to help the development of the society because through literature we talk to ourselves, through literature we examine ourselves, through literature we articulate our hopes and aspirations…”
A post by Bocas Lit Fest blogger, Shivanee Ramlochan, (a recap of the reading of *Atmospheric Disturbances*, written by Canadian-American author, Rivka Galchen), comes to mind where she says that its “inclusiveness” is one of the things she admires most about the festival. It welcomed the work of a “foreign writer” rather than cast it aside.

“There’s incredible value in inviting exciting, resonant talent to read, participate and share, on our shores. It extends the circle of bookish community even further, and how can this be a bad thing?” writes Ramlochan.

Another leap that the festival made for the Caribbean is the introduction of the OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature – a mixed genre prize encompassing fiction, non-fiction and poetry. There was just one prize for local literature in the past, says Professor Aiyejina. This was in 1964, when the BP Independence Literary Prize was presented to Earl Lovelace for his first book, *Wild Birds Are Falling*.

“Like Earl Lovelace, I have always felt that it is a shame that this place, the nation which gave birth to the talents of people like VS Naipaul, Earl Lovelace and Sam Selvon, didn’t have a national literary prize.” Professor Aiyejina says that he saw this as an opportunity because “we needed a national prize.” But the festival accomplished a little more than that. “It is a regional prize. It is open to the whole Caribbean, at home and abroad, which therefore means that we are able to get the best that the region has to offer,” he declares, expressing gratitude to One Caribbean Media (OCM) who sponsored the annual prize of US $10,000 both this year and last year.

Writers who made this year’s short list for the prize include Loretta Collins Klobah whose collection of poems, titled *The Twelve-Foot Neon Woman*, was the top selection in Poetry; Godfrey P. Smith who won in the Non-fiction category for his biography of the Belizean Prime Minister, titled *George Price: A Life Revealed*; and Fiction winner, Earl Lovelace, for his novel *Is Just a Movie*. Lovelace, a former lecturer at UWI, would emerge as the overall winner of the OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature in 2012, with Nobel Laureate and UWI graduate, Derek Walcott, taking home the title the previous year.

This year the Bocas Lit Fest introduced another prize, this one for emerging writers. The establishment of the Hollick Arvon Caribbean Writers Prize was revealed at the 2012 OCM Bocas Prize announcement ceremony. This prize will be sponsored by the Hollick Family Charitable Trust and the Arvon Foundation, in association with the NGC.
Bocas Lit Fest, and targets Caribbean writers living in the Anglophone region, who have not yet published a full-length book. This prize, worth £10,000 will afford the winner the resources necessary to propel and possibly publish a work in progress. It will include mentoring sessions with an established Caribbean writer and admission, including travel costs, to a week-long creative writing course at the Arvon Foundation, which is located in England.

There’s also a place at the Bocas Lit Fest for the Caribbean’s youngest readers and writers. Professor Aiyejina affirms that the festival is a vehicle for preserving the future of Caribbean literature by molding an appreciation for it within our children.

“We decided if we are going to build a readership for the future we have to start with the children so we have the children segment of the Bocas Lit Fest,” where children from six to 15 years old gathered to listen to stories told by the festival’s story tellers and, if they were brave enough, tell their own stories.

KFC sponsored this endeavour and provided a comfortable space for these story times. In fact, some of the stories told by children last year were compiled and published in the *2011 Children’s Stories From the Bocas Lit Fest*, added Professor Aiyejina.

“We are trying to develop the readers and the writers from that end … because if you don’t do it with children, when they grow up and become adults they will not be able to appreciate literature and culture.” The intention of the children’s segment is to “grow the audience and to grow the pool from which other writers will emerge as we go along.”

These are just some of the numerous initiatives that “draw the nation’s attention to the significance of the” creativity that comes out of Trinidad and Tobago and this talent should be taken seriously. At the end of the day, the Professor explained, “if one sees literature as one of the best mirrors for us to behold ourselves, then anything that we do to help the development of literature is definitely going to help the development of the society, because through literature we talk to ourselves, through literature we examine ourselves, through literature we articulate our hopes and aspirations, so that anything that helps to develop literature is also helping to develop all of those aspects of human development.”

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Serah Acham
is a writer and member of staff at the UWI Marketing & Communications Department.
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IN THE CARIBBEAN we are often stalled from discovering neighbouring writers, not only because of geographical boundaries, but as a result of language barriers. **Border Crossings** attempts to bridge this gap with the trilingual translations of a collection of short stories by writers from the Caribbean diaspora. To date, no anthology of short stories from the region has accomplished this. The collection includes stories from Cuba (Mirta Yanez), Guadeloupe (Giselle Pineau), Haiti (Yanick Lahens), Jamaica (Olive Senior), Puerto Rico (Carmen Lugo Filippi) and Trinidad and Tobago (Shani Mootoo), which have been translated into English, French and Spanish.

The book has been lauded for its diversity and complexity. Assistant Professor, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at the University of Miami, Mark Brudzinski writes that, “This collection gives additional exposure to Caribbean women writers and at the same time the focus on border crossing also safeguards against the impression that the writers’ gender is the only significant aspect of their stories”.

**The book is edited by Drs Nicole Roberts and Elizabeth Walcott-Hackshaw.** Dr Roberts is a Senior Lecturer in Spanish and Hispanic Literature and Head of the Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics, Faculty of Humanities and Education (FHE), at the St. Augustine Campus, UWI. Her most recent publication is *Main Themes in Twentieth-Century Afro-Hispanic Poetry: A Literary Sociology*. Dr Elizabeth Walcott-Hackshaw is Senior Lecturer, French and Francophone Literature, and Deputy Dean in the FHE at UWI St Augustine. Her first collection of short stories *Four Taxis Facing North* was published in 2007 and she has co-edited two books on the *Haitian Revolution: Reinterpreting the Haitian Revolution and Its Cultural Aftershocks and Echoes of the Haitian Revolution 1804-2004*.
INSPIRED BY THE STORIES told to him by his Aaji (paternal grandmother) who made the journey from Karaundi Goan in India to Jamaica in 1905, before migrating to Trinidad, Ramesh Ramcharan captures her tale in an engaging book that combines oral history with extensive archival research.

Where the Journey Began is in essence a story that will resound with many West Indians, a tale of voluntary exile, indentureship, independence and self-discovery – of families who decide to leave their homeland to create a better life in a new world. Like many migrants, some decided to return home to India. Ramcharan also makes the journey in 1999 to Uttar Pradesh, to “repay the ancestral family debt”.

In fact, over a twelve-year period, Ramcharan conducted extensive research for this book. In India he stayed at the home of his grandparents in Karaundi Goan, gaining first-hand knowledge of the villagers and their lifestyle. There he discovered dire poverty and profound generosity. He also traveled to over twenty cities, the Kidderpore Ports at Garden Reach in Kolkata and the banks of the Hoogly River (from which many boats sailed to the West Indies).

His research took him to various locations in Jamaica, including the National Archives, National Library, National Council for Indian Culture, Port Antonio, Anotto Bay and Old Harbour’s Bay and the Landing Day Celebrations at Chedwin Park. In Trinidad, he visited the National Archives on St. Vincent Street, Port of Spain, and the heritage sites at Nelson Island, where the indentured labourers landed and were quarantined.

Professor Emerita, History at UWI, Bridget Breton writes in a review in the Trinidad Express (Leaving, arriving, staying, returning) that, “Ramcharan concludes that the visit to his grandparents’ home village gave him a much greater appreciation of their sacrifice and courage – their ‘daring leap into the unknown’ to seek a better life for their family. He has written a family narrative which is also, in so many ways, the story of a whole community.”

Ramesh Ramcharan is a Fellow of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants and has a Masters degree in Business Administration from Henley Management College, United Kingdom. He is the Campus Management Auditor at UWI, St. Augustine.

BOOKS AVAILABLE AT THE UWI BOOKSHOP
UWI links with T&T Film Festival

**WE’VE ALL SEEN** the impact a film, even an amateur one, can have on world events, with the riots in the Middle East. Back home, the Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival (TTFF) has had a more positive influence as it expands in scope, popularity and outreach. There is no doubt that the festival will help to engender a sense of self-awareness and independence throughout the society, and if it continues to move forward, promoting the work of talented local filmmakers, it won’t be long before we can boast of Academy Award winnings.

This is the fourth year that the TTFF is partnering with the Film Programme at UWI to present a range of engaging shorts as well as feature films/ documentaries, many produced, written and directed by UWI staff, students and alumni.
In September, several films including Nicholas Attin’s “Little Boy Blue”, UWI lecturer Elspeth Kydd’s documentary “Stone Street” and director Steven Taylor’s “Buck: The Man Spirit” will be premiered on Campus.

As part of the New Media programme, an evening dedicated to avant garde work will be held on September 28th - a collaboration between the TTFF and the Post Graduate Programme in Cultural Studies at UWI. A workshop on the art of film criticism, facilitated by the award-winning critic Manoj Barpujari will also take place on the St. Augustine Campus, as well as a lecture examining contemporary Venezuelan cinema by Dr Constanza Burucua, University of Western Ontario.

This year the TTFF is larger than ever and will showcase 120 films from over 20 countries. The 2012 committee has partnered with UWI as well as Medulla Art Gallery and ARC Magazine for the New Media exhibit; Peter Doig and Che Lovelace’s Studiofilmclub for screenings of edgy, experimental works (including a personal favourite – Michael Fassbender in Mc Queen’s “Shame”); Movie Towne, The Little Carib Theatre, Alliance Franciase and the Carlton Savannah for screenings; and there is even a pitch session for the New York City, Tribeca Film Festival.

The sponsorship by FLOW, RBC and bptt, combined with the timely film reviews by BC Pires, interactive website (ttfilmfestival.com) and nationwide screenings organized by Community Development Director Melvina Hazard, makes it all very affordable and accessible.

For Festival Director and UWI Lecturer Dr Bruce Paddington the TTFF has resonated with many across the board. He believes that the festival committee has “clearly developed a recipe for taking the film industry in T&T to new heights”.

The TTFF will kick-off on September 19th at Queen’s Hall with the screening of “Marley”, a documentary on Jamaican Reggae legend Bob Marley by Academy Award-winning Director, Kevin MacDonald.

This year the TTFF is larger than ever and will showcase 120 films from over 20 countries.
YORUBA in TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Professor Maureen Warner-Lewis

UWI STAN is pleased to continue the “Language Matters” series for the 50th Anniversary of Trinidad and Tobago. The series is provided by the Linguistics Section, Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics, Faculty of Humanities and Education, UWI, St Augustine.

Yoruba is spoken by one of the largest ethnic groups in Nigeria. It is also the mother tongue of segments of the population in the neighbouring Republic of Benin (previously Dahomey), Togo, and among immigrant groups in Ghana. The language came to the Caribbean as a result of the slave trade. From the late seventeenth century Oyo, the political capital of the Yoruba Empire, took advantage of the Atlantic trade and began capturing neighbouring peoples as well as Yoruba-speaking peoples on the fringes of their empire. These captives were traded through ports in Dahomey (Benin). Toward the end of the eighteenth century, the opening up by the British of a port at Lagos, immediately south of Oyo, encouraged an increase in the trade, which flourished in the nineteenth century on account of the political disintegration of Oyo and a sequence of civil wars among the Yoruba-speaking sub-groups. The largest cohorts of Yoruba in the western hemisphere were likely products of these nineteenth century forced migrations.
Negroes Dance in the island of Dominica
(Special Collections: UWI Mona) Photography by Garfield Robinson
ON THE BASIS of sentence remnants and vocabulary items collected in Trinidad in the 1960s and 70s from first- and second-generation descendants of these immigrants, the sub-groups of Yoruba speakers arriving in Trinidad and other eastern Caribbean islands were: the Ekiti, Ijesha, Egba, Egbado, Oyo, and Ijebu. Lexical (vocabulary) choice substantiated the identification by informants of the geographical origins of their ancestors. Variant grammatical forms, as well as phonological peculiarities, were other indices of divergent regional origins. Informants’ shifting between these varieties suggests that there was insufficient diachronic depth in the immigrant experience for a koine to have developed, and the first-generation Caribbean-born descendants did not enjoy an exclusivity of Yoruba language immersion for a consistency of usage to have evolved.

This linguistic variation was, however, insufficient to prevent mutual intelligibility among originary regional dialects, as social intercourse in Trinidad was strengthened by the pattern of residential settlements in Yoruba language ‘blocks’ or ‘islands’. Such settlement practices were possible especially in the post-emancipation period. This is because Africans continued to be brought into the colonies despite the suspension of the slave trade in 1809 and the cessation of slavery in 1838. These importations continued well into the 1860s.

Social and ritual activities among the immigrants included christenings, marriages, and funerals; there were also collective work, financial, and marketing events. Some villages received Yoruba names; some children were given Yoruba names reminiscent of ancestors or of the conditions surrounding their birth. First- and second-generation children growing in an environment where Yoruba formed the domestic and social language were apt to develop an affective relationship with the language, but the pressures from the wider society of schooling and peer usage of languages such as French Creole and English Creole undermined their practice of Yoruba expression. Yet the language was retained as a secret code and as a signal of ethnic bonding.
by younger speakers. However, by mid-twentieth century, Yoruba had declined into non-reciprocal and minimally productive use as its speakers lapsed in memory, and reduced in numbers.

Throughout the twentieth century individuals have publicly advocated the teaching of Yoruba as a vehicle for re-connection with Africa, and some persons have privately held classes to this end. But interest in such projects has quickly waned in light of the limited usefulness of this language to Trinidad and Tobago in a language environment dominated by the world importance of English, and the ubiquity of Spanish in the Caribbean context.

Yet a still relevant domain of Yoruba language use remains that of religion. One rite distinguished the Yoruba: the ceremonies in adoration of the orisha or deities, who are mainly symbolic of powerful natural phenomena. Hundreds of short, repetitive chants in praise of the orisha continue in use in Trinidad and Tobago among adherents of the Orisha religion. Less well-known among the present-day Yoruba religious community are songs which lament death and exile, or celebrate kinship, love, and social cohesion. Such songs were known by the Yoruba descendants who were still alive in the mid-twentieth century. In addition to these sung corpora, there is a vocabulary of religious terminology, sometimes expressed in Yoruba, and at times in English calques. Food preparations, which were once routine, are retained in religious observance and are identified by their Yoruba names. Although a minority religious observance, a revival of the Orisha religion has been a result of the Black Consciousness movement of the 1970s and has concomitantly brought about a resurgence of interest in the Yoruba language. This has involved the introduction of new terms for religious functionaries, ritual actions and concepts, along with the learning of Yoruba religious texts, especially from the corpus of Ifa divination, an adjunct to Orisha worship. These users are not however productive speakers, but rote reproducers of poems and prayers. Attempts have also been made to interpret the Yoruba of the traditional chants and to render them in English translation. The singer and Orisha devotee, Ella Andall, has made several recordings of some of these songs. Similar renditions have been made by Cuban and Brazilian Orisha adepts. Indeed, the networking with other Orisha communities, whether in Nigeria, Brazil, Cuba, or the United States, has led to travel to such locations and the interchange with them of linguistic and religious knowledge.

Yoruba has loaned a few words to the lexical repertoire of Trinidad and Tobago. Among them are: obi seed ‘kolanut’, dada head ‘matted hair’, susu ‘collective savings drawn in rotation by the contributors’, akra ‘fried batter of wheat flour and shredded salted fish’, god-horse ‘praying mantis’, wood-slave ‘gecko’, Shango and Shango Baptist ‘names for Yoruba-related religions in Trinidad and Tobago’. ■

Did you know? The last Africa-born Yoruba speakers came in the 1860s (apart from recent immigrants), well after emancipation. Other languages from the Niger-Congo language family that came to the Caribbean include Akan (Twi or Asante), Igbo or Ibo, Mandingo or Maninka (Mande) and Fon. Afro-Asiatic languages, such as Hausa, a Chadic language, also came, as well as Arabic by way of the Hausa, Fulani and other Islamicized Savannah peoples of West Africa, particularly those living in urban centres.

Selected vocabulary and other contributions to T&T language: accra, dada, Shango, sousou (susu) and word-for-word translations (calques) such as “X is people too”; “What do you?”; “me one”; “one-one”; “throw water to (the plant or other noun phrase)”; “to go in town”; “all time”; “to bad talk”; “sweet mouth”.
VIOLENCE as a Way of Life

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.
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 indicating 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 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 are 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 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.

Professor of Psychiatry, Gerard Hutchinson, is the Head of Department, Clinical Medical Sciences, School of Medicine, Faculty of Medical Sciences, EWMSC, UWI.

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St. Augustine Wins Gold in Athletics at Staff Inter-campus Games

Alicia Martin

IT WAS A COOL, quiet Sunday morning, the Bajan sun had not yet fully unleashed its characteristic rage as the members of the UWI St. Augustine Staff Inter-campus athletic team slowly congregated on the Cave Hill Campus.

Eventually all of the athletes filed into the bus, en route to the Barbados National Stadium, the first event of the 13th Biennial Staff Inter-campus Games. Among the participants on-board, a talented congo drummer, his drum cradled in a reserved seat. Both would be critical ingredients for the lively St. Augustine rhythm section, which ultimately formed the soundtrack for the Games. Along the brief journey there was an air of anxiety, solemnity and confidence with left-over jubilance; after all, this was less than twenty-four hours after Keshorn Walcott’s historic javelin win at the London Olympics. It was less than twenty-four hours since the entire St. Augustine contingent, though dispersed across Cave Hill’s residency halls, had united in song, proudly standing at full attention and ‘belting-out’ the national anthem of Trinidad and Tobago, while watching the LIVE broadcast of the national flag being raised in the Olympic Stadium. At least half of the contingent had not even been born to witness Hasley Crawford’s win and to experience similar pride and patriotism in 1976. It was the perfect opportunity for us to ride the tide of success of the Trinbagonian athletic team at the 2012 London Olympics.

Upon arriving at the venue, the team that had seldom trained together in Trinidad, owing to scheduling conflicts, engaged in a thorough warm-up routine. We were going for gold! As the stadium seats gradually filled, the Games began. The first few events included the open 1500m and the 60m for competitors over 50. The St. Augustine over 50 and 40-49 men and women would go on to outperform their fellow athletes, copping first, second and/or third place in the respective races. Ultimately, these two age groups gave a strong showing and the team benefited from their fighting spirit and stellar contribution. However, it was the start of the 100m events that would signal St. Augustine’s legitimate challenge to be overall champions.

The team excelled in all of the age categories over this event and two stars emerged. These two would eventually go on to claim the Victor Ludorum and the Victrix Ludorum titles. Ayanna Hutchinson demonstrated ease and excellence in the select flat races and
her charismatic, lean, 6’5” colleague from the Bursary, Stephawn Solomon. Solomon, running in the 20-29 age category, provided the most excitement for the St. Augustine fans. This young man would also grace the basketball courts and prove to be a lethal weapon on the cricket field. He trashed the hopes of many who may have had even a glimmer of hope to bag gold in the 100, 200 or 400m races, at times leading the field in each race by as much as 10m, interacting with the audience at the same time and jokingly taunting those athletes behind him, even before he crossed the finish line. Similarly, the St. Augustine team stretched their lead in combined points over the other contingents.

As the relay portion of the schedule began, it was clear that St. Augustine was in the lead, but there was no “easing-up” as each relay team spread itself across the particular baton passing zones with a concentrated determination to win. The Cave Hill team made a late surge, winning some of the relays, but it was too late. Second or third place finishes was all that St. Augustine needed to seal the victory. As the announcer confirmed the final results, the St. Augustine contingent erupted with joy and all congregated on the tracks. The win was more than an athletic win, it was a contingent win.

In 2008, the Staff Games were held in Trinidad and Tobago, coinciding with the Beijing Olympic Games. Then, the Mona contingent capitalized on Jamaica’s athletic triumphs. At the 2012 Staff Games it was St. Augustine that capitalized on national Olympic glory. As the sun began to set and members of each contingent trickled out of the venue and into the buses, specs of blue could be seen lingering near the finish line, wanting perhaps, to savour every last memory of victory. As darkness crept in all would eventually depart, tired but satisfied and proud that the status of their UWI team had been lifted in the same way that Keshorn Walcott’s gold medal had recently ignited 1.3 million. St. Augustine had gone for gold too and they got it!

St. Augustine Campus Athletic Contingent at The UWI Staff Intercampus Games 2012

OVERALL WINNERS
1st Cave Hill Campus
2nd St Augustine Campus
3rd Mona Campus
4th Open Campus

St Augustine Wins Athletics Trophy
1st St Augustine 273 pts.
2nd Mona 225
3rd Cave Hill 120
4th Open Campus 11

OUTSTANDING ATHLETES
(G – Gold, S – Silver, B – Bronze)

STEPHAWN SOLOMON
(Student Accounts, Bursary: department)
3 – G, 1 – S (20–29 year age/category)
Victor Ludorum

AYANNA HUTCHINSON
3 – G, 1 – B (20–29) Victor Ludorum

ANTOINETTE GASKIN
(SPEC) 3 – G (Over 50)

JOSEPH DRAYTON
(Marketing & Communications)
2 – G, 2 – S (30–39)

JUDITH WRIGHT
(Alma Jordan Library)
1 – G, 1 – S, 2 – B (40–49)

TANISHA LEWIS
(Deputy Principal’s Office)
3 – S (20–29)

SEVATIUS JOSEPH
(Security Services)
2 – S (Over 50)

Congrats to our athletes across all campuses of The University of the West Indies.
CHAMPS RETURN
For UWI SPEC International Half-Marathon

OVERALL RACE WINNER and Men’s Champ, George Towett, will return to race alongside Women’s Champ, Leah Kirjen, in the UWI Sport and Physical Education Centre (SPEC) International Half-Marathon Race in St Augustine on October 28th at 6:00am.

The electronically timed, traffic-free road race is a favourite among local, regional and international athletes with numbers expected to cross the 1,000 mark in 2012. First Citizens has once again returned as presenting sponsor of the internationally certified race, which was the brainchild of former UWI SPEC Director, Dr. Iva Gloudon.

During the launch in September, it was announced that runners will compete for TT$135,000 in prizes in diverse categories for men, women, varying age groups, university students, UWI staff, wheelchair racers as well as physically challenged competitors, among others. The 13.1 mile route remains unchanged, beginning at UWI SPEC and continuing along the Priority Bus Route to the La Resource junction in D’Abadie, then back to the Centre. Since its debut on the race calendar in 2004 with just over 300 runners, participation has steadily increased. At the launch, UWI Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat spoke of the importance of investing extensively in the “entrepreneurial side” of sport.

“The London Olympic Games has without a doubt hinted that with more investment and focus in sports, our country and region can rise to even higher levels as the Caribbean continues to receive more and more international recognition for its excellence in sports,” Campus Principal Sankat explained.

“We need to therefore look more aggressively at the entrepreneurial side of sport and the substantial economic benefits that can accrue to our country and region.”

Therefore, maintaining high standards for runners has been fundamental to the UWI SPEC coordinating team which is currently led by Director, Justin Latapy-George. The race is sanctioned by the National Association of Athletic Administrators (NAAA) and record race times will be recognised worldwide by the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF). The event is electronically timed – each runner is given a special chip and the route is traffic-free.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
please visit the website at http://sta.uwi.edu/spec/marathon/index.asp or call 662-2002 exts 83771, 82660, 83556

– AWH
ON DEMOCRACY

“Democracy means equality of opportunity for all in education, in the public service, and in private employment - I repeat, and in private employment.

Democracy means the protection of the weak against the strong. Democracy means the obligation of the minority to recognise the right of the majority. Democracy means responsibility of the Government to its citizens, the protection of the citizens from the exercise of arbitrary power and the violation of human freedoms and individual rights. Democracy means freedom of worship for all and the subordination of the right of any race to the overriding right of the human race.”

Dr. Eric Williams, first Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago Independence Day Address to the nation, over the radio, on August 31, 1962, the first day of Trinidad and Tobago’s independence from Great Britain. The Eric Williams Memorial Collection is housed at the Alma Jordan Library, St Augustine Campus.
MESSAGE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES,
ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS ON THE OCCASION OF THE
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE
OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The independence that we enjoy today is the result of the many sacrifices of our predecessors. We should never forget this as we engage in our nation-building journey.

As we celebrate this 50th anniversary of our independence, let us renew our commitment to liberty and enlightenment, to civility and justice, to equal opportunity and the protection of human rights. Let us rededicate ourselves to strengthening The UWI as a beacon of light for our Caribbean as we work towards building great nations of which we can all be proud.

The establishment of the St. Augustine Campus of The UWI two years prior to Independence was an important step toward achieving the vision of an educated and productive citizenry who would take the country forward on a path to economic growth and prosperity.

We should not be daunted by what the future holds, but rather, look forward to it with courage, confidence and optimism. By working together and remembering always to uphold and promote values of integrity, diligence, compassion and national pride, coupled with our knowledge and creativity, we can triumph in the face of all adversity, for these are the principles upon which strong nations are built.

On behalf of the students, staff and alumni of The University of the West Indies and our St. Augustine Campus, I extend best wishes to our national community on this special occasion of the 50th Anniversary of Independence of Trinidad and Tobago and I take this opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the sustainable development of our nation.

PROFESSOR CLEMENT K. SANKAT
Pro Vice Chancellor and Campus Principal