



UWI TODAY

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES • ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

SUNDAY 9 OCTOBER, 2016



PHOTO: ANEEL KARIM

Another HOME GROWN Star Shines

Sprinter Nyoshia Cain, first-year student in the Faculty of Social Sciences, was the guest of honour at **The UWI St. Augustine Campus** at the end of September. The 21-year old, who is enrolled in the BSc Sport Management programme, described her Paralympic journey as “great, but challenging especially in terms of physical health”. She added, “*I was proud to represent Trinidad and Tobago*”. Her coach, **Micky Reuben**, who also coaches The UWI St. Augustine’s track and field team, emphasised that The UWI was a pivotal part of Cain’s success since Cain used SPEC’s track facilities as part of her training for the Paralympics. *See page 7 for full story and more pictures from her campus visit.*

“I was proud to represent Trinidad and Tobago”.

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A Great West Indian Tradition

On October 12, 1960, the foundation of the St. Augustine Campus of The University of the West Indies was created from an earlier institution - the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, a renowned teaching and research institution of the British Empire.

The Imperial College, which was primarily attended by British students, became the Faculty of Agriculture for the newly emerging University of the West Indies, established to meet the tertiary education needs of citizens of the Commonwealth Caribbean. Within a few short years, the St. Augustine Campus had expanded from its initial cohort of 67 students in agriculture to a multi-disciplinary campus serving more than 19,000 students.

Today, St. Augustine, the largest of The UWI's four campuses, serves the region's needs through teaching, research, consultancy, and policy development. Men and women of the Caribbean have gone on to become leaders of industry and government, helping to chart a path of regional identity.



www.sta.uwi.edu

■ CAMPUS NEWS

Former Campus Principal PROFESSOR SANKAT *honoured at farewell*



Professor Clement Sankat receiving a gift from current UWI St. Augustine Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Brian Copeland.

Vice-Chancellor of The UWI, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles honoured former Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal of The UWI St. Augustine, Professor Clement Sankat, with a special reception at the end of September. The reception was held at the University Inn and Conference Centre for some 200 friends, former colleagues and well-wishers of Professor Sankat.

The event was chaired by University Registrar, C. William Iton and was filled with tributes from a cross-section of Professor Sankat's former UWI colleagues, including Professor Brian Copeland, current UWI St. Augustine Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal. Tributes were also given by Professor V. Eudine Barriteau, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal of The UWI Cave Hill Campus on behalf of the Campus Principals; Ewart Williams, Chairman of The UWI St. Augustine Campus Council on behalf of the Council; Professor Patricia Mohammed, Campus Coordinator at the School of Graduate Studies and Research on behalf of academic staff; Sharan Singh, Director of the Office of Institutional Advancement and Internationalisation, representing senior administrative and professional staff; and Steve Ramoutar, representing administrative, technical and support staff. The former Campus Principal's response was a mixture of jovial ribbing, gratitude and advice for successor, Professor Copeland. The formal proceedings concluded with remarks by Campus Registrar, Richard Saunders, performances from soca artiste, Blaxx and The UWI Arts Chorale.

Sankat spent the majority of his professional career at The UWI, totalling 38 years of dedicated service in various capacities including Pro Vice-Chancellor & Campus Principal of the St Augustine Campus for two consecutive terms (2008 – 2016), Pro Vice-Chancellor of Graduate Studies & Research, Campus Coordinator for Graduate Studies & Research, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Professor of Food & Agricultural Engineering, Reader, Senior Lecturer and Lecturer.



Professor Clement Sankat with members of his family.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

THE EDUCATION AND INNOVATION IMPERATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



The national budget 2016 having been read last Friday, makes it clearer that Trinidad and Tobago is facing a financial challenge. We have another budget deficit brought on by what might well be viewed as a man-made phenomenon. Man-made in that a financial crisis

has occurred simply because all of the economic eggs have been placed in one basket – oil and gas – and we have no control over the prices of those commodities. Hence we find ourselves in a situation as a country with revenues from petroleum (our national economic “egg”) declining, from around \$19.3Bn in 2014 to \$1.7Bn in 2016.

Since we have to survive, even at the most fundamental level, the situation requires that we find ways to compensate for the shortfalls from oil and gas. Hence, my contribution to the discourse of solutions is that we seek to leverage on the investments we have made in our human capital via the GATE Programme, among other things. The timing is right for us to make those human capital resources work for us.

This proposal towards a solution focuses on innovation and education for sustainable development. An Innovation System (IS), whether deliberately or accidentally developed, is an innate and essential characteristic of all developed nations. Once well-functioning, its role is to optimally facilitate the transformation of new ideas to commercial reality, facilitate the formation of whole new companies and industries, strengthen the competitive advantage of existing product lines, provide a high degree of robustness against economic uncertainties - natural and man-made disasters. Therefore an Innovation System is the basis of a country's sustainability.

In the current environment, the business of education should be, at the very least, about ensuring that every citizen possesses basic physical and mental survival skills. Its most commonly acknowledged purpose is to maintain society by providing the educational means to empower individuals for the job market and thus achieve, at minimum, a decent standard of living and to nurture ‘good citizenship’. Furthermore, education is meant for personal development. But, most significantly, and given today's worrying economic state, education must ensure that society is maintained and developed through the forging of new concepts, methods and products that improve upon its current state while ensuring that the existence of future societies (our descendants) is not compromised. This is the standard definition of “sustainable development”. It requires the nurturing

of the creative and innovative talents and skills of our citizens.

Consider that an innovation is a product or process that has been created anew and has begun to produce returns on investment thus bringing value to society. Most consider innovation in only an economic context, but innovations can exist in economic, social or ecological dimensions. However, the economic dimension fuels the social and ecological dimensions and wealth generation that is necessary for sustainable development.

Closing the gap between sustainable development that is fuelled by innovation and wealth generation requires a complete overhaul of the ideology and operation of our education systems. Some of the key tenets that have to be reconfigured are education for nurturing vs. programming, seamlessly meeting students (of all ages and backgrounds) where they are, and taking them where they want to go (equality of access), developing their skills in creative and critical thinking, their ability to identify problems and realise solutions, their ability to network and “teamwork” to leverage complementary capabilities, to understand IP and its politics, to understand business and entrepreneurship and to be success motivated.

The proposed Entrepreneurial Talent Grant is being positioned as the force to ignite the spirit of innovation. In such an initiative, citizens will be invited and encouraged to present innovative business ideas for evaluation by a panel of accomplished businessmen and entrepreneurs. The top five projects will receive a \$1 million grant to facilitate the development and implementation of their business concepts.

The challenge to this million dollar Entrepreneurship initiative in financial year 2017 is how to provide an enabling environment – minimal bureaucracy, fast track public sector agencies and administrative support, and a total education system that promotes and encourages critical thinking for innovation and entrepreneurship – from cradle to grave.

With the decline in oil and gas revenues now is an opportune time to trigger the human capital and education the new “engines of growth”. For the nations of the region to collectively achieve developed status they must close the gaps in the wealth generation pyramid, kick-start the engine of knowledge innovation and then maintain the system. In other words, to achieve innovation that can contribute to sustainable economic development the country must collectively build national innovation systems.

Brian Copeland

PROFESSOR BRIAN COPELAND
Campus Principal

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■ CAMPUS NEWS

VOLCANO MONITORING RENEWED

The Government of Montserrat has renewed its contract with The UWI to provide management and support for the Montserrat Volcano Observatory (MVO) which conducts monitoring and research activities on the Soufriere Hills Volcano.

The new monitoring contract runs for five years and was signed by Professor Dale Webber, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Graduate Studies and Research at The UWI and by Her Excellency the Governor Elizabeth Carriere.

Montserrat's Soufrière Hills Volcano has been erupting since 1995, rendering more than half of the island uninhabitable, including the capital city Plymouth. Since the onset of the eruption, the volcano has been closely monitored and heavily researched. Through careful management and implementation of volcano risk reduction strategies, Montserrat has managed to rebuild itself and adapt to living with an erupting volcano.

The UWI is contracted to provide, through its Trinidad-based Seismic Research Centre, six scientific staff members (including the Director) to work at MVO. It will also provide support services and updates to the MVO's monitoring equipment, including a complete replacement of the seismic monitoring network. The UWI is also contracted to develop training courses which will be based at MVO and will continue to facilitate research at this live laboratory to better understand how volcanic systems function in Montserrat and by extension the wider Eastern Caribbean.

Professor Webber said "I am very pleased that the Government of Montserrat has decided to renew this contract. It shows that The University of the West Indies can provide world-class scientists and world-class science to deliver a service that is crucial in the ongoing development of Montserrat".



Her Excellency the Governor Elizabeth Carriere and UWI Pro-Vice Chancellor Dale Webber sign the new MVO management contract.
PHOTO: JERELY BROWN/MVO

Governor Carriere said "The Seismic Research Centre has been managing and supporting Montserrat Volcano Observatory since 2008. In that time, they and the MVO have provided excellent information and advice to successive Governors and to the government and the people of Montserrat. This contract serves as recognition of the outstanding quality of the work carried out by the observatory and the staff there and of the need for that work to continue in the future".

During his trip to Montserrat, Professor Webber visited the MVO and toured the former capital city of Plymouth. Professor Webber is the highest ranking UWI official to visit Montserrat since the University began management of the MVO and his presence demonstrates the University's commitment to ensuring that its activities have meaningful impact on the people it serves.

THE UWI/GUARDIAN PREMIUM TEACHING AWARDS

The Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) and The UWI/Guardian Group presented the Premium Teaching Awards which celebrates the work of exemplary teachers on the St. Augustine Campus. The Awards Ceremony took place at Daaga Auditorium.

The awardees this year were Dr Chris Maharaj, Marcia Nathai-Balkissoon and Dr Chandra Shekhar Bhatnagar.

The theme of this year's award ceremony is Student/Teacher Partnerships: The Crux of Learning, and featured a special presentation by Dan Butin, Professor and Founding Dean, School of Education and Social Policy, Merrimack College. Dr Butin's research focuses on issues of educator preparation & policy and community engagement.



Winners row: (l-r) Dr Chris Maharaj, Lecturer at the Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering, Faculty of Engineering; Marcia Nathai-Balkissoon, Lecturer at the Department of Management Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences and Dr Chandra Shekhar Bhatnagar, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Management Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences

trinidad
+tobago
film / 16
festival

DEEPENS UWI LINK

In this the 11th year of the trinidad+tobago film festival (ttff), new collaborations with the Faculty of Law and the Institute for Gender and Development Studies (IGDS) were added to longer standing ones with the Department of Literary, Communication and Cultural Studies (LCCS) and the Film Programme.

Here are some snapshots of the screenings and presentations:

September 22: LCCS presents Every Cook Can Govern: The Life, Works and Impact of C.L.R. James

It was standing room only as audience members packed every aisle in the Centre for Language Learning (CLL) Auditorium for the screening of Every Cook Can Govern: The Life, Works and Impact of C.L.R. James. With no preamble, the film plunges into the history of Trinidad starting from James' birth in 1901 in Tunapuna and uses his literary works to help weave the film together along clips of James himself, most previously unseen. The crowd-funded production was also crowd-featured with amateur volunteers interviewing the people who knew him best and scholars of his work to give a multidimensional portrait of the revolutionary figure. The unique film showcases James' indefatigable pursuit of justice throughout his life starting from his early days as teacher at Queens Royal College where he would offer classes to the underserved then to his work as a Labour party person. James' lesser known time spent in Nelson England resonated with audiences as it was here that his dismantling of colonisation started to coalesce with the beginning stages of perhaps his most famous book, The Black Jacobins: Toussaint L'Ouverture and the San Domingo Revolution.

September 23: IGDS and Faculty of Law – Battledream Chronicle and Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise (contributed by IGDS)

The Martiniquan animated Battledream Chronicle invited the small but, early afternoon audience to its T&T premiere to imagine humans as slaves to the virtual in a futuristic 2100 world. But it is its decidedly sensual, uncompromising young women, cast as both heroine and villain, that kept audiences glued to the battle for human sovereignty and freedom. The anticipation then built as viewers poured in to the Noor Hassanali Auditorium for the Caribbean premiere of the first ever documentary feature on Maya Angelou. It was more than the imagination that was stirred by this screening of the phenomenal woman's life. Tears flowed as those both familiar and new to her prose, poetry and powerful voice witnessed her personal and professional truths, minus embellishments. The evening transformed from quiet enjoyment to joyous celebration as the audience left contemplating Dr Angelou's life and work through a story that, as Director Rita Coburn Whack said she tried to tell the truths Angelou told with dignity.

September 24: FHE in conjunction with the British Council and the Trinidad and Tobago – King Lear The Film

An audience of Shakespeare enthusiasts young and old commemorated the 400th anniversary of his death with the screening of King Lear The Film. From the onset the film's fourth wall was broken as the audience was immediately plunged into a kingdom of an unstable Lear played by trini-born actor Don Warrington who was at the viewing thanks to the Shakespeare Lives project. Throughout the three hour screening, Warrington provides a new dimension to the larger than life character by infusing his madness with pathos thereby making him humane in the process. During the Q+A session after the film, the audience had effusive praise for the film and Warrington's amazing performance.

This summary was compiled by Jeanette G. Awai - freelance writer and assistant at the Marketing and Communications Office, The UWI St. Augustine.



Dr Gabrielle Hezekiah, Lecturer and Coordinator, Postgraduate Programme in Cultural Studies, Professor Emeritus Bridget Brereton, Director Ceri Dingle, Every Cook Can Govern PHOTO COURTESY: TRINIDAD+TOBAGO FILM FESTIVAL. PHOTO: DIGIMEDIA PHOTO AND VIDEO



Warrington challenging a student during an acting exercise PHOTO: KWAME EMMANUEL BOATSWAIN

RESEARCH

COCOA RESEARCH CENTRE MAKES 'SWEET DEALS' TO ADVANCE COCOA SECTOR



(L-R): Arvind Mahabirsingh, Operations Director at the Trinidad and Tobago Fine Cocoa Company; Dr Darin Sukha, Research Fellow/Food Technologist at The UWI Cocoa Research Centre; Ashley Parasram, CEO of Trinidad and Tobago Fine Cocoa Company Ltd.; Vashtie Dookiesingh, Multilateral Investment Fund Senior Specialist for the Inter-American Development Bank Trinidad and Tobago; Professor Copeland, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal of The UWI St. Augustine; Professor Pathmanathan Umaharan, Director of The UWI Cocoa Research Centre; and Kavita Terri-Ann Maharaj of the Inter-American Development Bank Trinidad and Tobago.

The UWI Cocoa Research Centre (UWI CRC) has found a new recipe for success with the signing of a project agreement with funding from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to support the development of successful private sector business models within the cocoa sector. Additionally, Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) were signed mid-September, at the Office of the Campus Principal to launch collaborations between Belmont Estate in Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago Fine Cocoa Company to foster cooperation and provide technical support.

The IDB-funded project titled *Improving Marketing and Production of Artisanal Cocoa from Trinidad and Tobago (IMPACTT)* aims to improve the livelihoods for cocoa growers by integrating small farmers and community co-operative producers into the value chain for the supply of premium cocoa and cocoa products, facilitating access to high-value domestic and international markets. Pro-Vice Chancellor and Campus Principal of The UWI St. Augustine Campus, Professor Brian Copeland; Campus Bursar, Andrea Taylor-Hanna; Director of The UWI CRC, Professor Pathmanathan Umaharan and Vashtie Dookiesingh, Multilateral Investment Fund Senior Specialist for IDB Trinidad and Tobago co-signed the project agreement between the IDB and The UWI CRC.

In addition, Ashley Parasram, CEO of the Trinidad and Tobago Fine Cocoa Company, signed an MOU with UWI CRC for the joint pursuit of sector development projects.

To support the transition from cocoa growers to chocolate makers, The UWI CRC also signed an MOU with Belmont Estate, Grenada, which will aid the estate's development as a successful bean-to-bar producer, and establish a model for cocoa development in Grenada. Shadel Nyack Compton, owner and CEO of Belmont Estate Limited emphasised the significance of The UWI CRC's scientific know-how and the agro-tourism model of Belmont Estate for the region. She noted that its tree-to-bar operation makes Belmont Estate unique, and differentiates it from the competition. "CRC can provide us with the benefits of research, science and technology for every step of the process from plant propagation to chocolate making and we intend to extend Belmont Estate's services to act as a platform to train farmers and processors, offer a resource centre for research, as a learning centre for children, and as a model to foster agri-business entrepreneurs in the region," she said.

Commenting on the nature of the partnerships, Dookiesingh remarked that these agreements were made possible thanks to a synergistic approach with the IDB. "The combination of Ashley's firm, CRC's depth of experience and passion and the eco-tourism of Belmont Estate would aid both private and public development and help ensure that the high-grade cocoa beans would be produced to create the 'champagne' of chocolate." She commended Campus Principal, Brian Copeland and The UWI for making this leap with respect to innovation. Professor Copeland acknowledged, saying "Part of the strategy is in fact to build that relationship with the private sector... it is key to moving forward".

Also present at the signings were Caroline Alcock, Deputy British High Commissioner; Kavita Terri-Ann Maharaj from the IDB; Jay Kang, Chocolatier at Belmont Estate and Arvind Mahabirsingh, Operations Director at the Trinidad and Tobago Fine Cocoa Company. From The UWI Cocoa Research Centre were International Fine Cocoa Innovation Centre Project Manager, Karen Lee Lum and Research Fellow/Food Technologist, Darin Sukha. Other UWI representatives included Sharan Singh, Director of the Office of Institutional Advancement and Internationalisation and Debra Coryat-Patton, Campus Attorney.



About CRC: The Cocoa Research Centre is a campus centre of The University of the West Indies (UWI). It is responsible for maintenance of the International Cocoa Genebank, Trinidad (ICGT) around which ongoing research activities of characterisation, evaluation and utilisation are centred. The management of CRC is under the leadership of Director, Professor Pathmanathan Umaharan. Research activities include germplasm conservation, morphological and molecular characterisation of cocoa, screening of cocoa germplasm for resistance to diseases, cocoa germplasm enhancement (pre-breeding for desirable traits), and quality and flavour assessment. In addition to research, CRC offers training to visitors and facilities for scientists from other organisations.

Focus on ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

The rapid emergence of antibiotic resistance among bacteria occurring worldwide is endangering the efficacy of antibiotics, including even the last resort antibiotics. This has become the greatest health threat and challenge in treating bacterial infections. In the recent years the high prevalence of antibiotic resistant human bacterial pathogens in the Caribbean and in Trinidad and Tobago is on rise.

Antibiotic resistant infections are one of the chief reasons for extended medical treatments and hospitalisation times causing huge economic burdens among communities. Diagnoses of antibiotic resistant infections are time-consuming, involving clinical, microbiological and biochemical methods of identification. The UWI, St. Augustine's Faculty of Science and Technology (FST), Department of Life Sciences, in partnership with the Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS) have started a ground breaking initiative in undertaking research on the important drug resistant bacterial pathogens. This work is being funded by The UWI- Trinidad and Tobago Research and Development Impact Fund (RDI Fund).

The UWI research group, led by Professor Jayaraj Jayaraman, Dr Adesh Ramsubhag (Department of Life Sciences, FST) and Professor Patrick Akpaka (Department of Paraclinical Sciences, FMS) along with their students and research associate Farah Selina Mohammed, have undertaken the ambitious task of developing advanced antibiotic-detection test procedures. The main goal of this project is to develop rapid and high throughput DNA-based tests called Polymerase-Chain Reaction (PCR) – tests for detection antibiotic resistance. The study has been carried out in collaboration with the San Fernando General Hospital, the Sangre Grande General Hospital, the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex, the Scarborough General Hospital and the Port-of-Spain General Hospital.

Recently the RDI research team conducted a workshop on *bacterial antibiotic resistance and new molecular methods for identification of antibiotic resistance*, at the Dept. of Life Sciences. More than 40 delegates from various institutions including Regional medical authorities, Health Institutes, Medical Laboratories, Health facilities attended the workshop. Dr Adesh Ramsubhag (Head, DLS) welcomed the participants and Prof Jayaraj Jayaraman chaired the lecture sessions. The lectures were delivered by Prof Patrick Akpaka (FMS, UWI), Dr Rajeev Nagassar, ERHA, Dr Adesh Ramsubhag and Farah Mohammed.

A section of delegates checking extracted DNA concentration in a nanodrop spectrometer during the workshop training session



■ CAMPUS NEWS

UWI Congratulates PARALYMPIC BRONZE MEDALLIST, STUDENT NYOSHIA CAIN

On her return from Rio, sprinter Nyoshia Cain, who is a first-year student in the Faculty of Social Sciences, was the guest of honour at The UWI St. Augustine Campus when she paid a courtesy visit to Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal, Professor Brian Copeland.

Nyoshia was accompanied by her coach, Micky Reuben, and her mother, Charlene Cain, who is also a member of staff at The UWI Open Campus. In addition to Professor Copeland, the trio met with Deputy Campus Principal, Professor Rhoda Reddock; Director of The UWI Sport and Physical Education Centre (SPEC), Major David Benjamin; Director of the Division of Student Services and

Development, Dr Deirdre Charles; University and Campus Director of Marketing and Communications, Dr Dawn-Marie De Four-Gill; Senior Administrative Assistant at SPEC, Lystra Francis and other UWI staff to recap Cain's experience in Rio.

She received hearty congratulations for her tremendous accomplishments in not only making it to the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio, Brazil but for receiving a bronze medal in the Women's 100m (t44) category with a personal best of 13.10.

The Campus Principal also used the occasion to pledge support for athletes of Nyoshia's potential. "On behalf of

the St. Augustine Campus and the entire University of the West Indies, I would like to congratulate you on your sterling performance. We are extremely proud of you. Given your youth, we expect you to continue on your path of excellence, providing inspiration to other student athletes as we continue to support you in the achievement of your academic and athletic goals," he said.

Cain also signed The UWI St. Augustine's Guest Book, which documents distinguished visitors to the campus back to the 1940s, and was presented with a token of appreciation on behalf of the campus.

PHOTOS: ANEEL KARIM



Principal Copeland tries out the look and feel of a Paralympic medal. Sprinter Nyoshia Cain and Deputy Campus Principal, Professor Rhoda Reddock smile in support of the Principal's new (temporary) bling.



Nyoshia Cain keeps good company: Next to her is mother Charlene Cain, and on left is Coach Micky Reuben and on far right is Major David Benjamin from SPEC



UWI
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CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
2016 GRADUATES!

Friends and family who want to watch loved ones cross the stage can share in the moment via live streaming.

The 2016 graduation ceremonies of all four UWI campuses will be available live at

www.uwi.edu/graduation

2016

GRADUATION

LIVE
STREAMS

Making History: UWI LAUNCHES FIRST CENTRE IN NEW YORK

The UWI and The State University of New York (SUNY) have launched the *SUNY UWI CENTRE for Leadership and Sustainable Development* at the end of September, at the SUNY Global Centre in New York. The Centre builds on areas identified in previous UWI-SUNY analyses and includes research relevant to democratic participation, leadership, and governance, with a focus on solutions to specific problems constraining the achievement of the United Nation's sustainable development goals, while focusing on serving groups that have faced barriers to equal opportunities.

"SUNY's new partnership with The UWI represents an important milestone in our ongoing conversations about educating and empowering students and faculty in order to make substantial advances in the areas of leadership and sustainable human development," said SUNY Board Chairman H. Carl McCall. "Our partnership is all the more exciting when you consider the positive impact and practical benefits the application of our research, academic programmes, teaching, and learning will have for our students and faculty, as well as the millions of people in the Caribbean, the Caribbean diaspora in New York, and beyond. We are proud to advance our mutual goals with The UWI and I thank Sir Hilary for his continued passion and leadership".

UWI Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles said: "Both The UWI and SUNY have agreed that a Centre of this nature is required to provide innovative solutions to the underlying problems that ultimately constrain the achievement of sustainable human development in the wider Caribbean and in the urban areas of New York State, in which there is a substantial Caribbean diaspora that is served by SUNY. This initiative is part of the programme of international engagement that enables The UWI to play an active developmental role among the wider Caribbean community".

"SUNY's new partnership with The UWI represents an important milestone in our ongoing conversations about educating and empowering students and faculty in order to make substantial advances in the areas of leadership and sustainable human development"

UWI Chancellor Sir George Alleyne said, "My warmest congratulations on this path-breaking initiative which is a part of The UWI's global agenda which focuses here on a more active, supportive and developmental role that embraces the Caribbean community and diaspora. It will provide some of that essential leadership training and research needed by the wider Caribbean as it prepares to meet the new sustainable development goals".

At the Centre, joint teams of UWI and SUNY expert teams will take a multi-disciplinary approach and draw on external expertise as appropriate to advance the following goals:

- **Creation of a master's programme in leadership and sustainable development**
- **Solutions-oriented research**
- **Student advocacy and mobilization of the Caribbean diaspora**
- **Establishment of an expert network**
- **Facilitation of a think-tank**

The Centre will be governed by an advisory board consisting of academic experts, foundation and development professionals and administrative leaders from The UWI and SUNY. It will begin operations at 325 Hudson Street in Manhattan, one of SUNY Empire State College's three New York City locations.

The concept for the Centre has garnered strong support from the Commonwealth and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

Commonwealth Secretary General Patricia Scotland QC said, "I commend the vision and commitment to serving the practical needs of the people of the Caribbean – whether at home or in the diaspora – that has led to the SUNY UWI Centre for Leadership and Sustainable Development. Commonwealth citizens from the Caribbean, and from other Small Island Developing States, will derive lasting benefit from this partnership project, and the focus it brings to the human development needs of our people, wherever they live, learn or work. In this year when we celebrate 'An Inclusive Commonwealth' it is good to see The UWI continuing to play an active and innovative developmental role for the benefit of the wider Caribbean community".



AT THE LAUNCH: (L-R) SUNY Empire State College President Merodie A. Hancock, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of The UWI Open Campus, Dr Luz Longworth, SUNY Board of Trustees Chairman H. Carl McCall, UWI Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, SUNY Provost and Executive Vice-Chancellor Alexander N. Cartwright and UWI Pro Vice-Chancellor for Global Affairs Ambassador, Richard Bernal.

■ CAMPUS NEWS

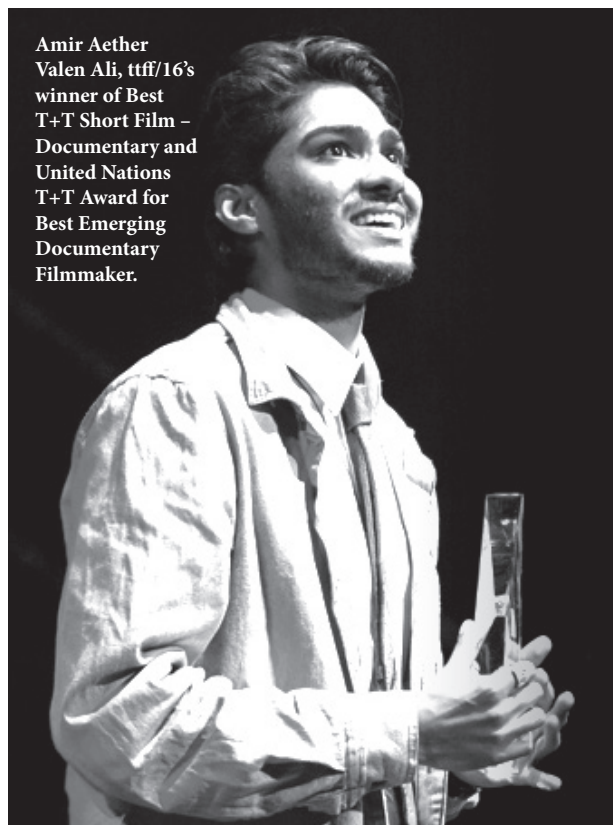
UWI student film *Who I Say I Am* wins big at the trinidad+tobago film festival

Third-year UWI Film Production student Amir Aether Valen Ali's short film, *Who I Say I Am* took home Best T+T Short Film – Documentary and United Nations T+T Award For Best Emerging Documentary Filmmaker at the trinidad+tobago film festival 2016 (ttff/16) awards on September 27 at the Central Bank Auditorium, Port of Spain.

Produced at the St. Augustine Campus, the 30-minute short film explores themes of individuality, spirituality, identity and self. Amir Aether Valen Ali devised the concept and throughout the film, he goes on a quest to discover what the names of people across all facets of society mean to them in relation to their identity, and how it influences their sense of self.

He describes his double win as a surreal experience, "When I started production in January 2016 I knew that I was taking a huge risk with the film, because it was based heavily around complex ideological concepts, but I was determined to create a great piece of art because of how important I felt the subject matter was to myself and society. The production of the film was a gruelling process that took almost a year to complete and once it was done, I was overjoyed. I never even thought about it being nominated especially among such a high calibre of filmmakers. When I heard my name called twice during the awards ceremony, I was humbled and grateful that my hard work in developing this passion project was recognised at this country's highest level. Humbled, and grateful to be a part of it all."

This is the eleventh year that The UWI has partnered with the trinidad+tobago film festival (ttff) to showcase works of its students and staff. This year, nine student films



Amir Aether Valen Ali, ttff/16's winner of Best T+T Short Film – Documentary and United Nations T+T Award for Best Emerging Documentary Filmmaker.

PHOTO COURTESY: TRINIDAD+TOBAGO FILM FESTIVAL.
PHOTO: DIGIMEDIA PHOTO AND VIDEO

were screened at The UWI Film Programme and new collaborations were forged with the Faculty of Law, the Institute for Gender and Development Studies (IGDS) and the Faculty of Humanities and Education's Department of Literary, Communication and Cultural Studies. About these ventures, Melvina Hazard, Director of Community Development, trinidad+tobago film festival stated, "We were thrilled and encouraged by the overwhelming response and attendance for ttff/16 at UWI. In addition to providing the UWI Film Programme with an exhibition platform to showcase works of its students and staff; we were especially pleased our with partnerships with the Cultural Studies Department and the Institute for Gender and Development Studies and The Faculty of Law Administration to bring the directors and screenings of *Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise and Every Cook Can Govern - The life, impact and works of CLR James*. We were also happy to work with the Faculty of Humanities and Education and the British Council of Trinidad and Tobago to screen *King Lear the Film* as part of Shakespeare Lives' commemoration of the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death and have the lead actor Don Warrington giving input to drama students, truly it was an invaluable experience. We look forward to working with the University for future collaborations as we continue our ongoing mission to use film as an impetus for public engagement and stimulating critical discourse."

The UWI extends its congratulations to Amir Aether Valen Ali and all students and staff who participated in ttff/16 and look forward to seeing their names on the silver screen for years to come.

As darkness graced the Jamaican skies, the Intercampus Staff Games contingent journeyed from the breathtaking Turtle River Falls and Gardens in Ocho Rios, back to the UWI Mona campus where the teams were lodged. The silent atmosphere on the return trip was markedly void of the lively singing of soca, gospel, reggae and even Sesame Street songs accompanied by scintillating drumming, which had filled to air on the way to the Falls.

Then, old and young passengers shared laughter, smiles or song suggestions. Dance expressions ranged from the tapping of feet to the nodding of heads and even the approximation of a conga line down the aisle of the bus. At this time however, most slept to a silence only challenged by the rain, pitter-pattering on the roof of the bus. Following the end of a hectic sporting schedule, impassioned performances and culturally themed celebratory nights, the entire contingent was gifted a full day to unwind and enjoy the unique Jamaican aesthetic.

August 2016 marked the 16th staging of the biannual UWI Intercampus Staff Games in which staff members compete in eight sporting disciplines. For only the second time thus far, the three landed campuses was joined by the Open Campus, which not only showed up but indeed stamped its name on the Games via increased representation and improved performances, even placing third overall, pushing Cave Hill into fourth place.

The St. Augustine contingent claimed the second spot, losing to the overall champions, Mona. St. Augustine's achievement was boosted by a near victorious performance in football along with winning performances in cricket, volleyball and lawn tennis. Athletes in track, table tennis, basketball and netball all expended significant effort toward the final points tally. In the final analysis the team widely celebrated as the 'life of the Intercampus village' once again proved that this reputation could not be disassociated from commitment and success.

As the female bus driver cautiously navigated through the wet streets of Liguanea, anxiety arose as the run off time

THE SPIRIT OF ONE UNIVERSITY

BY ALICIA MARTIN



Part of the St Augustine contingent to Intercampus Games 2017 at Mona, Jamaica. PHOTO COURTESY AKIL LASHLEY

for two major athletics finals swiftly approached. Upon arrival at the Rex Nettleford Hall, persons hastily occupied a position in front of the lone television, situated in the common area to view the much anticipated 100m finals. In an Olympic year where the Caribbean continued a tradition of dominance in track and field, led by the indomitable, confounding talent that is Usain Bolt, it was unsurprising that the Games, held in Jamaica would be quite exciting. As Usain obliterated a field of athletes representative of much larger, economically powerful countries, the texture of jubilation and regional unity ran high. Indeed this was the typical mode of celebration for all Caribbean athletes expressed throughout the games; Caribbean and national identity regularly intertwining.

At the official opening of the games, University Registrar, C. William Iton emphasised that the games tied neatly into the University's vision of 'One University', a strategic initiative dedicated toward achieving a more streamlined, integrated approach across campuses. Indeed the institution of UWI, quite apart from learning is also a vehicle for integration. In a remarkable way the Games allow for the engagement in cultural exchange and diplomacy among staff. By all reviews they were enjoyable and successfully staged, even amidst economic challenges as experienced by all campuses and their host countries – thus a testament to the spirit and resilience of the region at large. Dr Alicia Martin is a part-time lecturer in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

■ CAMPUS NEWS

UWI welcomes 3,500 new undergrads in **14TH MATRICULATION CEREMONY**

The UWI St. Augustine hosted its annual Matriculation and Welcome Ceremony to welcome all first year students in September. The event marked Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal Professor Brian Copeland's first Matriculation Ceremony in his new capacity following his July 1 appointment. This year's undergraduate student intake total approximately 3,500 students, consistent with the intake figures of the last academic year.

In his address, the Campus Principal urged students to make their contribution to society by working to change this state of economic affairs. "Do as your counterparts in other lands have done and apply those creative and innovative talents and skills to devise products, processes, systems and methods that the world has never seen before. Move then to create your own companies, medium or small, to sell these new entities or, as an employee of an already established firm, to improve the value of its existing products, processes,

systems and methods so as to improve its international competitiveness. You need to start thinking about this as of now. Fulfil your mandate as future leaders of the Caribbean".

In addition to the principal's address, the ceremony is marked by the symbolic signing of the Matriculation Register by a student of the incoming cohort, the recital of the Academic Vow led by President of the Guild of Students – Makesi Peters and the official welcome by Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles. In his remarks, which included the official recognition of new students as members of the academic community of the region's premiere university, Vice-Chancellor Sir Hilary Beckles said, "Around the world people have marvelled at how we have been able to build a first class university with limited financial resources...This tradition of excellence that we have created over the past 68 years has been entrusted to you".

This year, the Matriculation Register was signed by

Asmita Nankissoon, a first-year student in the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) programme in the Faculty of Medical Sciences. Nankissoon, a former student of the St. Augustine Girls High School, was recognised for obtaining the highest grade in CSEC Physics and CAPE Biology Unit 1 at her high school, as well as for her cultural contribution and dance. As is the tradition, she was selected for demonstrating the key attributes of the distinctive The UWI graduate.

A Matriculation Ceremony is the occasion where new students are formally recognised as members of the university community. In 2002, after a 30-year hiatus, the Matriculation and Welcome Ceremony was reinstated at The UWI St. Augustine Campus under then Campus Principal Dr Bhoendradatt Tewarie. Now, a mainstay on the campus' calendar, 2016 commemorates the 14th staging of the event which always takes place at the start of the academic year.



PHOTOS: ANEEL KARIM



UWI Recognises Excellence with VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS

Seven awards for excellence will be presented at the 2015/2016 Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence. A University tradition for more than 20 years, the awards recognise excellence in teaching, administration and research accomplishments, service to the university community, contributions to public service, and all-round excellence in a combination of two or more of these core areas. A departmental award is also given for service and operational excellence. The presentation ceremony which is rotated annually among The University's four campuses takes place on 19 October, 2016 at The UWI St Augustine Campus. The awardees this year are:

Dr Farid Youssef, Department of Pre-Clinical Sciences, St Augustine Campus – Excellence Award for Teaching

Professor Jayaraj Jayaraman, Department of Life Sciences, St Augustine Campus – Excellence Award for Research Accomplishments

Professor Jennifer Knight-Madden, Caribbean Institute for Health Research (formerly Tropical Medicine Research Institute), Regional Headquarters – Excellence Award for Research Accomplishments

Professor Verene Shepherd, Institute for Gender and Development Studies, Regional Coordinating Unit – Excellence Award for Contribution to Public Service

Jessel Murray, Department of Creative and Festival Arts, St Augustine Campus – All-round excellence in University Service and Public Service

Floyd Reifer, Head Coach (Cricket) at the Academy of Sport, Cave Hill Campus

The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, St Augustine Campus – Departmental Award for Excellence

Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence

Formerly known as the **Vice-Chancellor's Award for Meritorious Performance**, the awards scheme was re-established as the **Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence** in 1993 by then Vice-Chancellor, Sir Alister Mc Intyre. It arose from a desire on the part of Sir Alister, to recognise and reward outstanding performance of academic and senior administrative staff, above and beyond annual merit increases paid to employees. Up to eight awards may be given in recognition of accomplishments and/or as an incentive for continued excellent performance. In the 2012/2013 academic year, a departmental award for excellence was added, allowing for one annual award to be made to any department, institute, section, site, research unit, or centre demonstrating the highest commitment to quality, to service and operational excellence.

AWARDEES FROM THE ST AUGUSTINE CAMPUS



Dr Farid Youssef
Department of Pre-Clinical Sciences
Excellence Award for Teaching

A neuroscientist and psychologist with a deep concern for ethics, Dr Farid Youssef utilises his teaching and research initiatives to activate a new generation of values-based global citizens. His teaching style has been described as passionate, phenomenal and pro-student. He combines his devotion to helping students understand the complexity of the nervous system with his enthusiasm for technology, creating a teaching environment that students find both stimulating and engaging, enabling them to bridge the gap between basic sciences and real world applications. Dr Youssef passionately believes that learning must be founded upon a platform of values. He was integral to the development of a new programme in professionalism which seeks to anchor students' gifts in a culture of service to society and wider Caribbean development. His work in this area has gone beyond the University's walls where he serves as a Global Director of Congress WBN, a faith-based charity focused on human development. Dr Youssef consistently seeks to enhance the learning and life experience of his students and the communities they are being trained to serve.



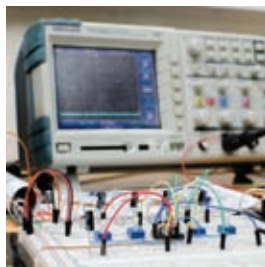
Professor Jayaraj Jayaraman
Department of Life Sciences
Excellence Award for Research Accomplishments

Leading the field of biotechnology at The UWI St Augustine, Professor Jayaraj Jayaraman has facilitated the development of an undergraduate biotechnology specialisation programme, as well as an MSc in Biotechnology. A strong advocate of sustainable farming, with a total of 99 refereed research publications under his belt, Professor Jayaraman's research has impacted agricultural systems regionally and internationally. Due to his extensive research, Professor Jayaraman and his Plant-microbiology and Biotechnology team have been able to train a core group of farmers within the region on sustainable methods involving minimal use of chemicals. A life member of the Asian PGPR Society for Sustainable Agriculture and advisor for the Society for Scientific Advancement, Professor Jayaraman is committed to developing and uplifting the visibility of biotechnology research at The UWI to world class standard.



Jessel Murray
Department of Creative and Festival Arts
All-round Excellence in University Service and Public Service

Head of the Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA) for the past five years, Jessel Murray is also a senior lecturer in music. Under his directorship the UWI Arts Chorale and UWI Arts Steel have both given impressive concerts to the campus community and general public in Trinidad and Tobago. During his tenure, Must Come See Productions (MCSP) was formed to offer musical theatre productions which have received close to twenty local Cacique awards. Murray is also involved in cultural activity within the wider campus community, holding the role of convenor of all performances at the six St Augustine Campus graduation ceremonies; as well as acting as music consultant for signature events including the 50th anniversary celebrations and the Rex Nettleford and Norman Girvan memorials. Outside The UWI, he served for almost nine years as the Artistic Director/Conductor of the National Steel Symphony Orchestra, Chief consultant in the setup of the National Philharmonic Orchestra (2014) and is currently serving on the Board of the Arts Registry at the Division of Culture in Trinidad and Tobago.



Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (DECE)
Departmental Award for Excellence

The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering's (DECE) vision is to produce competent, bold, articulate engineering graduates and to conduct relevant and innovative research and development for the social, economic and intellectual growth of the Caribbean region. The Department is driven by high standards and its BSc in Electrical and Computer Engineering programme has been accredited by the Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET) for over 25 continuous years. The MASc programme has recently been accredited for the 2015 to 2019 intakes and its accreditation has been back-dated to 2012. The Department has also introduced many innovative ideas to promote learning and thinking outside the traditional curriculum. The introduction of annual summer internships with IBM, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and Boeing in the USA, as well as involvement in robotics group activities and software competitions, have all been "life changing" events according to students. One of the most successful learning initiatives has been the Community Service Learning Project which challenges students to identify and solve issues in a local community. DECE's graduates are often described as eloquent, proficient, and knowledgeable with a sound ability to lead and apply new technologies and provide solutions; a testimony to the Department's quality.



UWI
ST. AUGUSTINE
CAMPUS

UWI SPEC INTERNATIONAL HALF-MARATHON 2016

PRESENTED BY



SUNDAY OCTOBER 23, 2016 AT 5:30 AM

UWI SPORT & PHYSICAL EDUCATION CENTRE, ST. AUGUSTINE, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

REGISTRATION PERIOD: AUGUST 13 – OCTOBER 7, 2016

OVER \$150,000 IN CASH PRIZES

OPEN/INTERNATIONAL

1st Male	US \$2,500	First Citizens
1st Female	US \$2,500	First Citizens
2nd Male	US \$1,800	First Citizens
2nd Female	US \$1,800	First Citizens
3rd Male	US \$1,200	First Citizens
3rd Female	US \$1,200	First Citizens
4th Male	US \$800	First Citizens
4th Female	US \$800	First Citizens



New Course Record Male (1.05.06.9)	US \$1,000
New Course Record Female (1.12.07.6)	US \$1,000

Local Runners Incentive
Male Sub – (1:10mins) TTD\$5000 • Female Sub (1:17:30 sec) TTD\$5000

University Student Male & Female
1st TT \$1,500 • 2nd TT \$1,000 • 3rd TT \$500

UWI Student Male & Female
1st TT \$1,500 • 2nd TT \$1,000 • 3rd TT \$500

UWI Staff Male & Female
1st TT \$1,500 • 2nd TT \$1,000 • 3rd TT \$500

UWI STA Alumni Male & Female
1st TT \$1,500 • 2nd TT \$1,000 • 3rd TT \$500

NAAA National Championship
1st TT \$1,500 • 2nd TT \$1,000 • 3rd TT \$500

THESE CATEGORIES EXCLUDE THE TOP FIVE (5) MALE & FEMALE ATHLETES

15 – 19 Male & Female
1st TT \$1,000 • 2nd TT \$700 • 3rd TT \$500

20 – 29 Male & Female
1st TT \$1,000 • 2nd TT \$700 • 3rd TT \$500

30 – 39 Male & Female
1st TT \$1,000 • 2nd TT \$700 • 3rd TT \$500

40 – 49 Male & Female
1st TT \$1,000 • 2nd TT \$700 • 3rd TT \$500

50 – 59 Male & Female
1st TT \$1,000 • 2nd TT \$700 • 3rd TT \$500

60 – 69 Male & Female
1st TT \$1,000 • 2nd TT \$700 • 3rd TT \$500

70 – 79 Male & Female
1st TT \$1,000 • 2nd TT \$700 • 3rd TT \$500

Over 80 Male & Female
1st TT \$1,000 • 2nd TT \$700 • 3rd TT \$500

Physically Challenged Male & Female
1st TT \$1,000 • 2nd TT \$700 • 3rd TT \$500

Special Olympics Male & Female
1st TT \$1,000 • 2nd TT \$700 • 3rd TT \$500

Wheelchair Male & Female
1st TT \$1,000 • 2nd TT \$700 • 3rd TT \$500

Team/Club Category
1st TT \$8,000 • 2nd TT \$4,000 • 3rd TT \$3,000

MAP OF THE ROUTE



MILE MARKERS WILL BE PLACED ALONG THE ROUTE
RACE ELECTRONICALLY TIMED
ATHLETES WILL BE PHOTOGRAPHED CROSSING THE FINISH LINE
WATER STOPS AT EVERY MILE



START/FINISH

Online Registration
(Local and International)
www.sta.uwi.edu/spec/marathon

PACKAGE COLLECTION

OCTOBER 13 – 18

AT UWI SPEC

Weekdays: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Weekends: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

visit us at www.sta.uwi.edu/spec

CAMPUS NEWS

UWI St. Augustine and Republic Bank Limited (RBL) continue to prepare and equip students with the necessary tools for succeeding in the World of Work (WOW) with the recent unveiling of their plan for the 2016 WOW programme.

The programme, which is over 20 years in existence, has benefitted from a decade-long partnership with RBL. Speaking at the event, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal of The UWI St. Augustine, Professor Brian Copeland, thanked RBL for their continued commitment to The UWI and its graduates. He also noted that there is a reason why the programme has thrived for so long and has grown substantially in content and participation. “It is the recognition that success in the professional world and in the area of entrepreneurship takes more than theory. Today WOW attracts some 1,400 final year students and 1,000 first and second year students,” he said.

Speaking on behalf of the bank, Executive Director, Derwin Howell, reaffirmed the bank’s commitment to The UWI in the pursuit of empowerment through education, noting that both institutions have shared many successes working together over the years. “Republic has made it one of our biggest priorities to assist the University whenever, wherever and however best we can,” Howell said.

The launch also featured a special presentation by noted Criminologist, Criminal Psychologist, and Media Specialist Renee Cummings focusing on Social Media Etiquette for Millennials’.

The WOW programme consists of several parts: the Seminar, Resume Writing and Public Speaking Workshops, Interview Preparation and Networking Theory, Mock Interview Sessions and the Networking Cocktail Event, all spread across the period October 2016 to March 2017, culminating with the highly-anticipated Recruitment Fair carded for April 6 and 7, 2017. WOW is also highly anticipated by first and second year students who have the opportunity for vacation employment with companies who attend the Recruitment Fair. The precursor to the WOW programme is the Career Advice Programme (CAP), which helps first and second year students identify and embark on their career paths.

For further information on the WOW programme, log onto <http://sta.uwi.edu/wow/>

2016 ‘WORLD OF WORK’ KICKS OFF



Renee Cummings, feature speaker, in the midst of delivering her presentation



WOW Launch: (L-R) Director of the Division of Student Services and Development, Dr Deirdre Charles and feature speaker, Renee Cummings.



Campus Principal Professor Copeland (l) and Derwin Howell, Executive Director of Republic Bank Limited chat just before the formalities begin.



A cross-section of attentive students at the packed SPEC auditorium

CARIBBEAN’S FIRST DIPLOMA IN PAEDIATRIC HAEMATOLOGY LAUNCHED

The UWI School of Nursing (UWISoN) in partnership with the SickKids-Caribbean Initiative (SCI) launched a new Diploma in Paediatric Haematology/Oncology for Registered Nurses mid-September. The launch took place at the Academy of Nursing and Allied Health in El Dorado. The Minister of Health, the Honourable Terence Deyalsingh delivered the feature address.

The diploma is a component of the SCI’s Enhancing Capacity for Care in Paediatric Cancer and Blood Disorders project, a five-year partnership with the SickKids Centre for Global Child Health in Toronto, The UWI, Ministries of Health, and hospitals in six Caribbean countries. The overall goal of the initiative is to enhance the diagnosis and care of children with cancer and blood disorders in the SCI partner countries, and the Caribbean region.

Director of UWISoN, Dr Oscar Noel Ocho said, “This programme targets registered nurses working in paediatric wards. It is the only programme of its kind in the Caribbean that seeks to build clinical competence of Nurses in Paediatric Haematology/Oncology. UWISoN has been identified as the institution for the delivery of this curriculum and this is a welcomed opportunity to transform nursing education programmes through multi-sectoral collaboration”.



Speakers and distinguished guests gather to capture the moment in time when The UWI School of Nursing (UWISoN) and the SickKids-Caribbean Initiative (SCI) launched a new Diploma.

Foundational concepts in paediatric nursing, paediatric haematology/oncology nursing care, and nursing leadership will be covered throughout the programme. Grounded in the “flipped classroom” philosophy, it will be delivered using blended learning methodologies including e-learning, in-class workshops and clinical practicum. Successful candidates will be awarded a Diploma in Paediatric

Haematology/Oncology Nursing. The content of programme for the first two cohorts will be jointly delivered by SickKids educators and lecturers at UWISoN, with SCI sponsoring 14 students in each cohort. Students in the programme come from the Caribbean territories where the SickKids-Caribbean Initiative also runs.

For further information on the diploma, please contact Shadiwsh Bailey at (868) 225-1026 ext. 3004. For more information about the SCI, please visit www.sickkids.ca/sci.

■ FEATURE

Once upon a time in the CHILDREN'S WARD



Med Sci students tell powerful story of compassion and creative expression

BY JOEL HENRY

“Adults are obsolete children,” said Theodor Seuss Geisel, or Dr Seuss, as he has come to be known. Perhaps more than any other children’s author, Dr Seuss is recognised as the chief advocate of the childlike. He wrote of the childlike capacity for wonder, resilience and compassion. He lamented the loss of these capacities in adulthood. But, like a child, he was hopeful they could be recovered. It’s more than fitting then that the works of Dr Seuss should be part of a remarkable programme created by medical students at the Faculty of Medicine of UWI St. Augustine.

The Bedtime Stories Initiative (BTSI) is an activity through which volunteers visit the paediatric wards of the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex at Mt. Hope and spend time with the children. They read with them, make up stories, play games, watch movies and sometimes just have conversations. Its sounds simple enough, but for children dealing with illness and confinement, BTSI is a source of emotional support and entertainment.

“For a child, a ward is not exactly a fun place to be,” says Dr Srikanth Rao Venkata, founder and first president of the Art Society of Mt. Hope, the group responsible for BTSI.

Venkata, who graduated in 2013 and is now a house officer at the St. Ann’s Psychiatric Hospital, is a remarkably good-natured and easygoing young man, which is impressive when you consider how successful his creations have been. The Art Society, a small group he formed originally to showcase the works of his friends, has erupted in the space of five years to a membership of hundreds, promoting the arts and artists within and external to the campus. They host an annual party as well as an art gala, their signature event. BTSI is their flagship initiative.

“It went from nothing to something really fast,” he says. “It was just me and five of my friends. We intended on showing 20 pieces and it became 135 in the space of a week. It just started to escalate from there.”

The first Art Society gala was held in a small space at the Mt. Hope campus. Subsequent galas were hosted at the much larger Teaching and Learning Centre of the main campus and at Circa, an upscale outdoor nightspot. They hope to host the next art gala at the National Academy for Performing Arts (NAPA). “If we get to NAPA we’ll have

done what I set out to do,” Venkata says.

Understand, these are not professional artists hosting what has become a vibrant part of Trinidad’s social calendar. These are medical students investing precious time and effort into the arts while working to complete a five-year, highly rigorous course of study.

“It is pressure,” says Sofiya Barrow, a final year medical student and the current president of the Art Society. “But it’s not impossible. You spend your free time working on art society business. It also helps that we have a great group. We are like family. We handle everything together.”

And, she points out, there are many medical students with both an interest and aptitude in art:

“The Art Society of Mt. Hope encourages people, not just medical students, to do things outside of school work – something colourful, something interesting, something artistic, something creative.”

Friends on the ward

If the Art Society provides a creative outlet, then BTSI provides a charitable one.

“I remember breaking my arm and being on the ward when I was 7 years-old. I was miserable the entire time,” says Aaron Marc Ali, a third year medical student and member of the Art Society. “I just wanted somebody to talk to.”

Aaron guides me through two of the four paediatric wards that BTSI visits. They are like canisters, low roofed with a narrow hallway, rooms to either side. He informs the nurses of who we are (the number one rule of ward etiquette is speak with the nurses first). We pass room after room. Many are empty. There is a group of children in a play room, watching a TV with the volume low. A parent smiles gently at us as she passes, going into a room to sit at the bedside of her child.

Aaron, despite the pressures of school work, is doing what he can to improve the experience of children today. “We try and reach as many as possible in the timeframe,” he says. BTSI makes its rounds on Thursday evenings, meeting first at the campus coffee shop. As many as 25 participants take part on any given week, most from the School of

Medicine but also many from the Faculty, the main campus and even external participants.

“I firmly believe that once you have something good, people will support it regardless of whatever walk of life they are from,” says Venkata. “Honestly, helping sick kids is something at a baseline that is fundamentally good.”

And the Society has been taking its mission even further than the ward visits. They purchase books, toys and even medical equipment for the wards. Earlier this year they made a donation to the St. Mary’s Children’s Home and Orphanage. The funds for these charitable acts come from the proceeds of the art gala. On September 16 they held a party at 51 Degrees nightclub called “The Human Art Project,” an event used to help fund the art gala.

The mission is to use the proceeds from next year’s gala to refurbish one of the wards. As Aaron says, “we want to liven it up and make it more colourful for them.”

Sofiya wanted to have this project completed during her term as president but because of delays in getting official approval it will fall under the tenure of her successor, Jonathan Edwards. Nevertheless, she has put things in place for the new president and is confident in his ability to get the job done.

“Being part of the Art Society is so fulfilling because we always succeed,” she says. “We don’t stop until we succeed. And that makes you feel really accomplished.”

Srikanth Venkata is also confident in the capability of the Art Society. Under the leadership of his successors Khavi Singh (the second president) and Sofiya (third) the organisation has grown and prospered. The plan now is to ensure its continued growth, recruiting new members and expanding its charitable works to other medical and childcare facilities.

“Considering the sheer magnitude of what we are trying to achieve we really hope people and organisations can come and help,” he says. “We do need money. We do need hands onboard. If we can do something like put Internet on the wards that will help more than one group of people for a small amount of time. It is going to be there for decades. We want to do something as permanent as we can.”

■ CAMPUS EVENT

Celebrating the Legacy of Martin Franklin

BY TENNILLE FANOVICH & ROXANNE BRIZAN-ST. MARTIN

Martin Franklin is the honouree at this year's Conference on the Economy (COTE) hosted by the Department of Economics, UWI St Augustine where he has served as an educator for the past thirty-nine years.

During his time at The University of the West Indies he has served in many capacities including Senior Lecturer, Head of Department (2009-2014), Deputy Dean of Distance and Outreach (2006-2009) and Acting Dean for Faculty of Social Sciences on many occasions during the 2012-2014 periods.

Franklin, however, will be most known and remembered by many of his students as the strict lecturer for Introductory Statistics, Economic Statistics, Statistical Methods and Mathematical Methods at the Department of Economics. While his serious demeanour would frighten most newcomers to his courses, it is this seriousness and intent of purpose that has been most appreciated by his students along with his compassionate nature, easy sense of humor and willingness to assist any student who wanted to learn.

Martin Franklin has been instrumental in enforcing some academic and administrative processes to improve the rigour of the programme of Economics. For example, the introduction of the Mathematics Proficiency Test and Remedial Mathematics course to all BSc Economics students. Additionally, he has championed the networking of students of the department by successfully introducing internships for MSc Economics Students that would be used in lieu of Research Projects. Franklin also served on various committees and boards including but not limited to Public

Service Commission, the National Carnival Commission and the Turtle Village Trust. He has also assisted in the design of the MSc in Leadership and Management programme and has served as Honorary Research Fellow of SALISES from 2011-2012 while being very active on Academic and Examination Boards of The UWI.

Franklin has also served as journal referee for the West Indian Journal of Engineering, the Journal of Business, Finance Economics and Emerging Economies among others and serves as editor for the Journal of Mathematical Finance since 2011. He has published in areas such as international trade, education, health, ICTs and other areas associated with Caribbean economic development. In 2014, he co-authored a book: *Informal Commercial Importers in CARICOM (2014)* with Dr Roger Hosein which is one of the first books to examine the various dimensions of informal commercial importing from an aggregate CARICOM perspective given that the informal economy has become a persistent feature of the region's economic landscape. Some of these areas will be explored as possibilities for diversification in the Caribbean during this year's conference.

COTE 2016 will be held on October 13-14 at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus under the theme, *Managing Development in a Volatile Economic Environment: Addressing Diversification Challenges*. One of the thematic areas of the conference deals with Education and Human Resource Development, which resonates well with the persona of Martin Franklin.

CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE Taking Farming to New Heights

Perennial flooding may soon be a thing of the past if a new project by The Department of Food Production of the Faculty of Food and Agriculture is successful. In the project, farmers will have the opportunity to test experimental seedling transplanter technology which allows them to cultivate steep slopes without contributing to landslips and flooding.

Apart from the environmental benefits of this technology, it will eliminate the need for back-breaking hand tilling in areas inaccessible to tractors. This will make farming less laborious for our aging farmer base and will hopefully attract a younger generation of farmers weary of spending long hours in the sun.

The project entitled Conservation Agriculture for Climate Change Adaptation in the Caribbean is being supported by the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (SPC) which was established in 2007 as a Caribbean-wide catastrophe relief fund to limit the economic impact of hurricanes and other natural disasters. Thus, the long-term hope is that after initial testing in Trinidad and Tobago, this technology will be rolled-out in the other member states which include: Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Turks & Caicos Islands and Nicaragua.

The project is the brain-child of Dr Mark Wuddivira, Senior Lecturer in Soil Science of The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine and Renaldo Belfon of the University of Guelph, Canada. However, additional project team members are being sought from a wide range of backgrounds including economics, farming, environmental conservation and extension and communication.

Cognisant of the call for more impactful research coming out of the The UWI, this interdisciplinary approach will help ensure that the project produces tangible results and contributes to regional food security. "We were not interested in another project aimed at just producing more scientific papers. To engage in a practical project that enhances productivity and people's livelihoods was the overall goal. We also wanted to give an opportunity to a good graduate student who could bring even more value to the project while completing their thesis work," says Dr Wuddivira.

A field trial of the technology is being planned at the new UWI Field Station at Orange Grove, while a number of training sessions and workshops will be held for farmers and extension officers starting early next year. For updates on the project check the projects Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/caccac2016>. Farmers and other stakeholders interested in participating in the project should contact Dr Wuddivira at: mark.wuddivira@sta.uwi.edu and Renaldo Belfon at: renaldo.belfon@gmail.com.



Martin Franklin

WORK *and* LIFE FINDING THE BALANCE

Gender Studies/Social Work partner for groundbreaking research

BY JOEL HENRY

At some point in life most if not all people will be troubled by certain fundamental questions. How do we find that elusive and fulfilling balance between work and life? How will we deal with old age, our own and our parents? Advancement and shifts in culture make these concerns even starker as traditional gender roles have changed and people live much longer.

Ambitiously, a research team at The UWI St Augustine Campus has undertaken a project to not only collect the data on work/life balance and ageing but also implement practical solutions for Caribbean society. In fact, the project has already begun this practical aspect through a lecture series for employees of one of Trinidad and Tobago's public utility companies.

The research is titled Work/Life Balance and Ageing in Trinidad: Studying the Productivity and Wellbeing of Working Men and Women.

"Life has accelerated," says Professor Patricia Mohammed, Lead Researcher of the Work/Life Balance and Ageing project. "And at the same time the expectation of life has increased. It is no longer three score and ten. The average person is living longer. By 2030 the population who would have retired at 65 will exceed the working population".

The project looks at the work and family life commitments of a selected group of working people in the 40 to 65 age range. Research methods include talking circles, surveys of childcare and elderly facilities, and interviews with working men and women.

Professor Mohammed, who is also Professor of Gender and Cultural Studies as well as Campus Coordinator of the School of Graduate Studies and Research, explains that, "we approached this project with the belief that it should not just be an intellectual approach. It had to include the practice, the axiology between concept and practice".

She reached out to the Social Work Unit in the Department of Behavioural Sciences to combine the practical methods of social work with the theoretical framework of gender studies.

"We are synergising gender and social work, using some of the philosophies of gender and the methodologies of social work," says Dr Cheryl-Ann Boodram, Investigator with the project and Assistant Lecturer/Practicum Coordinator with the Social Work Unit. "We work together and find solutions".

This multi-disciplinary, practical outcome type of research is very much in line with the larger research goals of The University of the West Indies. Seeking to encourage



The project looks at the work and family life commitments of a selected group of working people in the 40 to 65 age range. Research methods include talking circles, surveys of childcare and elderly facilities, and interviews with working men and women.

research of this nature, The UWI St Augustine established the Research and Development Impact (RDI) Fund, which provides three-year funding for projects in specific thematic areas. The Work/Life project, which began in 2015 and will run to April 2018, is RDI funded.

The emphasis on impact is reflected in key facets of the project. The research team made sure to carry the work outside of the campus and establish partnerships with organisations such as the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Trinidad and Tobago Association of Retired Persons (TTARP), the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC), the Women's Institute for Alternative Development (WINAD), Working Women, corporate sector representatives and even homes for the elderly.

The research team has also developed a work/life balance module that it is delivering to employees of one of Trinidad and Tobago's public utilities, a massive organisation with over 13 stations throughout the two islands.

"It is an interactive lecture series," says Dr Boodram. "We engage the workers to uncover how they construct

their own meaning of work/life balance. We continue until we discover what causes them stress and then work together to find solutions to help them cope".

The team has traveled to far-flung communities to deliver the module, providing relief to many.

"Everywhere we go the experience is different and new," says Professor Mohammed.

But no matter the location, certain causes of work/life stress appear consistently. These include traffic to and from work, which eats up hours every day for working people; communications technology, which allows encroachment into time allotted to both work and life; evolving gender roles, particularly of women, who find themselves juggling work along with traditional roles such as homemaker and childcare; and caring for ageing parents, another emerging phenomenon as people live longer.

And the impact has been very positive, says Dr. Boodram: "The experience has been absolutely wonderful. People are animated in talking about their experiences. The sessions are full of anecdotal stories about the challenges they face. They feel engaged by us. Many have said that they are happy to be engaging with the university in a very meaningful way. When we do these sessions people see that they are not alone in dealing with stress. It brings them together, which in turn helps them find solutions".

Coming out of the lectures there has been greater contentment and productivity within the organisation. The research team is looking at using the data related to work/life stress uncovered from the modules to provide policymakers and stakeholders vital qualitative information on the labour force. They also want to create a saleable module that can be used by other organisations.

Currently, the Work/Life Balance project is in the second of its three year span, but with the engaging nature of the research and its proven practical impact it seems certain that this is just the beginning.



**WORK LIFE BALANCE
AND AGEING**

The Research Team

Professor Patricia MohammedLead Researcher
Professor Paula MorganInvestigator and Advisor
Dr Cheryl-Ann BoodramInvestigator
Dr Angelique NixonInvestigator
Deborah McFee.....Investigator
Renée Maria CozierResearch Assistant
Sommer HunteResearch Assistant
Patricia HackettResearch Assistant
Rachel TaylorResearch Assistant (OJT)
Raquel LM Sukhu.....Project Manager

ACTION RESEARCH

PREVIEWING: POPULATION PROBLEMS

BY GODFREY ST BERNARD

For the period 1950 to 2040, the pace at which the population in Trinidad and Tobago has aged and will continue to age, exceeds that of Barbados, Canada, Italy and the United States based on past population trends and those that are projected for the period 2010 and 2040.

The pace of ageing is defined as the expected increase in the median age from one decade to the next. Table 1 lists expected increases in the median age of the population in eight countries. In Trinidad and Tobago, the median age is expected to increase by 3.2 years every decade. Corresponding increases in the case of Barbados, Italy, Canada and the United States are 3.1 years, 2.8 years, 2.7 years and 1.7 years respectively. The median age is a measure summarising the average age of a country's population.

If this statistic does not sound alarming enough about our ageing population, consider that 30 years ago the average birth rate was 3 children to 1 woman and in 2010 it was one child per woman – which implies that the population of Trinidad and Tobago will likely experience negative population growth as early as during the 2020s.

These demographics are time-bombs that can potentially have negative impacts for national productivity, NIS reserves, the nation's capacity to sustain health care services that treat with chronic non-communicable illnesses and international competitiveness of economic entities within the domestic economy. Are public and private sector agendas ready to address these concerns in a nation and region where very little reverence is placed upon social and economic planning?

Earlier this year, demographers, statisticians, development specialists, public sector technocrats and other allied professionals convened to showcase, discuss and precipitate action to influence sustainable development agendas that ought to be cognisant of critical attributes of national populations.

The Caribbean Research Cluster for Population and Sustainable Development is one of several clusters associated with the Fifty-Fifty Research Initiative that was established in the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) in 2012. In January 2016, the Cluster successfully organised the first in a series of country conferences that was entitled, Population Issues and Dynamics in Trinidad and Tobago: Theory, Practice and Policy for Post 2015 SDG. Three outstanding Caribbean demographers working in the period 1950 to the end of the 1980s – George Roberts, Jack Harewood and Norma Abdulah, were honoured for their respective contributions. The common themes characterising their scholarly contributions included the socio-demographic reality of Anglophone Caribbean societies; data-driven approaches to understanding development processes in Caribbean societies; the development of national statistical systems, and human capital development. The keynote plenaries were developed drawing on these themes with addresses being delivered by Dr Ralph Henry, Sunity Maharaj and Dr Terrence Farrell.

The programme also featured three additional plenaries showcasing key insights and perspectives that underlie the work programmes of critical stakeholders. The Ministry of Planning and Development was a main partner in organising the conference and convened a panel consisting of three senior public service professionals who provided key insights into the management of national population dynamics. The second set of stakeholders consisted of representatives from the NGO community, specifically, the National Family Planning Association, the Diabetes Association of Trinidad and Tobago and the Living Water Community. The third set of stakeholders represented the



From left to right: Henry Charles, Dr Terri-Anne Gilbert-Roberts, Teoca Dove, Dr Godfrey St. Bernard, Amilcar Sanatan, Jabari Fraser.

youth movement with panelists presenting messages from the perspectives of academia, entrepreneurship, youth development and the media.

The conference attracted a total of 55 formal papers covering wide-ranging themes including population redistribution and spatial development; improving quality of life; vulnerability of children and elderly populations; migrant lived experiences and other labour migration issues; population ageing and social security; nutritional, health and lifestyle challenges; maternal health, child health and fetal mortality; demographic transition and ageing issues; quality threats to human capital formation; fertility behaviour and fertility decline; data quality and social planning; and methodological approaches impacting socio-demographic data. More than 100 authors including social scientists, medical scientists, food production specialists, statisticians, regional planners presented findings and ideas emanating from their research and contributed towards strengthening inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary foci as a means of contending with the often neglected nuances that characterise population dynamics and socio-demographic issues in contemporary Trinidad and Tobago.

In keeping with its pledge to replicate similar conferences across the Anglophone Caribbean, the Caribbean Research Cluster for Population and Sustainable Development has begun the organisation of the second country conference in Jamaica. This conference entitled Population Planning for Development in Jamaica: Theory, Practice and Policy for Post 2015 SDGs is scheduled to take place during 25-27 January, 2017 at the Jamaica Conference Centre in Kingston, Jamaica. It seeks to explore a wide array of population issues that are associated with development prospects specifically in Jamaica. Despite being a SALISES initiative, the conference is organised in collaboration with STATIN, Department of Sociology, Social Work and Psychology in The University of the West Indies (Mona) and other allied partners such as the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Jamaica embarked upon a major macro-level planning initiative entitled Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan during 2007. Accordingly, “Jamaica, the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business” captures the essence of the national vision statement and implicitly reflects a desire to positively impact the well-being of human populations, in individual capacities and as variable collectives on one hand, and the character of societal institutions that are not only shaped by such populations but also influence outcomes associated with critical attributes akin to such populations. Not surprisingly, a constant theme that will be characteristic of every country conference is the intrinsic link between demographic and other population-related variables and processes of inclusive and sustainable development.

The upcoming 2017 conference will provide an opportunity for potential panelists to discuss disciplinary and inter-disciplinary perspectives that bear upon a wide array of related issues and inform research inputs and policy prescription. It is expected to yield outcomes that reflect progressive orientations towards human populations in the attainment of sustainable development thrusts. In promoting this series of Caribbean population conferences, a key guiding principle is that sustainable development will not be economically viable, socio-culturally sensitive, environmentally responsible and people-focused if it were to be insensitive to human population structures and dynamics.

Table 1. The Pace of Population Ageing – Selected Countries 1950-2040

Source: St. Bernard (2016)

Country	Magnitude of Ageing
Barbados	3.1
Canada.....	2.7
Cuba.....	3.8
Italy.....	2.8
Japan	3.6
Singapore.....	4.2
Trinidad and Tobago	3.2
United States.....	1.7

Dr Godfrey St. Bernard is a Senior Fellow at SALISES on The UWI, St. Augustine Campus.

He is the conference coordinator for Population Planning for Development in Jamaica: Theory, Practice and Policy for Post 2015 SDGs.

For further information please contact: godfrey.stbernard@sta.uwi.edu



FYE

First Year Experience
2016-2017



The University of the West Indies extends deepest thanks to all our partners who made UWI Life 2016 a success.

Unit Trust Corporation
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Crystal Waters
Nestle
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Kotex
Mario's
Lucozade
Very Exciting Things
Coldstone Creamery
Denny's



We hope this was a meaningful introduction to life at UWI for the more than 1,500 first year undergraduate, evening, part-time and postgraduate students who attended, and their support network of parents, guardians and spouses.



■ FEATURE

Ethics

and the Lord of the Rings

BY SURENDRA ARJOON



Surendra Arjoon

The Lord of the Rings is by far the best fantasy-fiction book ever written with sales of more than 100 million copies. It is compelling to the modern reader because it contributes to the satisfaction of the desires of heart and mind through wonder and amazement which the world has largely forgotten. This is accomplished through

our internal struggle between friendship and betrayal, free will and choice, good and evil, virtue and vice, power and authority, temptation and sin, repentance and reparation, time and eternity, grace and nature, death and immortality, natural and supernatural, toward achieving happiness. It reflects our story which shows the richness and ennoblement of ordinary life through the development of the virtues.

Ethics and the Lord of the Rings is a weekly seminar series, now in its 7th year. It is a one-hour session during which the extended version of the movies is shown for approximately 30 minutes followed by a 20 minute critical discussion on the various themes. The movie acts as a psychological mirror which depicts our journey in life through the character traits of the different personalities. For example, *elves* represent the artistic, aesthetic, and scientific; *men* represent traditional, noble, and knightly; *hobbits* represent cheerfulness, home-loving, family, friendship, all characterised by food and drink, singing and music; *orcs* represent violence, greed, mistrust, betrayal, abuse of power, in short, the brutish side or defect of human nature. Every central character faces ethical choices and goes through crises with some failing miserably at times experiencing pain, grief, doubt and despair. It is precisely through these trials that one is able to effectively develop virtues and lead a fulfilling life.

One Ring to rule them all, One Ring to find them, One Ring to bring them all and in the darkness bind them. The Ring represents an inordinate pursuit for power to dominate the will of others in order to enslave them. Possessing the Ring leads to an addiction and attachment to wealth, pleasure, social status, validation by others, power, and honour. We then become slaves to such things and end up being controlled by them: *the possession possesses the possessor!* The One Ring is a seductive and insidious moral disorder or mental sickness that leads to unhappiness.

STUDENTS' FEEDBACK

"The seminars allow for a person to look at oneself, to be able to recognise your mistakes and imperfections and find ways to fix these faults and move on to become a better person."

"Attending these hourly sessions throughout the semester was enlightening, it gave me a better understanding of life, my goals, values and morals allowing me to prioritise what needs to be done and also I was able to put things into perspective."

"It helped me deal with failures and regrets by showing me that I was fighting a losing battle against myself and that the only way to truly move on was to forgive myself and to live in the present."

"The use of the trilogy in relation to real life was remarkable and I appreciated the visual examples and how it applied to my life. I learnt when you accept your role in life, the person you are supposed to be, you begin to live rightly; when trials and negativity cross your path you are able to handle them without compromising your moral alignment."

"It was really educational and intellectually appealing. But to be honest my motivation for attending was purely for the sake of having a good motivational therapy for the week."

"...the knowledge equipped from this lecture can put one in a better position to deal with the events of their own personal life. I do urge everyone to attend if they can, regardless of job, field of study or age."

"Who would have pictured that lessons on life, philosophy, ethics and inspirational deep thinking can be derived from the Lord of the Rings movie? This seminar enriched me by encouraging me to think about my behaviour and actions."

Co-curricular activities are designed to develop the key attributes of The UWI Graduate. The seminar series is facilitated by Surendra Arjoon PhD, Professor of Business & Professional Ethics, Department of Management Studies. He can be contacted at: Surendra.Arjoon@sta.uwi.edu



The Early Childhood Caravan was launched at the St. Augustine Campus of The UWI, School of Education on Saturday, September 10, 2016. This project is an initiative of the Early Childhood Learning Community (ECLC), a group of past and present UWI students and lecturers, who are passionate about making a difference in the lives of children throughout Trinidad and Tobago. The Caravan's mission is to support young children's development and learning through community outreach activities which promote developmentally appropriate practices. The Caravan was launched with a workshop for early childhood teachers.

The Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education, Dr Heather Cateau and the Director of the School of Education, Dr Jennifer Yamin-Ali, delivered opening remarks on the occasion. Dr Sabeerah Abdul-Majied, coordinator of the Bachelor of Education, Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme, chaired the event. She welcomed 24 participants to the one day workshop entitled *A Day of Language and Literacy* which was facilitated by ECLC members who volunteered their time and expertise for the workshop.

In her address Dean Cateau praised the launch of the Caravan and the professional development workshop. She advised that the university was concerned about student performance in Mathematics and English. She also stated that the concern was not just a university problem but a national problem at all levels of the education system. The dean was of the view that early childhood educators have an important role to play in the process of preparing students for university success. She added that "we can and must do better". She recommended that all must share a common vision for education. Dr Cateau ended her address by thanking the early childhood teachers, primary school teachers and the parents who attended the workshop.

Dr Yamin-Ali in her address expressed delight at seeing, "the wheels on the bus go round and round" as The Caravan was launched. She reiterated that the early childhood sector is a significant part of the education system as it laid the foundation for children's learning. She told participants, "Little children need you and we need you to provide what children need from us". She informed the participants that they were really fortunate to be part of the first workshop. She thanked Dr Abdul-Majied for her vision and looked forward to exciting days ahead for The Caravan.

The workshop was designed to enhance strategies for teaching language and literacy to young learners, particularly the most vulnerable. Participants learned about language and literacy goals and standards. They also participated in reading, writing and comprehension activities for young children. Participants appreciated the initiative and eagerly anticipate the next Caravan event which rolls out to Trincity Mall to showcase children's artwork. The Caravan may be in your backyard soon!

For further information contact
sabeerah.abdulmajied@sta.uwi.edu

UWI CALENDAR *of* EVENTS

OCTOBER 2016

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

October 19
UWI St. Augustine

Seven awards for excellence will be presented at The UWI's 2015/2016 Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence Ceremony which is an University tradition for more than 20 years, the awards recognise excellence in teaching, administration and research accomplishments, service to the university community, contributions to public service, and all-round excellence in a combination of two or more of these core areas. A departmental award is also given for service and operational excellence. This year, St. Augustine has secured four out of the seven Excellence awards. The 2015/2016 awardees are Dr Farid Youssef, Department of Pre-Clinical Sciences, St Augustine Campus; Professor Jayaraj Jayaraman, Department of Life Sciences, St Augustine Campus; Professor Jennifer Knight-Madden, Caribbean Institute for Health Research (formerly Tropical Medicine Research Institute), Regional Headquarters; Professor Verene Shepherd, Institute for Gender and Development Studies, Regional Coordinating Unit; Jessel Murray, Department of Creative and Festival Arts, St Augustine Campus; Floyd Reifer, Head Coach at the Academy of Sport, Cave Hill Campus; and The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, St Augustine Campus.

To read more about the awardees, please click visit <http://sta.uwi.edu/news/releases/default.asp>.
For more information, please visit the Campus Events Calendar at www.sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar

UWI-FDC INTERACTIVE LEARNING EVENT

October 29
UWI Family Development Centre

The University of The West Indies Family Development Centre (UWI-FDC) kicks off the Interactive Learning Series with the Partners in Care: Building Bridges between Families and Early Childhood Professionals event facilitated by Lesleann Whiteman, Programme Manager, Early Childhood Development and Family Studies at The UWI Open Campus. The workshop takes place from 9am to 1pm with a registration cost of \$250. The deadline for registration is October 21. For more details, please call 662-2002 ext. 84511/84517/84519 or email fdpuwi@sta.uwi.edu.

For more information, please visit the Campus Events Calendar at www.sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar.

COTE 2016

October 13 and 14
UWI, St. Augustine

The Department of Economics is hosting their annual Conference on the Economy (COTE) under the theme, Managing for Development in a Volatile Economic Environment: Addressing the Diversification Challenges with feature speaker Terrence W. Farrell. This year's conference will honour former Head of Department Mr Martin Franklin and takes place at the Learning Resource Centre Auditorium (LRC).

For more information visit <http://sta.uwi.edu/conferences/16/cote/index.asp>.

DCFA SEASON OF THE ARTS

October 23

6pm | Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) Auditorium | A Night at the Movies – Tamarau Dickson Student Recital

Save the date for the Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA) Season of the Arts events:

For additional queries, please call 663-2222 or email dcfa@sta.uwi.edu. Updates will be posted on the Campus Events Calendar at www.sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar.

EYE CARE FOR ALL

October 13
Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex

The Faculty of Medical Sciences, Department of Clinical Surgical Sciences commemorates World Sight Day 2016 with a Public Symposium on Eye Health under the theme Eye Care for All, taking place at the EWMSC, Amphitheatre B. This event is free and open to the public.

For more information, please visit the Campus Events Calendar at www.sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar.

GRADUATION CEREMONIES

October 20 to 22
The UWI, St. Augustine

Celebrate the graduating Class of 2016! This year's Graduation Ceremonies are scheduled to take place at The UWI Sport and Physical Education Centre (SPEC)

- **October 20:** (AM) Faculties of Science & Technology and Food & Agriculture; Honorary Graduand **Prof K E Bingsheng**; (PM) Faculties of Engineering and Law.
- **October 21:** (AM) Faculty of Social Sciences (Surnames A to L) & ALL ALJGSB graduands; (PM) Faculty of Social Sciences (Surnames M to Z); Honorary Graduand **Rev Daniel Teelucksingh**.
- **October 22:** (AM) Faculty of Humanities & Education; Honorary Graduand **Anthony Williams**; (PM) Faculty of Medical Sciences.

For more information and updates, please visit <https://sta.uwi.edu/graduation/>



UWI SPEC INTERNATIONAL HALF-MARATHON

October 23
Sport and Physical Education Centre
St. Augustine Campus

The 13th UWI SPEC International Half-Marathon kicks off at 5.30am at The UWI Sport and Physical Education Centre (SPEC). 1,300 local, regional and international athletes are invited to compete for prizes worth over TT\$150,000 in a range of categories.

For more details, please visit www.sta.uwi.edu/spec/marathon.

UWI TODAY WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU

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

