University campuses are often the site of protests and demonstrations, where ideas ricochet off each other, where seminal moments erupt and change histories forever.

Over its fifty years, this St Augustine Campus has been central to radical movements of all sorts. As our erudite Professor Bridget Brereton informed us in her address at last month’s rededication ceremony of the Administration Building, it was a hotbed during the Butler Riots of 1937, and from 1960 to the early 1980s it was positively jumping. Prof Brereton told the tale of the 1980 siege on the office of the principal by furniture-flinging students. Considering that Lloyd Braithwaite was the principal then and he has probably been the most popular principal ever, it is a striking story for what it illustrates about the depth of student passion.

In recent times, that passion has not been readily evident among the student population, indeed, some have complained that it is symptomatic of a general apathy throughout the country. Many have lamented the loss of a deep intellectual tradition that once dotted our landscape with public lectures on matters of national concern and importance, where one could find a James, a Capildeo, a Gomes or a Williams discussing ideas (as opposed to the cheap mud-slinging of today’s politics).

Because the concept of intellectual discourse seems to be fading, it is doubly important that our society is reminded of its own tradition before it is too late.

When the Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA) held its theatrical production, “March to Caroni,” at the St Augustine Campus, it was an excellent invocation to rouse weary spirits. Using the Campus grounds as its stage, the producers engaged audience and actors alike as they retraced journeys and called forth blurred memories for those who had been there, and created new ones for those who never knew.

In these times of unrest, the sound of marching feet on the campus is not muffled. From students to academics, from theatre to reality, while the feet may be doing the walking, it is the heads that determine the direction.

This is university life.
The 2008/2009 Annual Report of the St. Augustine Campus is now available online at www.sta.uwi.edu, providing a detailed picture of the Campus and its operations for that academic year. The report shows that after a period of phenomenal growth ranging between 5% and 17% per annum, enrolment figures are still increasing but at a slower rate—just over 2%. On the finance side there is evidence that The UWI St. Augustine, like many other higher education institutions, was also affected by the downturn in the global economy and suffered an income shortfall of almost TT$57 million. There is also some evidence of the ways in which students, particularly from the islands of the Eastern Caribbean, were affected by the downturn.

The Campus has continued to work towards the goals expressed in the 2007-2012 strategic plan and staff and students have continued to shine in every field and to make their mark.

The report was presented at the annual meeting of the Campus Council on March 31st, 2010. The Council, chaired by Trinidad and Tobago Central Bank Governor, Erwatt Williams, has the responsibility to "govern, manage and regulate the finances, accounts, investments and property of the University" as outlined in the Statutes and Ordinances of The UWI. The Meeting of the wider University Council took place in Barbados this month.

Despite the challenges outlined in the report, themed “Making Our Mark,” there are several examples of the ways in which The UWI, in the words of its Chairman, has been finding ways to “do more with less.” The Campus has continued to work towards the goals expressed in the 2007-2012 strategic plan and staff and students have continued to shine in every field and to make their mark.
WIGUT SEMINAR ON HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING

Why would a university trade union such as the West Indies Group of University Teachers St Augustine hold a seminar on funding higher education? As part of its education and professional development programme, WIGUT hosted a seminar to highlight the funding challenges in higher education on March 4 2010. According to WIGUT President Dr Godfrey Steele, the seminar was held as a result of global, regional and national reports on the issue. These reports suggest there is a crisis in funding Higher Education (HE). The WIGUT President and Executive members decided that this seminar would be a special project to contribute positively to informed discussion and exploration of the funding issues affecting UWI and other higher education institutions.

While there may be differences of opinion on the impact of the global recession on higher education, it seems that in the Caribbean and, in particular in Trinidad and Tobago, the crisis is here, despite considerable investment and commitment by the State and other agencies. This funding crisis has the potential to affect the quality, delivery and implementation of HE programmes. The potential impact on all students, staff and stakeholders in the public and private sectors needs to be examined and discussed with specific reference to funding the academy in a time of stalled projects, expired salary agreements, shortfalls in cash, and possible delays in the receipt of monthly subventions to meet operating costs.

The seminar discussed a range of views on the crisis and explored innovative and feasible policies to protect and grow the significant investment in human resources and higher education. Several local and overseas stakeholders were invited from higher education institutions such as the COSTAAT, the University of the Southern Caribbean, the University of Trinidad and Tobago, The School of Business and Computer Science, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, The University of the West Indies Open Campus, the University of Technology (UTECH) Jamaica, The Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago, Ministers and representatives of the Ministries of Labour and Small and Micro-Enterprise Development; Science, Technology and Tertiary Education and Education, and the Chief Personnel Office and other stakeholders were invited to submit proposals for presentations.

Participants included members of the UWI St Augustine campus community such as students; academic, senior administrative and professional staff (ASAP); administrative, technical and service staff (ATSS); senior management. There were presenters and guests from other campuses and universities. The audience comprised the leadership and representatives of the labour unions at UWI (WIGUT, OWTU, EPA) and other unions. The objectives of the seminar were to:

• Collect and present information on issues in the sustainable funding of higher education
• Analyze and assess the current and potential impact of a funding crisis in higher education
• Document and present proposals for constructive and innovative funding of higher education
• Develop a draft working policy on sustainable funding of higher education

In keeping with its aim to discuss the crisis and explore innovative and feasible policies to protect and grow the significant investment in human resources and higher education, the seminar presented six thematic panels. The focus was on exploring and developing sustainable and problem-solving national and regional approaches to funding Higher Education. Two-three panelists presented a selected topic based on one of the following themes:

- Funding Models and Case Applications in Higher Education
- Traditional and Entrepreneurial Approaches and Models in Higher Education
- Quality Assurance and Return on Investment
- Education for Free or for Fee?
- Cost-cutting and Workload Issues
- Funding the Academy

Were there any positive outcomes? The seminar succeeded in creating a meeting of minds locally and regionally to address higher education issues affecting all stakeholders and the public interest. This is particularly important when there is no official higher education policy framework or an organization to advise and recommend how these issues should be addressed. Presenter and participants noted with satisfaction the sense of partnership and commitment that was created during the presentations and discussions. A commitment was undertaken by all to continue this effort and to support this seminar initiative and other similar programmes in higher education policy development. WIGUT is collecting and editing the seminar papers and will publish the proceedings for the benefit of all Higher Education stakeholders. The abstracts, presentations and biographies of the presenters are available at http://sta.wigut.info/index.php

The seminar discussed a range of views on the crisis and explored innovative and feasible policies to protect and grow the significant investment in human resources and higher education.
PROFESSORIAL INAUGURAL LECTURE OF PROFESSOR JACOB OPADEYI

The Professorial Inaugural Lecture of Professor Jacob Opadeyi was held at the St. Augustine Campus on April 8. Prof Opadeyi, who is Professor of Engineering Surveying, delivered a lecture on land management titled, “Managing Our Land, Managing Our Future.” His lecture focused on the importance of terrestrial records from selected regions of Africa and the Caribbean. It presented an adaptive framework for land administration systems, explored the bio-physical characteristic of land in Trinidad, described challenges to land management in Trinidad and Tobago, and offered solutions.

Prof Opadeyi is Head of the Department of Geomatics Engineering and Land Management in the Faculty of Engineering, UWI.

BLUE TEDDY BEAR LOGO LAUNCHED

The visual symbol of the Break the Silence action research project is a blue teddy bear. This image has come to symbolize security, love, care, comfort and relationships. The plaster across the teddy bear’s heart was designed to offer a sense of hope and healing. Blue underlines the popular idiom for “feeling blue,” or feelings of hurt, sadness and despair. Overall, the symbol signals a call to awareness of issues raised by the Break the Silence project, particularly Child Sexual Abuse/incest, gender and implications for HIV/AIDS.

The angle and shape of the blue teddy is specifically designed to invoke other awareness or activism ribbons, while the blue was chosen since it is the color that represents Child Abuse in the United States. A Blue Ribbon Campaign against child abuse originated there in 1989 when a mother tied a blue ribbon to her car antenna as a tribute to her grandson, who died at the hands of his abusive father. Similarly, in 1991, the Visual AIDS Artists Caucus from New York created a symbol to demonstrate compassion for people living with AIDS and their caregivers. Inspired by the yellow ribbons honoring American soldiers serving in the Gulf War, they chose the color red, for its connection to blood and the idea of passion, not only anger, but love, like a valentine. The Red Ribbon continues to be a powerful force in the fight to increase public awareness of HIV/AIDS and in the lobbying efforts to increase funding for AIDS services and research. Likewise, the blue teddy symbol is intended to be used as a consciousness-raising symbol, not as a commercial or trademark tool.

The blue teddy bear symbol was developed by graphic artist and designer Kenneth Scott, in consultation with Kathryn Chan from IGDS, UWI, St. Augustine, Elspeth Duncan, independent videographer and documentary photographer for the Break the Silence project; Tracie Rogers and Maureen Searles from CADV; Camille Quamina, from Arts in Action (AiA) of the Department of Creative and Festival Arts, UWI, St. Augustine, Tisha Nickenig, of IGDS, UWI, St. Augustine.

Break the Silence is an action oriented research project of the Institute of Gender and Development Studies, UWI, St. Augustine in collaboration with the Trinidad and Tobago Coalition Against Domestic Violence. It is funded by UNICEF and the United Nations Trust Fund for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

Upcoming activities include a movie premiere at UWI, St. Augustine in May, a soap opera addressing issues surrounding Child Sexual Abuse/incest aired on national radio, policy roundtables and a regional conference.
**STUDENTS REPRESENT AT CRIMINAL JUSTICE SCIENCES MEETING**

By Keron King

It is no secret that the crime rate in Trinidad and Tobago is cause for concern. Levels of the fear of crime are arguably spiraling out of control and the whole notion of safety and security is, unfortunately, being compromised with every passing day. Mindful of this, students at the UWI, St. Augustine Campus have taken up the challenge to tackle crime from an academic standpoint; hoping that their research will help to alleviate the problem.

Many students at the Campus are engaged in various kinds of research, ranging from policing; juvenile crime and delinquency; youth gangs; the sex, drugs and guns trade; white collar crime; restorative justice and prison research. It augurs well for deeper understanding and academic solutions to our present dilemma.

Had Ken Pryce (arguably the first Caribbean Criminologist) been alive today, he would have been overjoyed at the rate at which the students at the St. Augustine Campus have answered his 1979 call for a Caribbean Criminology, and the resulting thrust for a theoretical school in this area.

This year three UWI graduate students answered the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) call for papers to their annual Criminal Justice Sciences Meeting. Every year the ACJS hosts this meeting/conference where academics from around the world share contemporary scholarly work on criminology and criminal justice. This year’s February meeting, “Beyond Our Boundaries: The Inclusivity of Criminal Justice Sciences,” in San Diego, California, USA, featured three local presentations.

Sandra Romany, a Master of Philosophy student in Governance and Public Policy, presented her work on the “Challenges of Developing a National Threat Assessment for Caribbean Islands: The Case of Trinidad and Tobago.” She argued that Trinidad and Tobago needs a “Drug Threat Assessment” to help unearth the depth of the drug situation and enable relevant authorities to strategically deploy resources. She lamented that official reports have indicated that Trinidad and Tobago’s official drug reporting and drug-use database are deficient. This would present a major challenge to developing and implementing this drug threat assessment. Nevertheless, it is a step in the right direction that Sandra is examining our drug situation and looking for practical solutions.

Wendell Wallace, a PhD. student in Criminology and Criminal Justice, examined the relationship between tourism and crime in Tobago, his home land. Wendell’s data indicated that the influx of tourists into the island was positively correlated to an increase in crime. His presentation sparked a lively debate as panelists and the audience pondered whether tourists were the perpetrators or victims of these crimes. Many wondered if these crimes were related to property, drug or sexual offences. All agreed that this line of research needs to be continued as it promises to paint a statistical picture of crime in Tobago for the first time.

My presentation examined policing in East Port of Spain. I argued that the para-militaristic style of policing characteristic during the colonial era has become a distinguishing feature of modern policing in the urban centers of our nation. I contended that this style of policing facilitates violent street crime in these same areas. This presentation highlighted data from a questionnaire I developed along the lines of Jamaican Criminologist, Professor Anthony Harriot’s theorizing of the para-militaristic style of policing. Officers surveyed believed that para-militarism, as defined by Harriot, is an effective way of policing. Research of this nature promises to provide a profile of the officers inclined to para-militaristic policing as well as to make way for a more peacemaking approach to policing.

In our aim to be true to Ken Pryce’s call for a Caribbean Criminology, Dr. Dianne Williams, Criminology Lecturer and Coordinator of the Unit for Social Problem Analysis and Policy Development (USPAP) chaired a roundtable discussion titled “Developing a Caribbean Criminology.” She provided an overview of our crime situation, challenged the efficacy of many North American and European theories to effectively explain our situation and suggested very practical solutions to our crime quandary. Subsequently, Wendell and I, along with other audience members discussed policing and the juvenile justice system.

The exposure and the opportunity to share our academic work with the rest of the world were phenomenal. The experience renewed and invigorated our resolve to play our part to save T&T through academic research and practical solutions.
When did you first conceptualise the Caribbean Science Documentaries that resulted in 2008’s Adventures in Discovery?

I remember it well - it was around October 2006 – I’d been feeling bored and missing challenges and then the idea of documentaries struck while I was watching one on science, and it consumed me. By July 2007, we had funding and were ready to begin filming. There were many failed attempts at fund-raising, numerous meetings and rejections, but I never gave up.

I have a real passion for science and television—together they are a potent combination to ignite the spark for spreading the good work of our science and our scientists. The Caribbean is known for its beaches and Carnival and Nobel Laureates in literature, but science had a gaping hole. I wanted to celebrate the spectrum of our scientists and their work. My strongest message was that it was all fun and an adventure. That was the motivation for “Adventures in Discovery.” Every scientist featured in that one was carefully selected to show our regional rainbow people and the relevance, value and importance of their work to our own people.

Having had the experience of creating a 25-minute documentary out of 22 days of filming in Trinidad, Antigua, Montserrat and Barbados, with a constantly growing budget, how did that shape your approach to the second project?

It felt like back to square one with project number two: All is Number! This project was so different. The lesson I learnt was to listen to my director, Terry Sampson, a bit more. The last project proved that he knew what he was talking about. I learnt to appreciate the complexities and time involved (and cost) in recording a scene lasting one second on the screen. The second project reaffirmed that it does take a lot longer than anticipated and will always have cost overruns. But we never let it stop us—if you want something badly enough, you will find a way to make it happen, whatever it takes.

I must add the history of how “All is Number” happened. The folks at UWI Cave Hill Campus, Barbados were delighted at “Adventures in Discovery.” Every scientist featured in that one was carefully selected to show our regional rainbow people and the relevance, value and importance of their work to our own people.

If you are interested in obtaining copies of the documentaries please contact Dr Shirin Haque at shirin.haque@sta.uwi.edu or 662-2002, ext. 2051. Both features will be posted on YouTube, with information on Facebook and Twitter as well.
What was the actual experience like?
Absolutely phenomenal—the learning curve is steep—it was drowning myself in the interesting world of mathematics from a different angle, albeit an interesting one. It is addictive. Of the many interesting things I have done in my life, documentary production is at the top of the list. I wish I could do it for the rest of my life—and I have enough ideas to occupy me for such. But the limiting factor of course is the funding for such projects. So, I remain very grateful, starting with a wild card of an idea and a passion, with zero dollars, zero experience, that we are on our third feature currently (Wild and Wonderful). Thanks to Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie for taking a chance on us; and the continuing support of the Vice Chancellor, Principal, and Dean has been very motivating.

The next project that we currently have a glint in our eye about is “If things go Wrong,” a feature on the issue of food security in the region. Of course, starting with a budget of zero dollars never stopped us before!

What is “All is Number” about?
It takes the viewer on a journey into the world of mathematics through the lesser beaten path, and brings home the point that mathematics is all around us in things we do everyday that we are not consciously aware of. “All is number” was a statement made by Pythagoras, known as the father of mathematics. We show the role of mathematics in nature, the environment, electronics, climatology, medicine, music, architecture, art, economics, highlighting new areas of mathematics like fractals and chaos theory. We show how numbers are in all kinds of patterns everywhere. I could have produced an entire feature on each aspect alone. But this is an appetizer to the wonderful world of mathematics.

Who is it targeted at?
General public and in particular at the level of high school and above. This feature is particularly suited for high schools and the Ministry of Education in Barbados has indicated that they would like to have both features in all their schools. We were particularly delighted at the response of the television stations in Trinidad and Barbados who were very interested in the features and have aired it repeatedly. Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC) airs it regionally across the Caribbean and in parts of North America and has been a big supporter of the projects.

Terry’s Takes

What was the most challenging aspect of filming this time around?
TS: The filming itself was not difficult. What was challenging was doing the time lapse for the flower buds opening, and creating the mood lighting for the music scenes.

With the previous experience, how did your approach change?
TS: I buffed up Shirin more! There is a huge gap sometimes between imagining what we would like to do and actually making it happen in terms of cost, equipment, technology and expertise. The two features were completely different videos so a comparison is difficult. The first was based on photography and videography and this new one “All is Number” is mostly based on post-production effects. A lot of the effects were subtly introduced into standing visuals so it would not overcome the viewer but enhance the points.

What was the best part of it for you?
TS: The completion (grinning)! A lot of different media was incorporated in this one—After Effects, Apple Motion, and we involved the Faculty of Engineering to generate the effects for the fractal move. Directing it, we had a lot more freedom. Developing the music, we incorporated cultural themes from an original score developed by Justin Sampson. This was entirely communicated through the internet and telephone!

Meeting the challenges with the graphics work was the best experience. This video through post production was a steep learning curve and an entirely different experience in trying to keep the budget down due to the graphics work.
He set the computer ball rolling

BY SERAH ACHAM

Picture it, early morning, April 1972. A young man walks onto Campus, clean-shaven, sharply-dressed—ready to impress—for his first day of work at the St. Augustine Campus of The University of the West Indies. Today, he will assume his post as the Campus’ first Computer Operator. His future is as bright and promising as the day before him.

Flash forward, March 2010, almost 38 years later. On a day as bright as it was all those years ago, an older, wiser Zaid Brahim sits at the table of honour, surrounded by his colleagues, listening to their fond memories of him, nodding and chuckling every so often as he recalls events of the past. It is a celebration of his retirement and, as the guest of honour, he is showered with accolades and well wishes. When all speakers have had their five minutes of fame, Zaid proceeds to regale them with his own memories as a UWI CItS staff member.

Back then, before the computer was a common sight at just about every corner of our campus, “the Computer Centre for the whole campus had just three workers”

Now, the Computer Centre has been transformed into the savvy Campus Information Technology Services, known to The UWI community as CITs, and its staff has grown more than twelve-fold. Yet, despite the vast change in the technology on the campus between 1972 and today, Zaid has maintained his primary purpose at the University, “to satisfy the students.”

When he was first hired, at 22 years old, he wasn’t much older than the students he guided through the computer processing of their assignments and he sympathized with them when they succumbed to the pressure of computing systems then. “Long ago students had a hell of a task,” he says. They “would have to key punch (their) own work and it would have to be done in a language, FORTRAN or COBOL or RPG, to actually get the output…nowadays you use the software, which is the programme already built, and you just put in your data, so in those days you had to actually be a programmer to get anything done.”

He describes the equipment used then: “key punching machines, the main frame, a card reader, a line printer, all these I will now call heavy duty stuff,” and all apparatus that may be difficult for about half our readership to visualise (it certainly is for me).

Eventually, as student needs increased, 24 computers were installed at the centre, but they still weren’t enough, since classes often held 60-100 students.

“So we had one-hour rotations of students,” says Brahim. By that time, the computer centre’s hours were also extended until 10pm “and they would have to sit there all night. I remember students who had assignments to hand up the next day and they would cry, so I would advise them, ‘well hear what, go and tell (your professor) that there was a power cut and you could ask for some more time’.”

The room erupts in laughter, and though one can find the humour in the experience now, he admits that “it was serious. They cry and break down and you had to actually go and tell to them ‘look, things will be better tomorrow, go home and take a rest, come back tomorrow with your mind fresh’.”

Now, as he sheds his role as Computer Operator at UWI CITs, he still has advice to offer students, though not in the IT arena, but in his other area of expertise: sports and health. “If you can maintain a certain fitness level when you’re young, when you reach a certain age, your five senses will carry you through.”

To staff, he also leaves a bit of advice, “try to sweat at least two, three times a week… it’s important… your body is made up like a motor car, if you don’t put water and fuel in it, it will shut down.” He compares the car’s battery to the human heart: “in a car, if the battery is rested for a long time, it will run down. Similarly, if you rest your body for a long time, your heart will die.”

An avid football enthusiast, his plans for retirement are clear. “I’ve been playing football for so long, more than 55 years,” he reasons. He will also continue to impart his knowledge and experience, this time to Trinidad’s young footballers as a coach. He has already begun coaching at a football school San Fernando, he says, and hopes to extend his reach to secondary schools in the area.

Zaid, we know you’ll teach them well and only hope that they appreciate your presence and guidance as much we did.

Good luck and happy retirement!
Professor Jan Kregel, Senior Scholar at Levy Economics Institute of Bard College, will deliver feature remarks at the opening ceremony of the upcoming Caribbean Business Executive seminar, organised by the Caribbean Centre for Money and Finance (CCMF). The CCMF is an economic and financial policy and research institution organised and financed by Caribbean Central Banks and The UWI, with additional support by a number of regional financial institutions.

Themed “The future of the financial services industry after the crisis,” the seminar will take place at Hyatt Regency, Port of Spain, Trinidad on April 30th, from 8am to 5pm. The formal opening will be chaired by Dr. Delisle Worrell, Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados and CCMF Executive Committee Chairman. The feature address will be delivered by Hon. Karen Nunez Tesheira, Trinidad and Tobago Minister of Finance. Professor Clement Sankat, UWI Pro Vice Chancellor and St Augustine Campus Principal, and Mr. Ewart Williams, Governor of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, will also deliver remarks.

Professor Kregel's presentation is themed “Why the bailouts aren't working and why a new financial system is needed.” Professor Kregel is a senior scholar at the Levy Economics Institute of Bard College and director of the Monetary Policy and Financial Structure Program. He currently holds the positions of Distinguished Research Professor at the Center for Full Employment and Price Stability of the University of Missouri-Kansas City and Professor of Development Finance at the Tallinn University of Technology.

Mr Paulo Nogueira Batista, Jr, a well-known Brazilian economist, is also carded to speak on “The Reform of The International Financial Architecture” in the first session of the seminar. Since April 2007, Mr Batista has been the Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Prior to joining the IMF, Mr Nogueira Batista held the following positions: Under Secretary for Economics Affairs, Ministry of Planning; Advisor to the Minister of Finance on External Debt, Ministry of Finance; Head of the Center for Monetary and International Economics Studies, Getulio Vargas Foundation.

This international conference aims to identify new strategies for growth in financial services. It is a forum for the exchange of ideas on critical business, banking and financial issues facing emerging economies in the context of a global financial and economic meltdown of unprecedented proportions. It will serve to bring together, from the Caribbean and other emerging economies, leaders of the business communities, governmental policy makers and international scholars and researchers.

Every year the CCMF organises a seminar for top Caribbean executives on a topic of current interest, with presentations by international experts and Caribbean business leaders. Last year’s seminar, held at the Seabed Conference Centre, Kingston, Jamaica on September 4th, 2009, aimed to help senior executives of the Caribbean's business and financial companies to cope with global financial and economic turmoil. Previous seminars dealt with risk management and financial stability.
A BEGINNING AND A BEYOND

BY DR GODFREY STEELE

The first class in the Communication Studies Section’s (CSS) Programme in the then Department of Language and Linguistics began at UWI St. Augustine in September 1999 with 20 students. I was the only course lecturer. There was no office, no assigned meeting place, no budget, no equipment and no tutor for the programme. I bought a camera, an audiotape recorder and began meeting my students on corridors in the open spaces and the tenanted ones that were available.

The idea for the programme had emerged out of my experience of introducing, designing and teaching business communication in the Department of Management Studies, and introducing and teaching health communication courses in the Centre for Medical Sciences Education in the Faculty of Medical Sciences. In those early days Mr. Errol Simms Head of Management Studies, Mr. Vishnu Singh, Head Department of Liberal Arts, and Dr Valerie Youssf and Dr Brader Braithwaite were very supportive.

There was some opposition to the introduction of the undergraduate programme in the Department of Liberal Arts and it was staled for two years. Later, the graduate programme experienced a similar fate. One colleague from another department mentioned recently to me, “We were worried that this new [undergraduate] programme would take away our students.” My response was, “Many of your students became double majors and did very well overall in both programmes. I think everyone has gained.”

Five courses were approved for introduction in the Minor in Communication Studies in 1998 and teaching began in 1999: Communication Studies, Communication Analysis, Oral Communication, Written Communication (all 3 credits), and Language and Communication Seminar (6 credits). There were no first-year courses, but these were developed with the introduction of the major in 2004. Since a restructuring of the undergraduate programme in 2007 they became prerequisites for the second-year courses. Intercultural Communication and Principles of Mass Communication were introduced in 2004-2005. Communication Theory and Communication Research Methods and the Language and Communication research seminar project were reserved for majors. The theory and research methods courses were offered in serial fashion to provide a theoretical base for research methods. They were taught in parallel with the research project to allow for a symbiotic and synergistic application of the theoretical concepts and research principles.

In 2004, the Major in Communication Studies was introduced. To develop and coordinate it, I requested a transfer from my position as Lecturer in Communication Skills for Medical Sciences to the new post of Lecturer in Communication Studies. In September 2009 the first graduate programme for Human Communication Studies began. For the 16 places there were over 80 applicants. By the start of the 2010 registration, the programme had grown by over 3,000 per cent to include more than 1,000 majors and minors annually; 11 courses in the undergraduate programme and 19 students in the graduate programme. By then there were three full-time lecturers in Drs. Christiana Abraham, Tia Cooper and Godfrey Steele.

The first class took two courses per semester and the language and communication research seminar. The first Communication Studies prizes were bought by an anonymous contributor because there was no provision for them in the annual prize-giving ceremony. Since then, there has been tremendous support for prizes.

The Communication Studies Association (CSA) was formed in March 2005 and officially launched at the Research Day on April 13, 2005. It has planned student orientation activities, fun events including karaoke competitions and film shows, and has offered service and outreach such as book drives and fundraisers, career preparation and training and opportunities to link the work world of the classroom and the other world of work.

The Student-Staff Liaison Committee was formed on January 25, 2006. Its purpose is to report on students’ views and it has been involved in identifying and resolving issues relating to the curriculum and teaching and learning, the status and improvement of resources and amenities, evaluating how students are examined and assessed and to look into the provision of support and guidance for students (e.g. academic advising).

When the CSS undergraduate programme was conceptualized, it was based on the philosophy of broadening the popular and academic view of communication studies in the Caribbean, creating opportunities for the development of at least two dozen sub-fields of knowledge and research and publication interests spanning areas such as speech, education, health, theory, research, mass communications, interpersonal, group and organizational communication, intercultural communication and many others.

Recently one colleague commented in a staff meeting: “The undergraduate communication courses and the relationships among them were created arbitrarily and without any rationale.” I, like Walcott, ain’t answer the asker or the ask. The Board that had scrutinized, studied and approved these courses in the past said nothing. “Why should I speak to the present?” asked my history. Today there is need for a rational and academically-based programmatic review of the undergraduate courses in light of recent trends and current and traditional interests among all staff in the CSS. This follows on the CSS proposal in October 2008 for a programme in journalism provided that there were resources and support from the media house owners and publishers. This recommendation has since been developed under the guidance of the CSS and Deputy Dean Mrs. Patricia Worrell in collaboration with representatives of the media.

Dr Godfrey Steele is Senior Lecturer in Communication Studies, Department of Liberal Arts, UWI, St. Augustine. The full text of his historical account of the ten years of the Communication Studies Programme is available as an online exclusive.
On the cusp of sitting final exams and sending out scores of resumes and employment letters, close to 100 students in the Communications Studies programme at the Faculty of Humanities and Education, UWI, St Augustine, benefited from a one-day conference aimed at preparing them for careers in communications, journalism, advertising, media, public relations, entrepreneurship and more.

"We wanted to host a joint, one-day workshop with UWI and IABC, and free to final-year UWI Communication Students, the Conference was held on April 9 at the Institute for Critical Thinking, St Augustine Campus."

"The conference was divided into two sessions," explained Judette Coward-Puglisi, founding President of IABC T&T and who along with Anna Walcott-Hardy chaired the event. "We offered practical, let's-make-you-shine at your interview advice in the morning. " At the speed communications session students asked numerous questions and gained insight into recruitment opportunities and real world experiences from experts in a broad range of professions: from theatre production to journalism, corporate communications to publishing and art direction. The presenters included Mariel Brown, Laura Dowrich, Dale Enoch, Nadine Johnson, Georgia Popplewell, Richard Rawlins, Maria Rivas Mc Millan and Margaret Walcott.

The feedback from students after the conference was overwhelmingly positive as they looked towards the upcoming events in the three-tiered UWI/IABC programme, which includes university seminars and an IABC student scholarship programme.
Like the Star Wars Trilogy, Professor Patricia Mohammed’s short films on Caribbean iconography have been released in reverse. The last, Coolie Pink and Green, was released last year and has been widely screened to the public—even as far as India. Its prequels include a prescient documentary on voodoo and its inextricable connection to Haitian art, called The Sign of the Loa, which was made in 2007. The other three films in the series, which is called A Different Imagination, were made between 2003 and 2006, but are only now being released.

In what was the first-ever dual launch of a book and accompanying film series in Trinidad and Tobago, Professor Mohammed, who is head of the School for Graduate Studies at UWI, St Augustine, unveiled the ground-breaking study at UWI, St Augustine, on April 23 at the Office of the Principal.

This in-depth research of the region’s iconography, which spanned a decade and took Prof Mohammed as far away as Seville, explores how a Caribbean sensibility has been shaped. It circles the Caribbean while focusing on Haiti, Jamaica, Trinidad and Barbados, tracing the indelible parameters drawn on each society by the colonial encounter, crossing the boundaries of disciplines and the methodologies and material of history, literature, art, gender and cultural studies.

Imaging the Caribbean includes hundreds of images, from Aboriginal drawings and artefacts, European paintings, photographs and sculptures, to Hindu jhandi and Haitian vèvè, in a study of visual representation of the Caribbean—as perceived by outsiders and insiders alike over the last 500 years.

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A Different Imagination poses questions such as: How do we see the Caribbean? Do we all view it the same way? How did we learn the visual grammar that we use unconsciously to decipher what our eyes behold? And can we begin to learn a new way of seeing, of re-imaging the region, its people and its past? In The Colour of Darkness: An Interview with Barry Chevannes, Caribbean Scholar, the foremost researcher on Rastafari in the region traces the trajectory of the religion as it developed its own unique logic and legitimacy—and now, a global impact. When the Caribbean descendants of Africans think of the place of their origins, they encounter a black hole—a lost memory, a link broken by the Middle Passage and the passage of time. Into that nothingness, men like Marcus Garvey sought to forge a new destiny and identity, explains Chevannes, a professor of anthropology who has spent more than three decades investigating the family and sexual relationships, male gender issues, crime/violence, social integration, and socio-political movements.

In Window to the Past: A Conversation with Bridget Brereton, Prof Mohammed highlights the work of social historians, such as Prof Brereton, who often have only snapshots or court documents to tell of a time and a place lost to us forever. A picture may be worth a thousand words, but how do you know for certain what it is saying? Prof Brereton gives us an insight into how relics can be interpreted to illuminate lives and events from the past.

The Sign of the Loa cuts through clichéd scripts of Haiti as poor and backward and suffused with a demonic religion, exploring Haitian creativity through the complex geometric design of the vèvè, the sign of the loa (spirit or deity). The film invites the unformed and skeptical to put aside unfounded fears of Haiti and open their eyes to the fact that within Haitian religion and the country’s prodigious artistic production lies incredible originality and innovation in New World culture.

However, Coolie Pink and Green, which was the People’s Choice for Best Local Short Film last year at the annual T&T Film Festival, the focus is on the Indian aesthetic in the Caribbean. This aesthetic has not infused itself into the geographical or cultural space as another kind of beauty or art making that has transformed what we consider to be Caribbean. It is still the “other.” By its very title the film takes a derogatory term, “coolie,” and redefines it; which is what Prof Mohammed has attempted to do with the way we view ourselves, and each other, in this ambitious project.
Theatre

DCFA’s MARCH TO CARONI

WHEN HISTORY IS NOT FOIL

BY SAMANTHA S. P. MITCHELL

Herein lies my dilemma: a student who loved History at secondary school but who saw no merit in pursuing it at the CSEC level or as a compulsory UWI Foundation course, suddenly finds herself practically at the edge of her seat, eyes fixed, ears attuned, body semi catatonic, totally enthralled by the spectacle that unfolds before her, replete with its historical precision, yet much more impressionable than that which could be gleaned within pages or groves of academe.

As I reminisce now on the Department of Creative and Festival Arts’ (DCFA) production of Zeno Obi Constance’s “March to Caroni,” I fully understand what Cicero meant when he said that “history is the witness that testifies to the passing of time; it illumines reality, vitalizes memory, provides guidance in daily life, and brings us tidings of antiquity.”

“March to Caroni” is not a production for the faint hearted or emotional. Its illumination of reality I believe, invokes memories for those in the audience whose lives were being re-enacted on stage, which perhaps only an omniscient critic could really put to paper. Pride must have mixed with pain as they anticipated every word, felt every cry and relived every fear, while at the same time recognizing that they had fought a good fight and laid the foundation for a more equitable society.

Four decades have elapsed since the events of the seventies but sadly, Brother Valentino’s “Trini have a funny funny way of forgetting/Their history to them like it doh mean nothing” stress the importance of this indelible performance being viewed by a wider audience. A 1909 reflection from a resigned Chief Plenty Coup of the Crow Nation is perhaps timely here:

“The ground on which we stand is sacred ground. It is the dust and blood of our ancestors. On these plains the Great White Father at Washington sent his soldiers armed with long knives and rifles to slay the Indian. Many of them sleep on yonder hill where Paahska White Chief of the Long Hair so bravely fought and fell. A few more passing suns will see us here no more, and our dust and bones will mingle with these same prairies. I see as in a vision the dying spark of our council fires, the ashes cold and white. I see no longer the curling smoke rising from our lodge poles. I hear no longer the songs of the women as they prepare the meal. The antelope have gone; the buffalo wallows are empty. Only the wail of the coyote is heard. The white man’s medicine is stronger than ours; his iron horse rushes over the buffalo trail. He talks to us through his whispering spirit [the telephone]. We are like birds with a broken wing. My heart is cold within me. My eyes are growing dim—I am old...” (In Our Own Words, 1999).

The efforts of Makandal Daaga, George Weekes, Khafra Kambon et al, should not die with the antelopes of their generation. DCFA’s 2010 production imparts to its audience the history of a period spanning almost a decade, in the space of less than three hours. That is an accomplishment worthy of commendation! The students assume their roles with the professionalism and temerity that this production demands, and the infusion of popular calypsos, poetry, dress and personalities of the period, all combine to create a palatable historical production which warrants a second visit (just remember to walk with comfortable shoes!).

“Trini have a funny way of forgetting/Their history to them like it doh mean nothing”...
UWI CALENDAR of EVENTS
APRIL – OCTOBER 2010

FUTURE OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
Friday 30 April, 2010, 8am-5pm
Hyatt Regency Trinidad Hotel, POS

The Caribbean Centre for Money and Finance (CCMF) at The UWI holds its annual Caribbean Business Executive seminar at the end of April on the theme: The Future of the Financial Services Industry after the Crisis. With two sessions—the first outlining the new financial order and post-crisis growth strategies, and the second looking at financing growth in emerging markets—the day offers vital information for businesses, governments and the financial market. The Feature speaker is Minister of Finance, Karen Nunez-Tesheira, among the other presenters are Mr Michael Mansoor, Mr Clarence Tong, Suresh Sookhoo, Dodridge Miller, Paolo Nogueira Batista Jr and Prof Jan Kregel.

For further information, please contact Ms. Kathleen Charles at kathleen.charles@sta.uwi.edu or at 645-1174 or visit the website at http://www.ccmf-uwi.org/.

CARIBBEAN HISTORIANS
Monday 10 to Friday 14, 2010
Amaryllis Beach Resort, Bridgetown, Barbados

The Association of Caribbean Historians (ACH) and The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus will hold the 42nd Annual Conference of ACH in Barbados. The Conference will honour the memory of the late Walter Rodney and will have several panels devoted to themes covering the pre and post-emancipation history of the English, French, Spanish, and Dutch-speaking, Caribbean.

For further information, please contact Pedro Welch at pedro.welch@carehill.uwi.edu or visit the ACH website at http://www.associationofcaribbeanhistorians.org

EVERYDAY VIOLENCE
Monday 24 to Friday 28 May, 2010
Almond Beach Resort, St Peter, Barbados

The Caribbean Studies Association holds its annual conference on the theme, “Understanding the Everyday Occurrence of Violence in the Cultural Life of the Caribbean: Where Do We Go From Here?” The phenomenon of violence has become widely recognized as an increasingly intractable problem facing the Caribbean. The 2010 Conference of the CSA invites scholars to explore the complexities of violence and all its implication for the region.

For further information, please contact Alissa Trotz at datrotz@gmail.com or Joy Cooblal at Joy.Cooblal-CSA@sta.uwi.edu, or visit the website at http://www.caribbeanstudiesassociation.org

ACHEA 2010 CONFERENCE
Thursday 8 to Saturday 10 July, 2010
Sunset Jamaica Grande Hotel, Ocho Rios, Jamaica


Keynote speakers:
- Hon. Andrew Holness – Minister of Education, Jamaica (Sustainable Development in the New World Order)
- Professor Alvin Wint – Pro Vice Chancellor, Undergraduate Studies, UWI Mona Campus (The Role of Accreditation in a Changed Higher Education Context)
- Professor Lawrence Carrington – Vice Chancellor, University of Guyana, Guyana (The Role of Private Sector in Higher Education)
- Dr. Daniel Coore – Head of Department of Computing, UWI, Mona Campus, (Bridging the Techno-Cultural Gap between Administration and Students: The Challenge for Administrators)
- Dr. Jose Renato Carvalho – Director, UNESCO-IESALC, Venezuela (The Role of the Government in the Current Higher Education Context)
- Dr. Kofo Nkrunah-Young – Conference Chair, Associate Professor, Education Financing/Vice President, Planning and Operations, University of Technology, Jamaica (Reforming Higher Education Financing)

For further information, visit the ACHEA website at http://sta.uwi.edu/achea/ or email acheasecretariat2010@gmail.com.

SECOND INTERNATIONAL MAROON CONFERENCE
Monday 21 to Wednesday 23 June, 2010
Charles Town, Portland, Jamaica

The second International Maroon Conference will take place from June 21-23, 2010, at Charles Town, Portland, Jamaica. This inter- and multi-disciplinary project seeks papers and panels that explore representations of Maroon culture in literature, art, music, film, theatre, and history. This conference strives to increase awareness of Maroon contributions to contemporary societies, bringing together Maroons with scholars interested in Maroon heritage and indigenous cultures. In addition to exploring Maroon history and culture, the various events aim to develop strategies for sustainable development and wealth creation in Maroon communities. With the theme, “Meet me in the Circle,” the conference aims to establish a “Maroon Connection” beyond Jamaica, reaching out to communities in the United States, Canada, Europe, the Caribbean, South America, and Africa. The conference will host cultural events to commemorate the Annual Quao’s Victory Day (June 23).

For further information, please email fbookin@towson.edu

CONFERENCE ON THE ECONOMY 2010
Thursday 7 and Friday 8, October, 2010
UWI, St. Augustine Campus

The University of the West Indies (UWI), St Augustine Campus, is preparing to host its annual Conference on the Economy (COTE 2010), from October 7th-8th, 2010. COTE aims to highlight, developmental issues facing the country and the wider Caribbean. This conference also serves as a tribute to Dr. Eric St Cyr and the work that he has done over his illustrious career as an economist. Organized by the Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, the Conference on the Economy (COTE 2010) is open to decision makers, policy makers, technocrats, private sector representatives, academics, students and the general public.

For further information, please visit the official website at http://sta.uwi.edu/fss/economics, or please contact Joel Jordan, COTE 10 Secretariat Office at joel.jordan@sta.uwi.edu or (868) 662 2002, Ext. 3231, or contact Roger Mc Lean, Chair, COTE 10 Committee at Roger.McLean@sta.uwi.edu, or (868) 662 2002 Ext. 3055, or (Fax) 662 6555.

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