Ball in glove, and bat to ground means he’s home, but the tension was high in the third match of the UWI T20 tournament, between Moosai SC and T&T Prison Service. Under a brilliant sky, the second UWI T20 cricket tournament took place on the Sir Frank Worrell Ground at the Sport and Physical Education Centre (SPEC) on January 10. After the opening game, which featured FC Clarke Road United and The UWI Cricket Club, a brief ceremony was held (Clarke Road 193/8 – UWICC 149). Then the second match featuring Merry Boys SC and SIS Central Sports began at 6.30 (Merry Boys 201/7 – Central Sports 142). More on Page 14. PHOTO: ANI STO ALVES
In an increasingly sexualised world, how are issues of power, pleasure and social justice to be reconciled? This was the final question posed by Deputy Principal, Professor Rhoda Reddock, one of the Caribbean’s foremost researchers on issues of gender and development, as she addressed the national launch of the Break the Silence campaign on January 15 at the Hyatt Regency.

Break the Silence is a combination of research and actions stemming from a multi-sectoral approach to addressing child sexual abuse (CSA) and childhood incest in Trinidad and Tobago. Part of a wider research programme on gender, sexuality and implications for HIV, the project was initially carried out over the period 2008-2011 by the Institute for Gender and Development Studies (IGDS) at The UWI, St Augustine Campus.

The research team is led by Prof Reddock, and comprises Dr Sandra Reid, lead researcher, Lecturer in Psychiatry, at the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Tisha Nickenig, project coordinator, and Kathryn Chan, media campaign consultant.

At the launch, Professor Reddock indicated that through the work of UNICEF and the UN system, the campaign has now been expanded at a sub-regional level; and that locally it will receive the additional support of the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development. The IGDS will work with these bodies to host a programme of capacity building for civil society organisations, the media, police and judicial officers.

Citing startling figures to support findings that despite the prevalence, CSA and incest are 'accepted' and unreported, Prof Reddock noted that as a form of sexual activity in a context of unequal power relations, there could be implications for HIV, and that it “was necessary to find out how it was understood, rationalized and the meanings attached to it; and to have clear protocols and policies to address this issue.”

The BTS campaign, symbolized by the blue teddy bear, is meant to reduce stigma and raise awareness; to encourage action from policy makers; and to establish a global symbol similar to the HIV/AIDS and breast cancer ribbons.

So far, BTS has yielded several reports and reviews of the literature and legislation, posters and postcards, a documentary film and educational booklet, 13 Webisodes, a four-minute video, a radio soap opera with the Toco community, and other academic papers and posters. Five policy briefs on gender, education, HIV and CSA, service delivery and legislation have been done, as well as Draft Protocols for Child Sexual Abuse/Incest Service Delivery developed by service providers.

Among others, Professor Reddock made the following recommendations: the incorporation of gender and sexuality education in teacher and social work education programmes; parenting programmes and HFLE programmes must include issues of gender and sexuality; work with men must focus on the need to take responsibility for their sexual actions and decision-making; strengthened social intervention programmes and support systems at all levels of society; psycho-social support for survivors. She also said that homophobia must be addressed as this contributes to extremes of masculine behaviours.

Power, Pleasure and Social Justice

The start of a year offers the promise of new beginnings; it is a time that encourages reflection and resolution, and often, shifts in direction. Our St Augustine Campus has been engaged in a number of strategic planning exercises over the last year, and one of the major outcomes is a dedicated thrust toward commercializing many of our enterprises, and seeking new ways to enhance its capacity to be more financially self-sustaining. We need to pursue strategies that balance our income and expenditure with the provision of services that are income earning.

We are mindful of the State's burdens challenged by slow economic growth internationally and have sought to focus even more this year on what we might call 'minding our business,' in the sense of looking at ways to facilitate commercial efforts from the campus.

We are in the process of finalizing our plan for this commercialization, which in part, deals with the various relationships with vendors, and public-private partnerships and getting support from our alumni. It also includes establishing various commercial spaces to sell the goods and services that are needed on the Campus and for which there is an obviously large market. There are several other initiatives being explored; all aimed at enhancing viability.

This is not a new concept for universities; global circumstances have prompted a shift into a more entrepreneurial mindset for quite some time, with Universities building partnerships to succeed.

Last November, Calestous Juma, a Professor of the Practice of International Development and Director of the Science, Technology, and Globalization Project at the Harvard Kennedy School, spoke at the St Augustine campus on the importance of investment in higher education research; diversification of the economy through genomics and nanotechnology; and leapfrogging to accelerate national development. He cited the Cocoa Research Centre’s work in genomics as a striking example of how successful such a shift can be, and he saw our agricultural sector as one that represents an enormous opportunity for technological growth. The new University Inn and the soon to be opened Convention Centre, our University Field Station at Mount Hope and Orange Grove and our residences and other physical facilities, are examples of the possibilities for increased commercial activity, linked to the training and research that we also pursue.

Professor Juma said universities now see themselves as engines of economic development, and that should be welcomed. We are intent on building on this model with a view to enhancing our sustainability, for the benefit of all.

CLEMENT K. SANKAT
Pro Vice Chancellor & Principal
Under a brilliant sky, the second UWI T20 cricket tournament got underway at the Sir Frank Worrell Ground at the Sport and Physical Education Centre (SPEC) on January 10. After the opening game, which featured FC Clarke Road United and The UWI Cricket Club, a brief ceremony was held (Clarke Road 193/8 – UWICC 149). Then the second match featuring Merry Boys SC and SIS Central Sports got underway at 6.30 (Merry Boys 201/7 – Central Sports 142).

On Day Two of the tournament, which ran over eight days, (from Jan 10-25), and featured 15 teams after Defence Force was suddenly recalled to "barracks," for national duty, Moosai SC came up against T&T Prison Service SC (Moosai 137/8 – Prisons 107), and that match was followed by two others: a close one between Esmeralda SC and Club Crusoe from Tobago (Esmeralda 138/9 – Club Crusoe 136/9), and Queen’s Park Cricket Club vs UTT (QPCC125/3 – UTT 123/7).

After the Defence Force exited the tournament, it was decided that the first game would be an exhibition match, and FC Clarke Road automatically qualified for the quarterfinal round.

The tournament, which ended yesterday (too late for us to bring the final results) featured a cash pot of TT$25,000. There were also cash prizes for all teams progressing beyond the preliminary round, and prizes for man-of-the-match, “big sixes” and special bowling performances.

Anisto Alves brought back some photos of the first and third matches between FC Clarke Road United vs The UWI Cricket Club, and Moosai SC vs the T&T Prison Service SC.
Senior Lecturer Dr Dennis Brown of the Department of Behavioural Sciences in the Faculty of Social Sciences, passed away on Tuesday January 7, 2014. Dr Brown graduated from The UWI, Mona Campus, where he received the BSc (1975) in Sociology, the Diploma in Population Studies (1986), the MSc (1987) in Sociology – specialising in Demography, and the PhD (1994) which incorporated one year of study at the London School of Economics.

He lectured in Development Studies and in Industrial Sociology. He also conducted a development course through distance education to the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College in St Lucia. Dr Brown had worked at The UWI, St. Augustine Campus since December 1996. He was promoted to Senior Lecturer in August 2008 and served in this post until his passing.

A memorial service was held on January 11, at the Daaga Auditorium, and his funeral was held in his homeland, Jamaica on January 18.

At the moving memorial, Dr Michelle Rowley, of the Department of Women’s Studies at the University of Maryland, shared some memories.

“Dennis for me, has always been an embodiment of Walter Rodney, moved as he was by any condition of injustice that he encountered. His professional choices showed that he lived, on a daily basis, with a commitment to justice and fair play. After graduating with his first degree, Dennis worked briefly with the Government in the Ministry of Agriculture. In time his truck was contracted to deliver foodstuffs throughout the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew. The stories that he would later tell about those times reveal a close involvement with and deep knowledge of the lives of the rural folk with whom he interacted.

Here, I really want us to pause so that we can grasp the picture of the man. A man who emerged from a generation where people embraced the difficult choices that had to be made around issues related to colour, class privilege and cultural identity. The man for whom, education, if it was to be of value, it had to be of service. The man who took his degree and knowledge back to the people and was humble enough to learn from them. Dennis was a man who understood the importance of grounding,” she said.

“I know his students, in fact, we will all remember that iconic hat bobbing as he walked the campus, like a kind of academic rude bwoy. In the closing years of his professional life, illness forced him to curtail his professional activities, but nonetheless, he continued to teach, write and publish until quite recently. He never lost his passion for social justice, and as a professional he developed a keen interest in the area of poverty. He did extensive research on the poor in the English-speaking Caribbean and British dependencies in collaboration with Kairi Consultants, and his publications in this area as well as on International Migration have only added to the international reputation of the university,” she said.

His widow, Lynette Joseph-Brown, also shared some memories.

“There is no doubt that in the professional, public space many persons would know of Dennis as an intellectual of high standards and unshakeable integrity: a man who was also deeply concerned about high standards in academia and the administration that was needed in order to facilitate these high standards throughout the institution. Undoubtedly therefore, many in his department and faculty could tell you about his uncompromising stance around many issues which he felt strongly about and which he continued to lament even during his illness.”

“…He also referred to himself as a father of the world, indicating his love and concern for young people in general. He has always welcomed his children’s friends into the home with quiet consent and facilitation; picked up and dropped off many of them uncomplainingly after parties or outings and to and from school. He was also always ready to provide children who needed material and emotional support due to disadvantageous circumstances when asked,” she said.

His three children, Imani, Chinyere and Jabari also spoke warmly, as did other members of the family and university community.
Professor Lawrence Aldridge Wilson, a Professor Emeritus at The
UWI, passed away on December 2, 2013, after a short illness. He was 79.

Professor Wilson joined its Faculty of Agriculture in 1967 as a Lecturer and Senior Lecturer in Plant Physiology/Biochemistry after three years at the Ministry of Agriculture’s Central Experiment Station in Centeno. He was well known for his work in tropical root crop physiology and post-harvest biology, the primary areas of his training and subsequent research. An early student of the University College of the West Indies in Jamaica, he graduated with the BSc (Botany, Zoology, Chemistry) in 1957 and the MSc in Plant Physiology (1960), before going to the University of Bristol, Long Ashton Research Station, where he obtained the PhD in Plant Physiology in 1964.

Returning to Trinidad, he pursued research on mineral nutrition of vegetable and field crops, such as sweet potato, cassava and yams, and the formulation of fertilizer recommendations for farmers. By 1975, he was appointed a Professor of Crop Science and served UWI as a Professor Emeritus at The University of the West Indies, St Augustine, and led the University’s Root Crop Programme, which pioneered an agro-economic outreach programme with farmers, using techniques known as “on farm” research. He was 79.

Professor Wilson’s contributions were global. He sat on many boards and was consultant to many countries on behalf of the Food and Agriculture Organisation.

In 2000, he received the NIHESRST Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding contribution to root crop research and post-harvest biology. He also gave over 20 years of public service to various national Boards such as the National Council for Technology Development, Fertrin, Central Marketing Agency, Cardi, Caroni, and the Sugarcane Feeds Centre among others. He was made an Honorary Life Member of the Association of Professional Agricultural Scientists of Trinidad and Tobago (APASTT), named an Icon in Science and Technology of Trinidad and Tobago, and received the “Commitment to Excellence Award” in recognition of distinguished teaching and research in Postharvest Physiology and Biochemistry, from the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) in July 2013.

Before the interment at the UWI St Augustine campus cemetery, he was eulogized at the funeral at Our Lady of Fatima RC Church by the Deputy Principal, Professor Rhoda Reddock, and his son Anthony, and his widow, Desiree’s eulogy was read by his son, Evan.

This is an extract from Anthony’s eulogy

He led a full and rewarding life and received many honours locally, regionally and internationally for his contributions in the field of agriculture.

But for us, his four sons: Gareth, Evan, Anthony and Dion, he was a man we loved, admired, cherished and respected because of the upright way he led his life.

All of us have memories of him getting up at 5am every morning and going to his study in which he would work for at least three hours before having his breakfast. This discipline, which he would have developed as a pre-teen, stayed with him until almost the end of his life. We learnt from early in our lives that the morning hours were to be periods of quiet. This approach to his work was reflected in other habits that he developed as a father and an academic. We remember the many Friday nights at the Kay Donna drive-in cinema and that every Sunday morning was devoted to Church, the Roman Catholic Church in St Joseph. He was a man of God, who walked with Jesus and lived his life through the code of the 10 Commandments. His discipline led him to be productive man, which was attested to earlier by UWI St Augustine’s Deputy Principal, Prof Rhoda Reddock. As a father of four boys, his outstanding qualities were his calmness and his tolerance. He never raised his voice or his hand to anyone in the household...although there would have been instances over the years when he would have been provoked. He opted to deliver words of discipline in the same calm voice and manner that he did everything else. But the calmness did not hide the fact that he was serious. For church, we remember him dressing the four of us at a time, pulling our shirts down through our underwear; we remember the times when he would line us up and cut our hair, one after the other; we remember him singing us to sleep every night; we remember the pride we felt when we would go to watch him playing cricket and when we played cricket with him. Our father was also a lover of languages...So much so that from an early age, we were exposed to his “renditions” of several Latin and French expressions, not to mention his imitation of various accents, including Nigerian, Italian and Spanish.

Our earliest recollection is one Latin expression, which he used on more than one occasion to justify his taking the choicest piece of chicken as we sat down to dinner.

Having speared the leg and the breast of the bird and deposited it on his plate, he would then announce in Latin: “Eum hesitavit perditus est.”

At other times, in exactly the same circumstance, he would make the same announcement, but in French: “Celui qui hesite est perdu.”

We were to quickly learn the meaning of these expressions: "He who hesitates is lost!"

Our father was a caring, patient, tolerant, principled and funny man, who, in his quiet way, instilled in each of his children a sense of honesty, family, humility and consideration for others.

Yes, we will miss him, but only for a little, for he will be present in our hearts and minds for as long as we live.

This is an extract from the remembrance of Desiree Wilson, his wife of 51 years.

You have heard the many tributes offered about my late husband, Lawrence Aldridge Wilson (he was particularly proud of his middle name)...words that make him out to be a great intellect, a tireless academic, a gentle, serious, humble son of the soil. However, I want to disabuse you of this public understanding of this man, with whom I have shared three quarters of my life. I want to make sure that you leave here with a clear understanding of the man that he really was. He was definitely not a humble man. As a matter of fact, many of you would know that he fancied himself as a “rosy tess.”

Lawrence Aldridge Wilson, a Professor Emeritus at The UWI, passed away on December 2, 2013, after a short illness. He was 79.

Professor Wilson joined its Faculty of Agriculture in 1967 as a Lecturer and Senior Lecturer in Plant Physiology/Biochemistry after three years at the Ministry of Agriculture’s Central Experiment Station in Centeno. He was well known for his work in tropical root crop physiology and post-harvest biology, the primary areas of his training and subsequent research. An early student of the University College of the West Indies in Jamaica, he graduated with the BSc (Botany, Zoology, Chemistry) in 1957 and the MSc in Plant Physiology (1960), before going to the University of Bristol, Long Ashton Research Station, where he obtained the PhD in Plant Physiology in 1964.

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He was a man of God, who walked with Jesus and lived his life through the code of the 10 Commandments. He was tolerant to the point of irritation. Do you know what it was like to live with someone with whom you could not pick a fight and who would allow you to spend large sums of his money on art which he neither particularly liked nor appreciated, only to be subsequently told that they were in fact great gifts from him to me. He allowed the boys and me to do our own things. He gave us the freedom to express ourselves and develop our characters in our own way. He never laid down the law. But by the example of his living, we were to quickly learn the meaning of these expressions: “He who hesitates is lost!”

Our father was a caring, patient, tolerant, principled and funny man, who, in his quiet way, instilled in each of his sons a sense of honesty, family, humility and consideration for others.

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Nor was he a serious man.

He had an element of quirky humour, which he kept to the very end. This was such a positive part of his character that I once said to a friend that I could never leave him because... who would make me laugh? He was tolerant to the point of irritation. Do you know what it was like to live with someone with whom you could not pick a fight and who would allow you to spend large sums of his money on art which he neither particularly liked nor appreciated, only to be subsequently told that they were in fact great gifts from him to me. He allowed the boys and me to do our own things. He gave us the freedom to express ourselves and develop our characters in our own way. He never preached. He never laid down the law. But by the example of his living, instilled in his sons a sense of honesty, decency and duty.

I wish today to pay public tribute to a man who had a strong sense of duty, love of family and who never had the need to present himself as something that he was not.
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The Great House was built between 1870 and 1890 and is at least 120 years old, perhaps older. Ortinola was a thriving cocoa estate that supplied cocoa beans to Cadbury Brothers of Birmingham, England. Cadbury’s manager, Mr J.P. Bain, lived in the Great House with his family. The land was owned by Tennants Estates Ltd, a Scottish company owned by Lord Christopher Gray Tennant (aka Baron Glenconner) who either leased it to Cadbury or carried on a joint venture with them.

Ownership changed hands over the years, with the current owners (Russell and Vindra Nath) acquiring the estate and the Great House in 1998, while looking for a farm to buy where they could keep a pony for their young daughter (Nikita) who loved horses. The Great House itself had been abandoned from around the 1960s when Tennants Estates sold the property to a local company (Ortinola Estates Ltd), which was owned by a group of Trinidadian businessmen.

The estate now comprises 365 acres and the Great House took two years and two months to restore to its current state after decades of neglect. Today the Great House sits on an immaculately maintained 4-hectare parcel of land that combines colonial charm (complete with Morris chairs and other plantation-type furnishings) with modern amenities, making Ortinola the perfect location for hosting retreats, conferences, seminars, celebrations, family reunions and garden weddings. The bedrooms were converted into one of two conference rooms. Most of the building is in its original state and the building layout has been left exactly as it was to preserve the beauty of the Great House.

Since December 2003, the Great House has been open for business as a family-run special-events venue, and this is where the relationship between the Cocoa Research Centre (CRC) and Russell and Vindra Nath started around ten years ago. The CRC (then the Cocoa Research Unit) contacted them to use Ortinola as a venue for a workshop and then various functions.

I still vividly remember the first time we entered the road leading to Ortinola—time stood still and then started to rewind—then we entered the gates and collectively sucked our breaths in awe at the serene beauty that lay in front of us.

Russell and Vindra proved to be the most agreeable and accommodating hosts and were always willing to provide the best service despite our always limited budget. With each successive interaction their relationship with CRC evolved until we started talking about the current and future plans for Ortinola and how the current CRC project activities could help the Naths realize their vision.

Enter the regional project, "Caribbean Fine and Flavour Cocoa Industry Commercialisation" funded by the Centre for Development of Enterprise (CDE), an EU/ACP institution in the region, with its headquarters in Brussels and regional office in the Dominican Republic. The aim of this project is to provide technical assistance to entrepreneurs within the cocoa sector in seven Caribbean countries (Belize, Commonwealth of Dominica, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Grenada, and Trinidad and Tobago) with the aim of improving the profitability of the regional cocoa industry, as well increasing regional exports.

The overall goal of the project is to address the challenges faced by fine or flavour cocoa producers in the Caribbean: declining production and low productivity; as well as food safety and other quality concerns. In addition, the project promotes the development of value-added products and agri-tourism associated with cocoa production. These goals have been executed via the following components:

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Restored Great House interior PHOTO: VINDRA NATH

A place called Ortinola

Old Cocoa Estate is a Breath of Fresh Air

BY DARIN SUKH

Ortinola in the 1920s PHOTO: CADBURY'S

Nestled in the lush Maracas Valley at St Joseph, the original Ortinola Estate spanned 430 acres or a Spanish colonial land grant between the years it was given to the Estate in the 1830s by the Crown came to Trinidad in response to the Cedula of Spain. The Ciprianis came from a humble
Nestled in the lush Maracas Valley at St Joseph is the pristine estate called Ortinola. The original Ortinola Estate spanned 430 acres or approximately 174 hectares and was created by a Spanish colonial land grant between the year 1780 and 1800. The name Ortinola, however, was given to the Estate in the 1830s by the Cipriani family (Cipriano and Sebastian) who came to Trinidad in response to the Cedula of Population issued in the 1780s by the King of Spain. The Ciprianis came from a hamlet in the north of Corsica called Ortinola.

Old Cocoa Estate is a Breath of Fresh Air

BY DARIN SUKHA

Technical assistance has been provided for each component. The CRC partnered with CDE in rolling out and implementing the initial step of this project regionally as well as executing Components 1 and 2. Component 5 is being executed in partnership with IICA.

The Ortinola Estate is one of the beneficiaries of this project under Components 1, 3 and 5, receiving technical assistance via Farmer Field School (FFS) training in cocoa production and post-harvest processing, as well as advice on exploring the huge cocoa agri-tourism potential at Ortinola. Indeed the 6,000 trees of Trinidad Select Hybrid (TSH) cocoa plants, planted in August 2012, and the Great House have served as a wonderful venue for many of the FFS sessions.

In 2013, under Component 3 of this project, Nikita Nath and other beneficiaries from the region, received training in chocolate making at the CRC and also travelled to Grenada to spend some time at the Grenada Chocolate Company for expanded training in chocolate making.

The activities of the CRC in the CDE project almost exactly tie into the medium and long term vision for Ortinola and according to the Naths, “It has always been our dream to get back into cocoa production as it is part of the estate’s history and heritage. We are also attracted by the high demand and niche-market potential for Trinidadian cocoa worldwide due to its fine flavor.”

To do this, they are currently restoring a second historic structure on the site (the labourer’s cottage) with the same attention to detail as they paid to the Great House, and this will be used as a gift shop, tea (cocoa-tea) house, and starting point for planned tours. With guidance from the CRC they will also eventually restore the fermentary and drying house which will be used for processing their estate-origin cocoa beans.

As one of the partners in the CRC’s Cocoa Germplasm Conservation Programme, they plan to rehabilitate many or all (“labour permitting”) of the remaining hectares of cocoa over the coming years. These existing trees would be of the older varieties, planted when the estate was still producing cocoa in the 1930s. Their desire is to preserve these older ‘heirloom’ varieties, and together with the newly planted cocoa trees that should start bearing by May 2015, eventually produce Ortinola-branded chocolate bars and other cocoa products. Also on the cards are lodge/cabin accommodation in the future, built using the same architectural style of the existing Plantation Great House. There is the potential for horseback riding, nature trails and many other activities to keep guests occupied whilst learning about the ‘tree-to-bar’ manufacture of Ortinola-origin chocolate.

It’s a busy time for such a serene setting and Russell Nath is thankful for the partnership. “The Cocoa Research Centre at UWI was instrumental in getting us started off and we have a close relationship with them.” It goes both ways. The CRC looks forward to continue working with the Naths to realise the vision and potential for a most wonderful place.

This piece was prepared by Darin Sukha with support from Nikita Nath. Dr Sukha is a research fellow and food technologist at the Cocoa Research Centre, The UWI, St Augustine.
When you listen to students who have taken part in this programme, you realize that it actually fulfills many of its objectives, and if it had more funding, it would really become more visible as a model worth emulating.

The programme, the Caribbean Internship Project (CIP, you can say sip), is not new conceptually—it is basically what the name suggests—and it involves students of The UWI whose focus is essentially on supporting children and families.

It grew out of an Inner City Child Support Project in Jamaica from 2001–2004, which had been funded by the Bernard van Leer Foundation and managed by Aldene Shillingford, who still leads this current version.

It’s been ten years now since CIP officially began, this time as a partnership between the Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work at the Mona campus and the Caribbean Child Support Initiative (CCSI) in Barbados.

The CIP’s core emphasis initially was its support for Early Childhood Development (ECD) through the Roving Caregivers Programme (RCP), which provides stimulation for children and parenting education. Young men and women from the communities, generally unemployed, are recruited to work with the families and their caregivers.

Working mainly with disadvantaged communities and families, the interns put their lessons from UWI to practical use.

Initially, there had been others as well, such as the Regional Radio Project, the Storytelling Programme, and the Communication for Development which had worked with a parenting programme in Jamaica. Seeing how effective the multi-dimensional thrust has been, has encouraged the organizers to consider broadening the range of interests of the students involved; so that while it had originally targeted those from the Social Sciences, Education and Media and Communication, The UWI is exploring the possibility of expanding this programme to include other disciplines.

The CIP has evolved since 2011 when funding from the BVLF ended. ECD is no longer the main area of focus—its new vision is that of a service-learning programme serving human development needs of the region.

By 2010 the CIP had become known as a UWI project involving the campuses at Mona, St Augustine and Cave Hill. By 2011 three Government Ministries in Belize, Grenada and Dominica and one non-government organization in St Lucia began partnering with The UWI to share the cost of interns placed at social service agencies in their country.

From 2003 to 2012, 226 interns have been placed.

Deputy Principal of the St Augustine Campus, Professor Rhoda Reddock fully supports this, especially in the way it ties in with the idea of Service Learning and Community Engagement, an initiative of her office. Prof Reddock believes the well-rounded student can be developed through this model. “I think we also have to engage with the communities around the campus so that they see us as partners,” she said. “We can do this by research, we can do this by having programmes using some of the skills that the departments have, community service programmes, service learning programmes; there is quite a lot of scope…”

Current coordinator, Aldene Shillingford, says that at this point, having CIP institutionalized, that is, getting the recognition it deserves through funding support from The UWI would be helpful. It’s already established its viability, she said, through its interdisciplinary approach to problem-solving in the region and the way it promotes regionalism.

“It’s Caribbean people solving Caribbean problems,” she said.

What better example of independence can you want?

Rainah Seepersad - Trinidad & Tobago

One intern, Rainah Seepersad, who was in the MSc Clinical Psychology programme at UWI, spoke about her experiences in Grenada and St Lucia.

In Grenada, she worked at the Ministry of Social Development, with the Roving Caregivers Programme, facilitating parenting workshops; and the Child Welfare Authority Office, where she was supervised by a Child Protection Officer as this involved cases of neglect and abuse. She also worked with the psychotherapist at the Family Therapy and Counselling Clinic, and was also able to work with one inmate at the Richmond Hill Prison Facility.

For her three months in Grenada, she shared living space with Craig Dixon, a media intern from Jamaica, and Mary Ifill, a social work intern from Barbados.

“We shared residence with a family, the landlord and her son. We became sort of like a family, we were all very close, we cooked together, shared meals like a family, had fun weekends together, went on island tours, to the beach, waterfalls. I am still in contact with everyone, I made a lot of friends on the island,” she said.

She also tasted a lot of the cuisine, including lambie waters (conch).”

“Our host cooked a lot and we helped prepare meals,” she said, listing some of the fare, “the usual Sunday lunch: macaroni pie, shepherd's pie, veggies, Grenada’s famous oildown…”

In St Lucia, it was the first time she had been away from home for Diwali, “so I made parsad and shared with the other interns there.” (Josique Gaynor, media intern, Jamaica; Marion Robinson, psychology intern,

Jamaica; and a former intern who still works there, Jillian Laydoo, psychology intern, Trinidad.)

She worked at the Centre for Adolescent Renewal and Education as a School Counsellor/Psychologist, where she took part in weekly group sessions for students to discuss their concerns, individually and within the school environment. Individual therapy sessions were also available for students who were referred by teachers or who were interested.

Inmates at Bordelais Correctional Facility, who were recommended for rehabilitative services, were involved in an academic programme with the purpose of reintroduction into society. “I provided individual counseling sessions for inmates as well as group therapy sessions.”

She said issues raised by inmates included reuniting with their families (and children), moving past old negative relationships and accepting new positive relationships, and anger management. Sessions helped them to identify triggers in the past that may have led to impulsive or dangerous behaviours and emotional awareness and coping skills, and to find alternative ways of expressing anger and moving forward. She said many said it was something they wanted to learn and they valued the sessions as a sounding board for things they were embarrassed to talk about.

Back in Trinidad and working as a clinical psychologist in San Fernando, Rainah looks back at the year she spent as a CIP intern as a period of much growth.

“I learnt to coexist with others of different cultures,” she said. “Being Trinidadian made this easy for me since we are exposed to different cultures and people here.”
Khadijah Williams-Peters

"Rural is rural wherever you go, no matter how sophisticated the country," says Khadijah Williams-Peters, as she discussed her experiences as an intern with CIP in 2006 when she was located in St Vincent and the Grenadines.

She had been attached to a programme called VINSAVE (Save the children) and in the course of her internship, which focused on early childhood education, she trained staff and helped develop policies around HIV and AIDS and she worked with the Probation Department as well.

Khadijah did her Master’s degree in social work at The UWI, and is now a full time lecturer at COSTAAT, where she has been seconded from her substantive post as a guidance officer at the Ministry of Education. She is on the board of the Children’s Authority as a representative of social work.

She has been in the social work field for 12 years and the experience she had with the internship helped guide her choices of where to set her focus. Seeing some of the conditions under which people lived, and realizing how difficult simple communication could be even among Caribbean islanders were some of the lessons she learned, as she broadened her experience in Jamaica and St Lucia. The internship helped her “understand cultural differences and forge regional relationships,” she said, many of which persist nearly eight years later.

One of the other things she learned is that many problems and issues are universal, as she discovered when she connected to a rural community in the UK.

In her current position, as a guidance officer, she says the concept of the multidisciplinary team would be ideal for our schools. Each school, she said, should have a guidance officer, a psychologist, a social worker a special education teacher and a nurse, but she knows the reality, and would be happy if for a start, such a team services each district.

It is hard to see the shortfalls in the system. “It affects me,” she admits.

“Apart from practising, I have a passion for education, so yes, it can be frustrating, but at least I can share my knowledge and I believe there is power in education.”

Fayola Denoon – Trinidad & Tobago

I found out about CIP during my final days as an undergraduate at The UWI, Mona Campus. Looking back, I cannot believe it has been six years since my first internship in St Vincent and the Grenadines!

The CIP experience has allowed me to visit some of the most beautiful places in the region: St Vincent and the Grenadines, St Lucia and Barbados, and whilst on this journey I have formed lifetime friendships with some very special persons.

Most importantly, CIP helped me to develop my skills in public relations and communications. My placements have afforded me the opportunity to design and implement effective communication strategies that have modeled, promoted, explained and reinforced the values of the Roving Caregivers Programme consistently.

Ginelle Nelson

"During my internship at the Division of Human Services I was responsible for the provision of psychological services to clients of the Division. This included children at the New Beginnings Transit Home. We do daily psychotherapy and psychological assessments of the children at the Home.

A comprehensive Behaviour Modification programme has been implemented to assist in managing the behavioural challenges of those children. Several staff development workshops have also been conducted in addition to individual counseling for staff. Staff have been trained in Anxiety Reducing Techniques by Family Case Workers to help them prepare abused children for things like giving statements. Court reports have also been enhanced by having psychological assessment reports of both children and adults. Also introduced to the Division is my participation in supervised visits between adults (foster carers/parents) and children whereby interactions are observed and analysed.

My confidence has grown immensely from having this experience. I now write a biweekly newspaper column and have been asked by several attorneys-at-law to provide assessments for clients.

Placement here has allowed countless people to receive a service that significantly improves their lives. Additionally, the Caribbean Internship Programme embodies regional integration by providing opportunities for individuals to give their skills for the benefit of the region."

Ginelle Nelson is a Consultant Clinical Psychologist at the Division of Human Services at the Ministry of Health, Wellness, Human Services and Gender Relations in Castries, St Lucia.

The Caribbean Internship Project, is not new conceptually—it is basically what the name suggests—and it involves students of The UWI whose focus is essentially on supporting children and families.
In the field of human genetics research, it marked the 60th anniversary of the discovery of the structure of DNA and the 10th anniversary of the completion of the sequencing of the human genome. Never one to be left out of the action, Trinidad and Tobago is preparing to launch its first ever population-based genome-wide association study (GWAS), only eight years after the first study of its kind was ever published. It is intended that this genetics study will form part of the National Eye Survey of Trinidad and Tobago (NESTT), which is designed to determine the distribution, causes and risk factors for loss of vision in our population, thereby providing information that can be used to better align health care resources to the areas of greatest need and maximum impact. Individuals who participate in the NESTT will have the opportunity to decide whether they also wish to participate in the genetics study, and by so doing contribute to new knowledge and the identification of genetic risk factors for eye disease and cardiovascular disease.

In 1953, Watson and Crick described the double-helical structure of DNA, the material that carries the genetic information that guides the development and functioning of every organism. DNA carries these instructions in the form of genes that are inherited from one generation to the next. The full complement of an organism’s hereditary information is called its genome. The discovery of the structure of DNA revolutionized biomedical research as it marked the beginning of our understanding of how genes work and how subtle variations in their structure account not only for the uniqueness of individuals, but also for a variety of disease conditions.

Following this milestone, genes and their different versions or ‘alleles’ continued to be identified, enabling improvements in the diagnosis and treatment of a range of medical disorders. However, even as human genetic research made leaps and bounds, the functions of most genes remained unclear, and for many medical conditions that clearly have a genetic component, pinning down the specific genes involved remained elusive. Even in the case of so-called “single-gene disorders,” like sickle cell disease, where an allele of a single gene was found to be directly related to an inheritable disease, the ability to predict disease prognosis proved challenging. Slowly but surely, it was realized that for the more common medical conditions and disease characteristics the scenario was much more complex. There was no simple one-to-one relationship between disease and gene. Instead it became clear that multiple genes were involved and that environmental factors also played a crucial role.

Advances in technologies used to analyse or “sequence” genes, eventually led to the complete sequencing of the human genome in 2003, fifty years after the discovery of the structure of DNA. This singular advancement led to the birth of human genomics, the study of the entire human genome, the interactions of genes with each other, and their interactions with the environment. Consequently scientists are now better positioned to tackle the problem of complex disorders.

Over the past decade, continued advances in human genetics research and a parallel explosion in both genomic sequencing technologies and the computational tools required to analyse the vast amount of data generated have deepened our current understanding of human health and revolutionized the field of medicine. There has been a marked improvement in our ability to diagnose diseases due to an increase in the identification of related genes as well as improvements in the ability to recognize individuals (and groups) at high risk for developing diseases. These in turn have led to targeted intervention strategies aimed at preventing disease, minimizing disease onset, and mitigating symptoms, as is the familiar case of breast cancer and BRCA1 gene.

As Trinidad and Tobago prepares to launch its first ever population-based GWAS and enter the next generation of human genetics and genomics research, we ask ourselves: Are we sufficiently prepared to conduct this type of research? Are we ready to deal with the ethical, legal and social issues that may arise?

First of all, human genetics research is by no means new to Trinidad and Tobago. Researchers at The UWI and other scientists have been contributing to the field from as early as the 1970s. A quick search of PubMed, a major database of scientific literature, will reveal at least 60 publications about human genetics studies conducted in Trinidad and Tobago. They cover subjects including patterns of inheritance, identification of candidate genes for common diseases, genetic epidemiology, genetic variation, and genomic science. Through this type of work, in addition to providing baseline information on human genetic variation in Trinidad and Tobago, UWI researchers have contributed towards the understanding of genetic factors underlying conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, prostate cancer, alcoholism, muscle disorders, bone disorders and our natural defence mechanisms against infectious diseases.

As we enter the next generation of human genetics research, perhaps most important, is the fact that as human genetics and genomics research advances in Trinidad and Tobago, there has been a parallel commitment from The UWI and the TT Government to develop initiatives, guidelines and policies which serve to educate and protect against any ethical, legal and social implications of this type of work.

A person’s genetic information is regarded as unique, and in the Data Protection Act, 2011 of Trinidad and Tobago makes mention of DNA as personal information that should be protected. However, because legislation lags behind technological advances, this may not necessarily be the case. They may offer new possibilities for treatment of some of these complex diseases, as well as new diagnostic methods.

Genes are the molecular units that carry the information used to build and maintain a living organism. They specify certain biological characteristics (or traits) in an individual and are passed down from one generation to another. An example of a genetic or inherited disorder is Sickle Cell Disease.

Genetics is a term that refers to the study of genes and the way that certain traits or conditions are passed down from one generation to another. They may offer new possibilities for treatment of some of these complex diseases, as well as new diagnostic methods.

Genome Wide Association describes an approach that involves rapidly scanning markers across the genomes of many people to find genetic variations associated with a particular disease. Once new genetic associations are identified, the information may then be used to develop (and improve) strategies to detect, treat and prevent the disease.

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What is human genetics and what are genes?

Human genetics is the study of inheritance in human beings. I’m sure someone has told you “You’ve got your father’s nose or your grandmother’s eyes,” or you’ve heard someone say “Cancer runs in my family.” Human genetics endeavours to explain how these traits pass from generation to generation.

If you could peer into any one of your body’s 50 trillion cells, you’d find a complex and busy world, with a center called a nucleus, which contains 46 molecules called chromosomes. These 46 chromosomes are actually 23 pairs, with one chromosome in each pair from your mother and the other from your father. Together they contain the complete set of instructions for making you. A gene is a small section of chromosome that contains instructions that determine “something” about you.

So genes code aspects of who or what we are and how everything works on the inside. There are roughly around 23,000 genes in the human body and each cell of our body carries a copy of all of our genes.

If each cell carries the same 23,000 genes, why is my eye different to my elbow?

Genes are often called the blueprint for life, because they tell each of your cells what to do and when to do it. However, whilst each cell contains the same blueprint, or set of instructions, there is an intricate system of genetic switches that turn genes on and off making sure the right instructions are carried out at the right time in the right cell. Genetic switches determine everything from development of an eye to the development of your elbow.

If each person carries the same 23,000 genes, why are we different?

Each person is different because there are variations in our genes. The first level of variation results because we randomly obtain each of the two copies of our genes from our parents—one from each—who got their two copies from their parents and so on. Additionally, most our characteristics, are determined by more than one gene or as we say in “genetics speak” most “phenotypes” (characteristics) are “polygenic” (caused by many genes). A further level of complexity is added when we take the same gene and place it in different environments, genes are expressed differently in different environments.

Explain variations in genes and why they are so important.

Genes also change constantly over time. As we grow and develop, new cells are constantly being made and the genetic information is copied so that each new cell has its own set of instructions. The copying process is not 100% perfect so there are variations or “mutations.” If these mutations occur in sperm or egg cells then they may be passed from one generation to another. Some of these mutations can be beneficial, increasing genetic diversity aimed at keeping populations healthy. Many mutations are silent, meaning that they have no effect at all. And a few can lead to disease.

If the goal of health-related genetics research is so good, then why is it often shrouded in controversy?

How much time do we have? The controversy that surrounds human genetics research is complex, but I will try to summarize a few main points.

For some it’s a moral issue. Many believe that genes hold the key to our very existence and any manipulation or inquiry into genes is seen as an inquiry into, or even worse, as a manipulation of God’s work.

Another reason is the fact that the types of conclusions that can be drawn from the research are poorly understood. Some people mistakenly believe that translating the research is as easy as “show me your genes and I’ll show you who you are.”

Finally, a far greater challenge is the human condition. History has proven that any technology developed by human kind can be used to do just as much bad as good. The technology and information that can be gained from human genetics is no different.

Does this mean we should not pursue human genetics research?

Not at all. It just means that human genetics research must be governed by stringent scrutiny and approval processes before it is actually conducted. Nothing in life is foolproof, but internationally and nationally, right here in Trinidad and Tobago, there have been immense progress to ensure that this type of research is conducted and translated in an ethical manner.

Food for Thought

It is really important that people understand that your genes are not your fate. Genes are not a blueprint in the same way a blueprint in architecture determines a building. Who we are, what we are, how we behave, the individual, our overall phenotype is NOT determined SOLELY by our genes, but by a more significant factor: the interaction between our genes and the environment.

So even if your genetics show you are at an increased risk for developing diabetes, this does not mean you are “fated” to manifest diabetes. Instead it means that you are forewarned and that you SHOULD manage your lifestyle in such a way to PREVENT the manifestation of diabetes.
The following is the citation for Dr Ince’s award.

Dr Basil Andre Ince is a renowned personality in the history of Trinidad and Tobago. He remains one who has contributed to many spheres of our history when we reflect on the development of this Republic. He has served as a Senior Lecturer at the Institute of International Relations at The UWI, St. Augustine, for ten years. He was also a former Minister of External Affairs and former High Commissioner to the Court of St James.

However, one of his most profound contributions to the nation’s development has been his remarkable performance in the field of Caribbean sport. He has distinguished himself as an exceptional sportsman, a sports administrator and a scholar in this arena.

Dr Ince is known for his athletic prowess, winning gold and silver medals in the 400m and 4x400m relays respectively at the Pan American Games in 1959. His willingness to make a difference in the athletic realm was evident when he was elected President of the National Association of Amateur Athletes of Trinidad and Tobago in 1976. In that milestone year, he also served as the Manager of the Trinidad and Tobago Track Team for the Olympic Games in Montreal, the team for which Hasely Crawford won gold in the 100m race.

Trinidad and Tobago has also acknowledged his contribution to sport when he was appointed as Minister of Sport, Culture and Youth Affairs. In 1985, Dr Ince was among the few national sport personalities inducted into the West Indies, in collaboration with the First Citizens Sports Foundation, is pleased to offer its inaugural UWI Award for Excellence in the Scholarship of Sport to Dr Basil Andre Ince.

Although another person may have been content with such accolades, Dr Ince was intent on continuing to make a difference in sport, and thereafter focused on developing sport awareness through academia.

He recognised that Trinidad and Tobago, and by extension the Caribbean, had limited publications on sport and its history and development. He thus married his love for academia and sport history by publishing articles on these subjects, including “From sideline to frontline: The Rising Tide of Trinidad and Tobago’s Women Athletes”, and “Trinidad and Tobago in London, Half Full and Half Empty” in the “Trinidad and Tobago Review,” “Sprinter for All Seasons” in “Sport Express”, and “West Indian Athletes in North America” and “West Indian Athletes in Britain,” two chapters in the book “Enterprise of the Indies.”

Dr Ince also focused on highlighting the achievements of athletes from Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean, not only through research, but also meticulous and insightful documentation. As such, he has produced books which delve into the records and experiences of Trinidadian athletes within the Olympic Movement. The first book, “Trinidad and Tobago at the Olympic Games: From Rodney Wilkes to George Bovell III,” was published in 2005 and “Olympian: 75 years of Trinidad and Tobago in Olympic Sport 1934-2010” followed six years later.

His latest book, “Black Meteors: The Caribbean in International Track and Field,” released in 2012, showcases Caribbean athletes and their quest in pushing the region as a dominant contender in many world class track and field events.

Based on the breadth and depth of his scholarly research, and outstanding achievements in the field, The University of The West Indies, in collaboration with the First Citizens Sports Foundation, is pleased to offer its inaugural UWI Award for Excellence in the Scholarship of Sport to Dr Basil Andre Ince.
UWI CALENDAR of EVENTS
JANUARY – APRIL 2014

WORLD OF WORK
January-February 2014
UWI, St. Augustine Campus

The World of Work (WOW) programme is an initiative of The UWI geared primarily towards equipping final-year UWI students with the necessary tools for succeeding in today’s work environment.

For further information, please visit www.sta.uwi.edu/wow

CARNIVAL CROSSINGS
February 3, 2014
Learning Resource Centre
UWI, St Augustine

Professor Milla C. Riggio, the James J. Goodwin Professor of English at Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut, presents a lecture titled, “From There to Here - Arkansas to Harvard to Trinidad.”

For further information, please contact Ms Christine Nanton, Marketing and Communications Department, UWI, St Augustine at 662 2002 ext 83726.

RIVER MECHANICS
GYAN SHRIVASTAVA
January 30, 2014
UWI St Augustine Campus

The UWI hosts a Professorial Inaugural Lecture by Professor Gyan Shrivastava titled “River Mechanics - Linking Engineering and Society”. The lecture takes place at Engineering Lecture Room 1, Block 13, Max Richards Building, Faculty of Engineering from 5.30pm. All are invited.

For further information, please contact Ms Christine Nanton, Marketing and Communications Department, UWI, St Augustine at 662 2002 ext 83726.

A RETROGRADE STEP?
RAJENDRA RAMLOGAN
February 13, 2014
Noor Hassanali Auditorium,
Faculty of Law, UWI, St. Augustine

This professorial inaugural lecture by Rajendra Ramlogan, a Professor of Environmental Law, is Environmental Democracy in Trinidad and Tobago: A Retrograde Step? The lecture takes place at 5.30pm and all are invited.

For further information, please contact Ms Christine Nanton, Marketing and Communications Department, UWI, St Augustine at 662 2002 ext 83726.

BRASIL - UWI FETE 2014
February 2, 2014
UWI St Augustine Campus

UWI Fete's theme for this year is Brasil. The annual fund-raising fete benefits students in the form of bursaries. It takes place at the Grounds of the Office of the Campus Principal.

For more information, please visit http://sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar/event.asp?id=2069

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

COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
January-April 2014
Department of Creative and Festival Arts
Gordon Street, St Augustine

The 2014 edition of the Department of Creative and Festival Arts’ Community School of the Arts once again features classes for the public in Adventures in Art, Recorders, Singing, Piano, Steel Band, Dance and Drama among others. It runs from January 25 to April 5, 2014. Registration takes place Jan 20– Feb 5, 2014, at the DCFA, Gordon Street, St Augustine.

For more information, please visit http://sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar/event.asp?id=2073