



UWI TODAY

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES • ST AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

SUNDAY 14 JULY 2019



LEVELING UP TO LEADERSHIP



“The holistic development of students so that they can be strong leaders for the region,” says Justin Subero, President of The UWI St Augustine Student Guild Council, when asked about the council’s mission for its 2019-2020 term. Justin and his team won the elections held in March of this year. The 25-member council - made of an executive, faculty reps, hall chairs, and special committee chairs - are themselves students committed to personal development and campus life through student government. The Guild is one of many avenues that give students opportunities for growth outside of academics. Members of the campus community have access to sports, clubs, student-focused programmes, and health and wellness services. The aim, as the new Guild Council President says, is to produce holistic graduates who have strong character as well as academic credentials. Graduates who have not only the qualifications to lead, but also the temperament and integrity to be good leaders. PHOTO: ATIBA CUDJOE

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Developing the whole student

This past June, almost 19,000 children from throughout Trinidad and Tobago received the results of the Secondary Entrance Assessment (SEA) examinations that specified the secondary school they will attend for the next few years. For many of them, mostly preteens, it was the first real trial of their young lives. The vast majority, I'm pleased to say, seemed to have overcome the SEA challenge. While they may not necessarily have made it to their first choice school, they persevered through the labor and emotional stress of study and exams. For that I congratulate them all.

There are some however, who had a much more difficult time with the exams. "Ministry reports rise in SEA self-harm cases" a headline in the *Trinidad Guardian* said. The article states that the Ministry of Education received a 20 per cent increase in requests for help for students dealing with mental health issues because of SEA. A Ministry spokesperson said the students were "unable to cope with what is going on."

This state of affairs is upsetting for obvious reasons. No one wants to see children suffering. But reading this article, I was dismayed by the irony of a situation in which our children are not being adequately prepared for life.

I say this not to minimise the challenge of the SEA or the valid concerns over the nature and purpose of secondary school entrance exams. Nor am I making a critique of any of the players in the education process – parents, educators and the Ministry. Preparing our children for life is society's collective responsibility. Consequently, as a tertiary institution that serves thousands upon thousands of young people on the threshold of adulthood every year, we at The UWI see ourselves as having a duty to help them become fully formed citizens, equipped with the tools that enable them to realise and maximise their material, physical and emotional well-being, and to lead a moral and empathic life.

We in the Caribbean have always placed a very high value on education. And well we should, for a solid educational foundation is crucial for personal and national prosperity. But knowledge doesn't necessarily equate to happiness, contentment or strength of character. Indeed, my experience tells me that there are many who have not found the level of satisfaction they sought in the careers of their choice. Admittedly, from colonial times to this day, our formal and informal educational systems have tried to address the need for a more holistic education system by including what we might call "life skills development" through sports, clubs, humanities studies and exercises of patriotism, for example. But this does not seem to be enough. These are all laudable activities. However, there needs to be a more focused educational objective.

As we have developed, as we have prioritised speed, efficiency, convenience and comfort, we seem to be losing our grasp on the intrinsic needs of our people. If one thinks hard enough about this, one cannot escape the realisation that the core intrinsic need of every human being is, and always has been, the need to survive the gamut of life's challenges. No matter how much progress we make, life will always be hard. And though we live



Discipline, perseverance, courage, integrity, empathy, mindfulness, a capacity for critical thought, creative daring and communal living – these are among the assets of a truly effective person. And such people are enormous assets to whatever society they belong.

in a miraculous age of technology and information and interconnection to help us navigate this difficult world, the ultimate life tool will always be the innate character of each citizen. Discipline, perseverance, courage, integrity, empathy, mindfulness, a capacity for critical thought, creative daring and communal living – these are among the assets of a truly effective person. And such people are enormous assets to whatever society they belong.

At The UWI, one of our core values is "Student Centredness". This addresses not just excellence in academic education but in placing priority on a more holistic student preparation for life – their life. As such, in this issue of *UWI Today*, we look at some of our student centred activities, beyond teaching and research, that support their development.

Our Division of Student Services and Development (DSSD) is the campus' ultimate student resource. DSSD provides support services for mental health, financial aid, career counselling, accommodation, activities and many more. Two of their outstanding programmes

– Adopt-a-Student and UWI's First Year Experience (FYE) – are highlighted in this issue.

Likewise, this issue introduces Justin Subero, the new President of The UWI St Augustine Student's Guild Council. Student government is a powerful mechanism for forging young leaders, an absolute necessity for the well-being and sustainability of our region. We need young people like Justin and his team who are capable and willing to take on the responsibility of leadership.

Jordan Reynos, Trinidad and Tobago national hockey player and UWI student, has shown a different kind of leadership. In May of this year he was awarded the prize for the 2019 UWI Vice-Chancellor's Sportsman of the Year. In recent years, thanks in no small part to the vision of Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, UWI has reestablished its commitment to student sports. The most visible symbol of this is our Faculty of Sport, launched in 2017.

Apart from the career opportunities within the sport industry, and the development of our human resource of athletes and professionals, sport has inherent value in building invaluable traits such as teamwork, focus, and bravery, that will serve students long after they have left the academic arena.

But truthfully, we never really leave the arena. We enter new ones. For the young students moving from primary to secondary school, SEA was only one of many exams life will require them to sit. They will be tested in and outside of the classroom. They will be tested in the home and eventually the workplace. Trinidad and Tobago is being tested. The Caribbean is facing myriad challenges. The world itself is embroiled in urgent struggle. Life itself is the arena.

Brian Copeland

PROFESSOR BRIAN COPELAND

Campus Principal

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CAMPUS NEWS



GOOGLE ON CAMPUS

BY MARC KANNEH

YouTube, Android, Gmail, Chrome, Google Play Store, and Google Maps are Google's biggest products with more than one billion users. This makes the tech giant one of the world's largest companies. Now they are recruiting in Trinidad and Tobago.

"I'm looking forward to many more resumes from UWI in Trinidad and Tobago," said Valentine Fontama, AI (Artificial Intelligence) and Machine Learning Practice Lead at Google's Professional Services. Fontama added, "20 years ago when I was doing my PhD research on AI, I couldn't imagine I would live to see the day when AI and machine learning are being applied in the mainstream."

On Thursday, June 6, representatives from the company came to UWI St Augustine campus to participate in a workshop on Google Cloud's AI solutions, to speak about Google's products and employment opportunities.

An eager and interested audience filled Lecture Theatre 1 in the Faculty of Engineering's (FoE) Max Richards Building to get a glimpse of life working for Google and to hear about the work they are doing with machine learning.

"This is the largest lecture theatre in the faculty and it is very comforting to see this lecture theatre very well populated, particularly when the semester is not in session," Dr Sanjay Bahadoorsingh, FoE's Deputy Dean of Enterprise Development and Outreach said. "It is clear that there is a keen interest in the application of machine learning. It is also an acknowledgement of the potential opportunities for new jobs that exist in today's world."

Landing a job with a tech giant like Google may seem like nothing more than a dream but for two UWI alumni, Arthur Thompson and Stefan Hosein, this dream became a reality.

Thompson recalled that while in his undergraduate and postgraduate studies at UWI he was always trying to build projects of his own. He is now a developer programmes engineer at Google. Thompson said, "I still consider myself very much a UWI boy."

In his time at Google, Thompson worked on RecyclerView for Android devices and currently works on Firebase, Google's mobile app development platform. Thompson demonstrated some applications he created using Firebase. One had a local touch. He made a machine learning model to identify the presence of mangos in photographs.

Thompson said, "I decided I would do a doubles ML model to identify doubles because I love doubles." He explained that the model did not work because he uploaded too few images of the doubles, 50 instead of the recommended 100. By the time Thompson recognised this error he had already eaten his doubles so decided to switch to mangos instead. The application was successfully able to identify the presence of a mango in an image.



Trinidadian, UWI graduate, and Google Developer Programmes Engineer Arthur Thompson gives his engrossing presentation to the attendees at the Google Clouds AI Solutions Workshop. PHOTOS: ANEEL KAFIR

Hosein, a machine learning cloud engineer, began by clearing up what artificial intelligence is, and isn't. He separated fact from science fiction and explained how machine learning, a type of artificial intelligence, worked.

Using Gmail as an example, Hosein explained how Google uses machine learning to filter spam emails. He said the advantage of this is that the AI can learn from every piece of spam mail collected thereby being able to better differentiate between spam and not spam.

Hosein covered some of Google's applications that use

machine learning, for example Google Photos, which saves photos in the cloud and allows users to search their images. "You can just type puppy in, and you will get all of the pictures of your puppy," Hosein said.

For people wanting to try their hand at machine learning, Hosein recommended Colaboratory, an online notebook where you can write and execute code.

Technology was king that day and Fontama, Rachael Deacon-Smith, and Brandon McCutchen joined the workshop via Google Meet, a video conferencing application.

Deacon-Smith, a data strategic cloud engineer, pointed out that at Google, "there is so much to learn, it's always changing, it's changing every week. There is no way you're going to know everything."

She spoke about how she came to work at Google and her experience as a female of colour in an industry that can sometimes be dominated by "white males".

Deacon-Smith stressed taking advantage of opportunities when they present themselves as they may lead to even greater opportunities. She explained that when she applied to Google, she did not have much experience with interviews and applications and that she met her current supervisor at a networking event.

McCutchen, a Google University programme specialist, spoke about some of the jobs offered at the company and described the application and interview process.

He described what Google recruiters look for when hiring people fresh out of school looking for jobs or internships, and also people who have been or are currently employed elsewhere. He gave resume tips such as having the file in PDF and the type of words to use in the resume and described what one could expect in the lengthy interview process.



Marc Kanneh is a final year strategic communications student from the Florida Institute of Technology interning at the Marketing and Communications Office at The UWI St Augustine Campus. His interests include running and cooking.

CAMPUS NEWS

UWI HOSTS COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITIES' CLIMATE MEETING

From July 5 to 8, 2019, The UWI Regional Headquarters in Jamaica hosted the first-ever meeting of universities across the Commonwealth to collaborate on climate challenges and resilience in their countries.

The Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), made up of an estimated 500 institutions from over 50 countries, convened the first meeting of its Commonwealth Climate Resilience Network (CCRN) at UWI's Regional HQ. The meeting provided a structured opportunity to share good practices and explore potential for collaboration among universities.

On July 5, Coordinator of The UWI's Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD) and Director of the Centre for Environmental Management (CEM), Dr David Smith, along with disaster resilience consultant Mr Jeremy Collymore, delivered the opening remarks. The agenda over the four days included evaluation of CCRN's progress to date.

The meeting also included field visits to Discovery Bay Marine and Field Laboratory as well as Blue Mountains. On July 8, Vice-Chancellor of The UWI and President of the ACU, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles delivered the feature address, which was followed by closing hearings on the CCRN's programme of future activities.

The UWI's hosting of this meeting is a demonstration of its commitment to climate action as part of its Triple A Strategy (Strategic Plan 2017-2022), which includes the promotion of greater activism and public advocacy, as well as increasing the impact of its research and innovation. Earlier this year, the International Association of Universities (IAU) selected The UWI as its global leader in the mobilisation of research and advocacy for the achievement of a climate-smart world. The IAU designated this charge in recognition of the University's decades of outstanding research on climate change and sustainable development.

This critical collaboration on climate resilience supports the UN's Sustainable Goal on climate action, was reviewed in New York on July 10 through 12 at the High-Level Political Forum 2019 under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The UWI was represented in a number of events during the Forum.



SIGNING Ceremony

Chief Executive Officer of Lake Asphalt of Trinidad and Tobago Ltd, Mr Roger Wiggins (left) and Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal of The UWI St Augustine, Professor Brian Copeland sign a licence agreement in June 2019 to commercialise two asphalt-based products developed on the campus – "UWI Plastic Cement" and "UWI Primer". The agreement furthers UWI's strategic goal of creating an entrepreneurial university with a diversified revenue base. Looking on are Dr Richard Fairman, Head of the Department of Chemistry, and Mr Stephen Mc Clashie, Director of Lake Asphalt. The licence agreement follows a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed between The UWI and Lake Asphalt in 2015 to collaborate on research, development and commercialisation of asphalt and asphalt-based products.



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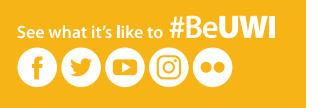
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■ OUR CAMPUS

CHAMPION OF ENTERPRISE PROFESSOR CHOWDARY Produce Lean and Green Innovations

BY DARA WILKINSON BOBB

Professor Boppana Chowdary is an advocate of sustainable innovation. He says, “societies are looking for solutions leading to sustainable economic development.”

He is referring to development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the future. One possible way forward, innovation in manufacturing engineering, was the subject of his professorial inaugural lecture on June 27 at UWI’s Faculty of Engineering. His lecture sought to advance sustainable manufacturing in Trinidad and Tobago through innovation and entrepreneurship in manufacturing engineering.

He is promoting the “3R” policy of Reuse, Reduce, and Recycle for existing products. Professor Chowdary pointed to a plastic recycling project underway at The UWI, whereby recycled plastic is used to create a filament for future use. This not only repurposes waste material but also helps reduce and manage UWI’s expenditure.

The manufacturing engineering process is optimised for completely new products by designing for geometry: that is, maximising product features. Additional considerations are strength and optimal energy consumption regarding moving parts.

Professor Chowdary lauded Singapore and Brazil, countries that have thriving manufacturing sectors. Quoting 2017 data, he noted that Singapore had a population of 5.16 million with a GDP of US\$323.9 billion, due in part to industries like electronics, chemicals, bio-medical fields, logistics, vehicles and transportation. Brazil, he noted, (as of 2016-2017) had a population of 207.7 million and a GDP of US\$2.036 trillion, with contributions from industries such as textiles, shoes, chemicals, cement, iron ore and aircrafts.

These economies not only show the possibilities for generating prosperity within Trinidad and Tobago through further development of sustainable manufacturing but provide the country with an option beyond the traditional subtractive manufacturing processes. In subtractive manufacturing, parts are crafted out of existing larger materials by removing (or subtracting) excess.

We are now in an era of additive manufacturing. In this process the engineer builds up a component in layers by adding materials. Professor Chowdary calls this a “what you see is what you build” process.

It is also “lean and green” requiring no additional tooling (like clamps) and, by using additive machines like 3D printers, the process is “green” under the 3R policy. Lean manufacturing consistently minimises waste to maximise flow. With 3D printers starting at US\$500, Professor Chowdary believes the average person can begin a garage business printing and selling commodities.

Professor Boppana Chowdary upholds manufacturing as important for the nation’s economy, particularly for diversification: “We need to advance. We need to have more exports and less imports.”

Therefore, in order to increase manufacturing activities, we (as a nation) must provide more incentives, including credit. Further, he said, we need to promote private and foreign direct investment, and access to cost-effective technology. Also required are experiential education and problem-based, project-based, inquiry-based, game-based education initiatives.



Professor Boppana Chowdary

In that regard, The UWI should continue as a translational hub to facilitate partnership with industry and to promote youth involvement in entrepreneurial activity, including garage-based manufacturing.

Professor Chowdary addresses system design, product design and application or improvement innovation in his research. His personal research activities have included design and selection of manufacturing systems by deployment of Computer Aided Design and Computer Aided Manufacturing (CAD/CAM), Rapid Prototyping (RP) tools and techniques.

Angostura and SM Jaleel and Company Ltd are two of the many firms benefitting from this research. He has innovated job systems by creating Virtual Manufacturing Cell Groupings (groups in the minds of workers for “families of jobs” in order to streamline job flow processes).

He is also an advocate of reverse engineering when there are “worn or broken parts for which there are no drawings which must be replaced” and no local supply.

Campus Principal, Professor Brian Copeland, saw the lecture as an important milestone, demonstrating the way



Campus Principal Professor Brian Copeland (right) and Dean of the Faculty of Engineering Professor Edwin Ekwue at the lecture. PHOTOS: ANEEL KARIM

Professor Boppana Chowdary attained his PhD in 1998 at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi and became a professor in India. He subsequently joined the Faculty of Engineering at The UWI, St Augustine as a lecturer. His technical expertise has been used to benefit industry in Trinidad and Tobago in such organisations as the Housing Development Corporation, Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA), and the Tunapuna-Piarco Regional Corporation, earning significant revenue for The UWI through this enterprise. He also helped restructure the MSc Manufacturing, Engineering and Management programme.

in which The UWI’s academic research impacts real life experience and issues. Principal Copeland emphasised that “innovation gives companies an edge in penetrating markets faster.” As such, strategic approaches to revitalising the Caribbean and an “entrepreneurship ecosystem” are vital for sustainable development.

■ OUR STUDENTS

Last May, there was a gathering of more than 500 student athletes from The UWI campuses throughout the region. They were all at the Mona Campus for the 2019 UWI Games.

On display were sporting excellence, teamwork, and Caribbean fellowship, and the announcement of the Vice-Chancellor’s Sportswoman and Sportsman of the Year.

Barbadian national netball captain Vanessa Bobb of the Cavehill Campus took the Sportswoman’s trophy. Trinidad and Tobago’s own Jordan Reynos, national hockey player and third year student at the St Augustine Campus, lifted the men’s award. He was a member of the “STA” squad of outstanding young sportsmen and women that won second place at the Games. The Mona Campus team came first, Cavehill third and Open Campus fourth.

Reynos, who is working towards his degree in Sports Management, has represented Trinidad and Tobago in over 30 games. He was part of the gold medal team at the Indoor Pan America Cup 2017, scoring three goals in the finals. This young man from Cascade in Port of Spain was also a member of the national squad that took part in the 2018 FIH Indoor Hockey World Cup in Berlin.

In addition to his sporting achievements, Reynos volunteers as a children’s coach at institutions such as the St Mary’s Children’s Home and through the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs. Incredibly, he is also a Sport Development Officer with the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service.

UWI Today sat down with Sportsman of the Year Jordan Reynos for a question and answer session.



REYNOS “reigneth”

UT: What was your Introduction to the world of hockey?

JR: I was born into the sport. My mom was a sportswoman and, when she was in school, she used to play football. She got a knee injury and was introduced to hockey. I started playing when I was five. One of my mom’s coaches, Leroy Sookdeo, started a club named SHAPE (Sookdeo’s Hockey Academy Promoting Excellence) and that’s when my brother and I started in hockey. He’s now in the Defence Force and I’m now working in the Police Service.

UT: What are some tournaments that stand out?

JR: My first tournament was a real eye-opener into the world of Hockey and the level of play. We played against England. They were ranked 6th and we ranked 28th. Then there was the Indoor World Cup in Germany 2018 - my best experience as a hockey player thus far! We played in front of the biggest crowd (of his sporting career) against the home team.

UT: What are your thoughts on sport in Trinidad and Tobago, including sport management?

JR: The reason why I’m doing sport management is because we have a lot of raw talent in Trinidad and Tobago and I don’t think our athletes reach their full potential. If we can better manage these shortcomings of ours, we can be on the world stage and achieve and maintain good recognition in numerous sports. We just need to tap into our ability as athletes and doing this degree will help me in helping other athletes.

UT: How was your UWI Games experience?

JR: Different. I went to the one in 2017 in Cave Hill and we stayed at a hotel. This time, in Mona, we stayed on a hall. And the experience was a totally different one. Mona’s atmosphere is more of a team and sport-oriented environment. From where we stayed, we could walk to the football, basketball, and netball fields. A nice experience in terms of bonding and interacting with other campuses!

UT: How does it feel to be VC Sportsman of the Year?

JR: It was a shocker because, looking at the fellow nominees, I didn’t think I would win. But it really feels great to be voted Sportsman of the Year and achieve something regionally.

UT: How would you use your position to influence others to get involved in sport?

JR: I’m all for using sport as a tool for development. My job with the Police Service is sport development officer. Sport is a tool that we can use in curbing crime and developing people. At an early age I was encouraged to use sport. When I went to QRC they always encouraged students to develop themselves not just academically, but as well-rounded people.

UT: What would you say to fellow students who may be hesitant to get involved in extracurricular activities?

JR: Sport helps in developing people. I have been travelling since I was 16. It helps in time management. That’s a big one for me - because if you don’t manage your time properly, it can affect you as a person. Sport is a really good avenue to help people learn about themselves as well. I would encourage any UWI student to get involved in a sport.

UT: Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

JR: Sport has done a lot for me and my goal is to give back through sport. I like working with the youth and in any way that I can give back through sport, I will gladly do so. It’s something I love.

UT: What are your thoughts on the new sports programmes being offered through The UWI’s Faculty of Sport?

JR: They show that The UWI is really serious about sport in the region. I really like the “One UWI” mode, opening up more opportunities for Caribbean people to be involved in sport - not just playing in the sport but at the administrative and other levels.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Gang rape and abuse without recourse. Denial of legal rights. Endangerment and exploitation of children. Human trafficking. These are just some of the horrors being faced by Venezuelan migrants in Trinidad and Tobago, highlighted during a May 8 regional hearing on human rights.

A UWI-led delegation painted a picture of the situation on the ground before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) in Jamaica. The resulting portrait was an ugly, incriminating and disturbing one.

The delegation, headed by Prof Rose-Marie Belle Antoine, Dean of the Faculty of Law at UWI's St. Augustine Campus, included Dr Priya Kissoon, Head of the Department of Geography, and Dona Da Costa Martinez, Executive Director of the Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago (FPATT).

The IACHR, part of the Organisation of American States (OAS) works to protect human rights in the Americas. Professor Belle Antoine noted it was the first time the University has formally come before the international body.

She was inspired to pursue the hearing, in part by xenophobia: "I find it incredible, the callousness we are hearing from ordinary people" and found it ironic, in light of the recent Windrush scandal in the UK, that "we complain about how we were treated and, without even thinking, we don't see the parallels."

"The Caribbean does not see itself as having human rights violations," she reflected, and yet Venezuelan migrants, fleeing to Trinidad and Tobago in increased numbers, are facing harsh realities that see their very presence increasingly stigmatised and criminalised.

Professor Antoine said the administrative failure of the country to put legal and policy frameworks in place has led to adverse conditions for Venezuela migrants, who find

"Recognising the humanity of the non-national will help us to recognise our own humanity."
Dr Priya Kissoon, Head of the Department of Geography, Faculty of Food and Agriculture, UWI St Augustine.

FPA Executive Director Dona Da Costa Martinez told the IACHR Commissioners of the work her organisation has been doing with the migrant community. She said they had been able to establish trust and were even sought as primary care providers for children, some of whom were malnourished or suffering from diabetes.

themselves unable to regularise their status or have access to health, work, education and basic protections.

"Human rights violations are occurring," she declared. Making matters worse, instead of a humanitarian approach, we seem to be going in the opposite direction.

Government has actually decreased previous protection measures meant to be alternatives to detention. Instead, law enforcement has relied on the more archaic Immigration Act — which provides no provision for asylum seekers or human rights standards for migrants.

"The right to seek and receive asylum is enshrined as an individual human right," Professor Antoine asserted, "yet migrants and refugees are increasingly criminalised in Trinidad and Tobago."

Despite ratifying the UN's Refugee Convention in 1951, the twin-island Republic has not been following the UN Refugee Agency's operating procedures. Migrants face exploitation by officials, ad hoc detentions and deportations, even where asylum has been granted, and a breakdown of systems at all levels, undermining migrants' rights and forcing them into illegality.

"Irregular migration is not a crime. Detention should be a last resort."

She said while Government's recent two-week amnesty period for migrants was "a step in the right direction," it was "unclear in scope," and does not provide due process guarantees.

Antoine also hailed the multi-disciplinary nature of the hearings, with forensic human geographer Dr Kissoon and FPATT shedding light on human and social aspects of the issue.

VENEZUELAN HUMANITARIAN CRISIS in Trinidad and Tobago

Human Rights Clinic takes on migration issue

BY GILLIAN MOORE



ILLUSTRATION:
CORI-ANN CHIN
Cori-Ann Chin is an artist and third year student at the Faculty of Humanities and Education, UWI St Augustine pursuing a degree in Visual Arts. She enjoys depicting life through her art and writing.

She was inspired to pursue the hearing, in part by xenophobia: "I find it incredible, the callousness we are hearing from ordinary people" and found it ironic, in light of the recent Windrush scandal in the UK, that "we complain about how we were treated and, without even thinking, we don't see the parallels."

Kissoon told the panel: "While men are increasingly stigmatised as criminals, women are labelled as hypersexual and face prejudice, discrimination, harassment, and assault."

Local men are "emboldened by the stereotype" and by the vulnerability of immigrant women, she said. "Verbal assaults and harassment are prolific and seemingly condoned in the absence of any recourse."

She shared a harrowing account of an adolescent girl whose flight to Trinidad and Tobago exposed her to sex trafficking and unwanted pregnancy.

"When borders are enforced in a draconian manner, people take greater risks, with more likelihood of exploitation," she said.

Children were especially vulnerable, with many lacking access to education and healthcare.

Many migrants' living conditions are inadequate and unsafe, especially for children. An International Organisation for Migration (IOM) survey of pregnant Venezuelan females in Trinidad and Tobago, revealed that 20 per cent were children.

Even police and detentions and immigration officials have been implicated in kidnapping, rape, sex trafficking, and sexual abuse of detainees.

Kissoon said, with "coordinated multi-stakeholder effort, we can work towards rights-based sustainable development for the nation."

"Recognising the humanity of the non-national will help us to recognise our own humanity."

FPA Executive Director Dona Da Costa Martinez told the IACHR Commissioners of the work her organisation has been doing with the migrant community. She said they

had been able to establish trust and were even sought as primary care providers for children, some of whom were malnourished or suffering from diabetes.

She said through the support of international agencies, FPATT was able to provide lifesaving sexual health and psycho-social support to migrants, meeting needs inadequately provided by the State. The association provides language interpreters and case liaisons, with special late hours to facilitate those with inflexible work schedules.

Despite misconceived fears that migration leads to the importation of infectious disease, FPATT had found that Venezuelan females are more vulnerable to sexual and reproductive health problems and violence while in Trinidad and Tobago.

Da Costa Martinez said the State's response was poor: "Although the Ministry of Health declared migrants were free to access public health services, the reality is that no mechanisms are in place to ensure that migrants who do so are not persecuted, prosecuted, deported, or even detained."

Responding to the presentations they had heard, IACHR Commissioners Antonia Urrejola, Second Vice President; Joel Hernández García, Vice-President of the Inter-American Juridical Committee; Luis Ernesto Vargas, Rapporteur on the Rights of Migrants; and, Francisco Eguiguren, Rapporteur on the Rights of Human Rights Defenders expressed shock, sadness, and anger, especially because Trinidad and Tobago had sent no State representative to the hearing.

Vargas called the situation "perverse" and said the State "should have been here to answer to this 'serious, documented crisis' that saw 'migrants' rights violated in such a flagrant way."

"Migration presents problems for States, but there is support," Hernandez noted that Trinidad and Tobago is a member state of the OAS, thus giving the IACHR the competence to act fully in the situation.

Professor Antoine said the Commission's work has helped topple dictators and she hoped its attention would bring about policy changes to improve the migrant situation.

She felt "If the average citizen would listen, they would feel moved."

"I would like to think we have that basic humanity."

Gillian Moore is a writer, editor and singer-songwriter.



Professor Antoine (left) speaking with Antonia Urrejola Noguera, IACHR's Second Vice-President and Rapporteur for Trinidad and Tobago, and IACHR's First Vice-President, Joel Hernández García. PHOTOS: COURTESY THE FACULTY OF LAW, UWI ST AUGUSTINE



Dona Da Costa Martinez (left), Executive Director of the Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago, makes her presentation while Dr Priya Kissoon, Head of UWI St Augustine's Department of Geography looks on.

STUDENT CENTREDNESS FEATURE

Preparing them for *life*

BY JOEL HENRY

STUDENT CENTREDNESS: The UWI will ensure that its policies, governance and daily operations are geared towards the delivery of an exceptional teaching and learning experience for all students.

Taken from The University of the West Indies' Core Values

You want to attend The UWI but you can't afford it, any of it. You're a UWI student and the pressures of life have left you anxious or depressed. You're living away from home for the first time on a hall of residence and you aren't prepared. You're thinking about your career options after graduation and you don't know how to proceed. You've been a student most of your life, and nothing much else, but you want more, for yourself and society.

Campus life is a time of incredible opportunity. For many it is also a frightening time of difficulty and need. Thankfully, students at The UWI St Augustine have an incredible resource to support them on their higher education journey - the Division of Student Services and Development (DSSD).

"We are charged with looking after the student life experience," says Dr Deirdre Charles, Director of DSSD. "We collaborate and link with faculties to ensure that students get a holistic experience of university life and make the best of that experience."

A huge mandate and, with eight departments and a staff of 125, DSSD strives to meet the needs of every kind of student. The Office of the Director focuses on the Division's strategic direction and is only responsible for the First Year Experience (FYE), UWI's massive student orientation initiative.

The other seven departments are Career, Co-Curricular Development and Community Engagement; Financial Advisory Services (which deals with scholarships, bursaries, other financial support and advice); Students Activities/Facilities and Commuting Students; Student Life and Development (including services for students with disabilities); Student Accommodation; Counselling and Psychological Services (CAPS); and the Office of the Guild of Students (headquarters for student government).

Each department offers a host of services and programmes. FYE alone has 21 programmes. "Touch each student once", a phrase coined by DSSD Manager Kathy-Ann Lewis, exemplifies DSSD's vision. Students thinking about their future careers are touched by programmes like World of Work. Those looking for fun and enriching campus life activities can be touched by Miss UWInverse, and many others. Those with emotional trauma receive the touch of counselling and therapy sessions, and on and on.

Considering the comprehensive purview of her division, it would not be unreasonable to expect Dr Charles to be a remote administrator, operating in her office and in meetings. The students tell you differently. She is a familiar presence in their lives. In fact, her approach is remarkably personal.



"For us at DSSD, we are humans first," she says. "We have to be passionate and we have to feel our purpose. I come from a small island, Saint Lucia. Leaving Saint Lucia and going to study abroad for all my degrees showed me the importance of having that kind of support. It showed me the importance of having empathy for somebody who is coming into a new culture. You may be local and from deep South but when you come to our space, you have to feel like you have landed home. You have to feel that you have made the right decision to become part of our higher education population."

Time and time again, that personal aspect has been most rewarding for the staff of DSSD. Dr Charles has several stories of the division's intervention in the lives of students that made a profound positive impact. She recounts the story of a brilliant young medical student from Dominica who lost her brother to cancer at an early age and then her

older sister to the disease. Through her own strength and determination, with support from DSSD, she went on to achieve First Class Honours.

Another student who grew up an orphan in a Children's Home, made it to UWI, but found herself without a proper place to live and study. DSSD intervened and found her a place on one of the halls of residence where she was able to successfully complete her degree in medical sciences.

A third student lived with his brother in a shack in the woods after the deaths of their parents. He wanted to come to UWI to study engineering but he couldn't afford it. DSSD stepped in again and helped him achieve his engineering degree. Today he does scale modelling of homes. His career is taking off.

"We have these courageous stories," Dr Charles exclaims. "We tend to forget because there are so many students and so many stories. Years later you may be out and a student will walk up to you and remind you. They might say something like 'what UWI did for me then made a big difference in my life'. For me, that's priceless."

In recounting these stories, the DSSD Director is quick to point out the role of the students themselves, the determination they show in their particular circumstances. The greatest support DSSD can give a student is helping them achieve personal development.

She goes on, "higher education should not just be about getting a degree that says I am excellent in some field of work or study. It is about becoming well-rounded and ready to take on the next phase of my life. We know the students are bright but we want the other aspects of development. We want them to be able to organise and problem-solve. We want them to volunteer. We want them to understand the importance of being in a group and staying in a group when the dynamics of the group aren't functioning properly. We want to create leaders."

Apart from the intrinsic benefits of personal development, this approach gives graduates an advantage in their post-university lives. Dr Charles says employers reach out to the campus to tell them they don't necessarily want a first class honours student. They want a "well-rounded student".

The DSSD Director stresses that students see and use their time at university for their holistic growth. The long-term benefits are enormous:

"You may not see the importance of it now but, trust me, it is so invaluable. Take advantage of this opportunity that you have been given. Once you come into a higher education space, say to yourself, 'I am here to develop the whole of me'."

Dr Deirdre Charles, Director of the Division of Student Services and Development (DSSD). PHOTO: ATIBA GUDJOE

STUDENT CENTREDNESS FEATURE

It Takes a Village... UWI'S ADOPT-A-STUDENT PROGRAMME

BY AVAH ATHERTON

At 4 o'clock every morning, Michael Bristol travels from his home in La Fillette, on the north-eastern coast of Trinidad, to The UWI in St Augustine where he studies computer science. After classes, he travels back home and tutors the children in his village for their CSEC and SEA exams. The next day, he does it all again and has been doing so for a year.

Michael isn't a story we tell children when they aren't being appreciative of what they have, he's real. He's also ambitious and aims to be a respected member of his community. He wants to improve the world through software design and development. He wants to become a pilot. Any or all of the above would be satisfactory, in no particular order. Michael believes he has far to go but at 21 years of age, look at how far he has come.

At 12, he joined the Trinidad and Tobago Cadet Force and spent the next seven years learning the principles of discipline and respect. At 16, he helped his parents run a small business, an Internet cafe based in La Fillette, a much needed service for the area. At 19, he was the first youth officer to be made drill sergeant of his battalion at the Cadet Force.

At UWI, at age 20, he built and launched two mobile apps along with two classmates, Amanda Seenath and Azel Daniel. Those apps, The UWI GPA Calculator and The UWI Shuttle Routing Tracking System, are still available for download on the Play Store. At 21, he started a sole trader, Brissk Software Solutions, providing customised web services to clients in Trinidad as well as Tobago. "Michael have it nice", you might think, but that's far from the truth.

Michael has been a recipient of financial funding via The UWI's Adopt-A-Student programme since 2017. Recommended by a member of staff, he has been using the monthly bursaries to primarily help offset the cost of transportation to and from campus for the last two years.

Although there is a stigma associated with the need for financial assistance, Michael believes that by acting as an ambassador for the programme and sharing information about the benefits, he can make a positive impact on the lives of fellow students. He has already noted an increase in attendance from students who once cited lack of transportation funds as their reason for missing classes but who became recipients of the fund themselves.

The UWI's Adopt-a-Student programme has been in operation since 2005 and, to date, it has provided financial assistance to over 500 students. It is funded by the personal contributions of the University's academic, administrative, and technical services staff members. Adopt-a-Student is one of the financial assistance funds offered by UWI St Augustine's Division of Student Services and Development (DSSD).

Meet Tanisha Lewis, a 34-year-old mother from Arima. She has worked at The UWI for 13 years and firmly believes in giving back to her community. She volunteers at graduation. She collects plastic waste after campus events and deposits them personally in the appropriate recycling



Michael Bristol PHOTO: AVAH ATHERTON

"The UWI's Adopt-a-Student programme has been in operation since 2005 and, to date, it has provided financial assistance to over 500 students. It is funded by the personal contributions of the University's academic, administrative, and technical services staff members."

bins. She is currently the Senior Student Services Assistant at the Guild and she leaves her door wide open for students to feel welcome. From the near-constant traffic in and out of her office, they do.

Tanisha has been contributing to the Adopt-a-Student fund for the past 12 years and has made a point of increasing her contribution every time her salary increases. Her monthly subscriptions are considered as important as her

bills, something she just has to do without question.

Recently, Tanisha was invited to meet some of the students who have benefitted from the programme. She was not ashamed to say "I cried" at that meeting. She knows, from her daily interaction with students, how many of them struggle to have their basic needs met, especially regional students who do not have the advantage of GATE funding. Tanisha believes that she can help make a difference and so she does.

Well known in her office for her philanthropy, she has been encouraging her friends and colleagues to commit to the fund. "Even one dollar could make a difference to a student," she says and clearly believes. She doesn't stop at this programme though and has found funding for one student who could not afford the late registration fee and another who needed to buy lab equipment.

Tanisha is a force of nature in her own right with an awe-inspiring drive to be of service to others.

Be a Tanisha – for all the Michaels at UWI St. Augustine.

Members of staff of **The UWI** or readers of **UWI Today** interested in making a contribution to the **Adopt-a-Student fund** can do so by contacting **Kristy.Smith@sta.uwi.edu**

STUDENT CENTREDNESS FEATURE

2019/2020 GUILD PRESIDENT JUSTIN SUBERO

Reframing the Student Guild



Student Guild Council President Justin Subero.
PHOTO: ATIBA CUDJOE

“Take yourself seriously,” said Ewart Williams, former Governor of the Central Bank, Chairman of The UWI St Augustine Campus Council, and well-known and regarded citizen of Trinidad and Tobago.

He was responding to a question about what advice he would give today’s UWI students. Meeting Justin Subero, the new President of UWI St Augustine’s Guild of Students Council, it seems clear he’s a believer in the Williams approach.

Not that he is overly stern or serious - on the contrary, Justin is an amiable young man. But, when he speaks about the vision that he and his team have for the Guild and the entirety of the student body, it’s clear that he is very serious about the responsibilities of leadership.

“I want students to understand the importance of the Guild and the work that we do,” he says. “We represent them at very high-level committees and boards.”

They are the official representatives of the student body to UWI and sit on the university’s planning, finance, and academic committees and attend regional meetings on behalf of the students.

“Many students don’t realise the impact that Student Government has on a university. Our job is to change the culture so that they are more in tune with the entire process.”

The Guild of Students is responsible for a host of campus activities and events. Campus Carnival, Caribbean Integration Week and inter-faculty games, for example, all

aim to enrich students and campus life.

Subero and his team won the election in March 2019, succeeding the Council headed by Darrion Narine. Justin, who was the Secretary of that Council, notes that there is continuity between the strategic plan of his predecessor and the current plan.

He has his own goals as President: “my plan is to bring back a proper framework and structure for the Guild. I think that has been lacking for the last couple years.”

As part of this agenda the new Council (25 members including the Executive, hall chairpersons, faculty representatives and special committee chairs) has reinstated the position of Guild Librarian. The goal is to foster accountability in the Guild.

The son of Sheldon Subero, a former senior officer in the Trinidad and Tobago Regiment, Justin attributes his discipline and desire to make a positive contribution to his father. He was also influenced by his older brother Darien, a UWI graduate who was also a member of a Guild Council.

He believes his greatest attribute is “consistency” and the young leader will need it. Entering his final year in the rigorous computer science programme, he now has to deal with the added labours and responsibilities of Guild President – a president with an ambitious agenda.

“It’s tough,” he smiles. “But I have an amazing team.... And I’m somebody that likes a challenge.”

Serious indeed.



Guild President Subero (centre) at the swearing in ceremony with the members of the Guild Executive (from left) Devon Harris, Guild Postgraduate Representative; Nathanael John, Guild Vice President; Darweshi Gyton-Baptiste, Guild Treasurer; and Teshanna Mohammed, Guild Secretary. PHOTO: ANEEL KARIM

Dare to Be!

Making First Year a positive year



Jarell Alder

A new university student’s first year experience is often like entering a new world.

For many, it’s a rite of young adulthood.

For others, it is a journey into further education after years of work and life experience.

For most, the campus is a sprawling setting, an enclosed

community of thousands, brimming with challenges, friendships, experiences, and opportunities for development.

All usually find it difficult to navigate. That is why the St. Augustine Campus developed FYE – First Year Experience.

“Students really want support,” says Jarell Alder programme coordinator in the Division of Student Services Development (DSSD).

He would know. His responsibility for designing quality student programming that engages students and enriches their lives on campus makes Jarell well-versed in the student experience. One such initiative is The UWI St Augustine FYE.

FYE, UWI’s annual student orientation, targets undergraduate and postgraduate students. Through a holistic compilation of all orientation and transition events, students can embrace every aspect of university life.

“Holistic” is a key word in FYE. DSSD does its best to reach all students through sub-programmes - for persons with disabilities, international and regional students, mature students, postgraduate students, students new to residential life on campus, and even commuting students.

But “holistic” also applies to the students themselves - as in their holistic development:

“Student programming contributes to the creation of global citizen. A global citizen is not just someone who is intelligent. It is someone who is holistic in their thinking and involvement,” says Jarell.

It is this aspect of the field that drew the young professional, himself a UWI alumnus, to the occupation.

“I have found great purpose in student services. You are in a position of influence. You are dealing with the next generation of leaders, people who are going to change the landscape, not just of the country, but at a global level. I really find it inspiring.”

UWI Smart Start is the first rung in the FYE ladder. A pre-university orientation programme for prospective students, Smart Start helps them understand the realities of campus life. For students who have been accepted to UWI, information and access services are at their fingertips – online – and, physically, at faculty offices and the DSSD.

At the time of writing, there were also plans to create a closed Facebook group for students who have been given an offer to attend UWI St Augustine.

“Students should know that we are grateful they have made the choice to #BeUWI on the St. Augustine Campus. We are taking a rigorous approach and unified approach to ensure that, at every touchpoint, the campus is working in their best interest,” says Jarell.

The FYE theme for this Academic Year is ‘Dare to Be’ and The UWI St. Augustine Campus is ensuring that each student is equipped to face the challenges ahead and to fulfil all they were meant to be.

BOOKS

Roaming the landscape of LOVE AND CULTURE

BY JOEL HENRY

In *Trio*, the ninth story of Opal Adisa’s anthology *Love’s Promise*, the remorseful narrator tells the story of an affair with her daughter’s husband, and getting pregnant. She says, “me really, really need to tell someone and get it off my chest cause it’s like a dead horse lying on top of me.”

The reader feels the weight as well - of remorse, shame, and loss. It’s a hard read, not what you’d expect from a book described as a “sweet respite.”

“Women really hate this story,” Professor Adisa laughs. “Love is such a strange thing. For me part of my job as a writer is to try and get people to understand and be less judgmental. Not to condone, because I don’t condone it. But things happen and I’m trying in my work to understand the complexity of emotions.”

Surprisingly, that search for understanding is what stands out most about the 11 stories that make up *Love’s Promise*. It is, as the introduction by Professor Carole Boyce Davies of Cornell University says, “a refreshing mélange of joys and sadness.”

Love’s Promise is a rigorous examination of human emotion. Adisa has thought about love, and she’s thought about it very deeply.

Professor Opal Palmer Adisa is an award-winning writer and performer as well as the Director of the Institute of Gender and Development Studies (IGDS) at The UWI’s Mona Campus in Jamaica. She’s a feminist and Caribbean woman, deeply invested in the culture of the region. The great joy of speaking with her is listening to how she unveils the intricate inner architecture of ideas on the things she is passionate about - womanhood (and manhood), the arts, cultural preservation, and of course love.

Professor Adisa was in Trinidad and Tobago at UWI St Augustine in June to launch *Love’s Promise* along with *Interviewing the Caribbean*. The ceremony, at the campus’ Alma Jordan Library, attracted several well-known writers, artists, educators, and lovers of the arts.

Interviewing the Caribbean, created in 2015, is a cultural journal that includes interviews with prominent writers, artists and gender activists. Subjects include legendary painter Lerory Clarke, author Earl Lovelace, Professor of Gender and Principal of The UWI Cavehill Campus Eudine Barribeau, and UWI St Augustine’s own Principal, Professor Brian Copeland.

She views this publication as a much-needed tool for cultural preservation:

“Our culture is rich but it’s dying. I find that many of the younger people are not in tune with our stories. Even at Mona we have an obelisk with the names of the men and women who worked that plantation before it became a university and a lot of the students are totally oblivious to it. They never seem to take the time to reflect and to say ‘I am here because of those people.’”

“My nieces and nephews know no Anansi stories,” she says.

Growing up on the Caymanas Estate (a sugar estate about 15 miles from Kingston, Jamaica), Adisa was deeply connected to the culture and land.

“I had that immense space to roam. And I used to



“Love is such a strange thing. For me part of my job as a writer is to try and get people to understand and be less judgmental. Not to condone, because I don’t condone it. But things happen and I’m trying in my work to understand the complexity of emotions.”



Professor Adisa with author Earl Lovelace at the book launch at the Alma Jordan Library on June 11. PHOTOS: ANEEL KARIM

room. I was considered a tom boy because the gender equality thing wasn’t there. I climbed trees and jumped off buildings as a little girl. I went to the canals and swam with my brothers (she has two brothers and a sister). I went into the woods with my slingshot. My brothers allowed me to be with them. I was curious.”

That seeking, roaming and curious nature is all over her work. She’s free of cliché like only an inquisitive mind can be. Deeply feminist, she speaks of Caribbean women like her mother and the “community of the market.”

“My mother used to take me to the market and there was something about the women there who were their own persons. I saw the way they bonded together if someone tried to rob them, that camaraderie,” she says. “Just about all of my stories, even though they feature men, the primary protagonists are women. The woman’s energy is very much a big part of the Caribbean.”

Still, she wants the “war between men and women” to stop: “there is a kind of imbalance that has happened in the last 30 years. We’ve looked at the imbalance of women and now we are seeing there is an imbalance of men. How do we rectify that? How do we find a way to look at both men and women and what our specific needs are in the society? How can we best support each other?”

Love’s Promise is filled with this kind of wisdom. The book, she says, is about love “but not all love is pretty love.” The anthology includes supernatural stories such as *The Living Roots*, stories that look at the abuse women face such as *Matrimony*, the love of mother and children, and yes, “pretty love” stories such as the title story itself, *Love’s Promise*.

Professor Adisa has several writing projects either ongoing or planned while managing to discharge a very demanding administrative position as IGDS Director. And, of course, there is *Interviewing the Caribbean*. Adisa has personally conducted and written many of the interviews. How does she do it all?

“My head is always filled with stories and ideas,” she says, smiling.

But more than the ideas, is the inclination, to climb, jump and swim through their terrain.



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CAMPUS NEWS

Bridging the International Gap in Volcano Science



Workshop participants represented 20 countries from all corners of the globe

Over 60 per cent of active volcanoes in the last 10,000 years are located in Low-to-Middle-Income Countries (LMICs). Here active volcanoes are monitored and studied by dedicated local scientists. Many of these have significantly contributed to our understanding of how volcanoes work. Yet the vast majority of scientific work presented in journals and conferences is led by researchers from countries outside of LMICs. What's wrong with this picture?

Last month, The UWI Seismic Research Centre (UWI-SRC), together with volcanologists and scientists from across the globe, worked to address this imbalance in representation at a workshop discussing the challenges and opportunities in undertaking volcanology

research, monitoring, and risk mitigation in an environment where resources are constrained.

The focus was on the advancement of volcano science through country partnerships, by creating a community-driven network (as part of IAVCEI – the International Association for Volcanologists) to support scientists from LMICs.

UWI Today interviewed IAVCEI Network Chair and UWI-SRC volcanologist based at the Montserrat Volcano Observatory (MVO) Dr Victoria Miller about the workshop's discussions and outcomes.

Q: How did the idea for this workshop come about?

VM: Having strong networks in academia is very important if you work in a specialised field like volcanology. I realised this a few years ago when I was working on natural hazard projects in the Asia-Pacific region. I was looking for opportunities for my colleagues in Papua New Guinea to engage in international forums. Given the cost associated with travel, the vast majority of attendees at volcanology conferences are from North America and Europe, so people from countries like Papua New Guinea wouldn't get to take advantage of these types of opportunities. So the idea came about to build a network that would break down these barriers.

Q: Who were the attendees of the workshop?

VM: The workshop was attended by scientists representing 20 countries, including volcanologists from LMICs such as Argentina, Belgium, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Mexico, Montserrat, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States and Vanuatu. Participants were representatives of national government organisations, volcano observatories, and academic institutes.

Q: Name some of the challenges facing these volcanologists and LMICs in general?

VM: Limited financial resources are at the top of the list, and a lack of facilities for data analysis, as well as limited human resources. At any given institute there is a small number of employees so there are limits in both the breadth of expertise and the ability to travel overseas, particularly in a volcano observatory setting, where a minimum number of scientists is required at all times for safety reasons.

Another challenge is international collaborators. In certain cases, not all collaborators establish mutually beneficial partnerships, resulting in researchers undertaking work in a region without consulting local scientists. This is a big obstacle during a volcanic crisis, when international researchers make comments to the public without realising the possible impact this can have on these critical relationships.

Q: How will the community-driven network address issues discussed in the workshop?

VM: Workshop members worked together to provide a solution for a challenge that has affected most countries – issues arising from engagement with international collaborators. We developed a set of best-practice guidelines for engagement when undertaking volcano science in LMICs. These guidelines will be circulated amongst the volcanological community for comment, with a view to becoming IAVCEI-endorsed protocols.

Q: What implications will the network have for volcano science in Caribbean islands and other LMICs globally?

VM: The overarching aim of the network is to foster international partnerships with and between LMICs. The network will advocate for volcano scientists in LMICs at the global level to gain access to valuable resources for scientific research and to ensure a voice in strategic discussions. Volcanologists in the Caribbean, as well as other regions, will be able to improve the scientific work they undertake and to lobby for tools and research that are applicable to their specific work programmes.

Q: What role does/will The UWI play in this network?

VM: UWI is a key participant in this network through my role as Chair and through the involvement of other scientists at The UWI-SRC. UWI has demonstrated its support for the network by co-convening this workshop, as well as its willingness to reach out to other LMICs.



IAVCEI Network Chair and Montserrat Volcano Observatory Volcanologist Dr Victoria Miller (standing) with workshop attendees.
PHOTOS: COURTESY UWI SEISMIC RESEARCH CENTRE (UWI-SRC)

This workshop was co-convened and funded by The UWI-SRC, IAVCEI Developing Nations Network, International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), US Agency for International Development (USAID), Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and Université Libre De Bruxelles (ULB).

UWI Calendar of Events

JULY – OCTOBER 2019

Submit your Ideas for the Future

CAF-Development Bank of Latin America, in collaboration with the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, hosts the Ideas for the Future Essay Competition for university students. Submit your thoughts on what your country will look like in 30 years and more to win US\$2,000 and present your essay at the CAF Conference in Quito, Ecuador in November 2019. The deadline for submissions is July 31.

For more information, please visit <https://www.caf.com/en/currently/news/2019/05/registration-for-the-ideas-for-the-future-university-essay-competition-is-now-open/>

Share your thoughts for the 4th Caribbean International Tourism Conference

A call for papers and posters has been issued for the 4th Caribbean International Tourism Conference under the theme, Navigating the Destination of the Future, to be held from December 11 to 13 at The UWI Cave Hill Campus. The conference will provide a forum for critical discourse on the factors, challenges, trends, innovations, policies, opportunities, and practices that are likely to have the most influence on the destinations of the future. The deadline for submission of abstracts is July 31.

For more information, please visit <https://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/tourismconference2019/call-for-papers.aspx>.

Call for Papers on Academic Literacies

The UWI Quality Education Forum (QEF) has issued a Call for Papers on Academic Literacies in Higher Education for the 24th issue of their annual peer-reviewed journal published by The UWI, Office of the Board for Undergraduate Studies (OBUS). The deadline for abstracts is August 25.

For more information, please visit the **Campus Notices and Announcements page** at <https://sta.uwi.edu/news/notices/> or email qef.obus@uwimona.edu.jm.

Welcome new UWI students and their supporters! August 28 The UWI SPEC

Did you get your acceptance letter from The UWI St Augustine Campus for the Academic year 2019/2020? Then look out for your invitation to UWI Life 2019 under the theme, Dare to Be. This is the campus' orientation programme for all new students and their supporters as part of the year-long First Year Experience (FYE) programme.

SAVE THESE DATES

- **UWI Life Student Orientation** – For new undergraduate and postgraduate students to meet Campus Management, Faculty Deans and pertinent support staff to guide and answer questions. Also look out for special guest artists, giveaways and more! | 9am to noon at The UWI Sport and Physical Education Centre (SPEC).
- **UWI Life Supporter Orientation** – For parents, spouses and loved ones to meet and interact with Campus Management to address concerns and understand their role in supporting their UWI student. | 6 to 8pm at The UWI SPEC.

For more information, please check the email you used to apply to The UWI St. Augustine!



COTE 19
CONFERENCE ON THE ECONOMY
October 9-10, 2019

Re-evaluating Strategies for Sustainable Economies UWI St Augustine

The Department of Economics has issued a Call for Papers for their Conference on the Economy (COTE) under the theme, Re-evaluating Strategies for Sustainable Economies. They are seeking abstracts covering sub-themes such as Innovation, Technological Change and Growth, and Advances in Economic Analysis and Reporting among others. The deadline for submission of abstracts is August 9. The conference takes place from October 9 to 10.

For more information, please visit the **Campus Notices and Announcements page** at <https://sta.uwi.edu/news/notices/> or call 662-2002 ext. 82630.

The UWI SPEC International Half Marathon October 20 The UWI SPEC

Run for Autism Awareness at the 16th Annual UWI SPEC International Half-Marathon. The marathon takes place at 5.30am from The UWI SPEC. If you haven't formed a four-person relay team as yet, form one today! Each leg of the relay is 5km.

For updates, please check <https://sta.uwi.edu/spec/marathon/>



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