



UWI TODAY

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES • ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

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Carry on Tradition

Awash in colour, a moko jumbie towers over the *Gayelle* at **Old Yard 2017**. Named after an African god “*Moko*” and the West Indian term for spirit “*Jumbie*”, the character has long captured the imagination of Caribbean society. Today it is kept alive by practitioners devoted to maintaining these cultural forms and passing them on to succeeding generations. Moko jumbies and the numerous aspects of traditional Carnival were on full display at **Old Yard 2017**. An initiative of the **Department of Creative and Festival Arts**, the event was held on February 19 at DCFA headquarters on Agostini Street in St. Augustine. Old Yard is a teaching lab for its students, a history lesson for its audience and an excellent way to spend a Sunday during the Carnival season. PHOTO: ANEEL KARIM

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■ Crunching the Numbers



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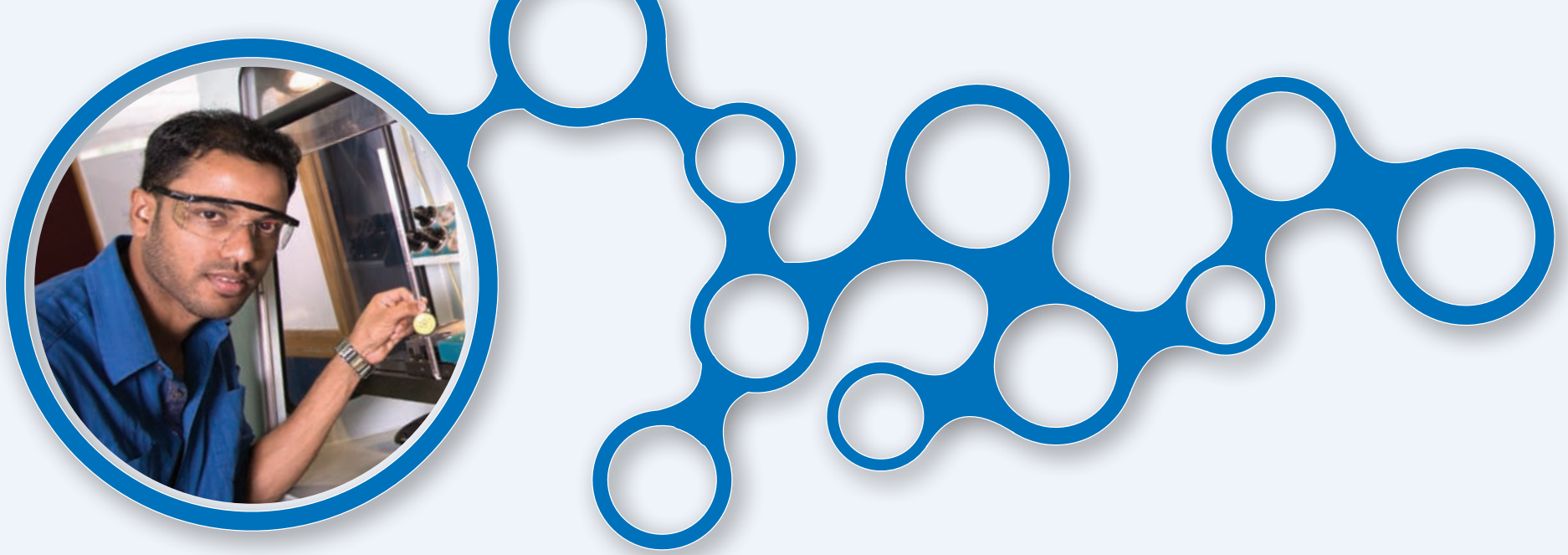


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Superhero of the Soil

■ Alpha Sennon





engaging *for innovation*

“Innovation comes from experience. If you look at most of the innovation in the world, it arose from people engaged in an activity and finding a need within that activity. You don’t get that experience by just reading a book. You have to be engaged, see the problem, and then create the solution.”

That was Professor Brian Copeland, during an interview conducted in 2014 for *UWI Today*, when he was in his final year as Dean of the Faculty of Engineering. Now, just mid-way through his first year as Campus Principal, this message is beginning to reverberate throughout the Campus.

Here’s the thing though - aren’t we in the Caribbean already an innovative people? In Trinidad and Tobago, for instance, the very existence of the steel pan is a constant reminder that the ability to make something wonderful out of nothing is part of our cultural legacy.

Truly, that is just half the story.

Innovation, by definition, is a product or process that has been created anew and has begun to produce returns on investment. Models show that innovation is necessary for wealth generation; wealth generation is necessary for sustainable development; and sustainable development is necessary to improve the lives of people today without compromising the prospects of the generations to follow.

Achieving sustainable development requires five stages of activity:

- 1. cutting edge scientific enquiry;**
- 2. product and process creation;**
- 3. product development;**
- 4. production and services; and, finally,**
- 5. commercial activity, resulting in revenue and profit, to re-fuel the cycle.**

In the last five years, The UWI has consciously and consistently strengthened its support for research and innovation that impact critical regional developmental goals. Numerous international publications and accolades prove our capability for high quality knowledge creation. Here then is the gap in the regional model: product and process creation, and product development. Worse, profits

are generally syphoned out of the development chain, starving rather than feeding it.

The problem isn’t new: a private sector built on the plantation system’s model of guaranteed commodity markets has long been identified by economists such as Sir Arthur Lewis and Dr Lloyd Best. The system is risk-averse, preferring a model of import, mark-up, and sale of products as well as services, participating only in the final stage of the model.

Given the current economic crisis facing the region, it is past time to close that gap and UWI is on a mission to lead the way to a new learned behaviour. Just as risk aversion is learned, so too are risk-taking and entrepreneurship. The St. Augustine Campus has been on that track for some time. UWI’s annual *Entrepreneurship Bootcamp*, in partnership with the National Entrepreneurship Development Company Limited and the Entrepreneurial Training Institute and Incubation Centre, has over the years exposed students to the basics of taking an idea to market and setting up their own business. For longer term approaches, the MA in Creative Design: Entrepreneurship, the Postgraduate Diploma in Arts & Cultural Enterprise Management are offered by the Faculty of Humanities & Education; Entrepreneurship majors and minors are offered in the Faculties of Food & Agriculture, and Social Sciences.

Evidence is growing that students are interested. This year the Faculty of Food and Agriculture reported on the popularity of its new undergraduate entrepreneurship programme and, according to the Campus Office of Planning and Institutional Research (COPIR), its 2015 survey of prospective students revealed that, while just 8% of respondents came from homes where the main income earner was “self-employed”, 49% said they wanted and expected to acquire entrepreneurial skills as UWI students.

Stand-alone courses, three-day boot camps, or even full-fledged programmes are insufficient to make the change really required – a complete cultural shift so as to create an ecosystem that encourages and provides tangible support for what Professor Emeritus St. Clair King calls “a new embryonic entrepreneurial class for success”.

Under his leadership the Real Time Systems Group (RTSG) was established in the 1980s within the

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. RTSG created the first electronic scoreboard in the Queen’s Park Oval, an offshore data movement system for Trinmar, and did work for the national provider, the Telecommunications Services of Trinidad and Tobago. RTSG was meant to act as an incubator or hub for product development as part of the innovation process, a Stanford to a local version of Silicon Valley that ultimately never materialised. They had the ball, but no one to take it off the Campus and run with it.

Flash forward some 30 years and one of the members of that fledgling RTSG is at the helm. The Campus is building on that experience by establishing a Centre for Export Entrepreneurship and Innovation (CEEI) to foster an export-oriented, entrepreneurial culture at the Campus, across Trinidad and Tobago, and in the region.

The Centre, in fact, gives life to an idea Professor Copeland expressed in that 2014 article:

“We need a process in this University that carries us through the whole value chain, right through to commercial reality ... Somebody comes up with a brand new idea and within the next two to three years, it is a saleable product through a company that UWI has some kind of interest in. You build your students by exposing them to that whole cycle. You encourage staff. You have an alternate income stream. And you are adding to the country and region’s economic landscape.”

Today the ingredients for the ecosystem are all being brought together – the academic curriculum, facilities, research and development focus based on market foresight, together with internships across all disciplines which provide students with work experience while helping them identify innovation opportunities.

No one expects that every student will become an entrepreneur or that every budding entrepreneur can be prepared to take on an export market. For those so inclined and with an innovative idea, the Campus is intent on providing them with what they need to succeed. This will influence others to either explore their own opportunities for innovation or go against the grain by supporting and investing in critical areas such as product and process creation, as well as development. In this way, structured support meets organic growth and becomes a Movement. We are all winners.

■ CAMPUS NEWS

UWI Team takes part in Harvard Model UN



From left: Kurba-Marie Questelles, Andel Andrew, Andrew Lavia, Professor Jessica Byron (Director of the Institute of International Relations), Campus Principal Professor Brian Copeland and Kia Jaikaran at a small gathering before the students journeyed to the Harvard National Model United Nations.
PHOTO: ATIBA CUDJOE

The UWI was represented by a delegation of 16 at the Harvard National Model United Nations (HNMUN) from February 16-19 in Boston, Massachusetts. The team was made up of students from the St. Augustine, Cave Hill and Mona Campuses. St. Augustine was represented by four post graduate students.

Kurba-Marie Questelles, Kia Jaikaran, Andrew Lavia and Andel Andrew were assigned to Poland and participated on two committees: the Disarmament and International Security Committee (GA-DISEC) and the Special Political and Decolonisation Committee (GA-SPECPOL). The students were expected to analyse and frame a resolution for two main topics.

HNMUN is a replication of the United Nations General Assembly. It brings together over 3,000 students and faculty from colleges and universities around the world and allows participants to experience and tackle challenges associated with international negotiation and diplomacy. Delegates gain insights into the works of the United Nations by actively participating in the resolution of global issues. Participants work with hundreds of other motivated students with the common goals of strengthening international awareness.

On a Digital Path

Caribbean Court turns to The UWI



Two key Caribbean institutions have joined forces. In January 2017 the Caribbean Court of Justice launched a new electronic court management system that will enhance its efficiency and its accessibility for regional users. The CCJ has signed an agreement with The UWI St. Augustine's Department of Mathematics and Statistics (DMS) to develop the financial structure for the system's electronic filing component.

The CCJ's Electronic Case Management System is made up of several components, one of them being Folio, an e-filing portal. Attorneys and litigants can use Folio to file cases online. A crucial part of this service is developing a transparent and fair fee structure for users. The technical expertise for this will be provided by the Actuarial Science Programme of the UWI DMS.

In January, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal Professor Brian Copeland signed a memorandum of understanding with Sir Dennis Byron, President of the CCJ, at the Court in Port of Spain, Trinidad.

The Actuarial Science Programme was launched in September 2011. It is headed by Mr. Stokely Smart.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

OUR ROLE IN CULTURE



At the time of writing, the wonder that is Trinidad and Tobago's Carnival season has come to a close. I specify Trinidad and Tobago because in the world today the phenomenon of

Carnival is now global in context. What began as a creative statement of enslaved people has bloomed beyond all reckoning. Today Carnival is spreading over the globe, bringing with it a benevolent hegemony of music, dance and of course, mas.

Culture is one of the greatest assets of a people. As the Caribbean institution tasked with regional development, The University of the West Indies has an irreplaceable role in culture. We are and must continue to be its stewards. We must preserve it for future generations. We must promote it – both as a source of economic activity and for its own sake as a representation of our identity. We must examine it, celebrate its excellence but also recognise its failings and work for its improvement. I am pleased to say that in 2017 we took that responsibility very seriously.

This Carnival, the Department for Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA) continued its outstanding leadership in the creative sphere with Old Yard 2017. This innovative event does so many things at once. It is a teaching tool for students. It is a cultural preservation and promotion exercise. It is an income generating activity that illustrates the entrepreneurial value in cultural properties. Furthermore, this is just one of many DCFA activities, on and off campus, that support and leverage culture simultaneously.

Speaking of leveraging culture, Carnival 2017 was yet another year of our highly successful UWI Fete. UWI Fete 2017, "Wanderlust – Taste the World" brought together a massive gathering for an extremely worthwhile cause. The event, an initiative of the UWI Development and Endowment Fund (UWIDEF), provides tuition support for worthy students from the region. In a nation that has developed world-class expertise in festivals, UWI Fete stands out as one of the best. It will forever be remembered as the very first all-inclusive Carnival fete. Congratulations to the UWIDEF Committee and their support team.

This year we took part in Carnival and we also took it apart. The Cultural Studies Section of the Department of Literary, Cultural and Communications Studies, brought together scholars, entrepreneurs, artists and policymakers for a two-day examination of the festival. This event, "Memory Politics and Performance in the Trinidad Carnival Complex" is an outstanding example of the University at its best – venturing beyond the campus, sharing ideas with stakeholders, and seeking workable and sustainable solutions. That is a model that we can and should apply not only to culture but to any area where our research and expertise can bring value to the society.

Brian Copeland

PROFESSOR BRIAN COPELAND
Campus Principal

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■ CAMPUS NEWS

Bigger than ever, Research Symposium hails one of its guiding lights



Professor Dave Chadee, one of the minds behind the Research Symposium, passed away in 2016. This year's symposium will be held in his honour.

On April 6-7, 2017, UWI will once again host the Life Sciences Research Symposium, the annual event that has built a reputation as the showcase for the innovative and relevant research that comes out of the Department of Life Sciences. This year however is different, and for the symposium organisers, bittersweet.

In 2017 the Research Symposium has been expanded from a departmental event to an event for the entire Faculty of Science and Technology that will display research from all five of its departments through a host of oral and video presentations, as well as posters. In addition, NGOs and other organisations will have a presence at the symposium and numerous outreach activities will take place in the lead-up and during the event to engage students and other members of the public.

Unfortunately, Professor Dave Chadee renowned entomologist and parasitologist, one of the fundamental forces in the development of the Research Symposium, passed away in 2016. It was Professor Chadee who envisioned the symposium as an event for all post graduates from the Life Sciences Department after its initial incarnation in 2010 as a small research day event for graduate students and the Ministry of Housing and the Environment.

Through his efforts and those of Life Sciences Department Head Professor John Agard, and graduate programme coordinator Dr. Howard Nelson, as well as facilitation by the Housing Ministry, the first official Life Sciences Research Symposium was held in 2011.

Event organisers say Professor Chadee's legacy continues to prosper through the growth of the symposium. The efforts of the founding academic staff and post-graduate committee members have created a symposium with over 30 undergraduate and postgraduate presentations demonstrating a broad range of topics of local and international importance which embodies the ideology of research and the mission statement of The UWI.

The Faculty of Science and Technology Research Symposium will be held from April 6 (12.30 – 7.00 pm) and 7 (9 am – 5 pm), 2017. For more information visit <https://sta.uwi.edu/fst/>

Miss UWiverse 2017



AN ECSTATIC MOMENT: A beaming Rachel Questelles stands before the crowd after winning the Miss UWiverse 2017 pageant. Ten students of the St. Augustine Campus took part in the UWiverse Coronation Night event on February 18 at the Daaga Auditorium. It was the culmination of a journey of personal and professional growth that began in October 2016 with the launch of the pageant. During the four months, contestants took part in numerous training and charitable activities. Miss UWiverse is an event of the Guild of Students and Guild Administrative Office. PHOTO: CHAD SANTANA

LESSONS IN THE PAN LAB



Students from the Colony Middle School in Palmer, Alaska, listen intently to Mr. Jeevan Persad, an engineering technician and pan researcher in the Steel Pan Research Laboratory of The UWI's Faculty of Engineering. The students, who were accompanied by their music teacher, Mr. Toby Lambert (in the background), paid a visit to the lab in February 2017 to learn about the math and science used in the design and development of the steel pan. The pan lab is a centre for research and innovation on the national instrument of Trinidad and Tobago. Both the G-pan and the PHI were developed in this lab.

PHOTO: ATIBA CUDJOE

LANDMARK AGRO-ICT PROJECT WINS FRIDA AWARD

AgriNeTT has collected another award. The UWI research project that uses information and communications technology (ICT) to support Caribbean agriculture is one of two recipients of the FRIDA Award 2016. The award was presented to the research team in December at the Internet Governance Forum in Guadalajara, Mexico.

FRIDA is the acronym for the Regional Fund for Digital Innovation in Latin America and the Caribbean. It is an initiative of LACNIC, the non-governmental organisation responsible for Internet development in the region. The FRIDA Awards "seek to acknowledge innovative practices in the region that have made concrete contributions through the use of ICTs and have a proven impact on the region's social and economic development," states LACNIC. Mexicoleaks, a pro-transparency media platform, was the other winner.

AgriNeTT, launched in 2014, consists of several applications developed to support the agricultural sector: farmers, entrepreneurs, public and private institutions and policymakers. The apps provide financial management, record-keeping and commodity-pricing solutions that are accessible on mobile devices.

AgriNeTT's core research team is from UWI St. Augustine's Faculties of Science and Technology and Food and Agriculture, and includes partnerships with Trinidad and Tobago's Ministry of Food Production, NAMDEVCO and CARDI.

"One of the big things for the university that has come out of this project is the extent of collaboration," said Dr. Margaret Bernard, Project Lead and Deputy Dean of Graduate Studies and Research in the Science and Technology Faculty.

Speaking at the awards presentation, LACNIC CEO Oscar Robles called AgriNeTT a leading project in the region that has "shown how the Internet can become an instrument for strengthening rural communities."

Apart from this win, AgriNeTT also placed in the top five among numerous international projects at the 2016 World Summit on the Information Society hosted by the International Telecommunications Union last May. The project is also a recipient of the UWI Trinidad and Tobago Research and Development Impact Fund.



The RDI was established to fund research with strong potential to contribute to the development of the Caribbean and its people.

Now that the RDI period is complete, AgriNeTT is seeking new funding to continue and expand its groundbreaking research for the benefit of regional food production and security.

For more information on AgriNeTT

Visit the website at: <http://sta.uwi.edu/rdifund/projects/agrinett/index.asp> and https://sta.uwi.edu/uwitoday/archive/august_2016/article7.asp

POLITICS

On Thursday, January 12, 2017, the Constitutional Affairs and Parliamentary Studies Unit (CAPSU) held the first of its CAPSU Conversations series on the topic “The American Electoral System and the Election of Donald Trump as the 45th President of the United States”.

The session examined the actual process itself from the Election Day, which is fixed for the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November in a leap year; through the sitting of the Electoral College on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December; to the counting of the Electoral College ballots by a joint session of Congress under the chairmanship of the Vice President in order to certify the final result on January 6.

The Electoral College allocations for each state are based on the size of their House of Representatives delegation plus two additional votes for each state to correspond to the fact that each state has two senators regardless of size. Since 1961, Washington, DC, the federal capital, has been added to the membership of the Electoral College with the smallest number of votes that can be allocated, namely three.

Results in 13 Swing States

	Clinton	Trump	Others
Arizona (11)	1,161,167	1,252,401	159,597
Colorado (9)	1,338,870	1,202,484	238,866
Florida (29)	4,504,975	4,617,886	297,178
Iowa (6)	653,669	800,983	111,379
Maine*(3-1)	357,735	335,593	54,599
Michigan (16)	2,268,839	2,279,543	250,902
Minnesota (10)	1,367,716	1,322,951	254,146
Nevada (6)	539,260	512,058	74,067
New Hampshire (4)	348,526	345,790	49,842
North Carolina (15)	2,189,316	2,362,631	189,617
Ohio (18)	2,394,164	2,841,005	261,318
Pennsylvania (20)	2,926,441	2,970,733	218,228
Wisconsin (10)	1,382,536	1,405,284	188,330

*Maine allocates its four Electoral College votes on the basis of two votes for whichever candidate wins the popular vote in the state and one vote for each of its two House of Representatives districts. Trump won Congressional District 2 and Clinton won Congressional District 1 as well as the popular vote statewide for a 3-1 split.

The Election of DONALD TRUMP

A look at the numbers behind the US President's victory

BY DR. HAMID GHANY

There are 435 House of Representatives districts and 100 senators, which gives an allocation of 535 votes and when added to the three votes for Washington, DC the total Electoral College allocation is 538. It takes 270 votes in order to become the President.

The popular vote was won by the Democratic Party nominee Hillary Clinton with 65,844,610 votes (48.2%) over the Republican Party nominee Donald Trump with 62,979,636 votes (46.1%), while the Electoral College allocation was won by Trump (306) over Clinton (232). The other candidates combined earned 7,804,213 votes (5.7%) and no Electoral College votes.

The key to Trump's victory was his win in the so-called “Rust Belt” of Wisconsin (10 Electoral College votes), Michigan (16 Electoral College votes), Ohio (18 Electoral College votes) and Pennsylvania (20 Electoral College votes). Trump's ability to win those 64 Electoral College votes made all the difference together with victories in some so-called “swing states”.



ILLUSTRATION:
RYAN JAMES

The session also noted the fact that there were deviations in the final Electoral College vote as some electors did not vote for the candidates to whom they were pledged when the Electoral College met on December 19. Trump emerged with 304 (down from 306) and Clinton emerged with 227 (down from 232).

These votes were confirmed on January 6 in the joint session of Congress and Donald Trump was sworn into office on January 20 as the 45th President of the United States.

Dr. Ghany is Senior Lecturer in Political Science and Coordinator of the Constitutional Affairs and Parliamentary Studies Unit in the Faculty of Social Sciences.



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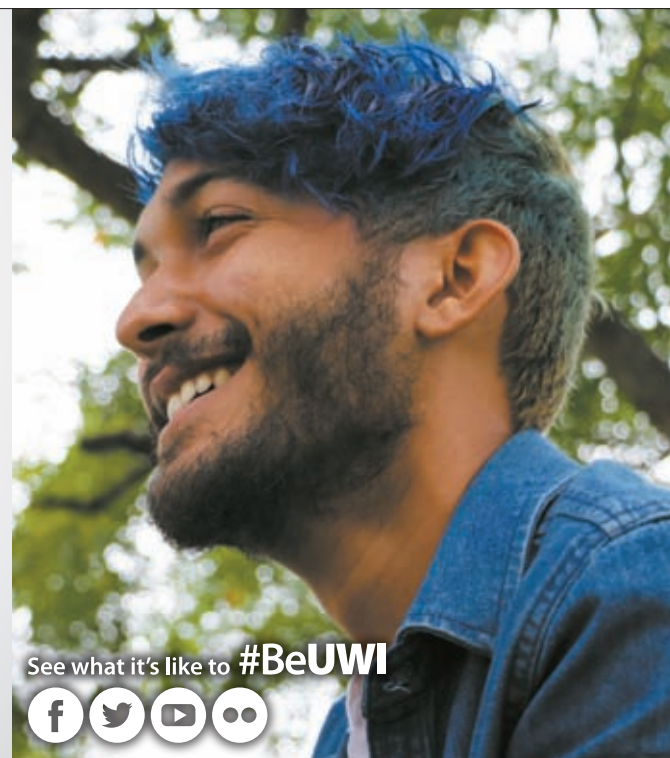
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EVENTS

MARKING WOMEN'S DAY with a call to bold action

The theme of International Women's Day 2017, commemorated on March 8, was #BeBoldForChange. This was an important call given the challenges which still exist to full gender equality and equity around the world and region. In the Caribbean, recent reports suggest that too many women remain vulnerable to interpersonal violence and too few are represented at the highest levels of political and economic decision-making.

Aiming for Planet 50-50 by 2030 is therefore a bold and ambitious agenda requiring shifts to labour and power in the domestic sphere as well as in public life. For example, the World Economic Forum predicts that, at the current rate of progress, the gender gap across health, education, economy and politics won't close entirely until 2186. We won't achieve key sustainable development goals at this pace.

In Trinidad and Tobago, the IGDS, UWI St. Augustine collaborated with two dozen other civil society and corporate organisations, as well as the Office of the Prime Minister (Gender and Child Affairs) and UN Women, to organise a Life in Leggings solidarity march, which simultaneously took place on March 11 in Barbados, Antigua and Barbuda, Trinidad and Tobago, Dominica, The Bahamas, Guyana, and Jamaica. Life in leggings is a movement begun by two young women from Barbados to break silences around, especially, young women's experiences of sexual violence of all kinds, from child sexual abuse to street and workplace harassment.

The IGDS also collaborated with I95.5 to share messages across radio that would both raise consciousness about women's rights as well as call for communities to recognise leaders for gender equality in our midst. Statements broadcast included: "wherever they are, women have a right to be safe"; "the home isn't just women's responsibility, share the care"; "if a woman says no, walk away, sexual relations need consent"; "The state is responsible for



Pounding the pavement: Citizens of Trinidad and Tobago taking part in the Life in Leggings march. PHOTOS: YEHUDI WALTERS

upholding women's rights. You can hold public officials accountable"; and "Let's honour women who are the strength of our communities". These signaled the commonsense nature of gender equality, and women's rights as everyone's responsibility.

As Dr Gabrielle Hosein, Head of the IGDS

reflected, "The UWI is a key site for teaching another generation those skills which they can put toward Caribbean transformation. We have a leadership role to play in advancing women's rights and gender equality, and continue to collaboratively and collectively encourage our nation and region to be bold for change."



RESEARCH IN ACTION

Guanapo River at the “George’s” sampling site. This site is a popular spot for recreational activities in the area.

GREENER DAYS BY THE RIVER

How a UWI team’s research into landfill effects on Guanapo spurred a movement to help a neglected community

BY AMY LI BAKSH

In 2013, a group of UWI researchers headed by Dr. Denise Beckles set out to study the impact of the Guanapo landfill on its environs, primarily the nearby Guanapo River.

“I was just interested in characterising what was going on in landfills,” said Dr. Beckles, who spent almost three years with her team doing chemical testing, air pollution monitoring, hydrological studies and risk assessment to get a full picture of what was going on in Guanapo. The result was a 2016 report that detailed the years of work, and all they had learned from studying the environmental water like rivers and groundwater, as well as soil, sediment and air around the landfill.

What they found was that the sediments especially were contaminated by metals from the landfill, but also from several other sources like nearby quarrying, agriculture, and even the people living in the area.

The leachate (contaminated water) from the landfill was their main focus, and this was where the bulk of their investigation was aimed.

“It has to go somewhere,” said Dr. Beckles. “A landfill has to be set up in a location with a particular geology so that the leachate, which is one of the major emission problems, can be minimised.”

Once the story of river contamination began going viral, there was widespread concern for the country’s drinking supply, as the Guanapo River feeds into the Caroni, which is used as a water source at the Caroni Water Treatment Plant.

Dr. Beckles stressed that their study was not done on drinking water, and their sample sites were nowhere near the place where the Guanapo meets the Caroni. “People were getting very excited about the idea that the water was not safe and they should start drinking bottled water... and that is not so, unless you are drinking water directly out of the river.” Their focus was the landfill, and that was where they began taking steps to alleviate the problem.



Dr. Grace-Anne Bent (left) taking a groundwater sample and Dr. Denise Beckles taking a chemical reading from a monitoring well.

“Our primary recommendation was that they treat the leachate that was coming out of the landfill, because it was flowing over land and getting into the water... and that was taken up wholeheartedly by SWMCOL,” she said.

From early on in the project, SWMCOL and the WRA were heavily involved, along with other invested groups like the Guanapo Environmental Community Development Organisation. Chemistry students were also among those from The UWI who carried out key parts of the research. The collaboration meant that there were more human resources to carry out the intensive studies.

“One thing I learned from this project is how important it is to have the people that you think will use the information on your team,” said Dr. Beckles. “Whereas I as a scientist had certain goals, the person at SWMCOL, for example would also know what she needs the information for. So we were able to ensure that our data was useful to them as well. At the end of the day, everybody is aware and the information is directly channelled to the people who will use it.”

Even the presence of the research team had a positive impact on the community. The meetings they held to share their information with the public were widely attended, and even drew the attention of then local Member of Parliament (Mr. Rodger Samuels, MP for Arima). Issues that the residents had been trying to solve were given more attention, like installation of box drains and road paving. The ecological risk assessment that they put together is being acted on, albeit limited by funding.

“They are trying to change what is going on in Guanapo. They are trying to do sorting, shredding of plastic, keeping the waste separate and reducing how much waste actually ends up in the landfill. In fact, there’s a pilot leachate treatment plant going up at Guanapo right now.”

While there was quite a bit of misinformation floating around once the story broke, Dr. Beckles maintains that “all information is good information” and was glad that people became curious enough to ask questions and find out what was happening. She hopes that the increased interest in Guanapo will create a wider spread of knowledge and enthusiasm to change the state of waste management in the country. She sees her role and the role of UWI in general to inform and raise awareness.

The UWI report “The Impact of the Contaminants Produced by the Guanapo Landfill on the Surrounding Environment” is available to any interested parties. For more information, email denise.beckles@sta.uwi.edu.

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■ DCFA OLD YARD



Old Y New Gen

BY JOEL

The jammettes are causing a commotion at the Old Yard. In short dresses and torn stockings they stride the yard, accosting the men, posing for photos, demanding the attention of all with their laughter, speech and gestures. It's hard to imagine these talented young actors as anything other than what they portray, hard to imagine them as UWI students in the year 2017, using a smart phone, taking a maxi home after class.

The irony of art is that sometimes, the better it is, the more it connects with us at an emotional and even spiritual level, the less we see the discipline, workmanship and dedication that create it. In Old Yard 2017, the annual Carnival event of The UWI St. Augustine's Department of Creative and Festival Arts, these traits were very much on display as students and visiting performers shared the power and subtle brilliance of traditional mas.

"The philosophy behind this event experience is similar to the Disney model. When you come through the gate of the Old Yard you are transported into the period of the old barrack yard, when those characters would have come alive at Carnival time," says Dr. Jo-anne Tull, Lecturer and Coordinator of Carnival Studies, as well as Project Director of the Old Yard.

Held at the DCEA grounds on February 19 this year, Old Yard plays several roles. It is a teaching lab for both performing and festival management students (who handle all aspects of the event management side of the yard). It is a living museum that preserves culture. It is a promoter of traditional Carnival to new generations. As Dr. Tull says, "a significant portion of our audience is school children. That is deliberate."

And of course it is an immersive and entertaining experience. The yard is inhabited by bats, minstrels, stick fighters, burrokeets, the Midnight Robber, jab jabs and all the gorgeous and grotesque characters of Dame Lorraine mas. And though there is a stage, the "Gayelle", there



Yard, neration

HENRY

is no true barrier between the audience and the players. The players will come for you.

This year's Old Yard also had a special exhibition of artifacts, photography and audio-visual presentations from the previous years of the event, titled "A look back at the Old Yard." The DCFA is critical in preserving and passing on these cultural forms through its students and events, both on campus and through its outreach programmes such as Arts-in-Action.

And judging by the performances of their students, the DCFA is doing an outstanding job.

When asked how they are able to engage their students so well, Dr. Tull says, "the students own interpretation of the masquerade must be respected. It's not to say that you don't respect tradition but as artists you want them to be questioning introspective about their performance. This engages them."

The jammette passes by, blowing a kiss at the people in the stands. Immediately they erupt, scrambling for their camera phones. "All yuh want to take my picture?" she inquires, putting her hand on one hip and cocking her head to one side, "okay, go ahead."

A jammette in a smartphone world, owning it.

PHOTOS: ANEEL KARIM



■ STAR STUDENT

“That’s why I want a change in the way we do business in the interest of justice,” sang first-year UWI law student Sasha-Ann Moses during her passionate performance at the National Women’s Action Committee (NWAC) Calypso Queen’s competition. With her song, “The Main Witness,” Sasha-Ann, whose stage name is Sasha, took first place as she channelled the plight of people living in the inhumane conditions of the witness protection programme.

“Cold, cold showers, house of horrors with just basic amenities. Stripped of all powers. For days and not hours,” Sasha belted out, her face a reflection of the passion of her performance. It was no surprise that she captured the hearts and minds of the judges as well as the top honour of the night, the biggest competition she has ever won.

From Sasha’s perspective, her win is part of the trend of the modern calypso world. “We have a lot of young people singing calypsoes these days which is amazing because people have been saying calypso is dying,” she explains. She reminisces about thinking calypso was boring and only for old people, but she has completely changed her views since she began singing professionally. Now she talks enthusiastically about the impact young people are having on the genre while emphasising the importance of the legacy of the “older heads.” She observes that there are more songs with themes based on social justice. “More attacking performances on social commentary topics,” she explains, “topics that have been troubling our country. We have more nation-building songs, this year more than ever.”

With her interest in law, it’s no surprise that Sasha picked this award-winning theme about justice. As she talks about her choice of study, it’s clear that it is tailor made for her. “I really didn’t think I fit in anywhere else,” she says and mentions her love of debating and her desire to always win arguments as she grew up. She has been enjoying benefiting from the experience and knowledge of her lecturers and is considering specialising in family or property law one day. Unsurprisingly, juggling her course load and her career as a budding performer has taken some effort, but Sasha gives credit to her mother for helping her manage her schedule. Her lecturers and tutors have also provided support by emailing her worksheets and keeping her updated on course work.

QUEEN SASHA *and the* LAW

BY DIXIE-ANN BELLE



Calypso Queen Sasha-Ann Moses performs her winning song, “Main Witness”.

With this strong support system, Sasha will no doubt keep excelling in her field. Besides, she is no novice when it comes to the music industry. She’s already been performing for a decade. Her first performance was as a backup singer to a friend in primary school at the age of 10. Two years later she took up the role of main singer, and she’s been at it ever since.

While singing on stage, Sasha discovered a side to herself which seemed quite apart from her usual shy personality. She observes that she’s always surprising others who don’t think she could be so vibrant on stage. “Everything just flows you know. I’m a totally, totally different person on stage,” she says. That inherent ease is clear as you watch her perform, and she’s evidently impressed many during her singing career thus far. Among her long list of accomplishments is her placement as a finalist in the Calypso Monarch competition this year as well as the winner of the Stars of Tomorrow title. She was also chosen as a nominee for the top 20 Stars of Gold Calypso twice, in 2015 and 2016. She was the youngest semi-finalist in both the National Calypso Monarch (2015) and the International Soca Monarch (2015 and 2016). In 2014, she came first in the National Schools Soca Monarch and in the St Joseph Calypso Monarch. The same year, she placed second in the National Junior Calypso Monarch. She’s also won the National Emancipation Monarch three times in a row from 2012 to 2014.

With such a promising career, Sasha seems well on her way to achieving her goal of “sharing musical love” and “just making everyone happy with each performance” much like her inspirations Calypso Rose and Beyoncé. Her passion for music is evident in the way she immerses herself in it even when she is not singing calypso. She is the lead singer of the band Mayaro 2.0, where she performs funk and other musical genres. When she is stressed she buries herself in music. While listening to and singing R&B, she can stretch her vocals and sing out her emotions.

If her musical accomplishments are any indication, other aspiring musicians would do well to emulate her efforts. “Always build on yourself,” Sasha advises others who want to succeed in the industry. She emphasises the importance of taking criticism as it can help improve performance. “You can reach where you want to be,” she affirms. “The harder the journey, the sweeter the victory.”

“We have a lot of young people singing calypsoes these days which is amazing because people have been saying calypso is dying,”

Grappling with the MASQUERADE

It has been well over 175 years since the newly freed slaves of Trinidad took to the streets and began the transformation of a French Catholic feast into what has become the island's most powerful form of cultural expression. Carnival has grown and changed shape and spread throughout the region and beyond. And in line with its importance is its impact. What has Carnival meant to the society? What does it have the potential to become?

Policymakers, entrepreneurs, economists, historians, gender theorists, artists and educators discussed these questions and others at a Carnival Symposium organised by the Cultural Studies Section of The UWI St. Augustine's Department of Literary, Cultural and Communications Studies. Titled "Memory, Politics and Performance in the Trinidad Carnival Complex," the symposium was held on March 2 and 3 at the Government Campus Plaza Auditorium in Port of Spain and the Daaga Auditorium of the St. Augustine Campus. The symposium was held in collaboration with the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and the Arts.

Dr. Suzanne Burke, one of the organisers said the symposium's objective was "to bring together the various Carnival stakeholders... to examine and discuss the importance of Trinidad and Tobago's development."

The symposium, she said, "served as a vehicle to enhance the voice of Trinidad and Tobago's academic community in global discourse on the Trinidad Carnival."



The objective is to bring together the various carnival stakeholders including practitioners, policy-makers, researchers and entrepreneurs to examine and discuss the importance of carnival to Trinidad and Tobago's development.

Dr Keith Nurse gives his keynote address. Looking on are Dr Suzanne Burke, Culture Minister Dr Nyan Gadsby-Dolly and Dr. Maarit Forde, Head of the Department of Cultural Studies.

The symposium opened with a keynote lecture by Dr. Keith Nurse, Senior Fellow at the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Economic Studies at UWI and one of the region's foremost scholars on cultural industries. Participants discussed topics such as the Canboulay Riots, the steelband movement, gender and sexuality, and calypso.

One of the highlights of the event was an address by Minister of Community Development, Culture and the Arts Dr Nyan Gadsby-Dolly. The Minister spoke on the need for greater integration among the various special interest groups involved in the production of Carnival to improve the festival "in a holistic way."



engage

#BeUWI

The UWI St. Augustine Campus hosts its

Annual Campus Council Meeting

March 20, 2017

Professor Brian Copeland
Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal
will highlight the campus' key accomplishments.

View the **Live Stream** from 10:00 am at:
www.sta.uwi.edu/streams
www.uwitv.org

Visit **www.sta.uwi.edu** for full details



engaging *our Alumni*

It was the hug that shook the world. Well, at least our world. At the 2016 graduation ceremony for the Faculties of Law and Engineering one young graduate, instead of simply shaking hands with the Chancellor, Sir George Alleyne, broke protocol and gave him a huge hug instead. While we would NEVER encourage anyone to try that EVER again - that is exactly the feeling that The University hopes to engender in all our students and our alumni. A feeling that this institution is yours to own and to love; to have and to hold. The future of The UWI may very well depend upon it.

Established in 2015, the Office of Institutional Advancement and Internationalisation (OIAI) counts alumni affairs among its responsibilities and executes these duties through its Fundraising and Alumni Affairs Office, headed by Ms Carol Ayoung. It is not to be confused with the Alumni Association which is a membership-based, regional organisation with Chapters serving all UWI alumni based in the particular locality, regardless of the Campus they attended. The Alumni Affairs Office is meant to engage specifically with persons who graduated from the St. Augustine Campus, and was created to build a dialogue and strengthen the Campus' relationship with its graduates, wherever they are in the world.

UWI's graduates are critical to The University's development, explains OIAI Director, Mr Sharan Singh, as they "feed us ideas, collaborate with us, advocate for us and really drive us and hold us accountable to them," he says. They "are like a fourth estate," to the triangular relationship formed by students, academics and staff. UWI's graduates work in industry within the societies The University serves, he explains, making them "a wonderful source of market feedback, analysis and guidance." Forging a stronger relationship with graduates will, therefore, provide UWI with the knowledge needed to sculpt itself into a more dynamic institution that has greater impact nationally and regionally.

Alumni engagement, as drivers, advocates and collaborators, is also vital to UWI's development, from a financial perspective. The University is currently heavily financially dependent on national governments and, while state funding is necessary, the institution is aware that its needs

are draining one fount. Therefore, UWI needs to diversify its sources of funding and increase its budget. Only then, "can we make significant interventions in society," advises Mr Singh. That doesn't mean using alumni emails to solicit donations, although these are necessary and welcome. Other ways of giving are possible, such as providing internships or guest lectures, even serving on Campus boards and committees.

The OIAI is sure that alumni will respond once graduates see how their contributions benefit students and the wider community served by the Campus. To achieve this, the Office is developing a communication strategy to reach individual Campus alumni directly, and that requires data, i.e. an accurate database of names, faculties, work details and contact information. Once that alumni database is complete, analysis can be conducted to assist The University in understanding its graduate population and to start a two-way conversation on what graduates and alumni want from the Campus, and how they can provide necessary feedback and support to shape its future.

Ultimately, the OIAI is out to prove that a continued connection with The UWI is as valuable as the old high school ties that are so prized throughout the region. While members of the Alumni Association get benefits, such as use of UWI's libraries and swimming pool, and participate in mentorship programmes, staying engaged with the Campus can bring alumni great personal and professional benefit. Conferences, lectures, discussion fora and similar event provide opportunities not just for learning, but, for important networking with long lost peers, eager potential interns, experts and policy-makers - all with similar or related interests. The potential also exists to access programmes and courses for continued professional development. Alumni based abroad will have similar opportunities in keeping with the University's focus on Agility, Access and Alignment, and the Vice-Chancellor's directive to have a UWI presence in major centres around the world.

For those already on the database, work has begun on building a new relationship with the Campus. The Alumni Affairs quarterly newsletter was created to share interesting

and useful information about the Campus, including work being done and views on current issues. A few social events have already taken place around the country, with The Gathering, held to commemorate the 55th Anniversary of the Campus, being the largest to date. The Alumni Affairs Office is also planning an annual "major homecoming," modelled after those held by North American universities.

The next major communication tool is the "Reconnection Campaign" - an innovative, emotive digital application that will allow UWI graduates to connect with the Campus and the wider graduate community. "We're this global institution," says Mr. Singh. "Our grads are literally around the world." The app is interesting and innovative, because it's not asking graduates to physically visit the Campus, and news and messaging can be tailored to the individual's preferences. Sending feedback, reconnecting with classmates, donating money or offering services, will take just a few clicks once the app is available at the beginning of the 2017/2018 academic year.

"This range of actual engagement can take place once you have the data. If you don't have that data, you're lost," says Mr Singh.

If you are a graduate of the St Augustine Campus, you don't have to wait for the Reconnection Campaign launch to start your engagement. Just visit the OIAI Alumni Office website (at <http://sta.uwi.edu/alumni/>) and subscribe to its mailing list. You will have access to the alumni newsletter, be first to know when the app is ready and possibly have the opportunity to join a group of beta testers before the launch. Be sure to encourage other graduates to sign up also as the deeper and wider the network, the more valuable it will be to you. This is a great opportunity to re-shape the Campus and possibly the University based on your student experience and all you have learned since graduation.

"Just have a commitment to your alma mater," says Mr Singh. "Come back. If you didn't like something, come and help us fix it. If you liked something, come and contribute to it." The Campus is waiting with open arms.

■ AGRICULTURE



PHOTO: SEAN MIGUEL MORRISON

SUPERHERO *of the* SOIL

Alpha Sennon brings creativity and passionate advocacy to agriculture

BY DIXIE-ANN BELLE

We are familiar with superheroes in comic books and movies flying in to save the world from danger. You might be surprised to know a Trinidadian superhero named AGRIman may be flying into theatres one day to help young people solve the world's food supply problems. At least that's what Alpha Sennon, Founder and Executive Director of WHYFARM envisions. In just two years, Sennon's organisation (which stands for We Help Youth Farm) has had an enthusiastic response locally and has already gained interest in countries across the world like the USA, Rwanda, Haiti and Zambia.

Sennon, aged 30, developed the NGO to get young people interested in local agriculture. As he talks about why so few youth gravitate toward this industry, Sennon reveals that he speaks from experience. His father was a farmer and as a child Sennon hated agriculture.

"It always appeared to be hard work. It always appeared to be not cool, not fun, not attractive, not something I could do as a profession, to earn a livelihood, to see about a family."

Perhaps because of his aversion to farming, it took Sennon some time to find the subject that would become his passion. "Why not try agribusiness?" suggested a dean at UWI and Sennon was hooked.

He began to see agriculture differently. The potential became more apparent as he visited other countries. During a trip to India the name WHYFARM came to him.

The organisation reflects his desire to help young people realise the potential of the industry. "Agriculture is more than just a farmer," he says. "There's science, technology. There's engineering. There's heritage. There are arts, you know."

Sennon wants to encourage youths to combat the

issue of world food. "We want young people to take on this challenge and feed this country, feed the world by 2050."

Dr. Wayne Ganpat, Dean of the Faculty of Food and Agriculture at the St. Augustine Campus, approves of his approach. "Alpha's goal is to popularise agriculture among young people. He is transferring the message that it is a worthy profession."

The WHYFARM team has been going into schools, and the response has been keen as they bring "agri-edutainment" into the classroom. It is not just a talk, but a captivating performance featuring AGRIman. Later on the school gets to visit an actual farm where Sennon often hears students exclaiming that they didn't know agriculture could be like this. WHYFARM also has an online fan club where youngsters can suggest new stories and characters for the AGRIman comic book.

Like a kind of AGRIman himself, Sennon has been roaming around the world talking about his organisation and exploring new approaches. "Everywhere he goes Alpha is a good ambassador for Trinidad and Tobago, a good ambassador for UWI and a good ambassador for the Faculty of Food and Agriculture," observes Dr. Ganpat.

Sennon has been a guest speaker at the United Nations. He gave a talk on innovation in Rome at the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Last year he was one of the representatives at the Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLAI) fellowship programme. He joined 250 social entrepreneurs for a six-week exchange which included placements with organisations in 21 city hubs across the USA.

Sennon was impressed with his experience. He met with representatives of the PB&J Fund, and the Local Food Hub,

discussing food safety, nutrition and agricultural investment among youth. He found himself considering incorporating a healthy eating component to WHYFARM.

For him, one of the highlights included meeting with Chic Thompson, author of "What a Great Idea." Several projects are due to come from their collaboration, including starting a WAGI Labs (Thompson's animation company) based in Trinidad and developing a creative activity-based curriculum for AGRIman.

Sennon is grateful to Dr. Ganpat, who first suggested agriculture to him, and to The UWI for its support. "The Faculty of Food and Agriculture contributed a lot to my development today and still contributes." Dr. Ganpat is the supervisor for his thesis.

"It requires a considerable effort to get agriculture moving again," he says. "We have to get the public to buy in. The Faculty of Food and Agriculture views it as our responsibility to undertake this task. Alpha's advocacy fits into that nicely. I support him 100% and in fact we are looking into providing him a space on campus to work from."

Looking at all the progress Sennon has made, it's clear that he has his own super power: that of using his passion to make a huge difference in his community and inspiring young people. World agriculture and food security truly have a hero fighting for the cause.



Find out more about **WHYFARM**
www.whyfarmit.com
 For more information on the
Faculty of Food and Agriculture
 visit <http://sta.uwi.edu/ffa/>

■ UWI FETE 2017

UWI's Exquisite Event *and its deeper meaning*



Priming the crowd: MX Prime gestures to an enraptured audience during his performance at UWI Fete 2017. PHOTO: ATIBA CUDJOE

UWI Fete 2017 was held on January 29. Titled “Wanderlust – Taste the World,” it drew a massive crowd to the Principal’s Grounds at St. Augustine for live performances from some of Trinidad and Tobago’s greatest soca, calypso and chutney stars. This year’s fete also treated partygoers to cuisine from all over the world. But beneath the splendor of this annual event, at its heart, is a mission.

UWI Fete is a vital tool to raise funds for student education. Hosted by the UWI Development and Endowment Fund, the proceeds go towards scholarships and bursaries for deserving students. And while it has developed a reputation as one of the most important events on the Carnival calendar, it has an even deeper legacy of contributing to the growth and development of the future leaders and builders of the Caribbean. PHOTOS: ATIBA CUDJOE AND ANEEL KARIM





Mr. UWI Fete: Soca legend Machel Montano feels the music. PHOTO: ATIBA CUDJOE



UWI CALENDAR of EVENTS

MARCH – APRIL 2017

INTERDISCIPLINARY SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

March 23-24
Learning Resource Centre
The UWI St. Augustine Campus

The Department of Behavioural Sciences (DOBS) presents their 3rd Biennial Postgraduate Conference under the theme, “The Importance of Interdisciplinary Social Science Research in the Caribbean: Alleviating Inequalities/Integrating Approaches.” The conference is carded for March 22 to 23 at the Learning Resource Centre (LRC). Panel topics include: Social and Community Studies, Regional Security, Gender and Sexuality and several others.

For more information, please visit <http://sta.uwi.edu/conferences/17/dobs/>



STUDY IN CHINA WORKSHOP

April 6
Centre for Language Learning
The UWI St. Augustine Campus

Come learn about scholarship opportunities to pursue undergraduate and postgraduate studies in China as well as internationally recognised HSK Chinese Language Proficiency Examinations at the Study in China Workshop. The workshop is an event of the Confucius Institute. Study in China takes place from 2 to 4 pm at the Centre for Language Learning (CLL). No registration is required, admission is free and all are invited. There will be light refreshments served.

For more information, please email Confucius@sta.uwi.edu.



CHINESE MOVIE NIGHT

March 24
Centre for Language Learning Auditorium
The UWI St. Augustine Campus

The Confucius Institute continues the Chinese Movie Night series with the screening of the family-friendly comedy/fantasy/action film – “Monster Hunt” (the movie contains English subtitles). The screening takes place from 6 to 8 pm at the Centre for Language Learning Auditorium. Admission is free and all are invited. No tickets are required.

For more information, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/Confucius.UWI/>

UWI CHILDREN’S CENTRE WORKSHOP

April 10
The UWI Children’s Centre
32 St. John’s Road, St. Augustine

The UWI Children’s Centre presents a workshop on the topic, “Enhancing Children’s Learning Utilising Information and Communication Technology and the Performing Arts”. The workshop will be facilitated by Camelia Tsoi Afatt and Roxanne Marcano, senior educators at The UWI Children’s Centre. The event seeks to enlighten parents and educators about the benefits that can be derived from the utilisation of ICTs and performing arts. The workshop takes place from 9 am to 1.30 pm at The UWI Children’s Centre, 32 St. John’s Road, St. Augustine. The deadline for registration is April 5.

To register, please call 662-2665 between the hours of 8am and 4pm.



techAGRI Expo 2017

March 24-26
Main Administration Building West Field
The UWI St. Augustine Campus

The Faculty of Food and Agriculture (FFA) presents techAGRI Expo 2017. Look out for booths showcasing agricultural work echoing techAGRI’s guiding principles: innovation, entrepreneurship and commercialisation. There will be daily sales of fresh produce from UWI farms and other invited farmers, in addition to the daily food village that will offer local delicacies and meals. This three-day event takes place at Main Administration Building West Field as follows: March 24 (9 am to 6 pm), March 25 (10 am to 8 pm) and March 26 (10 am to 8 pm). Admission for UWI Students is free with UWI Student ID; Primary and Secondary School students, \$10; General Public: Adults, \$20; Children, \$10.

For more information, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/ffatechagriexpo>

Th?nk3 One-Day Symposium

April 27
Department of Creative and Festival Arts
The UWI St. Augustine Campus

The Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA) is hosting Th?nk 3 One-Day Symposium under the theme, “No Luxury Item: Cultural Policy and the Necessary Art of Development”. The forum is designed to be a platform for advancing a dialogue on a national cultural policy of Trinidad and Tobago and driving the national policymaking process. Presentations will focus on the following themes: “Culture and Sustainable Development” – Linking culture with social, economic, environmental and technological pillars of growth; “Policy and the Arts” – Status of the artist in society, art education, art institutions, art form politics and “A Culture of Remembrance: Heritage and Memory”.

For updates, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/DCFAUWISymposium/>

**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

