



## Double Century

## Double Chaconia

The National Herbarium is marking two centuries with a series of activities planned for this year. Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley has recently made it clear that the Double Chaconia (*Warszewiczia coccinea* var. *David Auyoung*) is the national flower and will be planted in all schools across the nation.

It is a shrub or small tree, whose habitat is Lower montane forest. It is a natural mutant discovered in Trinidad in 1957 and now exists only in cultivation. The parent plant found on the Blanchisseuse Road was destroyed with the widening of the road shortly after its discovery.

The National Herbarium will formally launch its **200th anniversary celebrations** on May 22, 2018 with a tree-planting ceremony at the St. Augustine Campus where the collection is housed under the stewardship of curator, **Yasmin Baksh-Comeau**.

Among the activities planned is the collaboration with a re-forestation project to take place in the hillside of Tunapuna, where 200 trees will be put to earth between **Hillview College, the Biodiversity Society at The UWI and the Herbarium**.

The trees will form part of the promotion of greening the urban landscaping as part of 'our green heritage' and to become a part of the **Virtual Campus Arboretum** on the website at <http://sta.uwi.edu/herbarium/> as soon as it is launched. Look out for more on the celebratory activities in our next issue.

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PHOTOS COURTESY THE NATIONAL HERBARIUM

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# Walk on the Wild Side

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**Macrodonia cervicornis**  
AKA Sabretooth Longhorn Beetle



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What is now the St. Augustine Campus of The University of the West Indies was once home to the West Indies Agricultural College and, in 1924, the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture.

Even then lecturers and students had begun a collection of local animal species as a teaching resource and repository for researchers investigating animal species of agricultural importance. Insects, mainly pest and beneficial species associated with the various crops under study, formed the bulk of specimens.

Now - mammals, birds, reptiles, fish, molluscs, other terrestrial and marine species are collected from all over Trinidad and Tobago, the wider Caribbean, and South America. Find also geological and archaeological objects including the famous Banwari Burial – a 5,000 year old human skeleton, one of Trinidad's earliest known residents.

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## COLIN LAIRD COLLECTION AT ALMA JORDAN LIBRARY

**Colin Laird**, one of the country's outstanding architects, died at the age of 93 in early April. Mr. Laird was the designer of some of our most iconic national buildings – Queen's Hall, the Jean Pierre Complex and National Stadium, the Brian Lara Promenade, and the National Library.

Born in England in 1924, Mr Laird made Trinidad and Tobago his home and in return was claimed by the Republic as one of its own. He was presented with the Chaconia Gold medal in 2001, and was named one of the country's 50 Icons during the 50th anniversary of independence celebrations in 2013.

The UWI owns the Colin Laird Architectural collection which records a substantial amount of the work he did during the period between 1946 and 2008. The collection includes sketches, designs, photographs and reports from his various projects throughout the Caribbean. In 2014, The Alma Jordan Library, where the collection is housed, held a mini exhibition of his work. The accompanying photo shows one of the designs for Queen's Hall in 1956. He was awarded first place in that competition.

Librarian at the West Indiana Collection, Lorraine Nero said that Laird had a passion for maps and as a result accumulated an impressive map collection. "In 2009 we acquired that collection which has been labelled as the Caribbean Charts and Engraving collection, and includes maps from 1555-1818."



*The UWI owns the Colin Laird Architectural collection which records a substantial amount of the work he did during the period between 1946 and 2008.*

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

## Managing the Challenges of Our Time



On April 27, our Chancellor, Mr. Robert Bermudez, presided over his first University Council Meeting as Chairman. As he addressed the issue of the University's challenges in the current economic times, he gave a timely reassurance that had particular resonance for me. He reminded representatives of the regional governments of The UWI contributing countries as well as The UWI faculty, staff, and student representation that, while the 'University has faced many serious challenges in its 70 years, each event has seen it triumph over adversity.'

So it is with a certain sense of pride that that I invite you to peruse this edition of UWI TODAY where you will see the ample proof of how well we – as a University and, particularly, as a Campus – have triumphed as a development tool for peoples of the Caribbean.

The St. Augustine Campus, like the other three Campuses of this regional university, has had to make critical shifts in focus as it navigates a prolonged testing season at an institutional level. Our vision for creating a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship is a major response to the changing mandate for education, declining economies, and the need for strategic but practical approaches to revitalizing the Caribbean.

Eleanor "Nell" Watson, writer, engineer and entrepreneur, was our guest speaker at a Distinguished Open Lecture on Artificial Intelligence and Education. Some may fear the burgeoning use of artificial intelligence in all elements of our lives with the potential loss of our very humanity; others may exalt it in recognition of the boundless possibilities that AI promises. Regardless, the fact remains that we need to prepare our students to take advantage of it in the interests of this region's sustained development. As Nell Watson said in her lecture, "We need to be producing chefs not cooks." This Campus' avowed innovation agenda is absolutely in sync with this concept. It sets out that every level in our education system must incorporate that culture of innovation mentioned earlier so that we create, not simply follow, the recipe of the status quo in an independence of thought and mind.

Starring on our cover is the National Herbarium of Trinidad and Tobago, perhaps the country's oldest research institute, as it marks its 200th anniversary in 2018. The National Herbarium maintains an archival collection of Trinidad and Tobago's indigenous and exotic plants with the earliest specimens dating from 1842. This amazing collection numbers more than 50,000 specimens and is continuously expanding.

In a significant community outreach initiative, the National Herbarium will join with Hillview College and the Biodiversity Society at The UWI to plant 200 trees in a re-

afforestation project in the hillside of Tunapuna. I urge you to pay a visit to the National Herbarium and learn more about the immense wealth of our natural history and the dedicated work of the team there.

I know that if we in science and technology in Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean are to move beyond known frontiers while keeping a moral centre, then we must look for the voice of conscience and reason in our writers, artists, creatives. Literature has long shaped civilisations, raised up and brought down political systems, and prodded us to think, often uncomfortably, beyond self-interest. Professor Elizabeth Walcott-Hackshaw, in her professorial inaugural lecture, calls the Caribbean 'a location of trauma' where, two hundred years later, the legacies of colonialism and slavery are present in our very DNA and still 'haunt' us. How do we re-invent ourselves? We can only do so by using our inherent survival mechanisms to leapfrog over obstacles in our way even as we stay rooted in the strength of who we are. We need the philosophers and thinkers to keep us grounded.

It was in recognition of these truths that The UWI partnered in the just concluded eighth NGC Bocas Lit Fest. This literary festival once again celebrated words and ideas in their various forms, among them, 'Cinelit'. For the second year running, UWI's Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics hosted, free of charge, this innovative hybrid of film and literature on the St. Augustine Campus. Visitors were treated to 31 films from more than 22 countries, including 17 in Spanish and Portuguese. Films ranged from award-winning feature films based on the work of some of Latin America's greatest writers, ground-breaking work by Anglophone filmmakers, to children's animations and stirring documentaries about contemporary life. If you missed it this year, remember to put it on your calendar for 2019!

Even as the blooming of the Poui on our Campus delights the eye, it also reminds students that examinations are upon them and that the end of our 2017-2018 academic year is approaching. It may even mean that their period of study at The UWI is at an end – for the moment – and that they will be joining the ranks of over 100,000 alumni, located in every sphere of endeavour across the Caribbean and the world.

There will always be challenges to be faced. In so doing, we may not always meet immediate success. Yet, we always gain in the knowledge of going the distance and giving it our best shot. Then, like tempered steel, we rise stronger than before.

We ARE UWI.

*Brian Copeland*

**PROFESSOR BRIAN COPELAND**

*Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal*

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## EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

# Heady Machinery

BY JOEL HENRY



There is a very powerful scene near the climax of the film *Blade Runner 2046*. A synthetic man mourns the death of a holographic woman, wondering if their emotions for each other were even real. Two artificial people telling a story so human.

For those who are optimistic about the future of artificial intelligence it's one of AI's biggest selling points – the ability to enhance and even magnify humanity.

"It is my dearest hope," says Eleanor "Nell" Watson, "that these emerging technologies will help us exalt the human in all of us."

Watson – writer, engineer and entrepreneur – was in Trinidad and Tobago to give a Distinguished Open Lecture at UWI St. Augustine on AI and education on April 6. Hosted by the UWI Open Lectures Committee, her presentation was an inspiring, and at times chilling, window into the future of both machine intelligence and mankind.

"Today there is an emerging form of computation and machine intelligence which is less about ones and zeros. It is getting away from the logical side of computing and into something much more intuitive, creative and organic," Watson said to a packed audience at the Teaching and Learning Complex.

Students, staff and members of the public gasped at the sorcery-like examples of AI power during her presentation on "Artificial Intelligence and Educating for Tomorrow." They giggled and fidgeted at unnerving and alien displays of machine creativity. They nodded to her hopeful message of what an AI-rich world could be.

"It's a little bit scary and a little bit exciting," she said. "And both of those emotions together are exhilaration. I want you to feel exhilarated."

Watson attributes the advances in machine intelligence to three factors: an enormous increase in graphical computing power (a 25-time increase in the last five years alone), an explosion of data (in 2018 an estimated five Exabytes of data doubling every two minutes) and a massive increase in machine intelligence algorithms.

"Computation is moving to the edge," she said, pointing specifically to Blockchain, the system created to act as the transaction ledger for Bitcoin. There is enough computational power in Blockchain "that we could probably emulate the human brain if we knew how," she said.

These three factors have led to the development of creative machines.

"We are at the point where anything that the human brain does in one second or less can now be replicated by machines," she said, "for example, recognising a person, transcribing between text, speech and language, making an aesthetic impression, whether something is beautiful or interesting."

She showed examples of machine art, realistic paintings of birds and people, as well as haunting and strange organic-



"It is my dearest hope," says Eleanor "Nell" Watson, "that these emerging technologies will help us exalt the human in all of us."

PHOTO: ATIBA CUDJOE

looking art and engineering. This was the most surprising aspect of her lecture. Discussions on AI and technology in general usually revolve around productivity, efficiency and wealth generation. Her talk was very different.

"I think in the 2020s and beyond we are going to see the emergence of technologies that augment our hearts and our souls and will help us to understand ourselves better and connect more with other people. To be able to see people in three dimensions instead of two," she said in an interview afterwards.

Watson herself has incredible computing power. By age 24 she was teaching postgraduate computer science. Soon after she moved on to become a tech entrepreneur. Her resume is both lengthy and unique – including co-founding QuantaCorp (a company based around technology that can accurately size a person from a scan and two photos), and EthicsNet, a non-profit focused on developing "machine ethics" for AI.

On stage her clear and inspirational speaking style is magnetic, but one on one, it's almost a barrier. She answers deep philosophical questions immediately, drawing from ancient history, Nietzsche and the most cutting edge technology, but struggles with questions like what she does for fun and the kind of music she likes. She seems consumed

by very big ideas and questions. And understandably so, she grew up in the 1980s and 1990s, during the ethno-conflict in Northern Ireland.

"I experienced different bombings during my childhood," she said. "It led me to have some very deep questions about what had happened to society for this to be occurring; the dynamics that can take different societies in different directions. And if that is the case how might one perhaps influence things towards peace, towards flourishing, towards greater friendships. That experience has been one that greatly affected me from a young age and I'm still puzzling it out."

The fact that her focus is much bigger than AI was evident in the lecture. The entire second half dealt with education, specifically educating future generations in the rapidly changing world.

"Our schools are still trying to make us factory workers because they were established 150 to 200 years ago. To prepare our children for the world of tomorrow we need to be producing chefs not cooks. Cooks follow the recipe," she said.

"I think education needs to change to reflect these changes. Perhaps we need to focus less on the Three Rs and more on the Three Cs – complex problem-solving, critical and creative thinking, and collaboration and empathy."

She is not blind to the risks AI can pose – from both the machine side and the human side. Machine ethics is about using the appropriate data to engage AI in ethical deep learning.

"About 50% of the traffic on the Internet today is Bots. 30% of them are actually nasty Bots – spamming, scamming or impersonating human beings. So where is that going to take us? Are we going to have flesh vs. steel fights? You know I'd rather reframe it as something less antagonistic. I'd rather reframe it. AI is growing up like a young child but it's up to us to teach it and raise it right."

Teaching people however, may be more difficult. Speaking specifically about what AI can reveal about our own nature and its limitations, she is concerned that humanity may suffer "narcissistic wounds". And people wounded in this way are dangerous.

"I do not know what is coming for machines but I do understand human nature and I hope we can find a way to soften the blow," she says.

Nevertheless she remains cautiously optimistic. The latest entry on her blog is entitled "Pragmatic Optimism." In particular, she is excited about the possibilities of the combination of machine intelligence, the computing power of Blockchain and machine ethics. "Cryptomics" as she calls them. With them, she believes we can achieve "a society more phenomenal than you can possibly imagine."

"I am," she says, "deeply nostalgic for a future which has yet to arrive."



## UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEETING

# Time for Reform of MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

On April 27, at the Cave Hill Campus in Barbados, the highest governing body of The UWI, the University Council, gathered for its annual meeting. Here, the Council, which includes representatives appointed by the regional governments of The UWI contributing countries, discusses and makes decisions on the University's business, including its financial, administrative and academic affairs, and its projections. The Vice-Chancellor presented the 2016-2017 report ([www.uwi.edu/vcreport](http://www.uwi.edu/vcreport)).

Chancellor of The UWI, Robert Bermudez, hosted and presided over it for the first time in his capacity as Chairman of the University Council, and took the opportunity to call for reforms to the University's management system and its approach to cost management. Here is an excerpt from his remarks.

I was advised by Sir Alister McIntyre, the former Vice-Chancellor, that I should spend my first year getting to know the institution and its people. This has proved to be good advice. I cannot claim to know enough but I have made progress. I wish to thank everyone whom I have met for the courtesy and kindness with which they have received me.

I have come to have an understanding of the strengths and challenges of this organization. Without doubt the greatest strength lies in its people and their enormous talent; the loyalty which over the years they have built up for this institution.



Chancellor of The UWI, Mr. Robert Bermudez, presided over the Council meeting.

The challenges are many, but the most pressing is the need for reform, both of our management systems and our funding model. A change in mindset, when it comes to the financing of the university and our approach to cost management, is essential.

The traditional model of the State paying the vast majority of the economic cost is unsustainable due to the fiscal challenges in the region.

It is impractical and to my mind it is unhealthy, as it does not put sufficient pressure on the management to rethink the delivery systems and the fixed cost of providing education. We spend too much time lobbying with the Governments to pay

their bills and not enough time on reducing the operating cost of the University.

In order to resolve this vexing issue we need a collaborative approach between the university and the contributing countries, understanding that there are probably no simple solutions and that change will need time.

The University has faced many serious challenges in its 70 years, each event has seen it triumph over adversity and I am certain that once we place trust in our people, empower them and provide sound leadership, we will solve the problem, strengthen the University, and ensure that it will continue to do its work of being the most important development tool in the English-speaking Caribbean.

*The traditional model of the State paying the vast majority of the economic cost is unsustainable due to the fiscal challenges in the region.*

## Funding Regional Higher Education

Regional higher education institutions, whose primary focus once was serving the public good, are now being forced to think like businesses to sustain themselves because of the economic climate. It's a fight for survival that requires a culture of change.

In 2010, the West Indies Group of University Teachers (WIGUT) organised a professional development seminar to discuss Sustainable Funding of Higher Education in Challenging Times in recognition of its role in helping to ensure the sustainability of higher education in the West Indies.

Eight years later, the conversation around financing the regional higher education sector is the same. WIGUT recently held a follow-up round table to address sustainable funding and capacity building for the sector, with the intention of examining the proposals and perspectives then reconvening to move forward with practical solutions.

Executive member of WIGUT and lead for the event management, Dr. David Rampersad, says there is a misconception that funding the higher education sector refers to student funding only. It includes looking at aspects of funding such as traditional fundraising and philanthropy, commercialisation, technology and knowledge transfer, creation and exploitation of intellectual property, exporting education services, and particularly, exporting results of research.

The roundtable sought to discuss issues around funding and to identify steps and expertise required to build capacity.

A mix of experts, primarily from within The UWI, presented on themes such as *The Economic Outlook: Opportunities for The Tertiary Sector; Enabling Framework/ Pre-conditions; Philanthropy/ Alumni Giving; Marketing of Technical Expertise and Consulting Capacity; Harnessing Research Capacity and Research Management; Intellectual Property and Commercialisation: A Realistic Assessment; Public-Private-Academic Partnerships; International Marketing of Higher Education Services and Options for the Payment of Tuition Fees.* Dr. Rampersad presented on *International Marketing of Higher Education Services.*

(Shyvonne Williams)



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# Cracks in the Edifice:

## Notes of a Native Daughter

BY ELIZABETH WALCOTT-HACKSHAW

*...when dealing with young independent nations, the nation is passed over for the race, and the tribe is preferred to the state. These are the cracks in the edifice*  
(Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*, 119)

On June 22, 2015, a podcast was posted online after an interview with US President Barack Obama, following the shooting deaths in the previous week of nine black people in a church in South Carolina. The shooter was a 21-year-old white man espousing racist ideology. The podcast interview with Marc Maron made headlines for many reasons, but mainly because then President Obama used the ‘n- word’ in the interview. Obama said this:

*...race relations have improved significantly during my lifetime and yours, opportunities have opened up ... attitudes have changed. That is a fact. What is also true is that the legacy of slavery, Jim Crow, discrimination in almost every institution of our lives casts a long shadow and that’s still part of our DNA that’s passed on. Racism, we are not cured of it. And it’s not just a matter of it not being polite to say ‘nigger’ in public. That’s not the measure of whether racism still exists or not. It’s not just a matter of overt discrimination. Societies don’t overnight completely erase everything that happened 200 to 300 years prior...*

Still, Obama insisted on the fact that we had made progress: “progress is real” he said, “and we have to take hope from that progress.”

Obama knew that the “n” word’s problematic epistemology would draw attention to the situation; provocation is always useful tool. But it was the idea of racism as being part of our DNA that was troubling, particularly in the racialized world of 21<sup>st</sup> century identity politics. I begin with this idea because in many ways it is salient to the problematics of our own history of racism and trauma and its enduring effects on our 21<sup>st</sup> century psyche.

America is not the Caribbean, and being black in America is not the same as being black in the Caribbean. Identity politics remain for the most part a localized phenomenon. An African-American and an Afro-Caribbean may share a past of slavery and colonialism and face racial, economic and class discrimination, but the distinctions that arise from complex socio-cultural contexts create particular and unique circumstances for each group and individual. It is all in the details. This is not a revelation to anyone and yet the conflation still occurs. Even the word African is a homogenization and a reduction of a continent that is diverse and complex. Again, this is not a revelation; but still, consider the reduction of the prefix: “Afro.” In the US there are Italian- Americans, Irish-Americans, Polish-Americans and then there are African- Americans; no national or implied cultural distinction, no details, but instead an entire continent contained in a prefix. I would



Professor Elizabeth Walcott-Hackshaw engaging the audience at the lecture. PHOTO: KEYON MITCHELL

argue that the Caribbean is a more racially sophisticated society than the US. But I would also argue that the legacies of colonialism and slavery are still very much part of the DNA of our 21<sup>st</sup> century Caribbean.

This evening, I would like to look at some of these issues drawing primarily on the work of a young, black Martinican writer who wrote, in 1939, a long poem that would become a seminal work in Francophone Caribbean Literature and in the literary world as a whole. The poet is of course Aimé Césaire and the poem *Cahier d’un retour au pays natal* (*Notebook of a Return to the Native Land*) is as relevant today as it ever was in its exploration of the traumas that we face.

The Caribbean has long been a location of trauma. It is a region traumatized by a past that continues to haunt its present. Stuart Hall described the region’s violent colonial history as “the trauma of transportation.” As someone of Caribbean origin, as well as someone who writes both creatively and academically about the Caribbean, I have often felt the resonance of Frantz Fanon’s words: “These are the cracks in the edifice.” Fanon, Martinican psychiatrist, activist, writer and theorist (1925-1961), was talking about the pitfalls of a national consciousness that was inherently

tribal; Fanon affirmed: “... when dealing with young and independent nations, the nation is passed over for the race, and the tribe is preferred to the state.” But he also captured in this phrase, the indelible psychological scar left by the Caribbean region’s history. Fanon is but one of many since it would be hard to signal creative and scholarly works from across the region that have not dealt in some way with the manifestations of these cracks. This ever-present past continues to be explored and exposed across languages, generations, genres and genders.

My research interest in this area is by no means the first interrogation, much has been written about trauma in Caribbean fiction. One of the most recent critical studies is Paula Morgan’s work, *The Terror and the Time: Banal Violence and Trauma in Caribbean Discourse* (2014). Two of Morgan’s core questions are noteworthy, she asks: “To what extent are existing conceptions of trauma useful for analyzing the ruptures peculiar to Antillean history, with its attendant anxieties, identity crises and representational dilemmas? And secondly, “has trauma been normalized in Caribbean society?” The term “normalized” is of course part of the knotted problematic that trauma researchers attempt to unravel.

Trauma scholars like Stephen Craps have argued that there is a problem with trauma studies and the lack of focus on disadvantaged groups. There is still a need to continue to decolonize definitions of trauma especially when we examine works from a Caribbean perspective. I am not a psychiatrist so my approach is literary. I look at the poetics of trauma to examine the ways in which it is expressed in our writings and to see what the writing reveals firstly about the world of the text and the world beyond; in the case of my research, that world is the Caribbean.

My focus in this lecture is on the writer Aimé Césaire but my wider project draws from a range of Caribbean texts written in both English and French. This cross-lingual perspective opens a new space to navigate the poetics and problematics of the selected narratives. A comparative reading also facilitates the formulation of new constructs of trauma by locating areas of convergence and divergence.

Apart from Césaire’s *Cahier*, I also examine the poetics of Haitian-American writer Edwidge Danticat’s collection of short stories, *The Dew Breaker* (2004). Danticat looks at the effects of the Duvalier dictatorship on diverse Haitian communities. *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* (2007) by Dominican-American novelist Junot Diaz revisits historical accounts of another dictatorial regime, that of Rafael Trujillo, and Dany Laferrière’s *LEgnime du retour* (*The Enigma of return*) (2009) explores the loss of his biological father and his literary father, Aimé Césaire. Laferrière’s work, like Césaire’s, focuses on the idea of a return to a homeland constructed from memory, imagination and his reality.



## CAMPUS NEWS

**Sports is a multi-billion industry**, spanning athleticism, big business, marketing, entertainment and legal contracts of many kinds. Sports issues that arise make headlines worldwide. From the thrill of sporting triumphs to the taint of doping scandals or the challenges of governance of hugely popular and lucrative spectator sports such as football, what goes on extends much further than the playing field. Recognizing this, The UWI Faculty of Law hosted its inaugural sports law workshop, “Lex Sportiva – Beyond the Game”, on April 12 at the Queen’s Park Oval Century Ballroom in Port of Spain.

Dean Professor Rose-Marie Belle Antoine launched the workshop, noting that the Faculty offers several new legal courses, including for the first time, sports law, to provide high calibre continuing legal education to lawyers and other professionals.

Among the presenters were British sports lawyer, author and lecturer Professor Ian Blackshaw; former West Indies wicketkeeper/batsman Deryck Murray; Dr. Jason Haynes, senior Legal Officer of the British High Commission in Barbados; Dr. Justin Koo, lecturer in the UWI Faculty of Law; Tyrone Marcus, Senior Legal Officer in the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs; Regan Asgarali, an attorney attached to the Intellectual Property Office of T&T; and Stefan Fabien, a corporate lawyer and member of the T&T Anti-Doping Committee.

Dr. Jason Haynes gave examples of sports cases involving many different types of law, including tort law (players, clubs, governing bodies or referees finding themselves subject to legal action for negligent liability for sports injuries), criminal law (players fighting each other, hostile fast bowling, spot-fixing/match-fixing, corruption); and contract law (the “no disrepute” clause which is frequently included in sports contracts. Players have often been penalized for violations like drinking alcohol, fighting, or the case of Mohammed Ali refusing to be in the US Army, or Michael Phelps’ three-month suspension for smoking marijuana, or the extra-marital affairs of Tiger Woods leading to the revocation of his Gillette sponsorship deal).

The workshop touched on many interesting issues, including a proposal by Dr. Koo of streaming local grassroots community sports online to make more money from local sports.

Easily one of the highlights of the workshop was the contribution of Deryck Murray during the lunchtime panel discussion. He gave some spirited and forthright opinions on the state of Caribbean sports management.

Professor Belle Antoine chaired this public discussion on “Autonomy, good governance and state intervention in sport.” She observed that in the early days, sport was not about money but about the games, and administration was done by friendly, voluntary bodies as an act of service, and by private bodies by mutual consent. But she said those days are long gone, as sport is now not just a big business, but rife with conflict.

In this context, who should govern sports? Is there a role for the State? Can we expect private sporting bodies to regulate themselves? It made for interesting debate.

# The Laws of the Arena

Workshop raises provocative issues:

*Who should govern sports?*

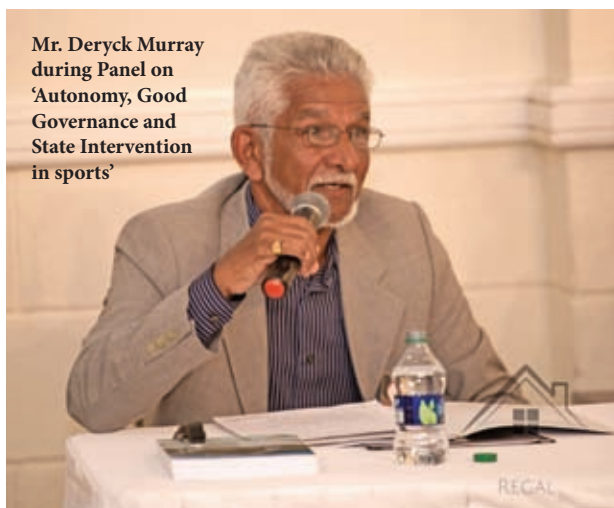
*Is there a role for the State?*

*Can we expect private sporting bodies to regulate themselves?*

BY S H E R E E N A L I



Panel on ‘Doping and Cheating: Everywhere or Nowhere’ featuring Left to right-Mr. Tyrone Marcus, Mr. Stefan Fabien, Ms. Grace Jackson and Dr. Jason Haynes. PHOTOS: KEYON MITCHELL



Mr. Deryck Murray during Panel on ‘Autonomy, Good Governance and State Intervention in sports’

*We say governments must not interfere in the running of sports. But of course, we want the government to fund every sport across the board. If my taxpayer’s dollars go to some association running sport in T&T, or in the region, am I not entitled to know what they are doing?*

– Deryck Murray

Belle Antoine alluded to just a few contentious TT sports issues, such as the selection of Caribbean cricket teams, the periodic calls to fire the regional cricket board, and the case of gymnast Thema Williams, who is seeking millions in compensation for what she says is the TT Gymnastics Federation’s “harsh and oppressive” actions against her which shattered her dream of qualifying for the 2016 Olympic games.

In this context, Belle Antoine asked whether decisions by private sports bodies should be subject to review (she thinks so, for better accountability). She also asked whether we should move entirely away from the voluntary organization of major sports and create State-funded national bodies to oversee administration.

“All of us participate in sport; whether we play, watch, or support, we are involved, and we are passionate about it,” began Deryck Murray. He spoke of sporting ideals of commitment, dedication, and the purity of competition, with participants observing the rules and upholding the spirit of the game: “Whether win or lose, we play by the rules, shake hands with our opponents, and walk away until the next time. Those values should never change.”

But he acknowledged that those values do in fact change because money is involved.

He referred to a document from Transparency International on FIFA, and said: “FIFA is the most corrupt body in the world.” He quoted from a November 2015 document which stated that there were 209 football



Cross section of attendance at Workshop



associations around the world, and between 2011-2014, FIFA distributed a minimum of US\$2.05 million to each of those sporting organisations. Yet 81% of them had no publicly available financial records, and 85% of them published no activity accounts of what they did.

He said public sporting bodies should have financial reports, an organizational charter, an annual activity report, and a code of conduct. But as of November 2015, he said T&T had published none of those. The results of this, he said, was: “Very much the consequences for any offence committed in T&T – nothing. It will be in court, and continue.”

“Sport is a global phenomenon engaging billions of people and generating some US\$150 billion annually. And yet we continue a *laissez faire* attitude to it still,” he said.

He said that sports can powerfully influence social values, allowing people to experience great emotion, learn the importance of rules, and develop respect for others. Those at the top of sports therefore have a duty to set high standards and lead with integrity, he said.

Murray mentioned other important issues affecting sports: conflicts of interest, trading and influence and insider information, cronyism and nepotism, sale of TV rights, venue and hosting arrangements, sponsorships and hospitality, remuneration and bonuses, payments to officials, ticket sales and distribution, procurement, the role of agents and intermediaries, and elections to governing bodies. He later praised sporting bodies for continuing to have sports despite all the issues.

Murray was of the opinion that international organisations such as FIFA, the International Olympic Committee, and the International Cricket Council hide behind the “non-interference rule” as a pretext to defend national associations (or in the Caribbean case, regional federations) from legitimate demands for transparency and accountability in the spending of public resources.

“We say governments must not interfere in the running of sports. But of course, we want the government to fund every sport across the board. If my taxpayer’s dollars go to some association running sport in T&T, or in the region, am I not entitled to know what they are doing? Bodies must be answerable, whether it is to the Court of Arbitration in Switzerland, or to local courts. But they must be specific to what our circumstances, our laws are. Private bodies cannot be allowed to operate with impunity.”

He referred to the recent March 2018 cricket ball tampering scandal in the third Test Match between Australia and South Africa in Capetown in which three Australian players were banned. For him, the important thing about that was that the first meaningful call for action came from the Prime Minister of Australia – not to interfere, not to hand down a judgement, but rather to say to the Cricket Board of Australia that it had to take strong and decisive action for making Australia look like a country of cheats internationally.

In a later comment, Murray clarified that he does not advocate for a Government taking over any sport. And with regard to the role of the West Indies Cricket Board (which rebranded itself as Cricket West Indies in 2017), he commented: “When the West Indies Cricket Board registered itself as an incorporated company, to me, it has to be treated like Clico, and Clico can be treated in different territories in very similar ways under corporate law. The WICB and other sporting organizations cannot have their cake and eat it... They must be treated as a corporate body, and therefore answerable to somebody. The shareholders of the TT cricket board are the public. And now that we have the introduction of franchises, we have a maze of companies designed to obfuscate the real issues of good governance.”

## HIGH STAKES *and* TEMPTATIONS CORRUPT

“Sport is now an industry in its own right and worth more than 3% of world trade. It is not surprising therefore, that a specific body of sports law – a so-called *Lex Sportiva* – is developing to deal with this global phenomenon. There is now so much at stake, on as well as off the field of play. This has led to pressures – sporting and financial ones – on sports persons and teams to compete vigorously and, in some cases, to do so at all, or any costs, including cheating in its various forms, such as doping, match-fixing, illegal betting and other forms of corruption that are undermining the integrity of sport.”

These are comments by Professor Ian Blackshaw, the feature speaker at the UWI Faculty of Law’s first sports law workshop. Prof Blackshaw gave two presentations: “Sports Governance and the Russian Dilemma: Welcomed by FIFA, banned by the IOC” and “Sports Disputes Resolution: The Role of the Court of Arbitration for Sport and Lessons for the Caribbean.”

Prof Blackshaw is a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of England and an international sports lawyer with over 30 years’ experience. He is a prolific author of books and articles on sports law, including his latest book entitled *International Sports Law: An Introductory Guide* published by the Asser Press in The Hague, The Netherlands. He is a member of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), where he specializes in sports mediation and conciliation. In many respects, he is a pioneer in the practice and teaching of sports law, which, he says, is an ongoing, developing and ever-challenging branch of the law.

He touched on several sports issues, including the controversies surrounding the granting of the World Cup to Russia (coming up in June this year), and later on, to Qatar in 2022.

He gave several examples of fraud in sport, such as doping – a form of cheating that is anathema to the ideals of fair play. In the sport of cycling, he noted that “mechanical doping” or the concealing of motorized equipment in the frames or wheels of bicycles was an issue of technological fraud. A recent example from cricket was the issue of ball tampering by Australians in the Third Test Match in Cape Town. And even the genteel sport of tennis is also under the microscope for being lenient with people alleged to be using prohibited substances, he said.

So what are international sports bodies doing about these issues?

He discussed the International Olympic Committee’s introduction (following the 2002 Salt Lake City bidding scandals) of an independent Ethics Committee, which has now been divided into two bodies following the allegations of systemized doping by Russia in relation to the 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi.

In the wake of FIFA’s corruption scandals, he noted that FIFA has established its own independent ethics committee, with investigatory and adjudicatory arms. He commented on the demise of Sepp Blatter as president of FIFA, and the fall of Michel Platini (who in 2015 was banned from all football-related activities for eight years for accepting a payment of two million Swiss francs from Sepp Blatter).



Professor Blackshaw presents Dean of the Faculty of Law, Professor Rose-Marie Belle Antoine with a copy of his latest book, *International Sport Law: An introductory Guide*

On the issue of illegal betting, Prof Blackshaw noted that on May 9, 2011 FIFA signed a 10-year collaboration agreement with Interpol to try to identify illegal betting patterns: FIFA has put 20 million Euros into this collaboration, he said, which was significant, because Interpol has almost 200 member countries around the world.

He also spoke of several bodies set up to police or regulate different aspects of sports, including the ESSA (European Sports Security Association, based in Brussels, Belgium, set up to identify irregular sports betting patterns); and the ICSS (International Centre for Sports Security, based in Doha, Qatar, which does event security design, and provides services in good governance, investigations and intelligence). The ICSS aims to galvanise international support for integrity in sport globally, he said.

Prof Blackshaw also spoke of SIGA (Sport Integrity Global Alliance), formed in November 2015, a not-for profit international private-public partnership aimed at fixing many governance challenges in sport.

In his second presentation, he discussed the work of CAS, which has played an important role in developing the field of sports law since it began operations on 30 June 1984, having been specifically set up to settle sports-related disputes outside the ordinary courts’ system, in other words, “extra-judicially”. Such a form of alternative dispute resolution, Prof Blackshaw pointed out, saves time and money and enables disputes to be settled “within the family of sport.”

(Shereen Ali)



## ■ CAMPUS NEWS

# Emerging Plant Diseases

*A threat to regional food security*



Participants and the training crew share a moment at the St. Augustine Campus.

**Emerging plant diseases** are caused by pathogens which can develop into epidemics that may be both unexpected and devastating. These diseases may be newly discovered or recognized ones and are caused by pathogens that have increased in incidence or a change in geographical/host range or newly evolved pathogens.

A significant number has been recorded as emerging diseases in the Caribbean region and they are considered a serious threat to plant growth and productivity and consequently, to regional food security.

The Plant-Microbe research group at the Department of Life Sciences (DLS) has identified several emerging pathogens of vegetable crops of the Caribbean region through extensive field surveys and laboratory research. However, practically there are serious challenges associated with the identification of emerging diseases, detection of pathogens and further control of such diseases in the field.

The group held a training programme in December 2017 with the United Nations University-BIOLAC Programme on “Molecular Diagnosis of Emerging Plant Diseases and Integrated Management of Plant Health.” It was meant to highlight the current knowledge in molecular diagnosis of emerging plant diseases in the Caribbean region and application of biotechnological approaches for field disease management.

The 27 trainees included agricultural officers, extension officers, technicians, laboratory managers, researchers and students from around the Caribbean.

The inaugural ceremony was chaired by Dr. Margaret

Bernard, Deputy Dean for Graduate Studies, Research and Innovation, FST. Dr. Adesh Ramsubhag, Head DLS and Co-Programme Director welcomed the gathering. Prof. Jayaraj Jayaraman, Director, UNU-BIOLAC Training, introduced the objectives and activities of the training programme. Prof. Indar Ramnarine, St. Augustine Campus Deputy Principal, and Mr. Dale Nandlal, Director of the Research Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries, brought greetings.

Senator Avinash Singh, Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, spoke on the importance of the diseases vis-a-vis national food security. Mr. Nelson Leville, Head of the Plant Protection and Quarantine, Ministry of Agriculture, Dominica, spoke on behalf of the trainees. Mr. Antonio Ramkissoon, Research Associate, DLS, delivered the vote of thanks.

Several topics were covered in the training through lectures and discussions, and practical laboratory sessions provided hands-on experience on classical methods of disease diagnosis, pathogen isolation, and others. During the sessions, various strategies for management of emerging plant diseases were discussed.

The crucial role of UWI in offering knowledge support for addressing this important challenge on food security was very much sought and highlighted by the participants and the partnering institutions. The conveners assured of the University’s continued engagement on research and development and organization of subsequent trainings in the near future.

## Ouditt for Wellcome



**Visual Arts lecturer,** Steve Ouditt has been awarded a place to attend the Wellcome Collection’s Ideas Hub this coming September. The Hub offers artists and designers who work on projects that focus on art, life, medicine and science, a space

to interact and share their ideas with a small group – just around 20 – from around the world.

Ouditt has been a lecturer in visual arts at the Department of Creative and Festival Arts since 2003 at UWI, St Augustine. He has exhibited at the Tenth Havana Bienal in Cuba in 2009. He has also exhibited at the Third Guangzhou Triennial 2008 at the Guangdong Museum of Art in China, and in New York at the Brooklyn Museum [2007], in Reykjavik Iceland at The Living Art Museum [2006], in London at the inIVA space [2000], and Camden Arts Centre and 198 Gallery Brixton [1997], in Manchester at The Cornerhouse Gallery [1997], in Glasgow, Scotland at the cca [1997], and in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic at National Art Gallery [1995] He has made presentations at the University of Havana in Cuba, the Tate Modern in London, Brooklyn Museum in New York, and at the Reykjavik Academie in Iceland. Ouditt studied at the School of Visual Arts in New York, Goldsmiths College at the University of London, and was a Researcher at the Jan van Eyck Academy in Maastricht, Netherlands.

## Culturometrics in Martinique

UWI Prof. **Beatrice Boufoy-Bastick** was invited, under the European UA-UWI ERASMUS+ agreement, to give a series of Doctoral Seminars in French to 93 Doctoral students at the *Université des Antilles, Martinique (UA)* – at the CRILLASH research centre, *Faculté des Lettres et Sciences Humaines, UA, Martinique* in March.

Prof. Boufoy-Bastick was invited as the initiator of Culturometrics. Culturometrics is a powerful new research paradigm for affirming and measuring cultural identities of social-science constructs. Her Doctoral Seminars and advanced Doctoral Workshops demonstrated the use of Culturometric methods for researching social-science constructs in the History, Education and Identity of the English-speaking Caribbean, from pre-slavery to state separatism. The Doctoral students quickly realised advantages the culturometric perspective gave them in visioning their theses and enhancing the practical significance of their research.



Advanced Doctoral workshops in Culturometric methods at the Université des Antilles, Martinique from UWI’s, Prof. Béatrice Boufoy-Bastick.



# Speaking for Coral Reefs

***Coral reefs are endangered. But they are under the sea, so why should we care?***

A handful of scientists have come together voluntarily under the banner, **International Year of the Reef – T&T (IYOR-T&T)** to alert young citizens to the beauty and diversity of reefs off Tobago and Trinidad; and to encourage influential agencies to conserve and protect valuable marine resources. 2018 was designated the third International Year of the Reef because of the global bleaching event of 2016-2017.

## ***There are reefs off Trinidad?***

“It’s a surprise to many, but yes there are coral reefs around Trinidad,” says Jahson Alemu I who has spent more than ten years investigating human impacts on tropical coastal and marine ecosystems. Most recently his dissertation study focused on Tobago reefs. “The largest reefs off Trinidad can be found at Salybia Bay in Toco and around Chacachacare. More widely distributed are coral reef communities which can be found along the east coast, along the north coast and parts of the northwest peninsula such as at Macqueripe.

“These reefs provide important nursery habitat for many ecologically and economically important fish species (including snappers, parrotfish, jacks and groupers), and support a wide diversity of species including sea turtles, rays, sea cucumbers, octopus, lobster and sponges.”

Dr. Farahnaz Solomon, a marine biologist and co-director of the NGO SpeSeas, believes that an understanding of how marine ecosystems contribute to livelihoods can stimulate positive changes in the way we use ocean resources, and effect policy. She says, “Coral reefs are often only appreciated for their beauty and bountiful biodiversity. Teeming with life, they are regarded as ‘rainforests of the oceans’ as they cover only 0.1% of the seafloor, and yet provide shelter for about 25% of all marine life. What is more important to know, this biodiversity is responsible for productive fisheries and thriving recreation and tourism sectors where reefs occur. Even ‘non-reef’ species may use the reef and associated systems to have their young or for protection during their larval and juvenile stages. Through all these services, reefs contribute significantly to human well-being.”

Dr Anjani Ganase, environmental columnist (Tobago Newsday), blogger (wildtobago.blogspot.com) and marine scientist who specializes in mapping ocean ecosystems, encourages us to look beyond our own shores to the connectivity of Caribbean coral reefs. She has recently written, “Tobago (and Trinidad) is fairly isolated. ... To add to this isolation, Tobago’s coral reefs are frequently washed by fresh water outflows of the Orinoco River, which limits the number of coral species and other reef creatures that can successfully live here. Our closest potential supplier of new coral larvae is Barbados, which in turn may receive from other islands farther north, up the island chain.” She speculates that the re-population of most Tobago (and Trinidad) reefs may occur mainly through self-recruitment. This means that Tobago’s reefs are unique but also vulnerable. We may have very limited reef recovery after an island-wide disturbance to our coral reefs.

“Regional coordination of coral reef protection is crucial for the longevity of Caribbean reefs. ... The damage to the reefs of Puerto Rico and the Virgin islands by hurricanes Maria and Irma in 2017 may prove a major blow to the reseeded of reefs of surrounding countries. We need to learn to maintain and boost our marine assets. Let us build the connections with the ocean and our reefs,” she concluded.

“Our decisions in everyday life also have a part to play in the conservation of coral reefs,” says Dr Amy Deacon, lecturer in Zoology and Science Communications at the UWI St Augustine, and member of the Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalist Club. “We can each help to reduce carbon



Diversity and inter-dependence are qualities of coral reefs and the IYOR-T&T team which is partnering with individuals, agencies, government and business to ensure that everyone appreciates the value of living coral reefs. From left: Anjani Ganase, Amy Deacon, Farahnaz Solomon and Jahson Alemu. PHOTO COURTESY IYOR-T&T

emissions that contribute to climate change; use energy-saving light-bulbs, turn off lights, and walk, bike, car-pool or take public transport whenever feasible.

“More directly, we can all try to reduce, reuse and recycle more. Avoid single-use plastics, such as straws, styrofoam boxes, plastic bags and bottles. Food vendors may look at you strangely when you refuse a straw, but they usually are willing to pack your food or drink in your own reusable container once you ask nicely. Use eco-friendly detergents or natural cleaning products like vinegar.

“Whether buying from the supermarket, fish market or a restaurant, we can try and make more sustainable choices. Certain fish species are especially overfished on our reefs, and others are caught with methods that damage the reef environment. In general you should avoid parrotfish, snapper, grouper, shrimp and shark.”

Amy is also Secretary of the Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists’ Club, a partner in IYOR T&T. Central to the Club’s mission are getting out and enjoying and appreciating nature, however, it is important to do so responsibly: “If you are lucky enough to get the chance to dive or snorkel, remember never to touch the corals and try not to stir up the sediment by putting your feet down as this can smother corals. Just swim past and enjoy their beauty. If boating, anchor in sandy areas so as not to damage the reef. Finally, learn more about coral reefs!”

So, how can we experience reefs? Jahson says, “To truly experience a coral reef you must get wet! Most of our coral reefs are located off Tobago, and glass bottom boat tours offer the opportunity to view and snorkel the Buccoo Reef and Speyside’s Angel Reef. For the more adventurous, you



The official launch of IYOR-T&T 2018 takes place on World Oceans Day, June 8. Events in Tobago will be coordinated by Kelly Mannette of Buccoo Reef Trust. To contact the scientists at IYOR-T&T, email: [iyortt2018@gmail.com](mailto:iyortt2018@gmail.com)

can learn to SCUBA dive. At Toco and Chacachacare, the reefs are shallow enough to snorkel.”

Anjani, a member of the XL Catlin Seaview Survey team which pioneered public on-line access to views of coral reefs around the world, says, “For those who prefer to stay dry, XL Catlin Seaview Survey photographed coral reefs for you to do ‘virtual dives’ on amazing reefs from your computer or smart phone. You can visit these reefs in Australia, Indonesia, or the MesoAmerican Barrier Reef, at the Global Reef Record: <http://www.globalreefrecord.org/> or on Google: <https://www.google.com/streetview/#oceans/>.”



## CAMPUS NEWS

If you are not slurping your tea, you are doing it wrong. The UWI St. Augustine's Confucius Institute hosted a series of workshops in February as part of their Chinese New Year and Spring Festival celebrations.

One was a Tea Appreciation workshop where Instructor Han Lipeng taught a packed room the history of tea or chá, as it is known in mandarin, and the art of drinking tea at home. Here's what you need to know:

**Step 1:** Sterilize and warm your tea cup by dipping it in a bowl of water with a wooden stick.

**Step 2:** Add loose tea or chá yè into your fairness cup or gong dao bei (A clay teapot or pitcher meant to be shared with everyone fairly).

**Step 3:** Pour hot soft water (definitely not tap water) over the loose tea in the fairness cup and then pour the water out – this is to let the tea leaves open up to give it a full-bodied aroma.

**Step 4:** Pour the hot water into your fairness cup again and let it brew. The length of time will depend on the type of tea. Green tea for example, requires a very short brewing time of 30 seconds or else it gets bitter.

**Step 5:** Pour the tea for your guests in a small fragrance cup also known as a tea sniffer. Place the small teacup over the tea sniffer and flip it over.

**Step 6:** Sniffing is not just for wine; tea has a fragrance too! Take the tea sniffer out of the teacup and pass it around to your guests. Let them enjoy the fragrant, complex tea aroma. Trust me, you do not want to skip this multi-sensory experience.

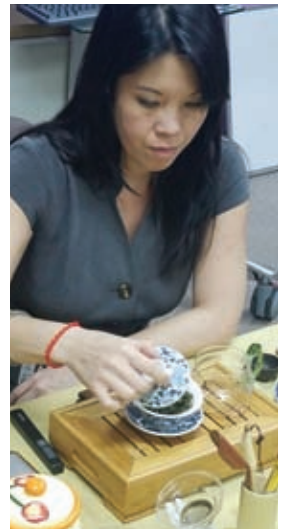
**Step 7:** Pour sieved tea into tea cups for your guests. Remember not to fill to the brim to avoid scalding and other tea-related injuries. Now it's time for pīn chá or tea tasting – again like wine, you want the tea to cover all of your tongue to taste every aspect of it so make sure to slurp. No, it's not rude at all. Slurp. Slurp. Slurp and savour!

(Jeanette G. Awai)

# The Art of Drinking Tea



Members of The UWI community tried some tea therapy.



Instructor Han Lipeng identified the different types of tea and how to drink them. PHOTO: CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE



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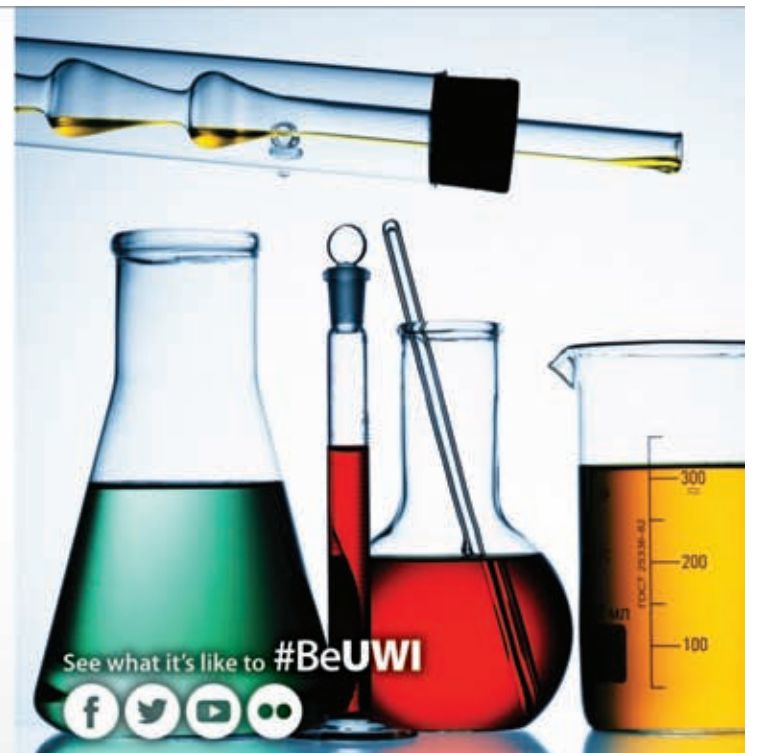
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# Young Historians Working

BY BRIDGET BRERETON

**The discipline of history**, like all branches of knowledge, develops through the training and mentoring of young scholars, usually within institutions of tertiary education which offer graduate programmes in the field. Promising graduate students are really the “seed corn” of the historian’s profession.

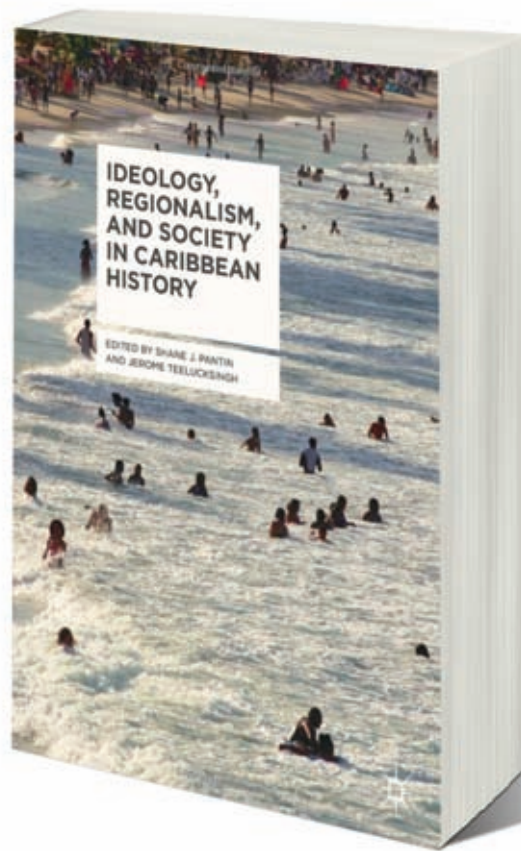
So I was pleased to read a new volume of essays, titled *Ideology, Regionalism, and Society in Caribbean History*, edited by Shane Pantin and Jerome Teelucksingh. Pantin is a UWI graduate in both history and law and a budding attorney, while Teelucksingh is a lecturer in the History Department at St Augustine. Unlike most academic collections of this kind, six out of the ten contributors are either currently enrolled in post-graduate programmes or received their PhD fairly recently. That this was a deliberate strategy is confirmed by the book’s dedication: To young academics and scholars.

Another interesting aspect is that most of the essays deal with recent history, the second half of the last century. Historians have traditionally been rather reluctant to write about the recent past, preferring to leave it to the political scientists, so this emphasis is especially welcome.

Several essays deal with T&T history. A valuable piece by American historian Matthew Quest examines the New Beginning Movement of the 1970s – to my knowledge the first serious analysis of this small but important revolutionary group, whose leaders were mostly intellectuals and academics deeply influenced by C.L.R. James’ ideas. Quest uses the group’s publications and oral history interviews to probe its ideas and its creation of a network of like-minded, left-wing intellectuals based in the Caribbean, Canada, the USA and Britain. One of the advantages of studying the recent past is that you can employ the oral history methodology – using the spoken memories of people still alive who witnessed or took part in the events you are examining as a key source.

St. Augustine PhD History student Danalee Jahgoo writes about the campaign led by Eric Williams for the return of Chaguaramas, the World War II base, in the 1950s and early 1960s. She considers both the reasons for the campaign, and the American responses in the context of the Cold War and concerns about security. Her thesis will examine the role of United States security-driven strategies in shaping the development of T&T from World War II to the 1980s.

Dealing with the same period, the 1950s, another PhD student (and St. Augustine graduate), Dextron Peters, who is completing his thesis at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, analyses the popular responses in Trinidad to the West Indian Federation of 1958-62. His main sources are the *T&T Guardian*, calypsos, and oral history interviews. He



## **Ideology, Regionalism, and Society in Caribbean History**

Shane Pantin and  
Jerome Teelucksingh (eds)

Palgrave Macmillan, 2017

*Unlike most academic collections of this kind, six out of the ten contributors are either currently enrolled in post-graduate programmes or received their PhD fairly recently. That this was a deliberate strategy is confirmed by the book’s dedication: To young academics and scholars.*

shows how enthusiasm for the Federation – of course its government and legislature were situated in Port of Spain – co-existed uneasily with growing T&T nationalism.

Coming right down to the early 2000s, Teelucksingh and Georgina Chami, who is based at the Institute of International Relations at St. Augustine, look at how the Trinidad Carnival has become a global phenomenon. They see this as an example of “cultural diplomacy” in action, what has come to be known as the exercise of “soft power” in the international arena.

A leading authority on C.L.R. James, the British scholar Christian Høgsbjerg, writes about the International African Service Bureau, a London-based Pan-African group which James once called “the most striking West Indian creation between the wars.” Established in 1937, it was led by fellow-Trini George Padmore, and James wrote for and edited its journal before he left for the USA in 1938.

Other essays deal with aspects of regional history. An essay by recent UWI (Mona) PhD Renee Nelson, which nicely complements that by Peters, examines the work of the Federal Information Service between 1957 and 1962. Led by Trinidadian William Richardson, it had the difficult task of trying to spread knowledge about, and enthusiasm for, the short-lived West Indian Federation. One of the interesting things about this essay is the use she makes of letters written by West Indians to the “Federal Letterbox” – the public was encouraged to write with questions, concerns and comments about the Federation, and the letters were read and replied to on the radio programme that Richardson ran. These letters, in the archives of the Federation now held by the Cave Hill campus of UWI, provide rich testimony of ordinary people’s ideas and concerns at this period.

Dane Morton-Gittens, a recent St. Augustine History PhD, writes about a governor of Barbados and the Windward Islands in the 1870s who tried (and failed) to get the Barbadian elites to accept a new “Confederation” scheme, while Fareena Alladin, a PhD candidate in Sociology at St. Augustine, looks at the place of food in Caribbean development.

Finally, co-editor Pantin contributes an interesting piece about how history writing could promote regional integration. Using the multi-volume UNESCO General History of the Caribbean (1997-2011) as his starting point, he argues that history remains an important force in shaping the region’s identity and so historical research and writing (like this book) can help to develop a robust regional consciousness. He believes that “the extensive use of history as an analytical tool to comprehend the region’s philosophy, sociology, legal environment and economy” is a vital aspect in the ongoing process of Caribbean integration.



# Using the Dead to inform the Living

BY YASMIN BAKSH-COMEAU

The National Herbarium of Trinidad and Tobago will formally launch its 200th anniversary celebrations on 22 May 2018 with a tree-planting ceremony at the St. Augustine Campus where the collection is housed under the stewardship of curator, Yasmin Baksh-Comeau. Among the activities planned is the collaboration with a re-afforestation project to take place in the hillside of Tunapuna, where 200 trees will be put to earth between Hillview College, the Biodiversity Society at The UWI and the Herbarium. The trees will form part of the promotion of greening the urban landscaping as part of 'our green heritage' and to become a part of the Virtual Campus Arboretum on the website at <http://sta.uwi.edu/herbarium/> as soon as it is launched. Look out for more on the celebratory activities in our next issue.

Biological collections preserved as dried or wet plant or animal specimens stored in herbaria or museum cupboards, jars or display cabinets, represent a snapshot of a particular moment in time which can tell a story or solve a problem. These seemingly *dead* specimens, if well maintained, serve as a valuable 'biological clock' linking the past with the present and the future.

Trinidad and Tobago has a long recorded history of plant exploration dating from 1498. Over the centuries countless specimens from Trinidad and Tobago have been removed and deposited in major herbaria in Europe and North America. It is this historical propensity for collecting and documenting specimens that gave rise to the National Herbarium of Trinidad and Tobago which originated with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Port of Spain established in 1818.

J. H. Hart, fourth Superintendent of the Botanic Gardens, formalised the herbarium in 1887 by salvaging some of the specimens from his predecessors. The earliest specimens rescued from these early collectors dating from 1842 are integrated with the extant collection.

The vascular flora of Trinidad and Tobago dominates the collections with a smaller regional sample. There are good representative samples of marine algae, mosses and liverworts.

The Herbarium provides a plant identification and information service. Identifying over 6,800 specimens for the public over the last 16 years involves challenges, such as, identification of seeds on a victim's clothing or endorsing marijuana plants (*Cannabis sativa*) seized by the police.

A medical practitioner having a sick child ingesting unfamiliar seeds and subsequently identified as rubber



seeds (*Hevea brasiliensis*) was treated for probably cyanide poisoning, and checking a packet of finely powdered "Cat's Claw" from The Food & Drug Division of the Ministry of Health are examples of the work of the herbarium. Scholars world-wide, in any field involving plants, must seek out a herbarium. Similarly, two local publications come to mind *Medicinal Plants of Trinidad and Tobago* (Seaforth *et al.* 1982) and *Dictionary of the English/Creole of Trinidad and Tobago* (Winer 2009) relied heavily on our herbarium.

Recent research involved a botanical inventory undertaken from 2005-2008 to develop a Biodiversity Monitoring System for Trinidad and Tobago, in collaboration with Oxford University, UK and the Forestry Division, under the Darwin Initiative (this was done concurrently with refurbishment of the Herbarium). This botanical survey produced over 22,000 specimens of which 90% were identified using the reference collection. The results of this comprehensive study, soon to be published, have (i) identified biodiversity 'hot spot' areas, (ii) assessed the status of rare, threatened and endemic species, and (iii) form the basis for a new vegetation classification for Trinidad and Tobago.

In 2009, we initiated a *student internship programme* with the University of the Southern Caribbean in Maracas, Trinidad. This programme is designed to give students an opportunity to volunteer their time while gaining experience working in the herbarium. Thirty-one students have participated in the programme mounting over 3,000 specimens from the huge backlog of specimens accumulated over the years. The impact on USC students' learning has been twofold: increasing awareness of the richness of the local flora and leaving a legacy behind with their mounted specimens. A long standing partnership continues with *The Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists' Club* whose membership is dedicated to the study of our natural history. Members have made good use of the herbarium to identify plants from their field trips and have added valuable specimens to the collection.

More importantly, our herbarium is supported as 'a national asset' by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.





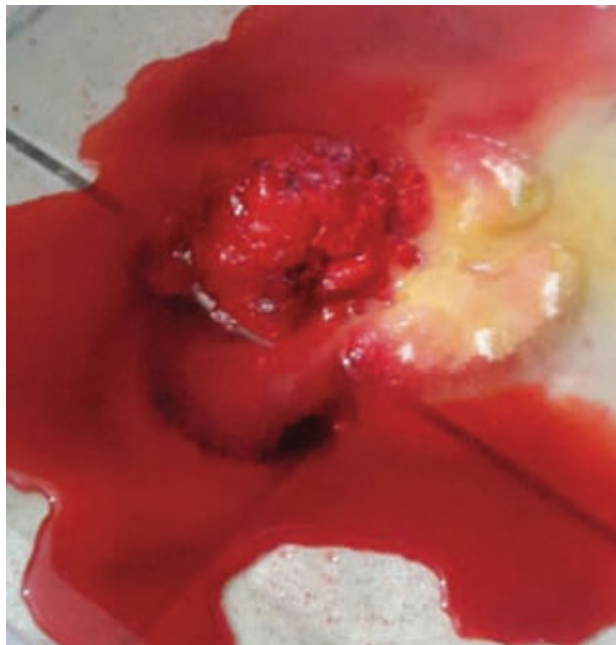
# Rainy Days, Ordeals *and* Redemption

BY SERAH ACHAM

UWI's final-year Visual Arts students added a flair for the contemporary to the Trinidad and Tobago National Museum and Art Gallery this April. With its largely conceptual theme, the Department of Creative and Festival Arts' 2018 Degree Student Exhibition, served as both complement and contrast to its venue.

Home to relics from our country's rich history, the National Museum holds objects time-weathered but tangible, and the atmosphere inside the Victorian-era building, with its narrow corridors, dim lighting and wood floors, immerses visitors in the journey through our nation's past. Enter the DCFA's exhibition, however, and the museum's rustic environment gives way to light and space. The room's high ceiling and white walls make it feel open and the art is well-spaced, giving each piece its deserved attention.

Unlike the museum's artefacts, protected behind glass cases, preserved for essential historical and cultural record, the DCFA students' art pieces are exposed to engage the senses and encourage interaction. Rather than represent fact, they're meant to share the artist's experience and to invite the viewer's interpretation.



Sade O'Brien's "Daddy."

A walk around the gallery shows a variety of media (sculpture, assemblage, weaving, photographic and graphic, for example), created using a multitude of different materials (from red sand, wood and glass, to soap and fabric) that invite reflection.

Elements of the dark and macabre arose as artists tackled issues of mental and physical illness. Curtis Thomas' resin and lace sculpture, aptly titled "Undone," illustrated the fragility of the human psyche in the face of depression.

Cheryl Wight's "Redemption," a large, flowing, tangle of bright red cloth and thread, went further, inviting the viewer to walk through the 12-foot high, 63-foot wide mass. The inability to see clearly through the fabric from either side is meant to depict the isolation and confusion of dementia, as well as the distress of a caregiver.

Sade O'Brien's "Daddy," offered its audience a similarly affecting experience of caring for a dying loved one. With bags of ice suspended in mid-air, condensation forming



Cheryl Wight's "Redemption," a 12-foot high, 63-foot wide mass.

on their surfaces and slowly dripping water into containers filled with red and yellow liquids, coloured to represent bodily fluids, she renders palpable the physical pain of the ailing and the emotional pain of those closest to them.

Cultural gender stereotypes and body image issues were investigated in Anthony Jaboolal's photographic series, "Bare," which depicted shots of his own henna-painted body. The close-up images, zooming-in tightly on each body part, and the reflective effect of black and white photography, conjured a deep sense of intimacy, giving the audience an exclusive view into the highly personal struggle with insecurity.

Design student, Kadine Antoine, approached the all-too prevalent human obsession with appearance, by illuminating the eating disorders and self-harm practiced by many young girls. Covered in happy shades of pink and calming blues, with hand-painted images of open-winged dragonflies and butterflies, and hand-written messages of inspiration throughout its pages, her journal, the "Battimamzelle Activity Book," offered a creative outlet through which sufferers could channel their emotions and eliminate destructive behaviour.



Anthony Jaboolal's photographic series, "Bare," his henna-painted body.

Yet, these students' works of art are an apt accompaniment to the history that lies in our museum. Continuing our country's story, they share experiences of the modern world, from the emotions attached to abuse and mental illness, to the practical needs for proper facilities in public spaces and a serious solution to our crime problem.

Keith Cadette, Lecturer and Coordinator of the DCFA's Visual Arts programme, explains that in creating their pieces for this exhibition, students were "given the opportunity to explore beyond the traditional." He explains that visitors to the exhibition would not have found "the typical paintings, drawings [and] sculptures that one would normally associate with a local fine art exhibition." Instead, the artists explore different experiences, using different media.



Curtis Thomas' resin and lace sculpture: "Undone."

Brent Bristol's graphic novel, titled "Ordeal," was his artistic attempt to raise awareness of crime. With its clean lines and attractive colours, the comic quickly attracted the eye. Its superhero theme and locally-inspired characters – with different skin tones and hair textures, names like "Che" and "Anton," and dialogue that could only be uttered by a Trinbagonian – seemed designed to give our youth (or any comic book lover) their own superheroes to look up to.

Rainy-day clothing, a chair for DCFA students, a short animated film, and various explorations of nature, religion, illusion, sound, smell and texture ... the DCFA's final-year student art exhibition was filled with artistic pieces, too many to describe, but each unique and impactful.

*A walk around the gallery shows a variety of media (sculpture, assemblage, weaving, photographic and graphic, for example), created using a multitude of different materials (from red sand, wood and glass, to soap and fabric) that invite reflection.*



# UWI CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## MAY – JULY 2018



**CELEBRATE CHINESE CULTURE**  
May  
Confucius Institute Reading Room

The Confucius Institute present the following mini-cultural workshops:

- **May 11** | Chinese Martial Arts | 6 to 8pm
- **May 17** | Chinese Knot Making | 5to 6.30pm
- **May 18** | Chinese Paper Cutting | 6 to 8pm

Registered UWI students with ID: \$20;  
Members of the public: \$30.

*For more information, please visit the Confucius Institute's website:  
<http://sta.uwi.edu/confucius/>.*

**DIPLOMATIC ACADEMY OF THE CARIBBEAN WORKSHOPS**  
June  
UWI St. Augustine

The Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean (DAOC) presents the following workshops:

- Summer Executive Programme for Young Professionals: Protocol, Diplomacy and Business Etiquette 101 with facilitator Gail Guy, Retired Diplomat and Protocol Consultant | Session 1: June 4 and 5 or Session 2: June 7 and 8 | 9am to 4pm | Cost: US\$300
- The Art of Corporate and Diplomatic Communication with facilitator Sharon Welsh, Communications Consultant and Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University | June 26 to 29 | 9am to 4pm | Cost: US \$800 (10% discount for each member of groups 3 or more)

*For more information, please email: [DiplomaticAcademy@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:DiplomaticAcademy@sta.uwi.edu) or call 662-2002 ext. 85362; 85360; 85359 or visit [www.sta.uwi.edu/daoc/](http://www.sta.uwi.edu/daoc/).*

**FMS PRESENTATIONS**  
May  
Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex (EWMSC)

The Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS) presents the following events in May:

- **May 7** | 11am to noon | School of Pharmacy Symposium with feature speaker Professor Terezinha de Jesus Andreoli Pinto from Faculdade de Ciências Farmacêuticas, University São Paulo SP Brasil Towards Safer and Effective Medicines and Biomaterials at Amphitheatre B.
- **May 17** | 5.30 to 8pm | School of Dentistry Guest Lecture Series by External Examiners with Professor Alan Gilmour presenting on Amelogenesis Imperfeca; Professor Nicola Innes presenting on Sealing Carious Lesions and Professor Nigel Matthews presenting on Managing TMJ Dysfunction at Amphitheatre A. For additional details, please call 645-3232 ext. 4112 or 4115.

*For more information, please visit the Campus Events Calendar at [www.sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar](http://www.sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar).*

**REVITALIZING THE BUFFALYPSO**  
June  
Sir Frank Stockdale Building

The School of Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS) and the Faculty of Food and Agriculture (FFA) present the Revitalizing the Buffalypso – Our National Treasure Conference.

The Opening Ceremony and Public Lecture take place June 1 from 6pm to 7.30pm and Conference presentations on the History of Livestock and Disease Management take place on June 2 from 8.30am to 3pm at the Sir Frank Stockdale Building, Room B.

*For more information, please contact 645-3232 ext. 4247.*



**ENGINEERING THE FUTURE**  
9am to 11.30am  
May 23  
UWI St. Augustine

The Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering presents their Annual Conference and Exhibition under the theme, Engineering the Future. It will showcase the Department's Capstone projects and selected MSc and MPhil/PHD research projects and presentations. The Conference takes place from 9am to 11.30am at the Max Richards Building (Engineering Block 13) and the exhibition takes place at JFK Auditorium from 9am to 5pm.

*For more information, please visit the Campus Events Calendar at [www.sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar](http://www.sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar).*



**RAINFOREST TO REEF**  
8am to 6pm  
July 25 to 27  
Teaching and Learning Complex  
UWI St. Augustine

The Latin America and Caribbean Section (LACA) of the Society for Conservation Biology in collaboration with The UWI hosts the inaugural Latin America and Caribbean Congress for Conservation Biology (LACCCB 2018) under the theme, Rainforest to Reef: Strengthening Connections between the Caribbean and the Americas.



*For conference rates and registration information visit <https://laccbb2018.org/registration/>.*

**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](mailto:uwitoday@sta.uwi.edu)

