



UWI TODAY

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES • ST AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

SUNDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2019



HIGHER HEIGHTS

Batsman Odain McCatty from the Combined Campuses and Colleges (CCC) Marooners takes to the air to dispatch a ball from The UWI St Augustine Campus team bowler Cameron Pennyfeather during the inaugural UWI World Universities T20 Tournament. Teammate Khesan Yannick Ottley looks on. Held from January 10 to 20 at the Sir Frank Worrell Cricket Ground at The UWI St Augustine's Sport and Physical Education Centre (SPEC), the tournament was an initiative of The UWI Faculty of Sport. The CCC team, made up of tertiary-level students from the region and managed by The UWI, went on to win the entire tournament, besting Oxford MCCU by 20 runs in the finals. PHOTO: ANEEL KARIM

IDEAS - 04

The Architect

■ Sir David shares his vision



OUR CAMPUS - 07

Today is UWI Fete!

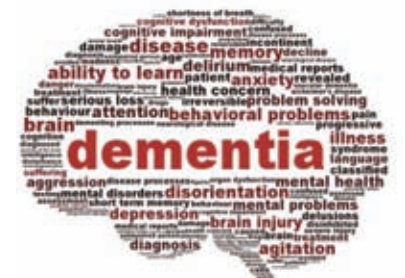
■ Feteing for a good cause



CAMPUS NEWS - 10

Young Leader

■ A passion for politics



HEALTH AND WELLNESS - 11

Crisis of Mind

■ Nearly 1 in 4 elderly have dementia

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

HEALTHY RESOLUTIONS

In many cultures throughout the world the New Year is seen as a time of rebirth and renewal – a new beginning. As individuals, as a campus community and as a society, we have a fresh opportunity for development, for reflecting on, resetting and achieving our goals, and for redoubling our determination to overcome the inevitable obstacles. As such, while it may be just a fad for many, the age-old tradition of making New Year resolutions can be an effective means to strategically make the course corrections required to make for a more meaningful life. Like with everything else, it is what you make of it.

We have much to do in 2019. The challenges we face have been ventilated at length – economic development, innovation, more aggressive entrepreneurship, climate change, food security, crime, social development, gender discrimination and more. We have no shortage of issues. However, we can and must embrace the challenges that accompany these issues with powerful, positive energy. We can and must tackle our obstacles with audacity and a hopeful outlook.

One of our greatest assets in life is our health – physical, mental and emotional. All too often we measure success only in economic indicators. But as the late Arlen Specter, US Senator for the state of Pennsylvania, once said, “There’s nothing more important than our good health – that’s our principal capital asset”. Few, if any, would contest this. We all have our experiences with the suffering, and ultimate demise caused by the ill-health of family, friends and acquaintances. For obvious reasons, the preservation of this capital asset is of significant importance at the community and national levels. It is a key factor in the development and sustenance by our citizens of a state with an acceptably high standard of living; at the same time, and as the Trinidad and Tobago Minister of Health has pointed out on many an occasion, an overburdened health system drains the national coffers of funds that could be allocated to other national development priorities. National health and wellness influence national success in the social and economic spheres. In that regard, it is the duty of the citizens of any country to take responsibility for their personal health and well-being, and for ensuring that the powers that be do their utmost in providing all the requisite services and support in providing for a healthy nation.

At the University of the West Indies we understand the importance of health, fitness and wellness. This understanding is reflected in our research, courses of study, and our activities on and off campus. As such, we have made these quality of life drivers the focus of this February 2019 issue of UWI Today.

In 2017, UWI’s Regional Headquarters launched the new Faculty of Sport – a dramatic manifestation of our commitment to sports and physical education and literacy. The Faculty is the first cross-campus Faculty led by a single Dean, Dr Akshai Mansingh, originally from the Faculty of Medical Sciences at Mona. The St Augustine Academy of the Faculty has Professor Emeritus Funso Aiyejina as its interim head. The Faculty will prepare Caribbean athletes and sports industry professionals to take part in a global industry that is estimated to be worth as much as US\$700 billion a year in 2016. (Ref.: <https://assets.kpmg/content/dam/kpmg/in/pdf/2016/09/the-business-of-sports.pdf>).

However, even as it focusses on the elite athletes among us, the Faculty will seek to exploit the opportunities for character-building and improving fitness as a health benefit for all. We have, at this campus, tossed around the idea of our role of infusing a strong physical literacy culture in our regional space. This goes beyond what we normally envisage as “physical education” through



mastery of mind and body, effectively striving for each individual to optimise the development and use of every facet of their physical bodies. It would entail, for example, focussed attention from a very early age, on functions as basic as walking and sleeping. Physical literacy was briefly discussed in an earlier issue of UWI Today; we will be exploring the topic further at UWI.

In the areas of sport and fitness, this past January UWI St Augustine had the pleasure of hosting top-level cricket at both the local and international level. From January 5 to 27, teams from Trinidad and Tobago took part in the UWI-Unicom T20 Cricket Tournament. Almost simultaneously, from January 10 to 20, the Campus held the inaugural UWI World Universities T20 Tournament. This tournament brought together student cricketers from universities in the Caribbean, UK and US.

This incredible cricket event is the product of the work of UWI’s pioneers in the area of sports and fitness education. Starting in the 1990s, advocates and influencers such as VC Professor Sir Hilary Beckles rejuvenated the University’s cricketing legacy. At St Augustine, Dr Iva Gloudon, our former Director of Sport and Physical Education, was instrumental in the creation of UWI SPEC in 2003.

In this issue we also look at groundbreaking research into the prevalence of dementia in Trinidad and Tobago by a research team from the Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS). The results are sobering. Their findings show that our rates are disproportionately high, affecting almost 1 in 4 people over the age of 70 and nearly half of those over the age of 85. This has major implications for our elderly, their loved ones and the health care system. The research was carried out in partnership with the University’s Health Economic Unit and the Ministry of Health. I applaud all participants in this impactful and collaborative exercise. The next step is to use the research to influence policy in this matter of vital national importance. I am pleased to see that this is underway.

Our Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Professor Terence Seemungal, continues to be one of our best ambassadors to the national community and an outspoken proponent for health and wellness. In

December of 2018, he superbly represented the Campus at the Trinidad and Tobago Medical Association’s (T&TMA) 24th Annual Medical Research Conference on the topic of mental health. Professor Seemungal not only spoke about the causes of mental illness and the University’s work both on and off campus in mental health research and treatment, but also made a call for greater empathy and support for those stricken with the condition.

Just as Professor Seemungal and other members of our campus community went out to spread their knowledge to the public, UWI also invited the public to the St Augustine Campus to engage in a conversation on health towards the end of 2018. Specifically, Professor Yuri Clement of the Pharmacology Unit at FMS gave his Professorial Inaugural Lecture on “Preserving Our Herbal Medicine Tradition” in November at the Teaching and Learning Complex. Professor Clement gave an engaging presentation about the need for herbal medicine to be backed by thorough scientific research. This can only serve to strengthen the practice of traditional medicine, a practice that is not at all unfamiliar to the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

In closing, I would like to mention the wellness initiatives created specifically for the campus community. From January to April of this year, UWI SPEC will be hosting its “Wellness Initiative Programme”, a range of activities from Zumba, to aqua aerobics, to boot camp and more, for students, staff and their friends and family. In addition, we continue to offer a range of psychological support services to students who are often impacted by the pressures of academic life and young adulthood; such as the Counselling and Psychological Service (CAPS). Among these services is our “Healing Garden”, an initiative of the Health Services Unit working with the Eastern Horticultural Club that combines natural space and earthen design for therapeutic support.

I welcome the entire campus community to visit the Healing Garden, take a meditative break, and find the healing you need to make 2019 a happy, prosperous and productive year. Let’s resolve to improve our quality of life, starting from deep within.

Brian Copeland

PROFESSOR BRIAN COPELAND

Campus Principal

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SOFT POWER

The transcendent Sir David Adjaye shares his tale of making meaning, reflecting culture and doing battle for great architecture

BY JEANETTE G. AWAI

When you picture the words **superstar architect** - what comes to mind?

This was the question on the minds of the crowd goes in the standing room only Teaching and Learning Complex at UWI St Augustine last December.

Architects, designers, engineers and other curious patrons came out to the Distinguished Open Lecture by Sir David Adjaye OBE to hear him speak on the topic “Building Publics”. The lecture was made possible by the Open Lectures Committee in collaboration with the Trinidad and Tobago Institute of Architects and the Board of Architecture of Trinidad and Tobago.

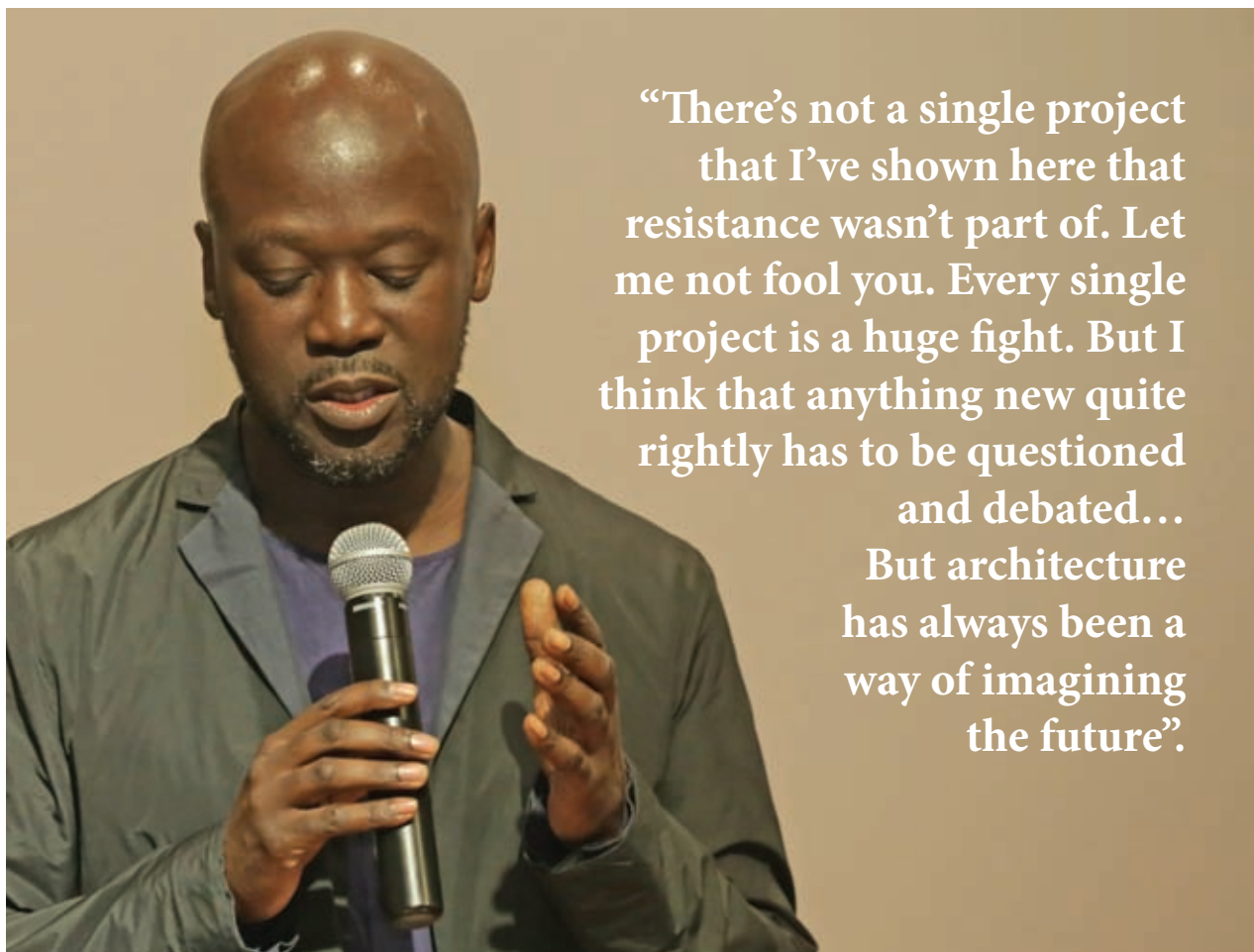
The anticipation was palpable as people scurried to find seats during the welcome message of Chair of the Open Lectures Committee and Master of Ceremonies for the evening, Professor Christine Carrington. Her words reminded the audience of Adjaye’s incredible reputation:

“Over the years, we have had a diverse selection of very knowledgeable and engaging speakers, all at the forefront of their fields, but I suspect that this is the first time that we’ve had a speaker who is routinely, in all sincerity, referred to as a superstar.”

That’s putting it mildly. Adjaye was dubbed an “architectural visionary” by Time magazine and in 2017 made their list of “100 Most Influential People”, the only architect among them. In 2009, his design practice, Adjaye Associates, won a competition to design the prestigious 29,000 sqm Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of African American History and Culture at the National Mall in Washington, D.C. (2016). Even his residential projects make history, such as when he designed the private house in Ghana of Kofi Annan, the late former UN Secretary-General, where he built a temperature-controlled structure using not one luxury material.

Looking at the faces in the audience become awash with awe, I wondered, with such an astronomical pedestal, what could Adjaye possibly teach our small island? Then he graced the stage, his British-Ghanaian accent steeped in soft exactness. He discovered very early on, he assured us, that “architecture could not just make buildings, but make meaning in our society and could be something to express the unique continents and the unique culture around the world”.

Through a series of slides, Adjaye simply talked his way through his architectural self-exploration process. Starting at the beginning of his career where he looked at the continent of Africa as a magnifying lens for the way human habitation has adapted and therefore how architecture has adapted. He visited all 54 countries in Africa, taking photos as he went along, to imagine an Africa without borders that was representative of the entire world’s geographies. It took 11 years to create a vast satellite map depicting the ways the geographies of the land affected the form of the architecture throughout the continent. Through this methodology of creating buildings that reflect the climate and culture of a society, Adjaye showed that for architecture to be light years ahead it must look back and give back.



“There’s not a single project that I’ve shown here that resistance wasn’t part of. Let me not fool you. Every single project is a huge fight. But I think that anything new quite rightly has to be questioned and debated...
But architecture has always been a way of imagining the future”.



Sir David Adjaye with Mr Robert Bermudez, Chancellor of The UWI at his Distinguished Open Lecture. PHOTOS: KEYON MITCHELL

This was the case in the construction of the super-scaled Moscow School of Management, SKOLKOVO, in 2010 – a massive 700,000 sq ft university campus that married the look and feel of Russian architecture from 100 years ago with the intricate pattern-making found in African art. The razzle-dazzle of Adjaye’s design came not only from its beauty, but also from the thoughtful functionality of it, “A full campus in one building - dorms, gyms, classrooms, administrative support and a hub for students from Africa, Europe and the US who now come to Russia to learn about business”.

In the last part of the evening during the Q&A session, Adjaye brought the audience back to earth, revealing that creating visionary and inclusive public spaces is not at all an easy endeavour, “There’s not a single project that I’ve shown here that resistance wasn’t part of. Let me not fool you. Every single project is a huge fight. But I think that anything new quite rightly has to be questioned and debated...But architecture has always been a way of imagining the future”.

In the same way, he emphasised that his ability to collaborate with artists when designing buildings was because they see the future too, “A culture that is disconnected from its artists is a lost culture. I’m always inspired to bring in artists because they ponder civilization and meaning. They are kind of an amazing resource that is underused”. The room exploded with resounding applause.

Sitting in the fluorescent light of the auditorium after the lecture, I thought about the natural light that diffused throughout Sir David Adjaye’s buildings giving the spaces a chance to breathe and the public a sense of ease. Perhaps even in the throes of recession and hardship, Trinidad and Tobago could follow Adjaye’s North Star to find the solution within ourselves and reflect, restart and rebuild.

Sir David Adjaye’s work can be seen at the **Adjaye Associates** website: <http://www.adjaye.com/>

■ CAMPUS NEWS

UWI Chancellor Appoints Commission on Governance



On Friday January 11, 2019 Chancellor of The University of the West Indies (The UWI) Robert Bermudez announced nine distinguished persons from across the region to serve on a Commission on Governance for the regional University. The Commission, which is chaired by former President of the Caribbean Court of Justice, Sir Charles Michael Dennis Byron, includes a multidisciplinary team with expertise in law, people, finance and corporate governance. In presenting instruments of appointment to the commissioners, Chancellor Bermudez grounded the significance of their task in this era of global higher education competitiveness and the commitment of The UWI to continuous improvement in its delivery of service to the Caribbean. He said, “The University has had an illustrious past. This Commission’s work is to ensure that its success and relevance continues into the future.” Chairman of the Commission, Sir Dennis, has articulated an aggressive work-plan for the Commission, which is expected to deliver its final report by the end of September 2019. The complete list of persons selected by Chancellor Bermudez to serve on The UWI’s Commission on Governance are as follows:

Sir Charles Michael Dennis Byron (Chairman)
Former President of the
Caribbean Court of Justice

Ms Judith Bowen
Attorney-at-Law

Mr Richard Byles
Chairman, Sagcor Group Jamaica

Ms Angela Hamel-Smith
Human Resources Practitioner

Professor Emeritus E. Nigel Harris
Former Vice-Chancellor of The UWI

His Excellency Dr Didacus Jules
Director General
Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States

Sir Elliott Mottley
Attorney-at-Law

Mr Darrion Narine
Representative of The UWI Intercampus
Guild Council and President, Guild of Students
The UWI St. Augustine

Mrs Jacqueline Sharp
Director, Coffee Traders Ltd. and President
The UWI Alumni Association, Jamaica Chapter

Celebrating Sir Arthur

He was the first West Indian to win the Nobel Prize, the first Vice-Chancellor of The University of the West Indies, and a giant in the field of economics whose groundbreaking work is still recognised today.

Sir William Arthur Lewis was born on January 23 1915 in St Lucia. This past January, UWI St Augustine celebrated the man and his ideas over three days with Sir Arthur Lewis Memorial Events.

From January 23 to 25, the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) held events in commemoration of one of the University’s, and the region’s, greatest minds. 2019 marks the second year the St Augustine campus has hosted memorial activities on his birthday.

“(Sir Arthur) is significant from a UWI perspective and a West Indian perspective,” said Dr Hamid Ghany, Director of SALISES. “He is someone very much identified with the University and its history”.

On the 23rd, SALISES hosted the Sir Arthur Lewis Memorial Symposium which consisted of several scholars presenting formal academic papers. The Life and Work of Sir Arthur Lewis Forum, an open discussion on his legacy, was held on the 24th.

On the final day, the Sir Arthur Lewis Distinguished Lecture was conducted on the topic “State Capacity and Economic Development”. The lecture was given by Sir Timothy Besley, Professor of Economics and Political Science and W. Arthur Lewis, Professor of Development Economics at the London School of Economics.

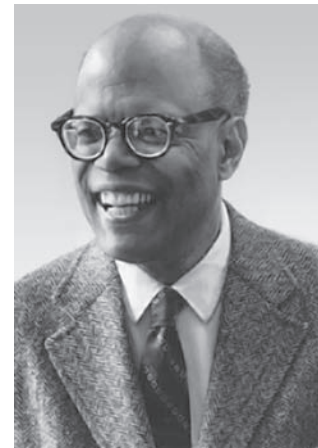
Over the three days participants looked at Sir Arthur’s pioneering work in areas such as Caribbean innovation, the energy sector and even his attempt to rescue the West Indies Federation. The presentations from the 2019 memorial will be published in book form in May of this year, and there are plans to release a volume containing the presentations from the 2018 Sir Arthur Lewis commemoration.

FESTIVAL OF SEMINARS

In February, SALISES is turning its focus to the latest in research. From February 4th to 6th they will be holding their 2nd annual “Research Days”. Dubbed a “festival of seminars”, the three-day event highlights the research being carried out at the institute from graduate students, staff and other stakeholders.

“Anyone who is interested in the kind of research taking place at SALISES can attend,” says Dr Ghany.

With a branch at all three main UWI campuses (St Augustine, Cave Hill and Mona), SALISES is focused on training and research that can contribute to the economic and social development of small and emerging states and regions such as the Caribbean.



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■ OUR CAMPUS



THE FETE TO RULE THEM ALL

Today is that day. Sunday, February 3 2019 is the 29th annual UWI Fete. Widely regarded as one of the most spectacular all-inclusive events on the Carnival calendar, UWI Fete is also an example of festival innovation for a worthwhile cause. This year's theme is "Champagne and Gold".

First held in 1991, UWI Fete sprung from the creative mind of then Campus Principal (and fourth President of T&T) **Professor George Maxwell Richards**. It is an initiative of the UWI Development and Endowment Fund (UWIDEF), created to provide scholarships and bursaries for high-achieving students, as well as students in need. UWIDEF has given over 3000 bursaries.

Fete goes at **Champagne and Gold** will enjoy the sounds of **Kes the Band**, **Dil-E-Nadan**, **Nailah Blackman**, **Patrice Roberts**, **Voice**, the **Laventille Rhythm Section** and the **Newtown Playboys**, as well as **DJ Private Ryan** and **DJ Sean** on the turntables.

The UWI Fete event managers promise an evening of "fun and relaxation" with food bars featuring some of T&T's best chefs and restaurants, drink stations, massage rooms, a beauty bar and oversized regular bars.

The 29th annual UWI Fete starts today at noon.

A DECADE OF MASQUERADE

Ten years ago, traditional mas' came alive at UWI St Augustine. The old costumes, characters and performances from the dawn of Carnival, many of which had become obscure over the long years, were given new life.

Ten years on, the Department of Creative and Festival Arts' (DCFA) Old Yard is not only a beloved event for the Carnival season but also an important teaching tool for the University, and a living museum for the preservation of masquerade.

On February 24 2019, DCFA will celebrate **Old Yard's 10th anniversary** with an extra special edition of the Carnival fair entitled, "A Sense of Home".

"We see this as something very special," says Dr Jo-anne Tull, Lecturer and Coordinator of Carnival Studies at DCFA, and Project Director of Old Yard. "We will really want to give a showing of ourselves."

For ten years Dr Tull and her team have done just that, constantly expanding and improving the traditional Carnival event. In its original form, the Carnival fair that would become Old Yard was created by Rawle Gibbons, Founding Director of DCFA. Called "Viey La Cou" (French for Old Yard), it was held in Port of Spain. When UWI agreed to take over Old Yard it moved to DCFA's Agostini Street headquarters. Last year was the event's first instalment at DCFA's new Gordon Street location which is shared with UWI Open Campus.

It was a success, attracting new participants and spectators. And yes, Old Yard attendees often become participants. The "Yard" is an immersive experience, drawing people into a fantasy setting of Trinidad's Carnival past. Patrons can dance, play and sing along, with the Carnival characters, some spooky, others flirty, many supernaturally colourful and strange.

They can also enjoy performances from Trinidad and Tobago and the region's greatest exponents of traditional masquerade - *Midnight Robber*, *Moko Jumbie*, *Pierrot Grenade*, and Carnival forms from other islands and territories.

Most inspiring of all is that Old Yard is a teaching tool for DCFA's students in Festival Management, Production, Performance, Technical Theatre and even Visual Arts. Students run the show from behind the metaphorical curtain and make up much of the talent on the "stage" (the entire yard is the stage).

"Old Yard allows us to show the nation and the region how we view the importance of traditional masquerade," says Dr Tull. "It's DCFA's way of making a contribution to Carnival."



The Old Yard Programme Director says she wants the 10th instalment to also highlight their relationship with stakeholders such as the National Carnival Commission (NCC) and the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and the Arts. These bodies have over the years provided financial and infrastructural support for the fair, as well as included it in their event calendars.

Asked to ponder the legacy of cultural preservation, education and entertainment that she and her team have created over the last ten years, Dr Tull takes a moment to think, "That's an interesting question. I don't really think about legacy. I think about tomorrow. I'm thinking about the future of Old Yard."

"A Sense of Home" takes place from 1:00pm on Sunday, February 24 at DCFA on Gordon Street in St Augustine. (Joel Henry)

SPORTS



Members of the Oxford Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) taking shade at UWI SPEC. PHOTO: ANEEL KARIM



The UWI bowlers gave a forceful showing at the World T20 Tournament but unfortunately it wasn't enough. PHOTO: ANEEL KARIM



The Challenge Trophy.



Dr Akshai Mansingh, Dean of The UWI Faculty of Sport, speaks to a gathering of players, cricket enthusiasts and UWI representatives at a closing reception for the Universities T20 at Brian Lara's residence. PHOTO: ATIBA CUDJOE

THE INVESTMENT

*World Universities
UWI's decades-long project to
sport make January a*

BY JOEL



The victorious CCC team holds the Challenge Trophy high after besting Oxford. PHOTO: ANEEL KARIM

It's early January and the campus is quiet. The classrooms are empty and the louvres shut. Only the trees and bushes are lively, swaying and rustling in the breeze. The campus is quiet, but not the cricket pitch.

The Frank Worrell Memorial Grounds, a section of the expansive green field that makes up the domain of the UWI Sport and Physical Education Centre (SPEC) is alive with cricket. The weeks are filled with T20 play as two tournaments are being held almost simultaneously on the campus.

"What we are witnessing on the campus is an explosion of cricket," says Campus Principal Professor Brian Copeland speaking at the launch of the UWI Universities World T20 Tournament. The month of January has been dubbed "Cricket Month" at UWI St Augustine.

The UWI Universities T20 was held from January 10th to 20th, and included teams from universities in the UK, US and of course the Caribbean. The inaugural event ended with victory for the Combined Campuses and Colleges (CCC) team, the 2018-2019 Regional Super50 Championship winning team made up of student athletes from the region.

Alongside the international cricket action was a top-level local event, the UWI-Unicom National T20 Cricket Tournament. Running from January 5th to 27th, UWI-Unicom brought together teams from Trinidad and Tobago in the 7th annual display of club cricket. The Queen's Park Cricket Club (QPCC) defeated El Socorro Youth Movement (EYM) by a hefty 137 runs to become the champions.

Both tournaments represent the pay-off of UWI's investment in cricket and sport in general.

"We know our athletes are world-class because our sporting archives are full of their trophies and medals, and our history is full of tales of their accomplishments," said Copeland at the launch. "But talent alone is not enough. Athletes need support in every quarter for them to achieve their full potential."

That support has been building since the 1990s when Vice-Chancellor Sir Hilary Beckles, in his position as Sports Coordinator at the Cave Hill Campus, led several initiatives to revitalise cricket at UWI and within the West Indies.

Another product of the emerging "sports mindset" was the establishment of UWI SPEC in 2003, the brainchild of Dr Iva Gloudon, former Director of Sport and Physical Education.

MENT PAYS OFF

es, UWI-Unicom
to revitalise cricket and uplift
month of magical T20

H E N R Y



and MCC in the grand finals of the UWI Universities World T20 Tournament.

Then in 2017, the Faculty of Sport was established at UWI's regional headquarters.

In the words of Professor Copeland, "It was based on a vision to take Caribbean sport to a higher level by providing premier education packages in the field. The plan is to integrate teaching and research, professional development, community partnerships, and co- and extra-curricular student support".

But for the many spectators at the Frank Worrell Grounds, the "how" of Cricket Month is nowhere near as important as the action on the pitch and the energy in the stands. Perhaps most impressively, through their support for UWI-Unicom and the creation of tournaments such as the World Universities T20, The UWI will not only give cricket lovers more of the game, they will also develop the players to take the West Indies into a new era.



**UWI-UNICOM
NATIONAL T20 CRICKET
TOURNAMENT TEAMS**

- Queen's Park Cricket Club (QPCC)
- Endeavour Hills Cricket Club
- Central Sports Cricket Club
- Prisons Sports Club
- UWI Cricket Team
- Cane Farm Sports Club
- Club Crusoe Cricket Club
- Powergen Sports Club
- Munroe Road Cricket Club (MRCC)
- Merry Boys Cricket Club
- Clarke Road Cricket Club
- El Socorro Youth Movement (EYM)



**INAUGURAL UWI
WORLD UNIVERSITIES
T20 TOURNAMENT TEAMS**

- Combined Campuses and Colleges (CCC)
- UWI Cricket Team
- Tertiary Sport Association of Trinidad and Tobago (TSATT)
- Oxford Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC)



A Prisons Sports Club batsman lunges to safety as the Munroe Road Cricket Club wicketkeeper is poised at the stumps. PHOTO: DEXTER SUPERVILLE



The UWI Cricket Team bowler and wicketkeeper make their appeal. PHOTO: DEXTER SUPERVILLE



Club Crusoe takes a catch. PHOTO: DEXTER SUPERVILLE



Batsmen from the Prisons Sports Club await their turn at the crease. PHOTO: DEXTER SUPERVILLE

■ CAMPUS NEWS

SHANTA Finds Her Voice



Shanta Seepersad debating the decriminalisation of marijuana as Minister of Education and Member of Parliament for Arima.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF THE PARLIAMENT.

“I was a kind of shy, quiet student,” says Shanta Seepersad, a 22-year-old in the final year of her BSc in Leadership and Management at UWI, “but my speaking skills came out in the debate.”

Indeed they did. Shanta, who also completed a minor in Political Science, was selected by the Political Science Department to represent the University at the 16th National Youth Parliament (NYP) on November 12 2018. She overcame almost all opposition and placed third in a debate on the decriminalisation of marijuana.

“I was surprised and extremely happy,” Shanta says of her debate performance. “I am glad that I was able to represent the University well and make my family and friends happy.”

The National Youth Parliament, held at the Office of the Parliament, Tower D of the Port of Spain International Waterfront Centre, brings together young people from schools and other institutions. They take on government

portfolios as youth parliamentarians. NYP is hosted by the Executive Committee of the Local Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Shanta’s portfolio was Minister of Education and Member of Parliament for Arima. Her experiences as a political science student and youth parliamentarian have awakened her interest in politics.

“I fell in love with political science,” she says, attributing the ability to overcome her natural shyness to her strong affinity for the subject. “I have to be passionate about the topic. Once I enjoy doing it, it brings out that spark in me.”

Shanta’s plan is to pursue her master’s degree in political science for the upcoming academic year. Long term she would like to get into active politics.

She says, “People are very disenchanted with both political parties. They want change. They want new minds, new people. And there is a lot to be fixed and changed (in T&T).”

However, she is very aware of the fickle nature of politics and is intent on pursuing a stable career until the time is right to make a potential move into the field. For now, Shanta is pleased that she has found her calling and is grateful to the Department of Social Sciences for the opportunity to represent UWI at the National Youth Parliament.

St Augustine Hosts Education “Beyond Borders” Conference

BY DR SABEERAH ABDUL-MAJIED



This year’s Biennial Conference of the three UWI Campuses – St Augustine, Cave Hill and Mona – will be held at the School of Education, St Augustine Campus from February 19 to 21 2019. Titled “Education Beyond Borders: Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges”, the conference promises to inspire participants with new ideas for addressing persistent challenges in teaching and learning across all levels.

Participants will benefit tremendously from the expertise of our three high-profile keynote speakers: Professor Donna Mertens (Washington DC – Mixed Methods and Transformative Research), Dr Canute Thompson (Mona, Jamaica – Caribbean Leadership) and Professor Patricia Mohammed (UWI St Augustine – Gender and Cultural Studies).

Additionally, delegates will have the opportunity to choose from over 150 individual presentations by local, regional and international researchers from Europe, the United States of America, Canada and the Caribbean. Research themes are diverse and include presentations on Technology, Partnerships in Education, Green Education, Inclusion, Health and Wellness, and Early Education. There will also be over 25 poster presentations, round-table discussions, a visual arts display and workshops on topics such as Robotics, the Project Approach and STEM, as well as Mixed Methods Research.

Faculty and staff at the UWI School of Education in Trinidad are preparing to welcome a strong contingent of researchers from the School of Education at Mona, Jamaica led by their Director, Professor Disraeli Hutton. We are also anticipating the arrival of the Director of the School of Education at UWI’s Cave Hill Campus in Barbados, Professor Joel Warrican, and faculty members. Participants from local universities as well as graduate students, administrators, teachers and parents will also be attending.

Our Principal, Professor Brian Copeland, will be among the distinguished invitees who will deliver opening remarks. The opening ceremony will include remarks from educational stakeholders from Trinidad and Tobago as well as our sponsor UNESCO.

We will also treat delegates to aspects of our cultural heritage during the opening and closing ceremonies. There will be opportunities for eco and cultural tours across our beautiful island. Persons interested in new developments in education should attend the “Education Beyond Borders” Conference at the UWI St Augustine Campus carded for February 19 to 21 2019.

Professor Copeland Pays Tribute at Ken Julien Festschrift Conference

The story of Ken Julien is the story of Trinidad and Tobago.

This was one of the themes presented by UWI St Augustine Campus Principal Professor Brian Copeland speaking at a conference held to honour Professor Julien on his 86th birthday.

Julien, Chairman of the University of Trinidad and Tobago [UTT], is a pioneer in West Indian engineering, a major contributor to the growth of UWI, and one of the architects of the country’s energy sector-driven development. In 2003, he received the Trinity Cross, the highest honour in the country at the time.

The Professor Kenneth S. Julien Festschrift Conference, hosted by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), brought together leaders from the energy industry, heavy industry, manufacturing, education, economics, telecommunications and politics, to pay tribute to one of the nation’s most influential citizens. Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago Dr Keith Rowley, in a moving message of appreciation, called Professor Julien “one of the most distinguished citizens of Trinidad and Tobago”.

Speaking on the topic of Julien’s impact on education at the November 26 2018 conference, Copeland focused on the Professor’s holistic vision of national development and nation building.

“His rise as an educator, scholar and innovator helped in no small way to

fuel the development of our independent republic,” said Copeland to the conference participants at the Hyatt Regency Trinidad.

Copeland, himself an engineer, recounted his experiences as a student under Professor Julien and as an administrator at UWI.

“The powerhouse under his cool exterior first became evident at our hand-over meeting on his retirement as Head of (the) Department of (Electrical Engineering), when he provided advice in the following words: ‘Brian, let no one run this department but you’. Those words grounded in me an appreciation for the responsibility of leadership that I use to this day,” remarked Copeland.

Ken Julien was one of the first West Indians to join the newly created Faculty of Engineering at the then fledgling UWI. He became the first Dean of the Faculty from the region, and led it through its difficult early phase from 1964 to 1974, laying the foundation for its eventual massive expansion.

Professor Copeland’s entire speech is available at <https://sta.uwi.edu/uwitoday/>





HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Dementia Research

Many of us have the experience of an elderly relation afflicted with dementia. It takes a powerful toll on the sufferer and those close to them. We accept it as a consequence of ageing. But dementia is not natural or normal. It's an illness, one that is having an abnormally heavy impact on Trinidad and Tobago.

A prevalence study by researchers at UWI's St Augustine Campus has revealed that some 23.5% (nearly one in four) Trinidadians over the age of 70 have dementia. This figure is almost three times the prevalence in other countries. At age 85 and older it rises to 47%. The comprehensive study had over 1,850 active participants chosen randomly from 120 districts in Trinidad.

"Dementia is a major public health concern and is a global epidemic," says Dr Nelleen Baboolal, Senior Lecturer in Psychiatry and Head, Department of Clinical Medical Sciences at UWI St Augustine's Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS). Dr Baboolal is a member of the research team.

The UWI study, titled "The Prevalence and Economic Cost of Dementia Project in Trinidad and Tobago", was carried out in collaboration with the University's Health Economics Unit. The project was co-funded by the UWI-Trinidad and Tobago Research and Development Impact (RDI) Fund and the Ministry of Health.

The research team attributes the unusually high number of dementia sufferers to two main factors – the country's ageing population and, more importantly, the high prevalence of vascular risk factors including diabetes mellitus, hypertension, high cholesterol and obesity.

"The risk factors for diabetes and cardiovascular diseases such as hypertension are also the risk factors for dementia," says Dr Gershwin Davis, Senior Lecturer in Chemical Pathology, Head of Department of Paraclinical Sciences (Laboratory Medicine) at FMS and member of the research team.

Dementia is a neurocognitive disease that affects memory, thinking, behaviour and the ability to perform everyday activities. Globally, Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia, representing about 65% of the afflicted. Vascular dementia (problems with blood supply to the brain) is the second most common cause. Other causes include conditions such as vitamin B12 deficiency, HIV and AIDS, Parkinson's disease, tumors and head trauma resulting from activities such as boxing.

Covered in UWI Today in 2014

(https://sta.uwi.edu/uwitoday/archive/august_2014/article11.asp)

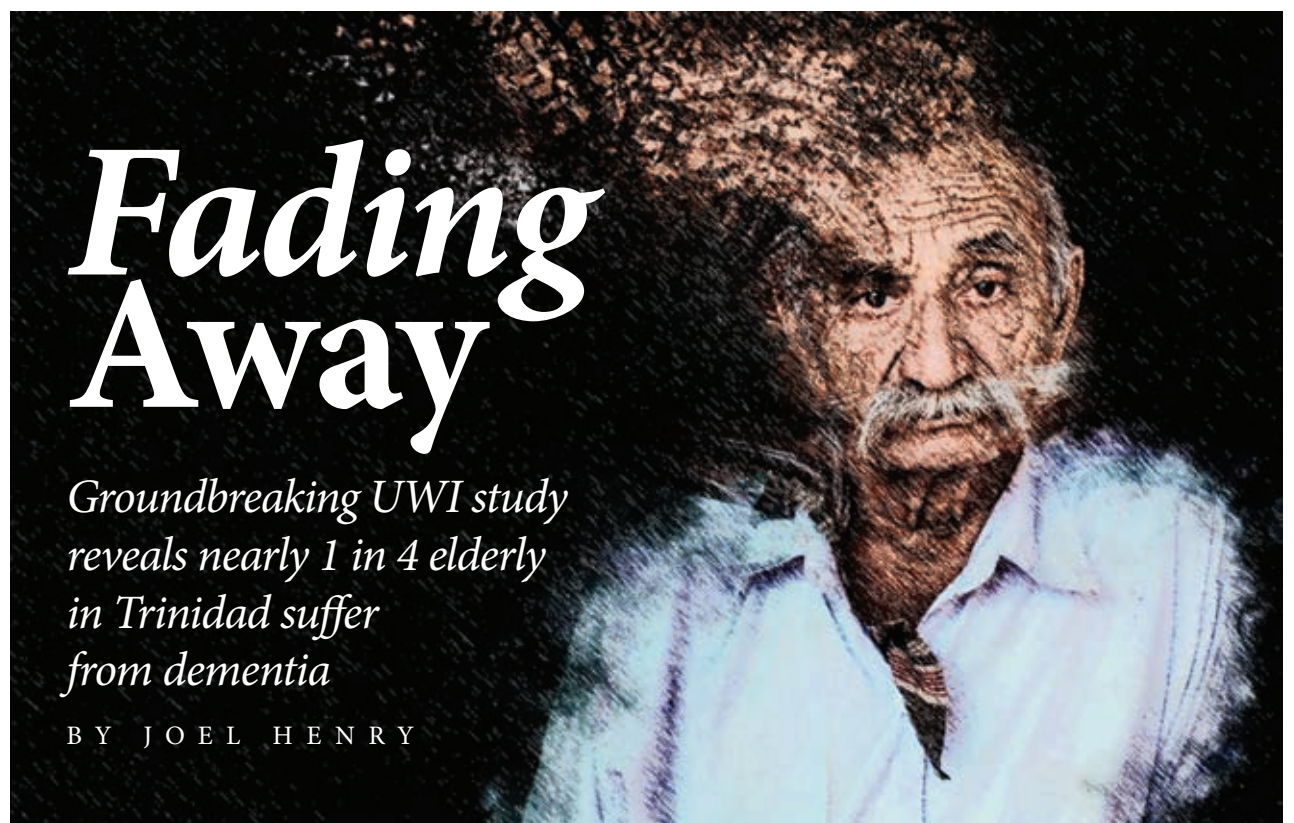
The study originated from the work of Dr Baboolal, Dr Gershwin Davis and Professor Amanda McRae, Professor of Human Anatomy at FMS (now retired), who have been collaborating on Alzheimer's and dementia research since 2003.

It followed the methodology of the 10/66 Dementia Research Group, a UK-based collective of researchers that has developed measurement tools for dementia prevalence that are currently being used in over 20 countries. Professor Robert Stewart, a founding member of the 10/66 Group, was also a co-author and consultant on the UWI study.

Apart from the prevalence of dementia in Trinidad, the study also looked at the cost, material and otherwise, to the society. Dementia has a huge socioeconomic impact. The diagnosis and treatment for dementia is also extremely costly.

The prevalence study was completed in 2015 and since then the team has been analysing the data and sharing their findings. The results have been published in several widely recognised international journals such as the *British Medical Journal Open* and the *Oxford Journal of Public Health*. Now that the results have been verified the next step is using the study to address the issue.

Dr Davis says, "The research could give impetus to a thrust as a matter of policy to create a dementia friendly society".



Fading Away

Groundbreaking UWI study reveals nearly 1 in 4 elderly in Trinidad suffer from dementia

BY JOEL HENRY

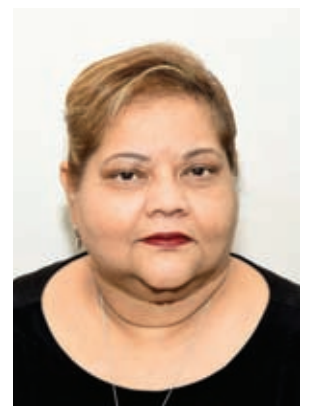
ILLUSTRATION: ATIBA CUDJOE

In 2017, the UWI research team met with Health Minister Terrence Deyalsingh. The main objective of the meeting was to ask the Minister to request that Cabinet declare dementia a "chronic disease". This designation would open up dementia-related activities to new avenues of international funding, a major step in creating policy, advocacy and public awareness, as well as further research.

Dr Baboolal says, "We need more research, more training of caregivers and more advocacy. Dementia is a priority in Trinidad and Tobago and we need to develop a national dementia plan to ensure that health and social services are adequately structured and funded to provide high-quality care and support to people throughout the dementia journey. The policymakers should initiate national debates regarding the future of long-term care, with all stakeholders and an informed public. I am hoping that we can come together and work to improve the quality of services for persons living with dementia".



Dr Gershwin Davis



Dr Nelleen Baboolal

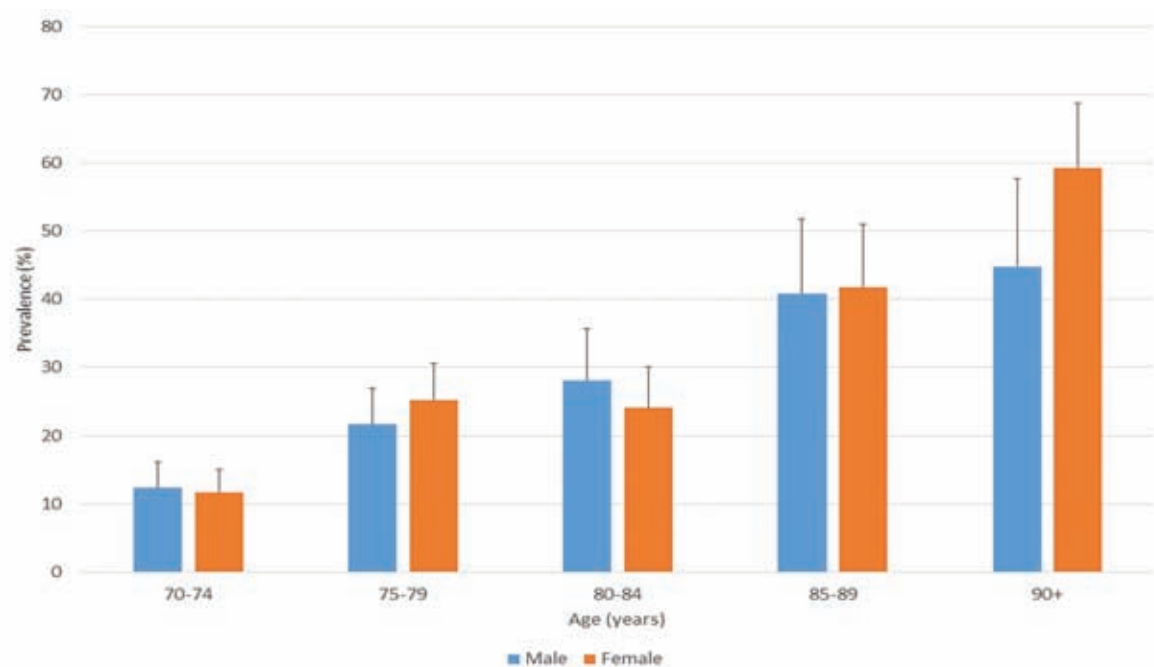


Figure 1: Dementia prevalence (%) by age and gender (with upper 95% CI).



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Mental Health

PROFESSOR SEEMUNGAL: Support, not scepticism, for those with mental illness

Professor Terence Seemungal
PHOTO: ANEEL KARIM

“Mental illness sufferers have to endure their symptoms and the scepticism of those around them which makes it so much worse for them.”

“Does anyone ever have to argue that bowel cancer or lupus are legitimate conditions? Yet this is what people with mental health issues face every day,” said Professor Terence Seemungal, Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS) at UWI St Augustine.

He was speaking at the Trinidad and Tobago Medical Association’s (T&TMA’s) 24th Annual Medical Research Conference. Held on December 2 2018 at the UWI Inn and Conference Centre, the theme of this year’s conference was “Mental Health – Let’s Talk”. Participants included Health Minister Terrence Deyalsingh, former President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago Mr Justice Anthony Thomas Aquinas Carmona, SC ORTT, PAHO WHO Country Representative Dr Erica Wheeler, and Professor of Psychiatry at UWI Professor Gerard Hutchinson, among other medical professionals and researchers.

The conference focused on mental health research, explained 2018 T&TMA President Chandra Saroop, “We need to encourage research to provide evidence and drive policy and legislation”.

UWI Today is pleased to provide excerpts from Professor Seemungal’s speech at the Annual Medical Research Conference:

“Whatever the cause or the mechanism, mental diseases are an epidemic with a lifetime probability of about 50% in some countries. Some of the best data on mental health disorders can be found from the USA, which shows that the prevalence of mental health disorders has risen from three (persons) per hundred thousand in 1968 to about 40 per hundred thousand in 2010.

“Does anyone ever have to argue that bowel cancer or lupus are legitimate conditions? Yet this is what people with mental health issues face every day. This has led to social stigma associated with mental diseases. These illnesses can

be so debilitating that sufferers can be confined to their homes when severe. The symptoms of these illnesses are very real to sufferers.

“Mental illness sufferers have to endure their symptoms and the scepticism of those around them which makes it so much worse for them.

“UWI has gone a long way to helping the society cope with mental illness. Since 1969 we have been training medical students in Trinidad and Tobago. In 1976, when the final two years of training were started in Trinidad, psychiatry training started here as well, and around 1990 Prof. (Michael) Beaubrun started the professional training programme which we call the Doctorate in Psychiatry, designed to produce a specialist in psychiatry.

“One of the major components of the programme is a year of research in psychiatry. You may recall that one of the major reasons for starting a medical school here in Trinidad was to foster a culture of medical research in Trinidad and Tobago so the people of Trinidad and Tobago will benefit health-wise from medical education here. This is the area we want to improve.

“Between the 1970s and now, UWI has published about 468 papers in mental health as listed on PubMed and about 370 on behavioural sciences. What are we doing about ensuring that these papers are adopted as part of public health policy? Well we have recently formed the Caribbean Centre for Health Systems Research and Development whose major remit is to do research into public health policy which will have a major emphasis on knowledge translation activities to policymakers and beneficiaries (i.e. the community).

“Finally, I want to mention one issue close to home. Medical students have higher rates of depression, suicidal ideation and burnout than the general population and

greater concerns about the stigma of mental illness. In 2010, Schwenck et al reported that about 50% of medical students experience burnout and 10% report suicidal ideation during medical school worldwide. Non-random estimates of depression amongst medical students at the St Augustine Campus vary from 30% to 40% and are higher in certain subsets.

“The Faculty of Medical Sciences took the position last year that the time has come to move beyond simply measuring mental illness in medical students and has moved to create practical approaches to implementing school-based solutions. So, for example, last year we started an academic advising programme that was so well received it has been incorporated throughout the Campus. This year we started a programme of psychological support services to expand that already offered by the Campus but focused on FMS students.

“I will put one challenge to our psychiatrists. Studies worldwide have shown that there is a rise in mental health conditions since 1900. I will put this in the context of the NCD (non-communicable disease) epidemic – we know that if we focus on diet and exercise (and we have two ministries focused on these – Agriculture and Sport) we can decrease the burden of NCDs.

“But what of mental health problems? What can we do to prevent mental health problems, what are the preventive tips for good mental health? Can we prevent mental ill-health? It is well advertised that a diet low in salt can help to control HTN (hypertension) ... but no one says what we can do to control mental health problems. Is it because we do not really believe that mental problems are worthy? Let’s talk prevention as well.”

Professor Seemungal’s entire speech is available at <https://sta.uwi.edu/uwitoday/>



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Herbal Remedies

Of Herbs and Men

Yuri Clement lays the foundation for research on traditional medicine in T&T

BY LISA LUANA OWEN

Bush medicine, herbal remedies, traditional healing modalities— however you refer to it, herbalism is a practice that has maintained its popularity, and some of its mysticism, over time.

Globally the use of traditional medicine is burgeoning, particularly in developed countries. Statistics for developing nations indicate that over 80% of the population rely on herbs and plants for health maintenance and therapeutic disease management.

At home, a recent Merritt-Charles survey revealed an exposed lifetime prevalence of usage of 86% among surgical outpatients. A subsequent survey conducted by UWI Pharmacology Professor and Coordinator of the Pharmacology Unit of the Faculty of Medical Sciences Dr Yuri Clement revealed a 40% prevalence of use among public health sector physicians.

But although science is circling back to seek out the potential and determine the true effectiveness of these less conventional remedies within a modern world, is there sufficient information to ensure our safety in the practice of herbalism?

Professor Clement is leading research locally to determine just that. “In the past a lot of the drugs came from plants and we have to recognise that. The issue we have today is that people are using drugs together with herbs and there could be (negative) interaction between those two,” asserted the Professor.

On November 22 2018, UWI’s St Augustine Campus hosted Professor Clement’s Professorial Inaugural Lecture on the topic “Preserving Our Herbal Medicine Tradition”. The lecture, held at the Teaching and Learning Complex, attracted members of the medical community, practitioners of traditional medicine, students, staff and members of the public.

Healing Tradition

It is postulated that human beings have used plants and herbs for medicinal purposes since the dawn of our existence.

In fact, plants were the only medicines used before 500 BC. Shortly thereafter the Greek physician Hippocrates – considered the father of Western medicine – married traditional remedies with a more practical approach, studying and utilising more than 200 medicinal herbs in his treatments. But even as medical science advanced, traditions remained.

Speaking about the current environment, Professor Clement stated that although laboratory research and animal testing are being executed worldwide to determine the properties and efficacy of commonly



Professor Clement speaking on the value of research to support herbal medicine at his Professorial Lecture. PHOTO: ANEEL KARIM

The respondents cited over 100 herbs they used for the promotion of health and wellness and the management of specific health concerns. By far garlic proved to be most popular among users.



used herbs, significant research had yet to be conducted on humans to determine the risk-benefit associated with using these herbs, either singularly or in combination with other herbs or conventional drugs.

265 herbal users were interviewed as part of the Professor’s survey from a geographically diverse group of health centres and villages cross-country to ascertain the perceived efficacy of herb-based medicines compared to their Western counterparts. The respondents cited over 100 herbs they used for the promotion of health and wellness and the management of specific health concerns.

By far garlic proved to be most popular among users (48.3%). Its primary uses were for general well being, cold, cough, fever, cleansing the blood, flatulence and hypertension.

“A lot of people used garlic for high blood pressure, and they used it together with their (prescription) medication. A lot of them said it worked but a small amount of them said their pressure went (down) too low,” stated the Professor.

He argued that this was why human testing is a necessity – because drugs affect people differently. Testing is needed to determine their safety, efficacy, how they work, the approach to standardisation, optimum dosages and possible side effects – as is required for conventional medicine – so as to allow for informed administration he said.

However, funding for this type of research could run into the millions and even though some assistance is offered from UWI in the form of equipment and grants, it is not enough.

“I would want to think that Government, somebody, has to see the importance of this kind of work and start supporting it,” he said.

When it comes to funding, one of the most researched herbs is of course cannabis. At a recent political meeting, Prime Minister Keith Rowley advised that T&T would be reviewing its marijuana legislation next year with a view to decriminalising its use.

“In terms of the legalisation, I think there is a place for it but it should be managed because marijuana has side effects,” said the Professor. He said that the drug had to be decriminalised first to ensure safe procurement and, most importantly, a significant educational drive is needed so that the public understands that there are risks associated with the benefits.



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Healing Garden

Green and Serene

Horticulturalists plant campus sanctuary for students and staff

BY GILLIAN MOORE

There is an oasis on campus, where University students and staff can find perspective during hectic days. It's the Healing Garden outside the Health Services Unit (HSU) at UWI, St Augustine.

One rainy morning in January 2016, a few volunteer horticultural buffs, UWI students and HSU staffers planted the first seedlings of what is now a nurturing green space.

Now doing his Masters in Management Studies, Ananda Ramlochan remembers the overgrown scene that once met HSU visitors. "It's amazing to look at it now from where it started."

As former President of UWI's Agricultural Society, he rallied student volunteers. Today, two planters bloom with periwinkle and hibiscus, while the side of the building features a picnic table and benches, flowering herbs and shrubs, palm trees, a footpath and a birdbath.

The garden is the "labour of love" of counsellor Dr Sandra Celestine. Dr Celestine was invited to join HSU in 2014 to develop and implement health promotion and wellness outreach programmes. She grew concerned by the need for uptake of services by students, and a need on the clinic's part to "reach students where they're at".

Having worked at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Centre in New York which "stressed the importance of healing gardens", she decided to create a greener, welcoming face for the clinic.

The Facilities Department was unconvinced. Who would maintain it? It took some persuading.

Dr Celestine teamed up with Mrs Wilma Charles, co-founder and President of the Eastern Horticultural Club. They presented a compelling case, showing the benefits of such gardens and a plan for making it happen.

Mrs Charles had seen her club grow from tiny beginnings when core members decided "we would go brave" and form a horticulture group in East Trinidad. In 2010, they debuted at Sforzata Panyard in St Augustine. Last year's show, held at Trinity College East, saw 1,000 attendees.

Mrs Charles knew she could draw on the expertise of her membership for the HSU project. They donated plants, plus the know-how of landscaping designer Herman Uddenberg. Landscapers Ann Marie Romona Byron and Esther-May Derrick Joseph added their assistance.

Sponsors pitched in, including the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries (Horticultural Services Division), Coastal Dynamics Limited, Republic Bank Limited, Penta Paints Caribbean Limited, Tropi Mulch Limited, Outdoor Concepts Decorative Pots, Livon's Plant Shop, Adam's Project Management and Construction Limited, Mrs Charmaine O'Brien-Delpesh, Dr Trevor Townsend and Kerwyn's Exotic Plants and Landscaping. Others donated anonymously.

The garden is a sensory feast. Bougainvillea erupts in crimson. Lady of the Night and Sweet Lime perfume the air. The gurgling water feature, made with barrels donated by Angostura, creates a buffer from mundane campus sounds. And with herbs like Lemongrass, Tulsi and Thyme in the mix, garden-goers can even take a taste.

One person that did not need to be persuaded about the garden's potential merits was Dr Neil Singh, Medical Officer and Head of HSU.

He started in 2001 and says he's witnessed "a rise in unhealthy behaviours: irresponsible sex, alcohol abuse, smoking, sedentary lifestyles, poor eating habits", and "poor coping strategies", leading to a decline in mental health – anxiety and depression especially.

He says many students remain unaware of the clinic's expanding range of free, integrated services like counselling, optometry, cancer screening, nutrition, dental care, dermatology, HIV screening, birth control, first aid training and vaccinations.

Dr Singh says time spent relaxing in a healing garden can form an effective non-chemical component in overall healing and wellness.

Ramlochan's undergrad experience echoes Dr Singh's concerns, "Students get caught up (on getting their qualifications) with no time for self-care. There's a stigma – especially around mental health. I wish more students would see it as something to improve their quality of life".

He hopes more students will find "joy and empowerment" in the "colourful, living, breathing community space" he helped create.

Linked source: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/nature-that-nurtures/>

To make a contribution to **HSU's Healing Garden**,
contact the **Eastern Horticulture Club**
Email: easternhorticulturalclub@hotmail.com



Members of the campus community enjoy a moment of refuge at the healing garden.
PHOTOS: ATIBA CUDJOE

2019 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

Preserving What Remains

BY DR JO-ANNE S. FERREIRA

Once upon a time, before the arrival of Europeans, Trinidad had at least 11 autochthonous or indigenous (so-called Amerindian) languages. Five of those languages belonged to the *Carib* or *Cariban* family – only Kalina (Carib) is alive. Three belonged to the *Ta-Arawakan* or *Ta-Maipurean* family – only Lokono (Arawak) is alive. Of three from other language families, only *Warao* is alive. The others are now extinct.

The death of a language is a great loss. A people's language is a critical component of their culture, identity and daily lives. In recognition of this, and in an effort to increase awareness of the importance of language preservation and documentation, UNESCO has proclaimed 2019 the International Year of Indigenous Languages (IYIL2019).

Launched on 28 January of this year, IYIL2019 is a worthwhile and timely initiative, with great relevance to the Caribbean, both the archipelago and the rimlands.

Language Death

The insular Caribbean archipelago was once described as a “linguistic graveyard” by UWI Professor Emeritus Mervyn C. Alleyne (1933–2016). A longstanding intolerance towards multilingualism developed in most Caribbean territories during colonial times. As a result of language policies, whether socially, educationally or legally enforced, nearly all of the Amerindian languages have disappeared from the Caribbean island chain. Surviving indigenous languages of the Continental or Greater Caribbean and the rest of the Americas also continue to face similar threats.

Of the Cariban languages once in vigorous use here, Kalina has 7,500 speakers across Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana and Brazil. (The other four Cariban languages, *Carinepagoto*, *Chaima*, *Nepoio* and *Yao* are all described as extinct.) Of the Arawakan languages, Lokono has 2,500 speakers across Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana. (The other two, *Shebaio* and *Igneri* are extinct.) *Warao*, a language isolate, is the most widely spoken indigenous language in the Orinoco Delta, with 33,000 speakers across Venezuela, Trinidad, Guyana and Suriname. Although so many languages – including *Kalipunian* and *Chaguane* – are extinct, their speakers may well have descendants among us today.

In the face of the destruction of the original linguistic ecology of the Caribbean, charting the history of the dying and extinct languages of the Americas sensitises us to deal with issues of language planning, and helps us to know, document and save the languages we still have, including the ones that are endangered.

Language Vitality

For the Americas in general, *Ethnologue* estimates that there are 1,060 living languages, 650 or 61% of which are described as *In Trouble* and *Dying*—most are Amerindian. These categories of Language Vitality are among those used in the Expanded Graded Intergenerational Disruption Scale (Lewis and Simons 2010), a useful and detailed 13-tiered measurement system ranging from *international* to *extinct* (with a 14th category of *forgotten*, off the scale).



Chief Ricardo Bharath Hernandez (centre) and members of the Santa Rosa First Peoples' Community perform a “smoke ceremony” at UWI St Augustine. Ceremonies, like language, are an important component of culture that should be preserved. PHOTO: ANEEL KARIM

“As a result of language policies, whether socially, educationally or legally enforced, nearly all of the Amerindian languages have disappeared from the Caribbean island chain. Surviving indigenous languages of the Continental or Greater Caribbean and the rest of the Americas also continue to face similar threats.”

Ethnologue catalogues only 23 languages for the Caribbean, but there are over 70, including overlooked and under-described home-grown Creole languages and sign languages. Counting all the countries with a Caribbean coast would bring the number of living languages up to some 245 – most are Amerindian.

The most visible linguistic legacy of the First Peoples of Trinidad and Tobago remains the over 200 toponyms all over both islands, and some flora, fauna and words in other domains. A 1986 Society for Caribbean Linguistics conference paper by Rawwida Baksh-Soodeen and Arie Boomert notes, “While this figure (200) may seem small, it actually represents some 450 place names since a single name may signify as many as five to six different situations such as point, bay, river, town, village, mountain, road, county or forest reserve. What is also significant is that the bulk of the island's main topographical features carry Amerindian names”.

Looking to the Future

All is not lost. Using tools of Anthropological Linguistics, Sociolinguistics, Contact Linguistics, Language Documentation, Historical and Comparative Linguistics, Etymology, Linguistic Landscape, Language Acquisition and Reclamation, History and Archaeology, it is possible for us not only to reckon with the past and understand the present, but to move forward into the future. The future must include a place for West Indian and Caribbean languages at West Indian and Caribbean institutions.

Congratulations to UNESCO for proclaiming 2019 as the Year of Indigenous Languages. We look forward to celebrating our intangible, indigenous, linguistic heritage throughout the year. International Mother Language Day will be held on 21 February and International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples on 9 August. Visit <https://en.iyil2019.org/> for more information on worldwide commemorations.

UWI Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY – MARCH 2019

Education Beyond Borders February 19 to 21 The UWI St Augustine

The UWI Schools of Education present their Biennial Conference under the theme, "Education Beyond Borders: Breaking Barriers – Building Bridges". Hear presentations from a wide-cross section of disciplines related to education and gain opportunities for networking with national and international participants across all educational sectors. Keynote speakers include: Professor Emeritus Donna Mertens, Gallaudet University, Dr Canute Thompson, UWI Mona and Professor Patricia Mohammed, UWI St Augustine.

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

A Sense of Home – 10 Years of DCFA's Old Yard February 24 The UWI Open Campus, Gordon Street, St Augustine

Travel back in time in the 10th instalment of the Department of Creative and Festival Arts' (DCFA) Old Yard. See traditional Carnival characters come alive before your eyes, and sample local crafts, cuisine and more from noon to 6:00pm. Tickets: Adults - \$60.00; Students/Children - \$40.00.

For more information, call 272-DCFA (3232) or email dcfa@sta.uwi.edu. To see the details of all the DCFA events, visit [facebook.com/UWI.DCFA](https://www.facebook.com/UWI.DCFA)



Calling all UWI Alumni Entrepreneurs and Innovators! March 14 The UWI St Augustine

The Fundraising and Alumni Affairs Unit hosts their first Alumni Networking Event for 2019 under the theme "Entrepreneurship and Innovation" celebrating the first UWI Masters of Industry finalist and other alumni who are starting or accomplished entrepreneurs and innovators. Join in the camaraderie from 5.30 to 7.30pm at the UWI Inn and Conference Centre. This event is free. Remember to walk with your business cards!

For more information, please call 662-2002 ext. 82683.

Chinese Spring Festival March 16 The UWI St Augustine

The Confucius Institute hosts the Chinese Spring Festival with a series of events including Chinese dance, poetry, calligraphy and more! Be there from 6:00pm to 8:00pm.

For more information, please visit the Campus Events Calendar at www.sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar



40 Years After the Grenadian Revolution March 13 The UWI St Augustine

The Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) hosts a Symposium on the 40th Anniversary of the Grenada Revolution. Be there from 9:00am to 5:00pm at the SALISES Conference Room. This event is free and open to the public. Listen to academic analysis and interrogation of the aftermath of the only Marxist-Leninist overthrow of a government in the Commonwealth Caribbean and its repercussions and impact after 40 years.

For more information contact Sharon Hodge at 662-2002 ext. 82037, 83179 or Sharon.hodge@sta.uwi.edu

Equity and Equality in Health March 21 Hyatt Regency Trinidad

The Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS) hosts its Research Day under the theme, "Equity and Equality in Health". Researchers will present on a variety of health-related topics. Persons attending can register for CME credits.

For more information, please call FMS at 662-2002 ext. 8548 or email HealthResearchCentre@sta.uwi.edu.

Qualitative meets Quantitative March 26 to 28 Arthur Lok Jack Global School of Business

The Mixed Methods International Research Association-Caribbean Chapter (MMIRA-CC) hosts the regional Mixed Methods Conference under the theme, "Integrating Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches: Tensions, Challenges and Possibilities." Look out for workshops on topics such as Steps to Conducting a Mixed Methods Study, Culturally Relevant Mixed Methods Research, A Step-by-Step Guide to Publishing Mixed Methods Articles in Journals and Strategies for Securing Impactful Publications, among others.

For more information, or to register, please visit <http://conferences.sta.uwi.edu/mmiracc/>

**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

