



# UWI TODAY

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES • ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

SUNDAY 5TH APRIL, 2015



## Seeding the future

*“In the heart of a seed buried deep so deep, a dear little plant lay fast asleep,”* the poem goes, and like a nurturer, a farm worker plants seeds at The UWI’s fields in Orange Grove. Orange Grove is the site of the **Agricultural Innovation Park**, which is being developed through an agreement between The UWI and the **China Agricultural University**. One of its purposes is to support the revitalisation of regional agriculture through the use of modern technology, crops and innovative and entrepreneurial practices. *“We want the Agricultural Innovation Park to be an extremely modern technical facility,”* says **Dr Isaac Bekele**, Dean of the Faculty of Food and Agriculture.



**REGIONAL - 04**  
*Towards a better CARICOM*  
■ Dr Kenny Anthony

**FOOD PRODUCTION - 08**  
*The Economy of Cocoa*  
■ IFCIC Conference

**IFCIC**  
International Fine Cocoa Innovation Centre



**MEDICAL SCIENCES FACULTY - 11**  
*25 Years, a Recollection*  
■ Prof Samuel Ramsewak

**ADVOCACY - 13**  
*Focus on Disability*  
■ NODES Conference 2015





# Undergraduate Admissions 2015/16

**APPLICATION  
DEADLINE:  
April 30<sup>th</sup>  
2015**



## **BSc Biomedical Technology**

From the machines that help provide early detection of diseases, to those that sustain life long enough for miracles to happen, technology forms the backbone of modern medicine. So it's important to have the knowledge to keep that technology running. You just might save a life.

## **The Faculty of Science & Technology**

Find out more about the BSc Biomedical Technology at:  
[www.sta.uwi.edu/fst](http://www.sta.uwi.edu/fst)

- BSc Actuarial Science
  - BSc Biomedical Technology
  - BSc Chemistry
  - BSc Environmental Science
  - BSc Information Technology
  - BSc Statistics
- + MORE

**APPLY ONLINE NOW:** [www.sta.uwi.edu/admissions](http://www.sta.uwi.edu/admissions)

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015

## OUR CAMPUS



CCJ President, Sir Dennis Byron (centre), sits with Alicia Elias-Roberts (to his left) and the award-winning Law Faculty team.

## Law Faculty takes BEST TEAM PRIZE AT CCJ COMPETITION

The Faculty of Law at the St Augustine Campus may be young but it's already making its mark. A team from the new faculty launched in 2014 has won the prize for the "Best Team from an Academic Institution" at the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) VII Annual International Law Moot Court Competition. The competition was held on March 13 at the CCJ headquarters in Port of Spain.

This is the second Mooting Title for the Faculty of Law. In April 2014, another team won the "Best New Team" prize out of 126 teams at the 55th Phillip C. Jessup International Law Moot Competition held in Washington DC.

There were eight participants in this year's CCJ VII International Law competition, made up of law schools, faculties and departments from the region. The Eugene Dupuch Law School of The Bahamas won the overall best team prize. The CCJ's Annual International Law Moot Court Competition was inaugurated in 2009 to encourage law students to become familiar with the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, the instruments establishing the CCJ and other areas of international law.

The UWI St Augustine's team advisor was Alicia Elias-Roberts, Deputy Dean at the Faculty of Law and the team members included Shane Pantin as lead counsel, Maria Sawh as junior counsel and Neetu Lalsingh as the researcher/reserve.



ON THE DOTTED LINE: President General of the OWTU Ancel Roget (left) and Campus Principal Clement Sankat sign the new agreement.

## UWI, OWTU reach agreement

Whilst negotiations continue, some headway was made as The UWI and the Oilfield's Workers Trade Union (OWTU) formally signed a collective agreement for the campus' daily and weekly paid workers. The agreement, which deals with the period 2008 to 2010, is the first between The UWI and the OWTU since the trade union became the official bargaining agent for these workers in 2009. It was signed on March 4.

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal Clement K. Sankat used the occasion to reaffirm his commitment to providing an educational institution that recognises the value and well-being of the staff. He expressed the view that The UWI can only achieve excellence and success if both bodies work together in a timely manner.

Following the signing ceremony, the OWTU along with representatives of the other unions on campus, joined the university management for a luncheon hosted by the Campus Principal.

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### Building Bridges to the World of Work Through Student Internships



On March 5th, 2015, I was pleased to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between The University of the West Indies, St Augustine Campus and the Institute of Banking and Finance (IBF) of Trinidad and Tobago to officially launch the IBF Internship Programme.

Though this is not the first such programme, nor will it be the last, it comes as a timely reminder of the important role the private sector can play in facilitating the development of our students for the world of work upon graduation from the Institute.

Through such mentored and structured internships, students develop the knowledge and understanding of the business environment they wish to enter upon graduation. They develop interpersonal and communication skills and, importantly, they become much more confident young men and women. These internship programmes can bring considerable benefits to employers as they cultivate an early relationship with our students while at the same time, moulding, observing and evaluating their potential in the workplace as possible future permanent employees. Employers can get the best and most talented of our students early in their university life. The young people at the university demonstrate considerable creativity which can be applied in the workplace, bringing fresh eyes and ears to problem-solving, and an eagerness to be agents of change; even though still young and inexperienced, their thoughts can lead to improvements in the workplace. The benefits are reciprocal: the opportunity provided for students to become aware of the challenges that are faced in the working world can shape project work in the classroom. This feedback loop will certainly add to the expediency of problem solving. Many industries and businesses have little or no R & D support, but through our students/interns, our university is in a better position to address the on-going, current needs of the business, manufacturing, industrial and public sectors.

We never allow our doctors to practice medicine without an internship period. This is an example of best-practice all professions should adopt, with our support at The UWI. I have often said to my academic colleagues, that while the time our students spend in the classroom is beneficial, of

more impact on their personal lives and readiness for the world of work, is their involvement in industry/enterprises.

I can reflect on my own engineering internship periods at the Demerara Bauxite Company Limited (DEMBA), where many of my Trinidad and Tobago classmates from St Augustine also accompanied me for such internships. I have heard positive stories of internships at TEXACO/PETROTRIN or at T&TEC. Engineering companies had these in the past, but I am not sure how much of this is still done. This partnership between UWI and the IBF is therefore pivotal in providing quality and relevant training to develop the human resource of our country. In this particular situation, the collaboration offers employment opportunities to our undergraduate students enrolled in the Departments of Management Studies and Economics in the Faculty of Social Sciences. A real "ground breaker" here!

I have often reflected on how the responsibility for education of our students at the university should be shared. Certainly a partnership of parents and students themselves, where they can afford it, our Regional Governments, the university and the private sector is the way forward. All stakeholders benefit from such education. The private sector must be at this table and let me thank sincerely those companies in Trinidad and Tobago who do this on a regular basis; more can make a great contribution through internship training programmes for our students. The costs are small compared to the benefits to be derived, for both firm and student.

Finally a word to our students and their parents - I recalled several years ago, an internship programme was designed for students of The UWI to spend a full year in the oil company PETROTRIN prior to graduation. There were few takers, as everyone is in a hurry to get their degrees, to graduate. This is understandable, but the opportunity to get world-of-work experience in industry prior to graduation, can set those who had such training apart from graduates without, as they would already have had a head-start in the world of work. So to my students, I say, use the opportunity presented to get such experience and as the saying goes, "make haste slowly!" You can emerge a big winner!

CLEMENT K. SANKAT  
Pro Vice-Chancellor & Principal

## EDITORIAL TEAM

CAMPUS PRINCIPAL  
Professor Clement Sankat

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS  
Dr Dawn-Marie De Four-Gill

EDITOR  
Mr Joel Henry

## CONTACT US

The UWI Marketing and Communications Office  
Tel: (868) 662-2002, exts. 82013 / 83997 or email: [uwitoday@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:uwitoday@sta.uwi.edu)

## REGIONAL

# The Watchword is Relevance

BY DARA WILKINSON BOBB

**“The Caribbean has been stalled** at a crossroads of indecision,” said Prime Minister of St Lucia, Kenny Anthony. “The old assumptions are out of synch with reality.”

Prime Minister Anthony made these statements at The UWI St Augustine’s CARICOM Leaders’ Lecture Series. Since the launch of the series in October 2013, four Caribbean leaders have grappled with the regional institution, its legacy, its future, and the on-going quest for integration. The St Lucian PM delivered his address on March 3 at the Daaga Auditorium.

Indeed, it was an environment well-suited to the occasion for, in the words of UWI Principal Clement Sankat, The UWI is one of the older, well-established advocates of Caribbean unity and regional integration.

Yet unity and integration seem more distant than ever as the region is confronted with a worsening economic future. Speaking on the theme, *Delivered or Denied? The Dividends of Integration*, Dr Anthony highlighted the Caribbean’s inability to adapt to a more competitive global market place. He called for a renewal of the integration mission, led by a CARICOM, that is more ambitious in its goals and relevant to its people.

## STRUGGLING IN THE FACE OF COMPETITION

“At the root of our dilemma is the demise of our commodity sectors, nor has the transition to service-based economies such as tourism made much of a palliative,” Dr Anthony told attendees at the Distinguished Open Lecture. “Virtually all our primary exports have taken a beating on the open market.”

He was quick to assert that the barriers to a buoyant economy are not insurmountable but are handicaps of our own making – products of our own insularity.

Indicating that the region is able to overcome traditional hurdles like scale and domestic market size, he added that we have access to technology and entry into other markets. Banana, he said, was once a million-dollar-a-week enterprise or “Green Gold”.

However, the St Lucian PM pointed out, the Caribbean did not prepare for open markets and with collapsing market protection, we hoped to be given exceptional preference. Instead of expanding production to reach other shores, “we remained insular,” said Dr Anthony. We had decades of industry knowledge but we did not capitalise on this resource.



Prime Minister Anthony highlighted some of the vulnerabilities within regional economies characterised by high levels of external ownership; little emphasis on local equity; and relegated to being industry hosts rather than owners.

“A prevailing condition of low growth, high debt and dwindling investment is our predicament,” he said.

## CARICOM MUST EVOLVE

In his lecture, PM Anthony reflected on the original vision for CARICOM – each member state helping the other nations and the region as a whole to realise their full potential, including providing a high standard of living for Caribbean citizens. Grimly, he noted that “it is more difficult to be magnanimous when one is hungry.”

As such, Dr Anthony advised, “it is vital that the role of CARICOM evolves not only to keep up with the times but to set the pace for the times.”

For him, it is a question of relevance.

The issue of integration is not isolated to West Indies cricket and CARICOM, said Dr Anthony. Rather, “it is a crisis of our societies, our economic systems and our governance”.

According to PM Kenny Anthony, if regional institutions must survive, not only will they have to adapt to global trends but they must also become relevant to the lives of the people of the region – the realities we face on a domestic level in our daily lives.

Time and effort must be dedicated to building democracy, the quality of human interaction and how we earn, he said.

“We must embrace systemic change if we are to effect real transformation and allow our region to survive in a hostile environment,” said Dr Anthony.

For him, there has to be an ideological, psychological and strategic shift. The St Lucian PM said the new generation perceives CARICOM as an archaic institution of rules and regulations, and it must become less of the latter and more of the embodiment of an ideal that transcends particular historical persons and circumstances.

Dr Anthony argued for a radical rethinking of the ideas underpinning CARICOM as a regional organisation.

Our countries are experiencing high debt and high unemployment, and have lost aspects of our economies, he said. CARICOM has failed to see this as an opportunity to reshape the Caribbean as countries and as a region.

“We have been operating in silos, focusing on isolated initiatives,” Dr Anthony said, “but we have to think more in terms of how we can integrate initiatives and organisations and approaches, and really think about how we are affecting people’s lives. We have to be more relevant to people.”

In his lecture, Dr Anthony emphasised that the issues we face are not isolated, they are systemic, and neither are they merely structural as they affect the everyday realities of Caribbean men and women. He said that there is a disconnect between CARICOM and the realities of the region. The economic downturn has provided CARICOM an opportunity to redress its mission by guiding the region’s people through this latest trauma. As such, he stated, if we are prepared to usher in the new transformations, we can yet endure into the future.

*“We must embrace systemic change if we are to effect real transformation and allow our region to survive in a hostile environment”*

## UWI/APHIS Sign MOU for Regional Agriculture

**What’s one of the best ways** to ensure food security? Healthy crops. And a new agreement between The UWI and a unit of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is set to intensify the region’s pest-fighting operations.

On March 13, UWI and the USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) through its International Services (IS) APHIS formalised their long-standing collaboration with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding at the University Inn and Conference Centre. Through the agreement, The UWI will provide office space and facilities for APHIS in Trinidad and Tobago.

For several years now, APHIS IS has supported



From left are Richard Madray, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Food Production; Keith Gilges, Deputy Chief of Mission, US Embassy; Beverly Simmons, Deputy Administrator International Services, APHIS and Richard Saunders, Campus Registrar, The UWI.

the Caribbean Plant Health Directors’ (CPHD) work in protecting the region’s plant life. It has been working with The UWI since the 2007 establishment of the CPHD Forum. The forum’s goal is to assist the greater Caribbean and regional agricultural institutes, such as APHIS IS, in strengthening their phytosanitary (plant disease fighting) capabilities. This has long been recognised as one of the ways to boost countries’ ability to improve their trade in agricultural commodities.

Using The UWI’s technical expertise in areas such as plant health and the global sanitary and phytosanitary principles, the CPHD Forum has been able to tackle issues related to pest prioritisation and the Giant African Snail in the region.

# La historia, la lingua, la literatura

Humanities team presents at the Havana International Book Fair

BY DR. ARMANDO GARCÍA DE LA TORRE

Lecturer, Department of History, Faculty of Humanities and Education



Members of the faculty delegation (starting second from left) Drs García, Fergus, Pemberton and Roberts.

UWI's Faculty of Humanities and Education (FHE) was well represented by a delegation of six lecturers and instructors of the Departments of History and of Modern Languages and Linguistics at the 24th Annual Havana International Book Fair that took place from the 12th to 22nd February, 2015.

The 2015 Havana International Book Fair had over 300,000 attendees and nearly 1,500 exhibitors and presenters, the largest in the Caribbean. Each year the fair is dedicated to a nation. This year's honoree was India, showcasing Cuban editions of Indian authors and sacred Hindu texts. The historic 18th century Spanish colonial fortress complex San Carlos de la Cabaña, laid out among cobble-stoned streets and massive coquina walls, served as the main exhibition centre with other official sites spread throughout the seaside capital.

Drs Claudius Fergus (Head, History), Rita Pemberton (History, Retired), Armando García de la Torre (History), Nicole Roberts (Head, Modern Languages and Linguistics),

Mr Diego Mederos (Instructor, Spanish) and Ms Paola Palma (Instructor, Spanish) engaged in presentations and discussions throughout the Book Fair. Dr García organised and chaired the first panel from the St Augustine Campus to present at the prominent Havana event.

Cosponsored by the Embassy of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in Cuba, the panel session, entitled "The Caribbean: Perspectives from Trinidad and Tobago", featured presentations by Drs Fergus, Pemberton and Roberts. Held at the Centro de Estudios Martianos (Centre for Martí Studies), the panel brought together perspectives on "Pan-Caribbeanism". The panel was favourably received by a large audience of Cuban scholars, journalists, secondary and tertiary students, and the general public.

Following the panel session, Dr Jennifer Jones-Kernahan, the Ambassador of Trinidad and Tobago, hosted a reception in honour of the UWI scholars. Both Cubans and Trinbagonians enjoyed an evening of Trini culture in Cuba

amidst sounds of steelpan and short films of life in the twin-island republic. Dignitaries of the Cuban Diplomatic Corps the Ministries of Foreign Relations and Tertiary Education, along with other top scholars from the University of Havana were in attendance.

Throughout the week, the FHE lecturers visited and held meetings at Cuban institutions such as the UNEAC (National Union of Cuban Authors and Artists), the Casa de Las Américas (Institute for the Study of the Americas), at the Headquarters of the Cuban National Programme for Martí Studies and the Foundation Antonio Núñez Jimenez (Institute for the Study of the Environment and Indigenous Cultures) among others.

The panel presentation by UWI FHE scholars and the visits and meetings throughout the week of the Book Fair proved to be a resounding success, opening new roads for future collaborations and exchanges between The UWI, St Augustine Campus and leading institutions in Cuba.



**UWI**  
ST. AUGUSTINE  
CAMPUS

**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
Department of Behavioural Sciences

## THE CARIBBEAN TODAY: Facing Challenges and Assessing Opportunities Through Postgraduate Research

April 9th, 2015 | 1.00PM – 5.00PM  
April 10th, 2015 | 8.45AM – 5.00PM  
Learning Resource Centre (LRC), UWI St Augustine

**For further information:**

[www.sta.uwi.edu/conferences/15/caribbeantoday/index.asp](http://www.sta.uwi.edu/conferences/15/caribbeantoday/index.asp) • 662-2002 ext.83061 / 85290 / 85278 / 82539 • [dbsconference@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:dbsconference@sta.uwi.edu)



**ALL ARE INVITED**



# Undergraduate Admissions 2015/16

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:  
APRIL 30,  
2015**



## **Undergraduate Diploma in Agriculture**

Want a career that allows you to be your own boss, in a sector poised for growth? From growing cash crops, raising livestock, aquaculture and horticulture – learn the latest technologies and business skills to help you reap the rewards.

## **The Faculty of Food & Agriculture**

*Find out more about the Undergraduate Diploma in Agriculture and other exciting programmes at: [www.sta.uwi.edu/ffa](http://www.sta.uwi.edu/ffa)*

- BSc Agribusiness
- BSc Human Nutrition
- BSc Dietetics
- BSc Human Ecology
- BSc Geography
- BSc Tropical Landscaping
- + MORE

**APPLY ONLINE NOW:** [www.sta.uwi.edu/admissions](http://www.sta.uwi.edu/admissions)

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** APRIL 30, 2015

■ OUR CAMPUS



Professor  
Bhakthavatsalam  
Murali Manohar

## VETERINARY MEDICINE'S NEW DIRECTOR

**Professor Bhakthavatsalam Murali Manohar** is a veterinary pathologist from India. He has graduated from Madras Veterinary College, Tamil Nadu, India. He is a renowned board-certified pathologist and has had a long tenure as Head of the Department, Director, Centre for Animal Health Studies, Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University which was founded in 1989 as the first veterinary university in South East Asia. Later he became the Dean, Madras Veterinary College, Chennai, India. He has rich experience in teaching for the past 38 years in his subject of specialisation, and in research. He was a former President of the Indian Association of Veterinary Pathologists. He served on many professional committees at state and national levels in India. He has more than 280 research articles published in peer-reviewed scientific journals. He was the advisor to more than 40 M.V.Sc. and Ph.D. students. He had undergone special training in "Toxicopathology" at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, USA. He received many awards/honours by professional societies of national and international scientific bodies. He was the recipient of an International Research Professorship award by the American Society for Microbiology.

## FROM HARVARD TO THE UWI

### *Building a Philanthropic Future*

In response to the increasing financial challenges being faced by the Campus, a Fundraising and Alumni Affairs Unit (FAA) was created in 2013 as part of the new Office of Institutional Advancement and Internationalisation, with the mandate to increase philanthropic giving to the Campus and strengthen engagement with our thousands of graduates across all social and economic sectors.

In keeping with this mandate, the FAA and the Institute of International Relations (IIR) invited Mr O'Neil Outar, Senior Associate Dean and Director of Development for the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University for a special consultation during the period 25 to 28 February, 2015. Mr Outar, who was born in Guyana, met with members of Senior Management, Deans, the Endowment Fund and other members of the campus community to consult and give guidance on matters related to strengthening and expanding the university's philanthropic ecosystem. Mr Outar's contributions were highly impacting and his insights and thoughtful reactions – based upon his specialist experience in raising funds for Harvard, MIT, the University of Alberta and Tufts University – were most constructive in advancing The UWI's own thinking about how it can strengthen and accelerate its philanthropic agenda.

In his current position, Mr Outar leads the fundraising enterprise for the largest of Harvard's seven faculties: the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Prior to joining Harvard, he led the University of Alberta's alumni and fundraising enterprise as the school's first Vice President of Advancement, building an organisation that set new records in both fundraising and alumni engagement, which were critical in establishing the vital foundation to support the university's ambitious emphasis on research, and teaching and learning. It is heartening to see a son of the Caribbean achieving so significantly at a global level and commendable that he has demonstrated his commitment to the Caribbean by generously giving his time and expertise to the regional university.



O'Neil Outar

## UWI, IBF SIGN LANDMARK BANKING INTERNSHIP DEAL

The UWI and The Institute of Banking and Finance (IBF) of Trinidad and Tobago have entered into a partnership that will facilitate university graduates in taking internships in the banking sector. The IBF Internship Programme was formalised through an MOU signed on March 5 at The Principal's Office at the St Augustine Campus.

The initiative coincides with The UWI's mission of providing students with relevant education and training for professional advancement and personal growth, as well as meeting the requirements of the various sectors for capable, high-skills labour.

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal Clement K Sankat signed the MOU on behalf of The UWI, while President of the Institute of Banking, Joel-Ann Cook-Walcott, represented IBF.

"This is the first time that industry, education and profession have come together for capable, knowledgeable and trained professionals. This initiative is also for finance and banking professionals to remain relevant through ongoing certification," Mrs. Cook-Walcott said.

*"a partnership that  
will facilitate university  
graduates in taking  
internships in the  
banking sector"*



Professor Sankat and Mrs Cook-Walcott (president of IBF) sign the MOU. Darryl White, President of the Bankers' Association of Trinidad and Tobago looks on.

## OUR CAMPUS

### CONTEMPORARY COCOA INNOVATORS

Darril "Astrida" Saunders makes Exotic Caribbean Mountain Pride drinking chocolate. "From the lush mountains of Tamana Trinidad, comes an all natural artisan indigenous chocolate ... which quietly lends a hand in healing common ailments and peacefully soothes a mind, body and spirit." Astrida recently travelled to New York to speak at the Clinton Foundation "No Ceilings" event.

Isabel Brash's curiosity led her to dark chocolate and artisanal bonbons. She is the creator at Cocobel and a motivating force behind her brother's Rancho Quemado cocoa estate.

Lesley Ann Jurawan manages Delft Cocoa Plantations situated in Gran Couva's Montserrat Hills, and is part of the Montserrat Cocoa Farmers Co-operative Society. She is the master chocolatier for the brand, Violetta's Fine Chocolate.

British-born Ashley Parasram is applying a new business model to the sale of cocoa derivatives and chocolate in Europe. He was featured in the Style issue of the Financial Times as "co-founder of the Riding Club London and a former international development specialist."

Parasram's Trinidad and Tobago Fine Cocoa Company Limited signed an MOU with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and is set for an on-line launch on April 1, 2015 at [www.ttchocolate.com](http://www.ttchocolate.com).

Singapore-born Gina Hardy, after ten years in accounting in London, married a Trinidadian, came to Trinidad and turned herself into a chocolatier. She creates Gina's Truffles.

Businessman Richard Trotman, James Burns, the Omardeens and Café Mariposa are some other examples of modern cocoa enterprise.

These are the new breed of cocoa entrepreneurs. They bring business and marketing savvy, science and technology, to the industry which once produced beans for export. Their source for science is the Cocoa Research Centre based at The UWI in St Augustine.

### SCIENCE AND HISTORY OF THEOBROMA CACAO

On the CRC website, Darin Sukha, Research Fellow, lists uses for every part of the cocoa bean and pod, including but not limited to chocolate in all forms, jams, jellies, wine, vinegar, flavourings, pigments, mulch, moisturizing lotions and beauty aids. Cocoa also has its place in the lore that claims medicinal properties – against diabetes, cardiovascular conditions, rheumatism, parasites, snake bite and malaria, among others.

"This is not your grandfather's cocoa," asserts Sukha. The proposed Innovation Centre is the framework for "value added" businesses and investors.

Frances Bekele, who is a germplasm specialist in the CRC at The UWI and has written extensively on the history of cocoa in Trinidad, agrees.

"The Cocoa Research Centre has provided knowledge and support to many entrepreneurs, securing success and sustainability with science"

International companies like Cadbury and Mars Inc have long accessed the research carried out at CRC.

This science began almost 100 years ago when the Imperial College of Agriculture (now the St Augustine campus of The UWI) established the Cocoa Research Scheme funded by the governments of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) Gold Coast (now Ghana), Grenada, Nigeria, Trinidad; and the firms Cadbury, Fry and Rowntree. The Scheme became the Cocoa Research Unit (now the Cocoa Research Centre).

The arrival at UWI in 1991 of Pathmanathan Umaharan from Sri Lanka heralded the era of research in cowpea, pigeon pea, hot pepper and cacao. Umaharan became Professor of Genetics, and head of the CRC, which participated in an international project to map the DNA of a Criollo cocoa variety. This opened the possibilities that the Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat spoke of:

"We need to rekindle interest in food and agriculture, particularly among younger people, and the work of the CRC can support this cause. Research and development, creativity and innovation would be what our university and our research must focus on if we are to make an impact."

The CRC has developed disease-resistant and more productive cacao varieties from the Criollo, Forastero, Trinitario and Refractario varieties. It also manages the International Cocoa Genebank Trinidad (ICG, T) which is a living collection of 2400 varieties of cacao on 33 hectares in Centeno, allocated by the Ministry of Food Production. The CRC recently developed its own brand of 70% chocolate, which they find hard to keep in stock.

### THE INTERNATIONAL FINE COCOA INNOVATION CENTRE

In 2014, the CRC was successful in a partnership bid for funding from the EU, under the ACP Science and Technology Programme II for the establishment of the three-year IFCIC initiative. According to Umaharan, "The project has a twin mandate: the first is the positive impact of scientific and technological knowledge and research in the regional cocoa industry; the second is the collaboration of academia and the private sector to commission a physical innovation facility."

Speaking on behalf of Daniela Tramacere, the Charge d'Affaires of the EU Delegation to Trinidad and Tobago at the March 2015 conference, Kathrin Renner said, "The



**Modernization of the cocoa industry** and new entrepreneurs focused on the higher value cacao bean as food, health and beauty aids. How the **Cocoa Research Centre (CRC)** and through science, technology and innovation. The European-funded **International Fine Cocoa Innovation Centre** inaugurated in 2014. In March this year, the **International Fine Cocoa Innovation Centre** with the theme "Seeding Innovations and

What follows is an account of the "pro catalyst for the new cocoa economy.

Caribbean is held in high regard as a cocoa-producing region for fine or aromatic (as opposed to bulk) cocoa. Fine flavour cocoa accounts for only 5% of world production and is concentrated in a few countries.

"For cocoa production to be sustainable in the long term, we must embrace technology and innovation. The IFCIC will also focus on creating innovations along the value chain: production, processing, manufacturing and marketing. The EU sees innovation as a cornerstone of progress, and will continue to support Trinidad and Tobago to promote and use innovation as the tool towards a competitive and knowledge-driven economy.



SCIENCE IN SUPPORT OF SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS: Some members of the team at the CRC in

INFORMATION SOURCES: CRC website: <http://sta.uwi.edu/cru/index.asp> • ACP website: <http://acp>





and cultivation of cocoa arts are attracting most value to be extracted from the versatile arts, leisure and entertainment assets. Here's what The UWI is charting the future of cacao innovation.

**The Cocoa Innovation Centre project was hosted by the CRC – with its partners – hosted the first International Fine Cocoa Centre (IFCIC) Conference & Symposium along the Cocoa Value Chain."**  
 "Proof of concept" that led to the IFCIC as the

Our support to the IFCIC is very much in step with the new focus for development of this country."

The Innovation Centre does require additional funding for a centre of operations – a building – and it is hoped that corporate citizens will contribute. Private sector investments in this initiative are invited.

#### THE ACADEMY OF CHOCOLATE

Farmers will have the opportunity to utilize recommended design and layout of a model cocoa orchard, with new plantings, on five-acre plots. Experimental orchards will be monitored for yield, flavor

and quality management. Field training, in conjunction with the Ministry of Food Production, continues to foster best practice in maintaining cocoa estates. Sessions have been conducted in Trinidad and Tobago, as well as Grenada, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Belize, and Jamaica under a Centre for Development Project rolled out by the CRC in 2011 to 2013.

Perhaps the most important developments in the cocoa industry in recent times have taken place among entrepreneurs wanting to taste Trinidad-grown Trinitario cacao, venturing into the wide open field of "value add." The IFCIC is offering hands-on training in chocolate making. Sessions are limited to six to eight persons at a time. Around 100 persons have been trained in the last year.

#### COCOA ARTS AND THE INCUBATOR

The value streams from cocoa extend as far as the imagination: confectionery, health and beauty aids, medicinal treatments, cuisine innovation and new business.

Isabel Brash said, "After I ground the first set of roasted beans into a liquid state, I became possessed by the cocoa jumbie. The transformation was pure magic!" It is this potential that the business incubator will seek to release among those who want to go beyond the academic.

The Chocolate Incubator will provide equipment in "studio" settings for six creators at a time. Rapid prototyping, innovations in use of chocolate for health or beauty aids, cooking, product sampling and quality testing, branding and registering for patents will be encouraged. This stage becomes a building block towards new business.

At this time, tutors in the chocolate making sessions are CRC's Darin Sukha, Naailah Ali and Matthew Escalante. The opportunity exists for guest lecturers from the entrepreneurs who already enjoy success. It is hoped that the academy and incubator will attract students graduating in science, agriculture, food technology, business and the arts.

#### COCOA TECHNOLOGY

"The science allows us to develop and use traceability systems," says Bekele. "There's a chain of custody for flavour, our unique selling point. It will allow quality management and certification in each stop of the process." The technology is based on Near Infra-red Reflectance Spectroscopy (NIRS) which has already been applied to rice, timber, fertilizer, shea butter, among other crops, so that origins and fair trade practices may be assured. Advanced systems will allow cocoa farmers and chocolate producers to meet new standards in food.

Part of the IFCIC mandate is to share the vision with other fine cocoa producing countries in the region. First up is Jamaica where there is currently no national programme for breeding cocoa. This will involve genetic analysis of their trees as the basis for breeding. Training might include micro- and nano-grafting (on just emerged seedlings).

#### FINE COCOA MUSEUM

Trinidad has a long history in research and development of *Theobroma cacao*, mainly in academic papers. The vast field of cocoa folklore is mainly oral. It's time to record not only the past, but the contemporary innovations. The Fine Cocoa Museum will house a permanent collection of artifacts and historical items, alongside contemporary exhibits, publications, audio recordings and films. An art gallery, gift shop and restaurant may be included in the museum.

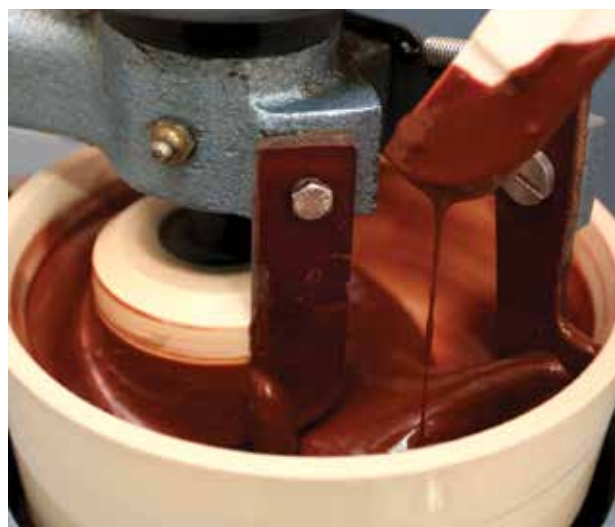
#### THE EMERGING COCOA SOCIETY

Around the world, everyone enjoys chocolate. All the cocoa for worldwide consumption is produced by about 15 million people in 50 African, Caribbean or Pacific countries, on three million small-holder cocoa farms. In 2008, the International Cocoa Organisation projected that world cocoa production would increase to about 4.5 million tonnes in 2012-13 with consumption almost on par. The annual earnings of the global cocoa and chocolate industry are now estimated at US\$70 billion.

Trinidad and Tobago enjoys the advantages of science, technology, history and opportunity. It is possible for a cocoa society to rise again in these islands and the region. Here are the expected outcomes from the Innovation Centre initiatives:

- Certification services adopted by at least ten regional cocoa producers;
- Chocolatiers (six to eight) sourcing couverture from regional chocolate makers;
- Innovative businesses based on regional cocoa sector;
- New quality branding of fine cocoa from at least five farmers;
- New value added cocoa ventures;
- Modern cocoa breeding programme in Jamaica;
- International Fine Cocoa Journal established;
- CRC evolved into a self-sustaining entity.

Persons interested in investing in cocoa are invited to contact the CRC at The UWI, St Augustine.



include Pathmanathan Umaharan, Darin Sukha, Frances Bekele, Matthew Escalante and Naailah Ali.

http://www.uwi-st.eu/content/ifcic-international-fine-cocoa-innovation-centre • IFCIC website: <http://ifcic.center/>

## OUR CAMPUS

### INNOVATION, INNOVATION, INNOVATION.

It's the rain dance chant in breakfast meetings, business seminars and policy sessions. It's the mystic ingredient peppered through every white paper and strategic plan. Innovation, according to many, is a prime solution to some of our region's chronic economic problems – whether it be Trinidad and Tobago's in oil and gas dependency or the wider Caribbean's inability to adapt to competitive pressure.

But innovation has so far been as elusive as it is enticing. In the most recent *Global Competitiveness Report* of the World Economic Forum, Trinidad ranks in the bottom third (100 out of 144 countries) in innovation. "Insufficient capacity to innovate" is the country's sixth most problematic factor to doing business.

The nation has taken steps to spark innovation, two of the most visible of these being the Council for Competitiveness and Innovation's "Ideas 2 Innovation" competition and the recent (October 2014) partnership with the European Union through which Trinidad and Tobago will receive a 9.7 million euro grant to boost innovation.

Yet despite this thirst for innovation and the willingness to mobilise considerable resources towards fostering it, there is an obvious resource for ideas and inventions that remains largely untapped – The University of the West Indies.

### IDEAS TO FOOD PROCESSING

Imagine a machine that vacuum extracts the water from coconuts, tripling its shelf life. How about a piece of equipment that reduces the tedious preparation time of bread nut (chataigne) from over an hour to ten minutes. What could a whole suite of machinery that reduces the need for labour, accelerates processes and lowers costs do for the regional agro-processing industry?

For five years now students from the Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering within the Faculty of Engineering have been developing models for an array of food preparation and processing purposes. How viable are these inventions?

"About 60-70% of these models could be implemented," says Rodney Harnarine, a development engineer in the department and supervisor for numerous student projects.

This is the kind of potential that planners and policymakers have been looking for, a ready-made innovation incubator. But to turn that potential into opportunity many things need to happen – and they haven't been happening. Without support a potential innovation garden can become a graveyard for good ideas.

### RESURGENCE OF AGRICULTURE

To understand how timely a concept agro-processing innovation is, you have to understand how topical food production and security has become for the region.

On May 2 of this year, Food and Agriculture Organisation



A papaya pulper

# A Secret Garden of Ideas

BY JOEL HENRY



A machine that washes lettuce

(FAO) Director-General José Graziano da Silva told at the gathering of CARICOM heads in the Bahamas that agriculture was crucial for the region to achieve food security and could spur economic growth.

"Agriculture has really taken on a new life," says Dr Wayne Ganpat, lecturer in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension within the Faculty of Food and Agriculture. "(The Caribbean) is searching for the right mix of commodities to rebuild agriculture's contribution to GDP."

Agro-processing is seen as an important way of adding value to agricultural commodities – extending the shelf life or perishable items, creating employment and bringing in new revenues. And innovation can enhance every aspect of the food production sector – pre-primary production, production, processing and even spin-off industries like agro-tourism.

"We want bright young people, innovators and entrepreneurs moving forward. The agriculture we want is one that is smart," says Dr Ganpat.

And within the campus itself there are many bright young people bringing their creative abilities to the requirements of the agro-processing industry. Turns out the solution to spurring innovation is as simple as the old saying – "necessity is the mother of invention."

Students within the Mechanical Engineering Department are required to complete a design and build project for their degree programme. Agro-processing and food production is one of six areas they can choose for their project. That means every year between 80-100 students are creating systems or equipment and some of them are working in agro-processing.

"Typically I would have 10 projects a year," says Mr Harnarine, who supervises many of the agro-processing projects and is a major advocate for pushing the innovation being produced beyond the boundaries of the classroom for the benefit of the students, The UWI and the food production industry.

### INNOVATION FACTORY

What kinds of projects have been developed? Besides the vacuum extractor and bread nut shredder, innovations include a papaya pulper; a soursop seed separator; a green mango slicer; devices that wash, peel, grate and dry cassava for the production of cassava flour; a cocoa pod splitter and many more.

"Very often what the students build is not a prototype, but

a scaled-down model using substitute materials, Mr Harnarine explains. "None the less these are the basis for new ideas and new equipment."

Materials are one of many challenges the students face, challenges that are weighing down what could be the genesis of a new relationship between the university and the market.

"The students are under pressure doing five other courses besides their project," Mr Harnarine says. "Somewhere between their courses and the weekend they find time to build equipment. Money is also a problem. You have 100 students trying to raise \$5,000 to buy bits and pieces to put together."

Add to that the department's limited manpower and resources, and it's clear that the students are producing extraordinary work in less than optimal conditions. But the most difficult part of this scenario is what happens after the projects are completed:

"We do not have storage space for 100 projects every year. So every year, if there is no interest in a project we will scrap it and recycle the motor and other usable parts."

### INNOVATION IS A CULTURE

When looking at the lack of business innovation in the Caribbean it is important to understand that there are several structural impediments within our societies. The inertial forces are at present much stronger than the forces for movement, development and change. And although there is a greater urgency for innovation being expressed at very high levels, the machinery to make it so is often sluggish and highly inaccurate in its movement.

As one of the most important regional institutions, boasting a repository of some of its brightest minds and operating under a mandate to make the Caribbean a better place, The UWI is in a position to make a tremendous impact on the fostering of an innovative culture. The work of students in agro-processing innovation is an area in which The UWI can have that kind of impact.

What are some of the changes that need to take place for the evolution of what could become a campus innovation unit?

**External partnerships/funding** – Resources such materials, manpower and space require funding. Universities that produce innovative technologies work closely with their governments and the private sector. Increased funding opens up all kinds of opportunities.

**Stronger linkages with manufacturing training institutions** – Training institutions like Metal Industries Company (MIC) in Trinidad have the necessary machinery and materials to manufacture full prototypes of student projects.

**Stronger intellectual property protections** – It is very costly to protect the intellectual property rights of new technologies but also necessary to guard against theft and duplication.

**Project exhibitions** – To generate interest in innovative projects, potential users have to know they exist. Projects featured in exhibitions in the past have been given a positive reception by potential buyers in the food and manufacturing industries.

**Field laboratories** – The UWI can show the value of its agro-processing innovation projects as well as contribute to the welfare of rural agricultural communities by setting up small preparation and processing field units.



A bread nut (chataigne) shredder

# In Good Health

Outgoing Dean discusses Medical Sciences on its 25th anniversary

BY JOEL HENRY

*It's an eventful time for Professor Samuel Ramsewak, Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences. In a few days the faculty will kick off a week of activities to celebrate its 25th anniversary. Faced with a mountain of tasks related to the event (dubbed FMS@25), the Dean decided to be interviewed at my office rather than his own. It was an extraordinarily mission-focused, no-frills approach from such an accomplished man, and a testament to one who clearly places the responsibilities of leadership above its prestige. It's no wonder he has served two fruitful terms, steering the faculty through a period of growth. 2015 however is Professor Ramsewak's final year as Dean. UWI Today spoke with the professor on his tenure and the Faculty of Medical Sciences at 25.*

**JH: Professor Ramsewak, what was your journey to the Faculty of Medical Sciences?**

**SR:** It's Samuel, but most of my colleagues call me Sam. I started at Mt Hope Maternity in 1984 after I became a specialist and came back to Trinidad (from the UK). I left Trinidad again in 1989 and when I came back, I began working at Mt Hope once more. In 1991 I joined the faculty. I have always shown an interest in research so I was appointed as a senior lecturer. Then I did my further thesis and was appointed to the Chair, Professor, in 2001. The Chair was called Professor of Reproductive Medicine because you have to have a name of your Chair. Essentially what I did was work at Mt Hope as the Professor, and continued with my research. Around 2000, I became the Head of Gynaecology, and then I became Head of the Department of Surgical Sciences. I sat two terms as Head of Department, became the Deputy and then Dean

**JH: So that's over two decades of academic activity.**

**SR:** Yes, and administration. So you see basically I went through the various platforms. I became Dean in 2007.

**JH: What has it been like? What have you experienced?**

**SR:** It's a privilege. You have a situation where you have so many well-educated and professional academic persons with good research agendas, people who are experts in their field and I was able to be leader of that group. It's something that I cherish and respect. There were so many students who depend on the Dean's Office and the Dean as an individual. Students would often appeal to the Dean, not as office but person. I'll meet them in the corridor, or on the quadrangle and they would come to me to tell me about their particular issues. What I wanted to do, which I think I managed to do, was to be very accessible. It's a very important attribute, I think, that allows one to actually feel the pulse of the people around you.

**JH: Would you say you have a personal goal for the faculty?**

**SR:** When I became Dean, I wrote out a mission. Number one on it was that I would be seen as leader who was fair. Fairness is a critical element in leadership because you are dealing with human relations and career development. We are in a system where you can feel that you are being wronged by the person in authority. I wanted to ensure that no one felt that they were being kept back out of a personal agenda or something else. We have to face the fact that the university community is a microcosm of the community of the island. Because of our diversity of individuals and cultures, one could easily be caught up in the discrimination tagline. And that was what I did not want to be part of. I feel I have achieved that. I felt that unless I got the support and the trust of the people around me, then I was a failing leader.

We have applications far in excess of spaces in the faculty. We get over 1,100 applications for Medicine; we have approximately 150 to maximum 180 spaces. If we put the strict criteria on who is eligible according to our prospectus we come down to about 450. So there



is still an excess of 200. It's a challenging process and we get all kinds of reasons why somebody should get in, and someone else not. It happens no other way but by pure meritocracy.

The other important goal I set myself was developing graduate studies within the faculty. We have a very good product but we haven't had a major impact in terms of people becoming specialists. For example, when I became Dean, we had about 50 graduate students a year. Now, it's close to 400. So it has really developed.

The other quality issue is professionalism and ethics. We have embarked upon a course that is called Professionalism and Ethics. This is the first such course in The UWI. It takes students from Year 1, 2, 3 and they have to pass.

The other thing we did is become more relevant in our research agenda. A number of my faculty have been successful in the RDI funding from the Government, receiving about \$1 million from the Research and Development Impact Fund. We have a (research grant) committee which is chaired by the Campus Principal, and in that committee the key principle we apply in selecting research is relevance to the community.

What I did two years ago was look back at that mission statement to see what I have accomplished compared to my projection. And I felt comfortable. I'm not the person to judge, but I use it as my benchmark.

**JH: Why is this 25th anniversary particularly significant to you?**

**SR:** When one thinks about what 25 years of teaching and research would have done, and how it would have impacted on people's lives, not just students who became doctors, doctors who became specialists, but the patients, the community, I felt that it was important. I want this to be a celebration for everybody, particularly those who were there from the beginning.

It is important to reiterate the contribution of all these people who have kept this faculty going, from the technical staff to the administrative staff. I also feel that the students who came in the early years, what they had there was a level of trust and faith, because prior to the opening, we had never taught the first three years of the course. That pioneering class, and that pioneering set of administrative and support staff, we are very grateful to them.

**JH: What are some of the activities you have planned?**

**SR:** We thought we would do a week of observances. We will kick it off with a Health Fair which is really meant to be a giving back to the society. People can access screening, check-ups and certain tests. What is different about this is that we will be doing it for your physical health, your dental health, for your pharmaceutical needs, for your pets and finally, for your eyes. I don't think such a holistic approach to health has been done in Trinidad, and perhaps the Caribbean.

Then we will have a day for a number of activities for posterity. We will be installing a time capsule on the compound of the Medical Sciences Complex, formally hoisting a flag, doing a mural and having a Students' Day. We are producing a special edition of our newsletter, FMS Highlights. To culminate it all, we are having a cocktail and recognition ceremony at the Principal's Office at which we will be recognising the faculty's pioneers. The Vice-Chancellor will be there and other senior university personnel. (FMS@25 took place from March 15 to 23).

**JH: Is there anything you would like to add, particularly as this is your final year as Dean?**

**SR:** It was demanding but it was a refreshing difference for me. I have no regrets. I felt I was able to be part of the machinery of the university. I am grateful to the university, and to my colleagues and students. I leave with very fond memories. At this level, your interaction is not just here, but regional and international as well. I have made some really good friends, at the level of administration. It helped me really understand the Caribbean perspective.

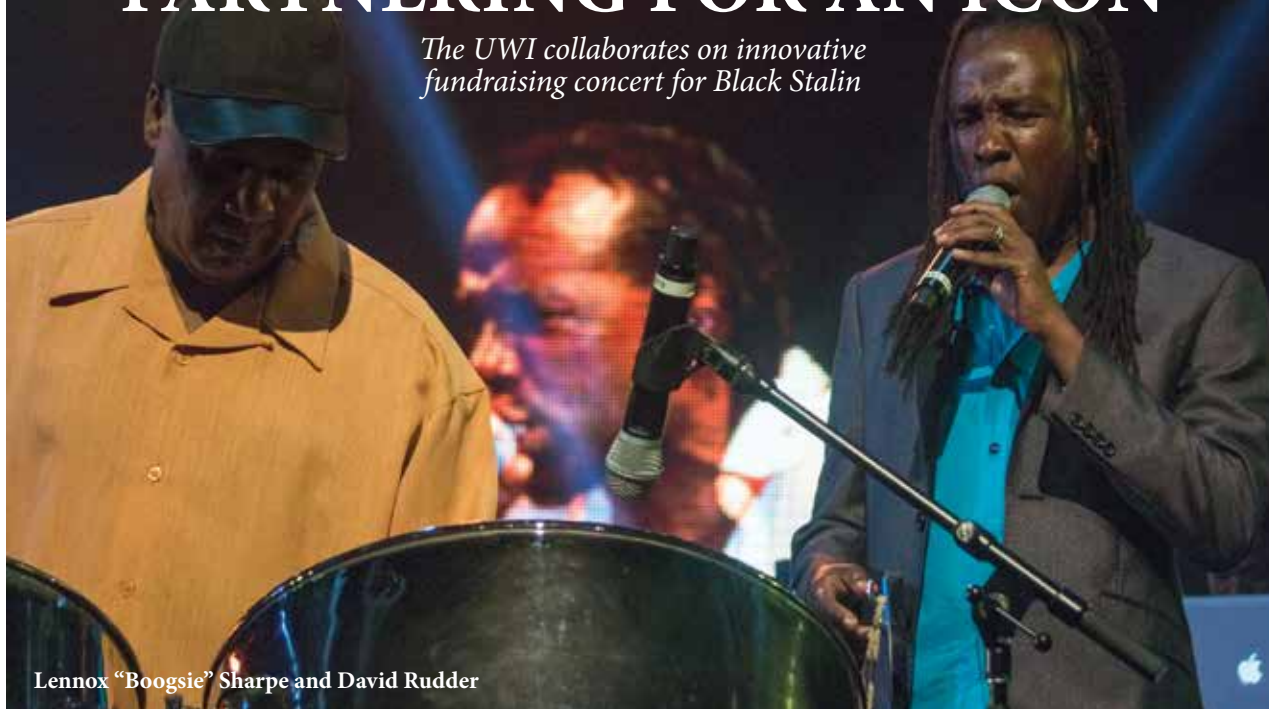
**JH: What's the next step?**

**SR:** I really want to contribute specifically to graduate training. If I am given the opportunity that would be my niche because we have a lot of people who are in the programme and we have a shortage of staff. I could dedicate some time to that. "The first thing I'd probably do, though, is take a break (laughter)."

■ OUR CAMPUS

# PARTNERING FOR AN ICON

*The UWI collaborates on innovative fundraising concert for Black Stalin*



Lennox "Boogsie" Sharpe and David Rudder



Community Development Minister and calypsonian Winston "Gypsy" Peters

**History was created** on February 22nd 2015 when The UWI, Media 21 and Mr Roy Cape partnered to stage a benefit concert in honour of Dr Leroy Calliste, better known as the Black Stalin. The event, which included a start-studded cast of calypsonians and soca artistes, proved to be an unforgettable night for those in attendance. Artists sang the Black Stalin's songs in tribute to the man and his undeniable legacy, as well as some of their own greatest hits. They were all backed by Dr Roy Cape and the All Stars. Both Dr Calliste and Dr Cape are the recipients of honorary doctorates of letters (DLitt) from The UWI St. Augustine Campus.

"The Classic Concert – The Caribbean Man – A Tribute to Black Stalin" was a fundraising initiative developed to support the medical expenses of Dr Calliste, who is currently recovering from a sudden illness. This event was achieved via a collaboration between academia, the private sector and the public sector and it generated significant support from a wide range of patrons. This model of collaboration was extremely successful to the extent that the event was produced at a very high level and profits were sufficient to make the contribution to Dr Calliste. A CD has been produced from the event and it will be sold so that revenue will be generated back to The UWI for its innovative fundraising activities.

The UWI St Augustine is rapidly strengthening its fundraising capabilities. It created a Fundraising and Alumni Affairs Unit (FAA) as part of its new Office of Institutional Advancement in order to energise its philanthropic and alumni engagement activities. Due to the success of this initiative and the innovative approaches employed, the UWI, Media 21 and Roy Cape have committed to embarking on future philanthropic ventures in support of the arts and culture of Trinidad and Tobago.



Destra Garcia



Machel Montano



"Life is a Stage" – Brother Valentino

## ■ ADVOCACY

# LEADING THE CHARGE

## *NODES hosts landmark disability conference*

BY DR JEAN ANTOINE-DUNNE

Over the years many individuals have made efforts to change the mind-set and the structures of Trinidad society in relation to disability. However, while there is often goodwill and sympathy, there has been no cohesive leadership to ensure real transformation. Yes, parents no longer abandon their children with Down syndrome at the gates of the Lady Hochoy Home, but it is still likely that a person with a disability will be stared at, excluded or made to feel both inept and inhuman.

Dr Jean Antoine-Dunne, who founded NODES (The UWI Network and Outreach for Disability Education and Sensitisation) in 2014, feels that the many dispersed disability activists here on the St Augustine Campus, if they work together, can provide a powerful lobby group to motivate the public and to ensure policy change and true inclusion in education, the workplace and community.

The conference “Towards Social Integration: Rights, Roles, Recognition for Persons with Disabilities”, scheduled for April 23 and 24, is a key strategy in this group’s activism. It focuses on human rights and on changing public perception about the capabilities of persons with disabilities who, by and large, experience pity rather than equity. They have few rights. The Equal Opportunities Act in its current form may be seen to actively discriminate against persons with disabilities in that it gives much leeway to employers to refuse employment to persons with disabilities.

There is no centre to which parents can be directed for speech therapy, physiotherapy or counselling. In Trinidad those who can afford to do so, travel abroad for help.

Neither is there a structure to support persons who seek to be educated in the mainstream. There have been successive draft policies on education of persons with special needs, but no policy. There are few posts for special education teachers in mainstream schools, despite the fact that UTT has a degree programme in Special Education and there is a desperate need for special teachers in many schools. A recent announcement by the Ministry proposes to redeploy one hundred and nine of these teachers to fill the need of students referred to the Ministry of Education. How this will be structured is yet to be announced.

The focus on the need for change and leadership reflects the activism of the founding members of NODES who came originally from three faculties: Humanities and Education, Science and Technology, and Social Sciences.



From left are Dr Innette Cambridge, Dr Benjamin Braithwaite, Dr Jean Antoine-Dunne, Jacqueline Huggins and Dr Paula Morgan.

For Dr Shirin Haque of the Faculty of Science and Technology, the focus is persons with obsessive behaviour disorder and depression. Dr Innette Cambridge runs the Disability Studies Unit in the Faculty of Social Sciences and organised the first “Think Tank” on disability in the region. Her pioneering work led to the inauguration of the unit she now heads and to the development of special services for persons with disabilities at The UWI. It is no surprise that her former student, Jacqueline Huggins, also a member of NODES, is the coordinator of the UWI Academic Support/Disabilities Liaison Unit.

Dr Benjamin Braithwaite, who is a linguist at The UWI, runs a class at the Lloyd Best Institute in English Language acquisition for the deaf, and he and Dr Paula Morgan are both lecturers in the Faculty of Humanities. The network includes Joanna Owen, Major David Benjamin (Director of The UWI’s Sports and Physical Education Centre) and science graduate Anil Waithe.

Their varied interest groups are reflected in the programme. Eileen Dunne, who will address the conference on April 23 about her right to independence and a good life, has Down syndrome and has attended mainstream primary, secondary and tertiary education in Ireland. She is the recipient of many awards, including a Student of the Year

Award from Cavan Institute. She is also a member of the National Advisory Council of Down Syndrome in Ireland.

Professor Elizabeth Harry who founded the Immortelle Children’s Centre, will speak on “Integration is a two-way street: Building reciprocity among communities” at the opening ceremony. Professor Gerard Hutchinson, a leading psychiatrist in the region, will give a feature address entitled: “Lifting the burden – the future of disability” on April 24.

The conference also hosts a roundtable discussion on “Mental health incidence, recognition and education in Trinidad and Tobago”. This is intended to generate discussion on what is called the “invisible” disability.

The first roundtable deals with the key idea of the conference, participation and integration, and a number of well-known figures have been invited to participate, including Barbadian Senator Kerry Ann Ifill, Dr Beverly Beckles, the CEO of Down Syndrome Ireland, Mr Patrick Clarke, and president of Down Syndrome Family Network, Mr Glen Niles.

The conference looks at the role of ministry and includes the Mother General of the Dominican Order, Sr Therese Antoine OP, Mikkel Trestrail, Doreen Anderson of the Baha’i Faith and representatives from the Muslim and Hindu communities.

There are several workshops and papers on topics as varied as speech pathology, services for the blind and visually impaired and the deaf, sports and state services, inclusive education, sexual abuse of women with disabilities, and discrimination in areas such as employment. Free events include the premiere of the documentary DisAbled Mislabeled.

Persons wishing to attend the full sessions, and workshops should register online by April 14. There is a nominal fee of TT\$300. The public is invited to attend feature lectures and roundtable discussions free of charge. This is possible in part through the patronage of persons such as the Honorary Counsel of Ireland, Mr Brian O’Farrell.

The Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat, has donated ten scholarships for persons with disabilities. Applications for this grant should be clearly marked GRANT aid and addressed to Jacqueline.huggins@sta.uwi.edu

UWI Network and Outreach for Disability Education and Sensitization (NODES) and The Disability Studies Unit, UWI St Augustine host:

**TOWARDS SOCIAL INTEGRATION**  
RIGHTS, ROLES, RECOGNITION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES  
**CONFERENCE**

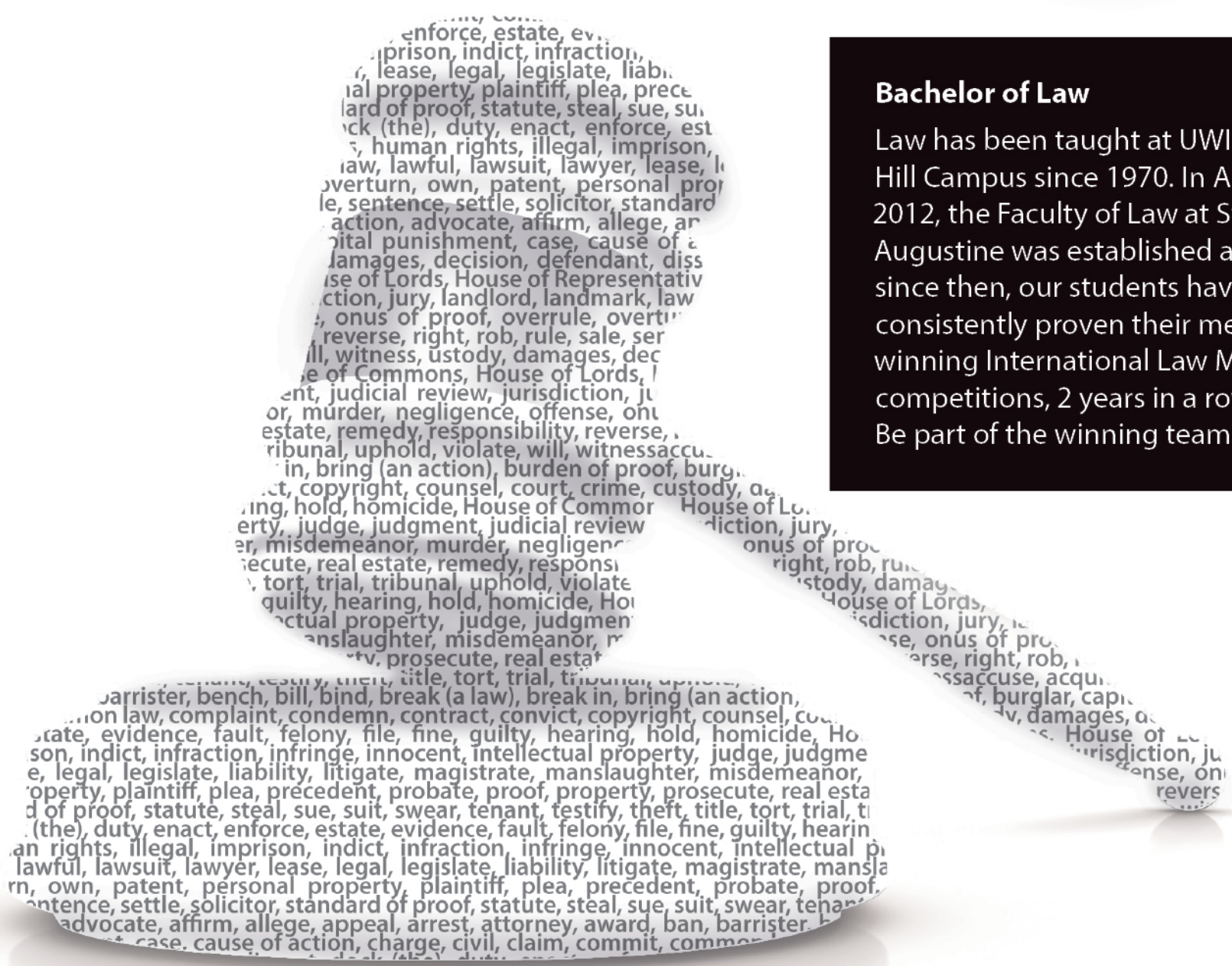
Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2015  
Learning Resource Centre, UWI, St Augustine

## ■ WEBSITE ADDRESS

[sta.uwi.edu/conferences/15/towardssocialintegration/](http://sta.uwi.edu/conferences/15/towardssocialintegration/)



# Undergraduate Admissions 2015/16



**Bachelor of Law**  
Law has been taught at UWI, Cave Hill Campus since 1970. In April 2012, the Faculty of Law at St. Augustine was established and since then, our students have consistently proven their mettle, winning International Law Moot competitions, 2 years in a row. Be part of the winning team.

## The Faculty of Law

Find out more about the Bachelor of Law at: [www.sta.uwi.edu/law](http://www.sta.uwi.edu/law)

Entry to the Faculty of Law is on a very competitive basis.

Selected applicants must be highly qualified.

### Direct Entry Program

A student who gains admission into the LLB program with a previous degree may qualify for the Direct Entry program whereby the student will complete the LLB courses of study during a period of 2 years instead of 3 years. Entry into the Direct Entry program shall be at the discretion of the Faculty Entrance Committee and shall normally be reserved only for applicants who hold a First Class Honours degree.

APPLY ONLINE NOW: [www.sta.uwi.edu/admissions](http://www.sta.uwi.edu/admissions)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015

■ OUR REGION



## Chinese Spring at St Augustine

On February 27, the Confucius Institute (CI) of The UWI in collaboration with the Embassy of the People's Republic of China hosted a Chinese Spring Festival Celebration in commemoration of the observance of the Chinese New Year.

A packed Daaga Auditorium audience was entertained by a performance from the Chinese Arts and Culture Studies Society entitled "Dragon and Lion Dances" – a veritable showcase of synchronised acrobatic feats as duelling dancers brought a costumed dragon to life. Aerial somersaults over stacked tables and chairs electrified the crowd and started the night on a literal high note.

The celebration continued with a steelpan performance of a traditional Chinese Folk song and a classical Chinese dance by a dance troupe from The UWI's Department of Creative and Festival Arts. Students of CI highlighted their proficiency in Mandarin by reading an essay by renowned Chinese writer Zhu Ziqing, named *Spring*.

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal Professor Clement Sankat offered his remarks highlighting The UWI's continued efforts to build a relationship with China and embrace Chinese culture through the work of the Confucius Institute. He was followed by the translated remarks of the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, Huang Xingyuan.

Two of the night's most unforgettable performances occurred when the special guest performers were revealed. Ambassador of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the People's Republic of China, Chandradath Singh and his son, Sharan Singh, Director of The UWI's Office of Institutional Advancement and Internationalisation, performed an instrumental duet of steelpan and cajón "(a six sided, box-shaped percussion instrument)". The last performance of the night was a surprise solo rendition of a patriotic song called "My Chinese Heart" by Ambassador Huang that ended in a standing ovation from a very appreciative audience.

Ambassador Huang serenades the audience.



Father and son duet – Ambassador Singh and Sharan Singh.



## ON THE TRAIL OF A COMET

Scientist on groundbreaking space mission visits Campus, UWI plays its part



As you read this, a comet is hurtling its way through the solar system some 400 million kilometers away from earth. That in itself is nothing unusual. There are over 5,000 known comets (icy collections of dust and rock particles) and many billions more out in the vastness of space.

What makes this comet different – Comet 67 P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko, as it has been named – is that scientists have managed to attach a probe to its surface.

"This to me is the most significant scientific achievement of this century," says Professor Indar Ramnarine, Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology.

It is indeed. For the first time in human history, man has landed a probe on a comet.

Professor Ramnarine was speaking at an event hosted by the Department of Physics and the Caribbean Institute of Astronomy titled "Trailing a Comet". The feature speaker was Professor Harry Lehto, a member of the European Space Agency (ESA) team that landed the probe, named "Rosetta" after the famed Rosetta Stone used by archaeologists to decode the secrets of Ancient Egypt. Professor Lehto came to "tell the story of a comet," he explained to attendees at the February 26 event at Daaga Auditorium. Surprisingly, he also visited the St Augustine Campus because of the university's very specific role in the comet's story.

Professor Lehto, or "Harry" as he prefers to be called, is an astrobiologist at the Tuorla Observatory of the University of Turku in Finland.

"I study some of the questions that people have pondered forever," he explains, speaking in a slow and thoughtful manner, smiling behind a long swirling beard. "I look at things like where did life start and how did life begin. What was the earth like 4.5 billion years ago?"

By studying data from the Comet 67 P he hopes to come closer to the answers. Comets are believed to be the oldest bodies in the solar system, on which the earliest materials from which our sun and planets were formed have been preserved.

"We are looking for molecules for the precursor of life," Harry says.

The Rosetta Mission sent the probe on a 10-year, 6.4 billion kilometer journey through space to intercept the comet. To understand how far that is, the distance of the Earth from the Sun is a mere 150 million kilometers. The probe lander "Philae" touched down on the comet in November of 2014. The mission will end in December 2015 after it passes the sun and travels back to the outer solar system.

Harry is no stranger to Trinidad or the St Augustine Campus. The university's SATU Observatory, which contains a 40 cm Meade Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope, is a joint venture with the University of Finland. In fact, Trinidad's position close to the Equator means that it is well suited to capture Comet 67 P as it emerges from behind the Sun this month.

"(Our location) puts us in a very favourable position to view the comet," says Dr. Shirin Haque, Deputy Dean and Senior Lecturer in Astronomy.

Asked what it's like to study such mysteries and primordial forces, Harry smiles, "humbling. It makes you humble to see your own smallness in the scope of things. That's why I don't get caught up in titles."

# UWI CALENDAR of EVENTS

## APRIL–MAY 2015

### THE CARIBBEAN TODAY

April 9-10  
Learning Resource Centre  
The UWI St. Augustine

The Department of Behavioural Science at The UWI hosts a postgraduate conference, “The Caribbean Today: Facing challenges and assessing opportunities through postgraduate research.” This two-day conference aims to highlight the wide range of research on contemporary issues facing Caribbean societies as well as possible solutions and recommendations as viewed through the lens of the next generation of Caribbean scholars – the postgraduate students in the Behavioural Sciences and also from the wider UWI community.

For further information, email: [dbsconference@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:dbsconference@sta.uwi.edu)

### TOWARDS SOCIAL INTEGRATION

April 23-24  
8am-7pm  
Learning Resource Centre  
The UWI St. Augustine

The Network and Outreach for Disabilities Education and Sensitisation (NODES) and the Disability Studies Unit of The UWI will host the conference, “Towards Social Integration: Rights, Roles, Recognition of Persons with Disabilities” at the Learning Resource Centre.

For further information please contact Dr Jean Antoine at [jean.antoine@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:jean.antoine@sta.uwi.edu) or [disability.conference@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:disability.conference@sta.uwi.edu) or visit <http://sta.uwi.edu/conferences/15/towardsocialintegration/>



NGC BOCAS  
LIT FEST  
April 29 to May 3

The NGC Bocas Literary Festival is an annual event with a Caribbean focus and international scope, bringing together writers, readers, performers and publishers. For five full days there are a series of readings by some of Trinidad and Tobago's and the Caribbean's finest writers of fiction and poetry — from authors of books already considered contemporary classics to prizewinning newcomers. Each reading includes a book-signing session, and books are available from the participating booksellers.

For more information, please visit <http://www.bocaslitfest.com/>



SALT  
April 9-12  
8pm  
DCFA, Agostini St.,  
St. Augustine

The Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA) presents the premiere of Earl

Lovelace's award winning novel *Salt*. Scripted for the first time for theatre and directed by Louis Mc Williams, this piece will be performed by students in the BA in Theatre Arts programme. Show times are 8pm daily, and 6pm on Sundays. General admission tickets are currently available for \$100. Tertiary students with student ID pay \$75, and secondary students pay \$50. Tickets may be purchased at the DCFA, Agostini Street, St. Augustine.

For further information, call 662-2002 ext. 83792, 663-2222 or email [deffa@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:deffa@sta.uwi.edu)

### POVERTY AND OPPORTUNITY CONFERENCE

April 15  
9am-4pm  
The UWI St. Augustine

The Faculty of Social Sciences, Sociology Unit presents the Sociology Unit's Conference on Poverty and Opportunity. This event takes place at the Faculty of Social Sciences Lounge. Registration will take place on the day from 8-9am. Registration fees are as followed: General public and UWI staff – \$60; UWI students (with ID) – \$25; Secondary schools, 5 students free and additional students – \$10.

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

### OPEN DAY

April 21-23  
9am-6pm  
The UWI St. Augustine

The UWI presents an Open Day for undergraduates and postgraduates– a day dedicated to providing interested persons with information about the best the university has to offer. This is your chance to meet with faculty representatives and get a firsthand account of what it is like to experience UWI life. Participants get a full tour of the campus and a chance to apply on site for both undergraduate and postgraduate studies during these open days.

For further information please contact Marketing and Communications at 662-2002 ext. 83995

### SIR FRANK WORRELL BLOOD DRIVE

April 17  
8.30am-4.30pm  
JFK Auditorium

It's your turn to give! The UWI St. Augustine Campus invites you to participate in the Sir Frank Worrell Blood Drive. In less than one hour you can save lives through your generous donation.

Save the date so you can donate!  
For more information, call Ms. Tessa Horne at 662-2002 ext. 83937.



UWI GAMES  
May 21 to 29, 2015  
UWI Sports and Physical  
Education Centre (SPEC)

The St. Augustine Campus will be hosting The UWI Games 2015 from the 21-29 May, 2015. It is the biennial competition among the St. Augustine, Mona, Cave Hill and Open campuses in ten sporting disciplines. Approximately 500 athletes from across the Caribbean will take part in Basketball, Football, Tennis, Swimming, Table Tennis, Track and Field, Volleyball, Cricket, Netball and Six-a-side Hockey. Competition in all sports will involve both male and female participants except for Cricket and Netball, which will be male only and female only respectively. Events that are not held at UWI SPEC or within UWI itself include Hockey, Swimming, and Track and Field. These will be held at the Tacarigua Hockey Centre, the Marlins Swimming Pool and the National Stadium respectively.

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



## 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)

