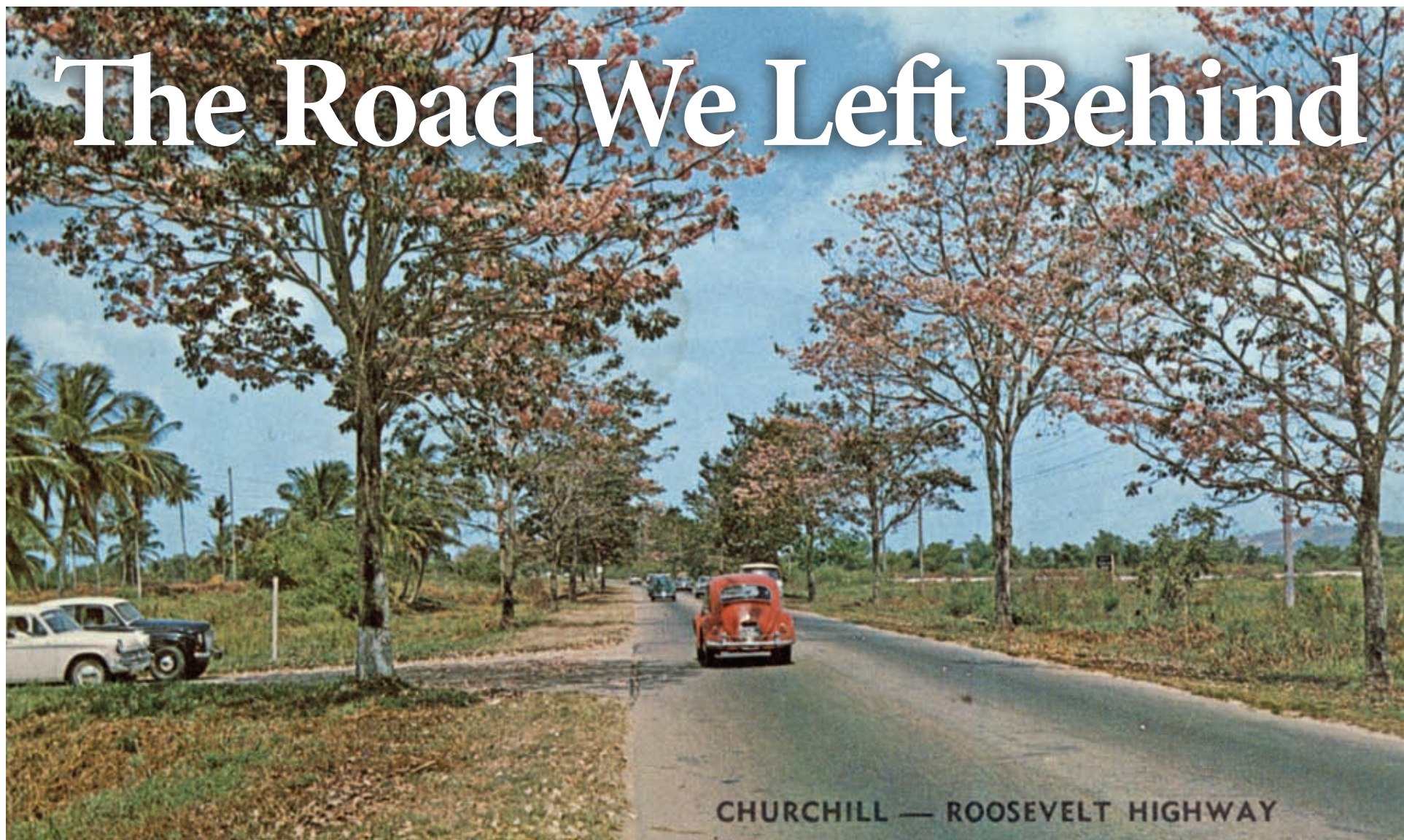




UWI TODAY

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES • ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

SUNDAY 3RD APRIL, 2016



It is hard to imagine that this bucolic scene was actually what the Churchill Roosevelt Highway once was maybe half a century ago. This image is from a postcard bearing a 15-cent stamp that featured both the Trinidad and Tobago Coat of Arms and an image of the Queen of England – suggesting a post-Independence and pre-Republican period. There is nothing to indicate the geographical location of this stretch of the Highway, and we would be delighted to hear from readers if they know! The postcard comes from the **Michael Goldberg Collection**, one of several held and now digitized at the **Alma Jordan Library**. The Library's website provides this background on the collection. "A dentist since 1972, **Dr. Michael Goldberg** migrated to Trinidad from the United States in 1998. He has worked as a dentist with the non-governmental organization, Servol, at its Forres Park Life Centre in south Trinidad. This collection was compiled by Dr. Goldberg over a ten-year period while residing in Upstate New York in the United States. The collection, which has been arranged by subject, spans the period 1872-1995 and highlights the scenes, social life and customs of Trinidad and Tobago. It contains mainly albums of postcards from Trinidad and Tobago along with some souvenir booklets, photographs and glass lantern slides. Many of these postcards contain messages and are postmarked. There are also a few postcards from Belize. Researchers browsing this collection would see images of the early East Indian migrants to Trinidad; historical sites in Port of Spain including government buildings, homes, schools, churches and temples as well sites in Tobago." This was the first digitized collection to be placed in **The UWI Institutional Repository**. The digitization was made possible when the former librarian, **Mrs. Irma Goldstraw**, donated the funds to have it done. It was the beginning of a fantastic voyage for the Alma Jordan staff as they opened the library's resources, portal by portal to the online community. *Read about that journey on Page 16.*

HISTORY – 08

Smoke Ceremony

■ Honouring our First Peoples



RESEARCH – 11

Back to Life

■ Saving the anthurium industry



THEATRE – 12

Dani's Drama

■ The backstage life



INFORMATION – 16

West Indiana

■ The Library of Our Time



LITERATURE – 18

Leaving by Plane

■ Lawrence Scott's story





UWI
ST. AUGUSTINE
CAMPUS

Faculty of Science and Technology

Pre-Science (N1) Programme 2016/2017



Pre-Science (N1) Programme

Jump start your career in science and technology, engineering, medical sciences, agriculture or law!

If you wish to **improve your grades** in CAPE or A'Level equivalent; or, if you've recently completed CSEC (CXC) examinations, this Pre-Science (N1) Programme was created for you.

Choose from courses in Mathematics, Physics, Biology and Chemistry and, once complete, **progress to a full degree** from the Faculty of Science & Technology, the Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Faculty of Food & Agriculture, or the Faculty of Law*

PRE-SCIENCE (N1) PROGRAMME

Biology Chemistry
Mathematics Physics

DEGREE PROGRAMME*

Faculty of Science & Technology
Faculty of Engineering
Faculty of Medical Sciences
Faculty of Law
Faculty of Food & Agriculture

*Conditions apply

Application Fee: TT\$90

Download application form:

www.sta.uwi.edu/fst/prescienceprogramme.asp

Application forms also available at the Dean's Office, Faculty of Science & Technology, Student Services, C2 Building, UWI St. Augustine Campus



For further information:

Afiya Jules/Sabrina Ragoo

T: 662 2002 exts 84474, 84505 | E: deanfst@sta.uwi.edu

APPLY NOW!

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Aug 19, 2016

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We have driven on these roads before



On March 22, the annual Campus Council meeting took place at the St. Augustine Campus. It is a time of accounting for our studentship of the Campus, and this year's meeting was no different as we considered the University's future in a financially testing period. However, what we have been experiencing in the last year in

Trinidad and Tobago has been with us before, and as we reflect on the history of the cyclical nature of the mainstay of our economic support: energy, we are reminded of the profound impact of its unpredictability on our overall wellbeing as a nation.

In reflecting on this history, I recall that in 1970 a barrel of oil was less than \$5; with a subsequent increase to \$14 per barrel in 1974 with OPEC. In the 1970s, as a UWI student, I witnessed the period of turbulence here that was very challenging – driven by social and political issues, and fuelled by economic imperatives.

From the late eighties to the early nineties, we saw falling oil prices that resulted in great trials in our country. Oil fell from \$40 per barrel to less than \$10 per barrel. We also endured an attempted coup. In the world economic crisis period of 2008, oil prices collapsed from a high of \$147 per barrel to a low of \$32 per barrel. But by 2009 and to late 2014, oil prices again rose to between \$70-\$120 per barrel, before returning to the days we now face with oil at \$30-\$40 per barrel. This can be seen as a fourth period of decline.

We must ask these important questions. How long will it last? What did history teach us? Where do we go now?

It is reasonable to conclude that Trinidad and Tobago, even in the midst of an undulating commodity index, has made progress in certain sectors. Our transition from oil, to gas to petrochemicals and to steel, was substantial and economically beneficial to our economy – even though this industry is now being challenged by depleting resources in the oil and gas sector and commodity prices for steel. With the gas reserves in particular, being estimated at 12 trillion cubic feet, to service an annual consumption rate of 1.5 trillion cubic feet; leaving us approximately eight years of resources and this can prove challenging.

In the manufacturing sector, we became the leading exporter of manufactured goods in the region; few have even gone beyond, but it was driven by our low energy prices in Trinidad and Tobago, enhancing our competitiveness. However, this effort was also sustained by the rising level of entrepreneurship and innovation that is seen in certain quarters of our manufacturing sector.

It is my view, that in the last several years, we have broken our stride and are more challenged now than ever before, by not seizing the initiative to deepening our gains in the areas just mentioned above. We have not widened the base to create a diversified economy that explored new areas and niches. I make direct reference to the areas of food and agriculture, tourism and the service sectors, the creative industries and the possibilities for growth in the century of the green economy. We have lost valuable time that could have been put to better use.

We must immediately construct a plan to take us forward, by demonstrating an unwavering determination, this time, to put processes in place that will create the transformation that has become necessary. I envision the establishment of a future, Vision/Strategic Implementation Plan; one that conceptualizes the diversification model that is required for the country. It must be a plan that has successfully received the buy-in of all sectors of our society. But more importantly, this approach can only be effective, if this plan is enshrined in our legislative agenda, so that we do not suffer the start-stop syndrome that is usually linked to the political cycle of change.

**Unless we stay a course
and path towards
sustainable development
and transformation
that goes well beyond a
4-5 year cycle, we will
never be able to create
the environment that is
beneficial for our children
and their children.**

Unless we stay a course and path towards sustainable development and transformation that goes well beyond a 4-5 year cycle, we will never be able to create the environment that is beneficial for our children and their children. A long purposeful and shared view of where we want to be in 20 to 30 years' time, in Trinidad and Tobago and the region; is a matter of URGENCY.

Clearly, as it relates to the UWI, all these strategies to possibly reconstruct the fabric of our financial structure will have short and long-term effects on our institution. Once more, as the leading regional higher education institution, our primary objective remains the same, as we continue to deliver what the region requires of us.

These were the thoughts I expressed at the State of the Economy Symposium held at this campus recently. It is in the same vein as what I said at the annual meeting of the Campus Council a few days later.

For the past 55 years, the St. Augustine Campus has sought to lay the groundwork and infrastructure for a modern university whose research and graduates shine like a beacon, producing the leaders of our societies and guiding the people of the Caribbean towards a promising future, despite the stormy financial environment.

The role of academia, especially in the instance of the UWI, (as was once the case under the stewardship of our former Dean of Engineering Professor Emeritus Kenneth Julien) in the conceptualization and establishment of the Pt. Lisas Industrial Estate, is again pivotal. This current fiscal environment provides us with an opportunity to demonstrate our value in playing a deliberate part in the acquisition of new gains through our assertiveness, shaping the future and in tapping into new potentials and horizons.

As Principal, and as a strong proponent for the conduct of impactful research, I continue to stress that research and development are central pillars of our University's strategic direction. It is what has distinguished us from other tertiary education institutions regionally. The UWI has over five decades, improved the lives of people across the Caribbean region. The innovation through research engaged at the UWI, becomes even more critical as the region continues to grapple with wealth creation, the environment, crime and the challenges of an interconnected world.

Leveraging our University's assets of Institutional Intelligence and resourcefulness has, and will continue to foster, considerable income generation in our country. However, the thrust in doing so must incorporate the building and strengthen of partnerships with the private sector, governments, alumni, and regional and international organisations. This is the only viable way forward and much depends on our success. The time is now for us to embrace the old adage: *All hands on deck!*

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
Vaneisa Baksh • email: vaneisa.baksh@sta.uwi.edu

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

Let's not wait to be asked

BY EWART WILLIAMS

The year under review has indeed been a very challenging one. The Campus continued to record impressive progress towards several of the important objectives of our 2012-2017 Strategic Plan; and we demonstrated an ability to adapt to the rapidly changing circumstances ... but it was a challenging year, nonetheless.

For the past several years many of our contributing Governments have been facing difficult economic circumstances, which have impacted their ability to meet their obligations to the Campus. The decline in oil and gas prices beginning in late 2014 has had a dramatic effect on the local economy and on the Government finances and the effects of this are now beginning to be felt by the Campus.

The year under review saw a second consecutive year of enrollment decline, this time affecting both undergraduate and post-graduate students. This fiscal year also saw a sizable deficit in the Campus finances, due mainly to the need to provide for the impairment of receivables from contributing Governments. The financial squeeze has intensified during the current fiscal year, and I will say a bit more about that later.

But challenges bring out the best in us and this one was no different: for one thing, it forced a consolidation of some programmes and raised the bar for new qualifying programmes; it increased the urgency for diversifying our funding sources and it motivated the Campus to search for new and innovative ways for partnering with the private sector to fund large infrastructural projects.

In terms of our many successes, I would like to single out our unwavering focus on improving teaching and learning, on the expansion of post-graduate programmes of particular relevance to national and regional development needs and the new initiatives to substantially enhance the student experience and student community involvement.



Chair, Ewart Williams, speaking at the Campus Council meeting on March 22, 2016. "An area of general concern is that our adverse economic fortunes are rapidly bringing to the surface a number of socio-economic ills that could potentially reverse the gains that the region has made over the past two decades."

An area of general concern is that our adverse economic fortunes are rapidly bringing to the surface a number of socio-economic ills that could potentially reverse the gains that the region has made over the past two decades. Our remit requires that our University provide needed support to the regional community. In my respectful view, the current situation presents unique opportunities for intensified collaboration between the University and our regional governments as they seek to find solutions to these pressing problems. And we are uniquely qualified to help.

In the case of Trinidad and Tobago, for instance, it is widely agreed that economic diversification is now an urgent necessity. But isn't UWI, St. Augustine the seat of the Faculty of Food and Agriculture and haven't we recently launched a new Agricultural Innovation Park? We certainly have much to offer to further the cause of agricultural development. We are also very well placed to promote a better alignment of academic research, innovation and entrepreneurship in the industrial and service sectors. This type of collaboration has been cited as one of the important factors in the successes of the more dynamic Asian economies.

And as regards the social sectors, are we satisfied with our input in ongoing efforts to deal with the spate of crime throughout the region; with the quality of primary and secondary education; with the regional gender policy (including the proliferation of gender-based violence; and then there is the burning issue of the sustainable financing of tertiary education.

If we are not playing a major role in solving these problems, perhaps it's because we have not been formally asked... in which case, my answer would be... let's not wait to be asked let's go out and OFFER our services.

Let's show that we can contribute to the solutions.



At the Campus Council from left: Campus Registrar, Richard Saunders, Deputy Principal, Professor Rhoda Reddock, Principal Professor Clement Sankat, Minister of Education, Anthony Garcia, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education Angela Sinaswee-Gervais and Council Chair, Ewart Williams.

Mr. Ewart Williams is the chair of the Campus Council of The UWI St. Augustine Campus.

These are his opening remarks at the meeting of the Council held on March 22, 2016 in St. Augustine.

The Annual Report, presented at the Council meeting, can be found at: <http://sta.uwi.edu/news/reports/default.asp>

■ CAMPUS NEWS

AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION COMPETITION



Cross-section of attendees at the ADOPT competition launch (secondary school students and teachers, ADOPT team members and faculty and staff of the Faculty of Food and Agriculture).

The Faculty of Food and Agriculture at The UWI St. Augustine in partnership with Repsol recently launched its first Agricultural Innovation competition for secondary schools throughout Trinidad and Tobago. The competition is part of the Agriculture Demonstration of Practices and Technologies (ADOPT) Project, funded by The UWI-Trinidad and Tobago Research and Development Impact (RDI) Fund. The project encourages the development of innovative technologies to address agricultural challenges within food systems. The formal launch took place on February 23 at the St. Augustine Campus.

The aim of the competition is twofold – to promote and strengthen secondary education in Agriscience and forge links with secondary and university programmes at the Faculty of Food and Agriculture. The Faculty – which comprises the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Department of Food Production, Department of Geography and the Business Development Unit – offers a range of programmes at the certificate, undergraduate and postgraduate level. The hope is that the competition will encourage more young Trinbagonians to pursue the Faculty's programmes.

The ADOPT Project looks at improving the sustainability of the Protected Agriculture Industry through increasing the contribution of protected agriculture

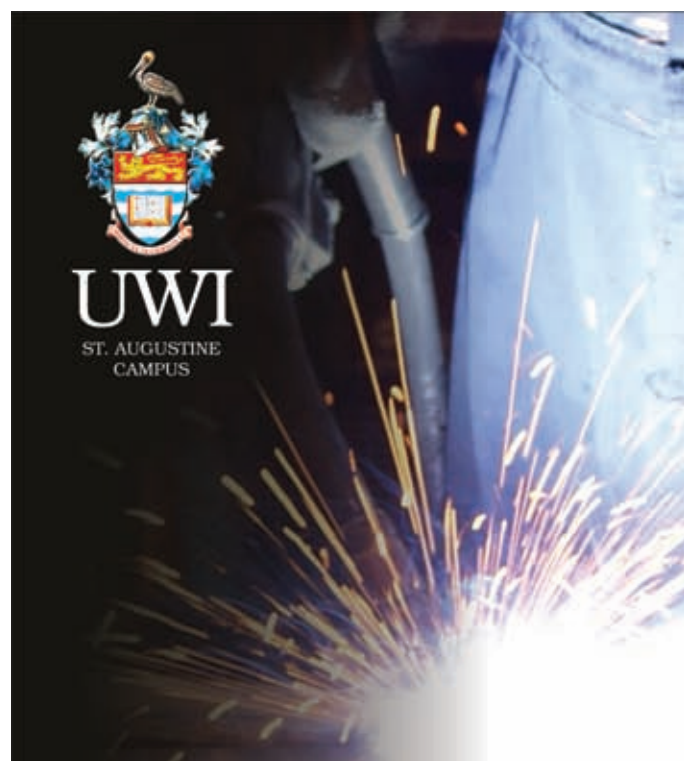


Dr. Isaac Bekele, Dean, Faculty of Food and Agriculture with Mrs. June Austin-Pinder, Science Teacher from Holy Faith Convent, Penal and two form 3 students – Catherine Chandler and Samantha Ramkumar.

produce to food security goals. One of its goals is to implement non-traditional systems for small-scale farming, aimed at strengthening local food security and adapting traditional open field farming methods in the face of variations in climate. The project blends Protected Agriculture shade house technology with a combination of alternative agricultural methods like hydroponics, organoponics, hybridponics, aquaponics, peeponics, aeroponics, vermiponics and barrel-ponics growing systems and LED light technology for sustainable food production using low-cost or recyclable materials.

There are 3 phases in the competition: In Phase I, interested schools will send their letter of interest and proposal of their innovative ideas to address food security using the competition guidelines. Fifty schools will then be short-listed as part of Phase II and asked to submit drawings of their design and a budget. Finally, Phase III will see ten schools further short-listed and asked to build a table-top prototype of their proposed design.

Student-teams in Forms 2 to 5 are invited to participate in the competition which runs till June 2016. Interested schools can contact the Department of Food Production via email at food.production@sta.uwi.edu, adopt.uwirdi.project@gmail.com or call 662-2002 ext. 82090 or 84055 for further information.



Master of Arts in Leadership in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and Workforce Development (WFD)

2 years | Part-time | September 2016

The School of Education in the Faculty of Humanities & Education invites you to enhance your professional training.

This master's programme is designed to meet the need of public and private sector industrial organisations, training institutions and Ministries of Education, for individuals who are capable and prepared to facilitate and/or provide capacity building, quality training, and leadership to monitor and guide developments in TVET and WFD.

The programme will be offered on a part-time basis over the course of two years, including the "summer" periods. Classes will be conducted via a blended approach (face-to-face and online)

REQUIREMENTS

- A bachelor's degree from an approved university in Human Resource Development, Training, any TVET, WFD, Science or Technology-related area OR an equivalent qualification acceptable to The University of the West Indies
- Professional qualifications in Education
- A minimum of five years' work experience in a technical or vocational area is normally required

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 31, 2016

Visit www.sta.uwi.edu/admissions/postgrad to learn more and to apply.



THE UNIVERSITY
OF THE
WEST INDIES

UWI & GIST form the UWI-China Institute of Information Technology



Dr Wang Bin Tai, Executive Chairman of the Global Institute of Software Technology, Suzhou, China signs the agreement to establish the UWI-China Institute of Information Technology with Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice-Chancellor of The University of the West Indies.

THE UWI (THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES) HAS TAKEN AN HISTORIC STEP with the GIST (Global Institute of Software Technology) in Suzhou, China to create a UWI-China Institute of Information Technology (UWICIIT). A Memorandum of Agreement confirming the Institute was signed on February 19, 2016. The Institute will see its first cohort of students reading towards a B.Sc. degree in software technology from September 2016.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles: Region needs a Sci-Tech Revolution

The UWI-China Institute of Information Technology (UWICIIT) is in clear alignment with the leadership vision of The UWI Vice-Chancellor Beckles, who is keen on driving the globalisation of The UWI brand through expansion and alertness to global opportunities. Commenting on the initiative, he stated, "This region is desperately in need of a science and technology revolution. The UWI is answering that call and at the same time, has taken its most significant step towards moving into the global space and accelerating its thrust to create graduates with international perspectives, increasingly referred to in higher education circles as global citizens." He added, "This augurs well for enabling the level of economic turnaround and wealth generation that the Caribbean so desperately needs." Executive Chairman of GIST, Dr Wang Bin Tai, said he hopes the Institute would serve to mutually increase knowledge about and appreciation for the history and culture of the people of the Caribbean and China, noting that the Institute will "...develop a platform for change between the young people in China and the Caribbean."

Graduates Ready For the World of Work

Students enrolled at the UWI-China Institute of Information Technology (UWICIIT) will be industry-ready upon graduation. Their exposure to the non-traditional academic programme, which is application-based, will equip them with the knowledge to establish their own businesses and be ready for the world of work. They will be taught using state-of-the-art software technology processes and techniques, training and research and development. The programme will be uniquely designed using a '2 + 2 model', allowing students to study two years at The UWI followed by another two years in China. A mandatory six-month internship in China is also included, as well as faculty exchanges. The Institute will operate from The UWI's three physical campuses in Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.



Global Institute of Software Technology (GIST) is well known for its 'Study in China' programmes that provide training for thousands of foreign students. The Institute is located in the city of Suzhou, China.



(l-r): Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice-Chancellor of The University of the West Indies (The UWI); the Honourable Ronald Thwaites, Jamaica's Minister of Education; Dr Wang Bin Tai, Executive Chairman of the Global Institute of Software Technology, Suzhou, China; and Professor Archibald McDonald, Principal, The UWI Mona Campus, following the press conference at The UWI Regional Headquarters on February 20, 2016 to announce the establishment of the UWI-China Institute of Information Technology (UWICIIT).

Hope in Turbulent Times

BY JOEL HENRY

“A long and purposeful vision, a shared view of where we want to be in 20 to 30 years in the region is a matter of great urgency,”

Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal Professor Clement Sankat

He was giving the opening remarks at a symposium hosted by the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) on the state of the economy. Like many of the panelists at the Saturday, March 19 event, Principal Clement Sankat was hopeful for the economic future of the region while acknowledging the persistent problems of Caribbean economies and the challenges in solving them.

Speaking specifically about conditions in Trinidad and Tobago, he said, “I think we have made progress. We have moved from oil to gas to petrochemicals. We have deepened our engagement and developed new products. We have also seen the rise of manufacturing and become the leader in the region for manufactured goods. But we have become complacent. We have not deepened our gains.”

Titled “Return of the Downturn in the Caribbean: Sustaining Hope and Economic Recovery”, the symposium was held at the Learning Resource Centre Auditorium of the St. Augustine Campus and included panelists from the private sector, the United Nations Development Centre (UNDP), labour, the protective services, non-governmental organisations, professional associations and academics from The UWI and other institutions.

The event was organised into three panels: Sustainable Production, Crime and Security and Governance. “The things we believe are key for the sustainable development and recovery of the Caribbean,” explained Professor Patrick Watson, Director of SALISES. One of the recurring themes of the symposium was that downturns are natural and normal.

“We have been here before,” said Dr. Rolph Balgobin, President of the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturer’s Association. “This is not unexpected. It is unexpected that you would not expect a recession. This is a standard aspect of economic life. A recession is a time of great opportunity. It is a time when we can take stock of our position, make adjustments and get ready to move on to the next curve.”

Professor Sankat said, “What we are experiencing now in T&T is nothing that is new.” He went on to describe “periods of turbulence” in 1969 and then in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

However, mixed in with the recognition of the temporary nature of downturns was the acknowledgment of the difficulty in finding solutions for the structural challenges of the region’s economies.

“I hope this symposium will generate some new ideas but to be honest there may have been many symposia like this since the ’70s. And it is very likely that we will repeat some of the same things that we have been saying since the ’70s, although the world has changed and there are some new opportunities,” Professor Sankat said.

One of the highlights of the day was the opening address by Ms. Marla Dukharan, Group Economist for RBC Financial (Caribbean) Limited. In her engaging presentation, Ms. Dukharan described the Caribbean’s economic landscape, showing a region both dependent and restricted by the role of governments. Weak governance, weak institutions and a culture of impunity, she said, had led to low investor confidence, low investment and low productivity. In addition, increased government spending during the boom times had pushed debt to unsustainable levels.

Her recommendations were the implementation of fiscal rules to better regulate government spending, continuity in strategic national policies apart from and beyond the five-

year election cycle, the reducing of government’s role in the economy, reforms to encourage greater private sector participation, and greater government investment in national infrastructure to increase productivity.

One panelist however was not in step with the notion that the current downturn was a normal occurrence.

“I heard one of the commentators say that this is a recession and we have been here before,” said Dr. Roger Hosein, Senior Lecturer and Coordinator of the Trade Economics Development Unit. “I do not agree with that. This recession is different to the last recession of the 1980s because we are four billion barrels of oil equivalent poorer. We are in a new normal and the probabilities are against the Trinidad and Tobago economy in that regard.”

Speaking on the Crime and Security panel, which also included Acting Commissioner of Police Mr. Stephen Williams, Dr. Hosein focused on corruption and its devastating effects on the economy and society. He said that oil and gas economies are some of the most corrupt in the world and this manifested in Trinidad and Tobago in the form of a lack of growth in GDP for almost a decade.

“People are bandying about whether we are in a recession and whether or not people will lose their jobs. The much deeper problem is that we have remained at the same level of economic activity since 2006. GDP as we speak is very close to what it was in 2006. Who is responsible for that? Who can we take to court for the management of the US\$132 billion in economic rent?” he asked.

Lasting well into the afternoon, panelists reinforced the point that the state of the economy was more than an economic concern.

“The economy can’t shake without the society wobbling,” Dr. Balgobin said.

Professor Sankat said that The UWI has been seeking greater engagement with key stakeholders but many times it seemed as though they were not present.

“But we have to try and continue to try even harder,” he said, “to get everyone on board and get the views and perspectives of all, and really to listen to some of the creative ideas that emerge.”



The first panel was moderated by Professor Compton Bourne and included (from left) Dr. Ronald Ramkissoon, Dr. Rolph Balgobin, David Abdulah and Dr. Ralph Henry.

HISTORY IN THE PRESENT

Honouring our First Peoples

BY CLAUDIUS FERGUS AND JEROME TEELUCKSINGH

The Department of History held its second annual History Fest from 24 February to 11 March under the theme “Honouring the First Peoples of the Caribbean.” We see the First Peoples as the pioneers of civilization in the region, worthy not only as subjects of academic study but also as active contributors of knowledge. The Fest incorporated a rich blend of seminars, symposia, and workshops for schools, films, and conventional and digital displays in three locations: the Alma Jordan Library, the School of Humanities corridor, and the JFK quadrangle.

In order to pay proper respect to the First Peoples, the first academic session was preceded by an open-air invocation featuring a traditional smoke ceremony of both the Santa Rosa First Peoples Community, led jointly by Chief Ricardo Bharath Hernandez and Pyai (priest) Cristo Adonis; and the Warao, led by their spokesman, Mr. Rabinar Shar. Also present for this invocation was Mr. Roger Belix, President for Partners for First Peoples Development, the third organised community of First Peoples in Trinidad and Tobago. It was a rare and satisfying moment to bring the three major leaders together in a public forum to express their spirituality; it was also the first time that the campus was hosting such a gathering of First Peoples.

Representatives of the First Peoples participated on equal terms with our academics in exploring major themes, including misconceptions that have distorted their cosmology, marred their identity and history, and blurred their very existence as a contemporary people.

The first academic panel, “Rethinking the First Peoples’ Identities,” featured Dr. Basil Reid of the History Department, Prof. Sat Balkaransingh of UTT, and Chief Bharath Hernandez. A significantly large contingent of First Peoples was certainly not a passive audience, with robust contributions from Mr. Shar and Mr. Belix, contesting as well as complementing the two academics on the panel. This collaboration also saw Shar as one of three facilitators at a workshop for CSEC students and teachers on the theme, “The First Peoples: Myths and Realities;” likewise, Garifuna spokesperson, Ms Nelsia Robinson, was the principal discussant on Film Night, when two short films were shown, highlighting the Santa Rosa First Peoples Community and the Garifuna exiles in Honduras.

The CSEC workshop, a collaborative effort between the History Department and the Curriculum Division of the Ministry of Education, attracted over 215 students and teachers from over 30 schools from every educational district in Trinidad. Dr. Reid and Dr. Lennox Honychurch, a specialist on the First Peoples of Dominica, were the other facilitators. Dr. Honychurch also presented a public lecture at the Arima Town Hall on the topic, “Interpreting Amerindian Cosmology through Material Culture and Folklore.”

As with last year’s inaugural event, History Fest 2016 accommodated subjects outside the main theme. The controversial topic, “They Came before Columbus,” was explored in a CAPE workshop, which attracted around 110 sixth form students and teachers from several educational districts. We collaborated with the Indian High Commission to host a multi-disciplinary, one-day symposium on “Cultural Nationalism.” Among the presenters in the introductory session were PVC and Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat and H.E. Gauri Shankar Gupta, Indian High Commissioner to T&T. We collaborated with Mona and Cave Hill to organise two cross-campus seminars. We also collaborated with the OWTU to host a centenary symposium on Claudia Jones, Trinidad-born feminist pioneer and cultural activist.

History Fest 2016 broke new ground in several aspects. It brought together for the first time postgraduate students registered in the three main campuses sitting in a common panel to discuss their research. In order to facilitate maximum interactivity in the two large workshops, we encouraged participants to use mobile messaging; we received over 100 texts. History Fest was also the first time that an undergraduate student, Ms Louise Dover (Final Year), was welcomed to present a paper on a panel with senior academics of the Department; she rose to the occasion and received strong accolades. The first cross-campus seminar was also the first time



In front of the Alma Jordan Library for the invocation, “The Smoke Ceremony” of the Santa Rosa First Peoples Community. The main persons in the photo are Chief Ricardo Bharath Hernandez (centre left) and Cristo Adonis, the Pyai (Priest) of the community (centre right); the two musicians to the left are visitors from Colombia.



The first seminar at the Alma Jordan Library. From left, Archaeologist Dr. Basil Reid of the History Department; Chief Ricardo Bharath Hernandez of the Santa Rosa First Peoples Community and Dr. Sat Balkaransingh of UTT. Standing is Dr. Claudius Fergus and hidden is Dr. Jerome Teelucksingh. PHOTOS: ANEEL KARIM.

that the three main campuses were linked via IT in a synchronous history seminar.

We wish to acknowledge the History Fest Committee, the UWI History Society, and ICCR Visiting Professor Syed Hussain for the planning and execution of events; we are also indebted to the following for their patronage and support: the Alma Jordan Library, the Indian High Commission, the Ministry of Education, the Mayor of Arima (for the use of the Town Hall free of charge), the Santa Rosa Community (for providing refreshments) the OWTU (for providing refreshments), Mrs. Yvette Wilmot (who provided

snacks free of charge), our Campus Principal (who hosted lunch for the Cultural Nationalism symposium); Ms. Attillah Springer for participating in the Claudia Jones symposium; Dr. Lennox Honychurch; the Timetable team of FHE (for their invaluable assistance in finding venues and equipment, sometimes at very late notice); the ICT and Film Unit for the use of their facilities; the Department’s ATS staff; and all other History staff who readily stepped forward to assist the History Fest committee in various activities.

HEALTH – GLAUCOMA

International Glaucoma Week 2016

was observed at The UWI's Optometry Unit of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, by mainly the second- and third-year students performing ocular screening on members of the public. This was coordinated by **Dr. Subash Sharma**, the Clinical Coordinator with help from other members of the Unit.

This is a comment on the method, patient numbers, enthusiasm of the students and some insights into the results. This is the third time we have observed Glaucoma Week, but the previous two occasions were very low-profile attempts due to equipment insufficiency, busy staff and students who were not fully appraised of the importance of the situation. After this resounding success the occasion will definitely be an annual occasion to be observed in our calendar.

The time allotted to the screening was two hours per day, with a final four-hour outreach screening session at the Health Services Unit at the St. Augustine Campus, which was overrun by numbers!

The screening exam, of necessity, consisted of a full history, ophthalmoscopy (examination of the back of the eye or fundus) and the measurement of the patient's visual acuity and intraocular pressure (IOP).

These checks were sufficient to unlock a number of clinical data.

Overall, during the 14 hours of screening, we examined 178 patients. This included 13 old glaucoma patients who were being treated and stopped the treatment as their drugs ran out, or who were on a treatment programme, but did not understand what it was all about. These people were counselled, given information on the condition and asked to go back to their clinics to continue their treatment, which was a victory in itself and what primary care is all about.

During screening we picked up eight (5%) new glaucoma patients who were unaware that they had the condition and we arranged for them to see a specialist for treatment, which was the main aim of the exercise. We also uncovered 18 (10%) suspected patients with ocular hypertension whom we have asked to come in for a more detailed examination and whom we will place on a management programme if they are not confirmed as being glaucomatous.

A third of our patients (60) came from families with confirmed glaucoma, but were unaware that they were likely to develop the condition. This is a very high number and it suggests that education of the population about this devastating disease is sadly lacking and needs to be addressed.

Together these two figures (new and suspected cases, 5% + 10%) add up to 15% of our examined population having or being suspected of having the disease, which conforms to the new, unaudited National Eye Survey of Trinidad and Tobago (NESTT) figures, conducted by UWI Optometry (and others) for the GORTT. If this screening project was not undertaken these people most likely would have gone on to develop glaucoma and would probably have reported for treatment when it was well established, and may have even gone on to lose much of their sight.

Many patients had other conditions as some (46, 25%) didn't realise that their diabetes had ocular consequences, but knew that their parents had the condition (diabetic-related eye disease). They were advised to see their doctor or go to the local health centre for advice. Others had mature cataracts (11, 0.5%), and were referred to the hospital eye services for consultation while some (19, 10.6%) had early cataracts and were put on a management list for observation at our clinic, or referred to their doctor for further advice.

There were 11 (6%) patients who were urgently referred to private ophthalmologists or to the hospital eye service for attention, one being a patient with Papilloedema, whom we had seen in a screening session previously and asked to return for further examination. This is a very serious condition due to pressure in the cranium which, if not treated immediately, could lead to stroke, blindness and, in very severe cases, to death.

Quite a large number (62, 34.8%) of patients felt they had

Saving Sight

Screening can help save vision

BY DR. SUBASH SHARMA



Optometry student, Cassiana Sookram, measures the Intra Ocular Pressure (IOP) of the patient as part of the screening process.



Dr. Subash Sharma discusses ocular problems with a patient during Glaucoma Week Screening.

hazy vision, but left it alone or were unaware that it was caused by a cataract(s) although most had diabetes and hypertension. This is another instance of poor education of the public on eye conditions and must be addressed urgently.

This small project has picked up large numbers of conditions that, if they were not discovered, would go untreated and would have led to unnecessary eye diseases, suffering, loss of many man-

hours and production and, ultimately, unemployment, misery and, finally, blindness and death.

Much of this could be avoided by doing ocular screening throughout the country to pick up these conditions early and offer solutions. The Ministry of Health has agreed to make a NESTT bus available for this purpose and we await its arrival anxiously.

CAMPUS NEWS

Established by an international agreement between the Government of Switzerland and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in 1966, the Institute of International Relations (IIR) celebrates its fiftieth anniversary in 2016. This golden jubilee will be commemorated through a series of events, most notably through a Black-Tie Dinner and the publication of a book, "A History of the Institute of International Relations: 50 Years and Beyond" under the theme "Celebrating the Past; Looking to the Future" (by Dr. Khellon Q. Roach and Dr. Mark Kirton).

The book traces the evolution of the Institute of International Relations; a post-graduate institution of The UWI known for producing Caribbean leaders, housed at the St. Augustine Campus. It is the story of how a small training institution with a single classroom and just about 14 students, became a globally recognized regional centre for the analysis and advancement of international relations.

It is divided into seven chapters separated into epochs of five years or more. It begins by outlining the academic precursors to IIR and the role of the Swiss Government in the establishment of IIR. It then describes the achievements of the Institute under the leadership of Swiss staff such as Professors Ulrich Haeflin, Roy Preiswerk and Yves Collart (all founding Swiss IIR Directors).

The seventies was the period of change; that was when the Swiss Government 'passed the baton' to the Caribbean region to take ownership and responsibility for IIR and consequently, when IIR adopted a new Constitution. There followed a period of growth and then, as the fifth chapter describes it, there was the "The Era of Challenges & Opportunities (1998–2007)." This chapter identifies some of the main challenges of the Institute, including that of financing as a result of the withdrawal of contributing countries, but also describes the opportunities that emerged through the strengthening of relations with The UWI and connecting with IIR alumni.

Chapter 6 speaks about some of the recent activities and accomplishments of the Institute such as the strengthening of links with the diplomatic community through its 'Diplomatic Dialogues', and a return to its original mandate of diplomatic training with the establishment of the Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean.

The final chapter reflects on the calibre of alumni produced by the Institute including alumni such as His Excellency Brigadier David A. Granger, the President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, Professor Sir Kenneth Hall, the former Governor-General of Jamaica and Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of The UWI Mona Campus and the late Ambassador Henry Gill, the former Director-General of the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery among others. This chapter gives the reader an appreciation of the magnitude of service provided by IIR to the regional and global community over the last five decades.

International Relations at FIFTY

BY KHELLON ROACH AND MARK KIRTON



Early staff and students of IIR.

The IIR's 50th Anniversary Black-Tie Dinner Friday, April 8, 2016 from 7pm at the University Inn and Conference Centre, St. Augustine Circular Road, St. Augustine. The President of Guyana, His Excellency Brigadier David Granger, the first alumnus to be elected Head of State and Government will be the keynote speaker.



The Swiss Connection "Dr Eric Williams made his first official visit to Switzerland on June 29, 1962 during which he consulted Swiss authorities on several technical assistance programmes. On his second visit to Switzerland on July 17, 1964, Dr Eric Williams conveyed his desire that the Government of Switzerland should accept an advisory role in assisting the Government of Trinidad to set up a local training programme for Foreign Service personnel. Subsequent to these dialogues, Delegate of the Federal Council for Technical Cooperation, August Lindt, sent Roy Preiswerk to Trinidad 'to advise the Government of Trinidad on the setting up of an Institute of International Relations; recommend to the Swiss Government ways of cooperating in this venture; and examine further potential for technical cooperation between the two governments'. Within the objective

of establishing a similar Graduate Institute of International Studies in Trinidad, an initial feasibility exercise was conducted in 1964 by the Technical Co-operation Service of the Government of Switzerland. Simultaneously, comprehensive analyses were carried out by the Technical Co-operation Services in the field of international affairs throughout the Caribbean, in order to ascertain the extent to which the project could be dispersed without waste of resources. Roy Preiswerk's 1964 report on the proposed Institute gave concrete evidence in support of concerns previously expressed by Dr Eric Williams by highlighting several areas of need, and gave recommendations to be considered in the establishment of the Institute" (An excerpt from "Celebrating the Past; Looking to the Future")



Inauguration of IIR – Mr. Claude McEachmane, Estate Manager, assists Chancellor HRH Princess Alice towards Prime Minister of T&T Hon. Dr. Eric Williams. Also on the podium are (facing) US Ambassador and Prof Ulrich Haeflin – First Director of IIR; & Principal, St Augustine Campus Dr. Dudley Huggins (back turned). On the ground are lecturers (l to r) Prof. Heinz Meier, Prof. Roy Preiswerk, Prof. Krishna Bahadoorsingh and Librarian Yola Alleyne.

RESEARCH

Bringing Anthuriums Back to Life

Researchers may harvest a blooming industry

BY SARAH EVELYN

At its peak, anthurium production was a profitable industry, but recently it has been in decline. A lack of organization and strategic planning and information for farmers, has contributed to this decline. Many of the factors influencing the flower trade are external to Trinidad and Tobago, but some are related to the anthurium blooms themselves, such as poor adaptability, susceptibility to diseases and nematodes, lack of novelty, and short vase-life of showy varieties.

This is where The UWI anthurium group finds its niche. The goal of the group is to provide research and development, education and training support, towards the development of a well-organized, globally competitive Caribbean anthurium industry.

Research has been carried out on many of the issues affecting the regional anthurium industry, including disease resistance, nematode infestations, spathe colour and vase life.

■ Disease Resistance

The anthurium industry has been battling with bacterial blight disease (*Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *dieffenbachiae*). Symptoms of the disease include water-soaked leaf spots with a dark centre and yellow halo, chlorosis of the leaf and yellowing of older leaves and petioles. This causes the infected leaf or flower to lose its peduncle, revealing dark brown streaks at the breakage point. Measures of chemical and physical control are expensive, whereas developing resistant varieties is a more sustainable approach. But the genetics of resistance must be understood and suitable screening methods should be implemented. Studies on optimizing screening methods have been conducted over the last ten years and disease-resistant varieties were developed. The screening method for bacterial blight resistance has now been patented by Dr. Winston Elibox and Prof. Pathmanathan Umaharan at The UWI.

■ Nematode infestation

Nematodes or roundworms are tiny multicellular organisms and are adapted to almost all environments. There are thousands of species; several of which are parasitic. Burrowing nematodes cause major problems in several crops.

“The nematode species that we get here in Trinidad can result



Commercial cultivation of anthurium under shade.
PHOTO: AIDAN FARRELL

in low productivity in anthuriums,” says postgraduate student, Nadine Ali. Older roots are affected by root rot and become brown or black. The older roots are mostly affected; however the functionality of the new roots is reduced until there are fewer new roots, and the eventual death of the root system. This leads to the classic symptoms of nutrient deficiencies such as yellowing of leaves and smaller plants producing fewer blooms. Again, chemical and physical controls are expensive and tedious to apply. Thus, “genetic resistance may be the key to dealing with the issue of nematodes. This would involve the development of new breeding strategies and nematode-resistant varieties,” says Ms. Ali.



Testing vase life in *Anthurium andraeanum* blooms.
PHOTO: SARAH EVELYN

■ Spathe colour

“The anthurium industry thrives on novelty; consumers are constantly seeking excitement and variety. Spathe colour is an important component that influences consumer preference for anthurium cut-flowers, and to effectively respond to the seasonal demand, the industry needs a wide range of colours. The Netherlands maintain their competitive advantage on the international market because they are the world’s largest breeder and therefore the source of most new colours and patterns obtained through interspecific hybridization. Currently the common spathe colours of anthurium include red, pink, orange, coral and white. However, green, brown and maroon spathes exist as well as “obakes” which are spatial bi-colours with green lobes and coloured centres. Research has been ongoing at The UWI to develop new spathe colours and patterns in tropically-adapted and commercially competitive anthurium varieties. These novel colours and patterns would give regional producers a competitive edge and allow them to acquire higher premiums for their cut flowers. This would assist in revitalizing the industry in the Caribbean,” says PhD student, David Gopaulchan.

■ Vase life

The “end of vase life” is used by producers to describe cut flowers that have lost quality so that they are no longer marketable. There are several signs of the end of vase life and these vary between species and between varieties. In anthuriums, spadix browning and spathe browning, discoloration, floppiness and loss of gloss are a few signs. Many new anthurium varieties produced for disease resistance and tropical adaptability have not been evaluated for vase life. Several blooms which fit the florist’s preference of showy spathe and bright colour have very short vase lives. Vase life in anthurium varies from less than two weeks to more than six weeks, but only those blooms lasting more than three weeks are suitable for the export markets. This creates challenges for exportation and international competitiveness. We are conducting work to identify the physiological mechanisms responsible for variation in vase life in anthurium varieties.

“Once the physiological characteristics have been identified, the genes responsible for variation in vase life can be isolated” says Dr. Aidan Farrell. Manipulation of these genes by breeding or genetic engineering can then be carried out to extend the vase life of short-lived cultivars.

Several technological developments have been implemented in anthurium research at The UWI. For example, the Biotechnology Unit of the Department of Life Sciences has developed a protocol for optimisation of anthurium transgenics through micropropagation and transformation.

With all this research, who can say what anthurium blooms will look like ten years from now? For further information please visit the UWI anthurium website at <http://sta.uwi.edu/anthurium/>.

■ Research Symposium

The Department of Life Sciences, in collaboration with other Departments of the Faculty of Science and Technology, will be hosting a Research Symposium from April 7-8, 2016, at C1 room of the Chemistry Building at the St. Augustine Campus. An update on current anthurium research will be presented at this event.

For further information, please contact lifesci.symposium@sta.uwi.edu

Sarah Evelyn is a laboratory technician in the Biotechnology Unit and an MPhil candidate researching the extension of vase life in anthuriums with the Department of Life Sciences, at UWI, St. Augustine.

A Queen of Drama

Dani Lyndersay's 40 years of theatre

BY REBECCA ROBINSON

Rashōmon, in Kyoto, Japan was the great southern gate of the city, now derelict where people left unwanted corpses and conducted other such unpleasant business. It had a reputation for harbouring thieves and generally, persons of disrepute. As a locale for storytelling or discourse on various forms of societal decay in literature or the performance arts, *Rashōmon* is easily a good launching pad. The title was first that of a traditional short story that was subsequently made into a film in 1950 that became a classic and then subsequently into a play.

In 2016 Trinidad it is now an adopted play and the current directorial project of Dr. Danielle Lyndersay of the UWI Department of Creative and Festival Arts (known as 'Dani' to colleagues and students alike).

Dr. Lyndersay showed off two sword-props to be used in her direction of *Rashōmon* during our interview in her office – which turned into an easy back and forth chat of several hours. She did this with what I gauge to possibly be the same fervour and intense enthusiasm for costuming and theatrical design as what she might have started out with, some four decades ago.

Dani has the kind of devotion to theatre that one has come to expect from studying people for whom the service end of their profession is the core of their daily motivation. She started out as a young teacher of theatre in Nigeria – which is a more intense Trinidad and Tobago in terms of the convergence of ethnicities, having some 350 languages and, today, more than 35 States in one nation.

Her long teaching and production career began at the School of Drama in the University in Ibadan, which was often literally and figuratively a place full of drama. It was there that she met and married her Trinidadian husband. Together they worked all over the country for more than 20 years. She described Nigeria and teaching theatre there as a constantly dynamic environment where, “knowledge and experience were channelled into plays based on historical and ethnic lore and struggle at a prolific rate.”

The concentration of ‘knowledge and experience’ courtesy of the Nigeria theatre scene made her fit into Trinidadian life seamlessly when her dramaturge husband, Dexter Lyndersay, returned to Trinidad in the late 1980s to take the job of Director of Culture. The 1990s were fast-paced career years where she partnered with her husband to bring drama and theatre to communities and villages around Trinidad and Tobago in programmes such as *Youth Crossroads* and *Celebration Theatre*. The birth and founding of the well-known applied theatre group, *Arts-in-Action* (AiA) now seems logical and a natural distillation of her collective professional life.

Along the way she held the Head of Department position for the Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA), as well as a two-year sabbatical as the Head of Theatre Arts at the International School of Geneva, Switzerland. Throughout and still, as senior lecturer and now as adjunct lecturer, she teaches Theatre Design and Theory and Practice of Educative Theatre.

Having just a bit fewer responsibilities these days with her two sons now domiciled in Holland and Seattle with her seven grandchildren, she is back to writing and drawing.

In fact, a compilation of many of her personal photos and drawings was published in one hefty volume in 2011. It is entitled, *Nigerian Dress, the Body Honoured: The Costume Arts of Traditional Nigerian Dress from Early History to Independence*. And besides working on another publication, she has set about to partition three e-books from that one masterpiece work.

As the *Arts-in-Action* group runs self-sufficiently by highly competent actors and directors, Dani has taken up with coordinating The Cropper Foundation's adult writers in residence workshops that are held every two years in Balandra, as well as an annual edition of the same, geared toward teenage writers.

AiA is currently touring and giving workshops in the Dominican Republic and St. Vincent, using a model of educative theatre that is based roughly on the concept of meeting people where they are in their lives and helping them to uncover the solutions to their challenges themselves. In trying to help me comprehend the premise of the success of AiA, Dani described several scenarios where a member of the participating audience might be invited to take on the role of a persona or play a character, be it that of a policeman, parent or pusher. In so doing and by way of the AiA guide/facilitator who would have previously done extensive research, the spec-actor literally finds a safe space to be that person and is then able to travel a path that leads to considered alternatives that can be taken into the reality of the situation for finding the best resolutions.

There is hardly a life that can be more satisfying and fulfilling than one spent in service of making others' existence better. Notwithstanding, Dani also explained that the director, producer, actor in a play may be similarly changed when bringing a story or character alive each time. The comfort and challenges of the experience of drama and theatre allows participants to reflect on themselves, to go deeper into their story or role and ultimately to accept change and perhaps become a better person. As she described the internal elements, a likeness of the theatre process to the meditation experience came to mind. This brought a clear understanding of why after four decades of doing the same theatrical set of activities she is still as excited and devoted.

That feeling must be the same for members of AiA who are as loving toward the theatre process and its two fold tracks of benefits. *Rashōmon* then, is another manifestation and packaging for the experience. As Dr Lyndersay and her team prepare to bring *Rashōmon* to the stage, this is what they are hoping to accomplish again – to get an audience to share in the depth of considerations on society now and to enact change in their own lives from the gleaned meaning.



Rashomon plays at the DCFA for the first two weekends in April: Friday to Sunday, 1-3 and 8-10. (Friday and Saturdays 8pm and Sundays 6pm.) For ticket information call Maria at (868) 663-2222.



There is hardly a life that can be more satisfying and fulfilling than one spent in service of making others' existence better.

Dr. Danielle Lyndersay
PHOTO: JOSEPH DRAYTON

THE ARTS



Festival founder and Coordinator of The UWI Film Programme, Yao Ramesar promises a feast of cinema.
PHOTOS: THE UWI FILM PROGRAMME

The showcase event of The UWI Film Programme's 10th anniversary celebrations is its inaugural World Festival of Emerging Cinema from May 19-22, 2016. The Festival's mission is to help prepare future filmmakers as an internationally mobile workforce collaborating with their counterparts from around the world.

This festival will provide a platform for the cultivation of multinational co-productions with the Caribbean, involving filmmakers operating in various specialized roles and spheres of production activity. The aim is to increasingly locate the region in general and The UWI's Film Programme in particular, as centres of international film activity, culture and industry.

The theme for this inaugural World Festival of Emerging Cinema is *Feasting on Film*. Emerging cinema in this instance is about the diverse visions of individual filmmakers from around the globe. The UWI's World Festival of Emerging Cinema will screen some of the best works by contemporary filmmakers, representing all continents, regions and national cinemas, with selected directors in attendance and participating with their regional peers in the discussion and planning of international productions.

The festival received 691 submissions from 76 countries including Albania, Andorra, Angola, Armenia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bulgaria, Congo, Croatia, Estonia, Ethiopia, Haiti, Iceland, Iran, Iraq, Kosovo, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Morocco, Palestine, Philippines, Reunion Romania, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Syria, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, Turkey and Ukraine.

Among the submissions were three animated features, 54 animated shorts, 80 documentary features, 124 documentary shorts, 40 narrative features and 390 narrative shorts.

"Caribbean Man No. 2 (1983)" by Stanley Greaves, one of the Caribbean's most accomplished artists has been selected as the festival's poster. The image was deemed ideal, thematically and compositionally, the dynamic range of color impacting on any scale and the street vendor presenting wares iconic in the Caribbean space -- in this case presenting cinema wares from around the world. The frames of his lenses speak to the lens, the eye, the camera and the projector.

Over the years, The UWI Film Programme has hosted myriad film festivals including the Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival, the Green Screen Film Festival, Africa Film Trinidad and Tobago Festival and the Africa World Documentary Film Festival. The Indian High Commission also collaborates with the Programme which hosts its *Indian Cine Club*.

Students of the Programme have won numerous awards for their films which have screened locally, regionally and internationally to consistent acclaim.

Festival founder and Coordinator of The UWI Film Programme, Yao Ramesar promises "a veritable feast of cinema. The Festival programmers composed mainly of alumni of the Programme were immersed for months in a reservoir of phenomenal imagery. The experience was a virtual world tour of contemporary motion picture talent. I know audiences will be sated at the end of this journey."



Feasting on Film

Coming Soon: A World Festival of Emerging Cinema



"Caribbean Man No. 2 (1983)" by Stanley Greaves, one of the Caribbean's most accomplished artists has been selected as the festival's poster.

COMMUNITY

One day in 2015, Shilohna Phillanders wore mismatched socks to work. She persuaded her colleagues in the UWI Division of Student Services and Development to wear mismatched socks to bring awareness to the genetic “mismatch” that causes Down Syndrome.

“It was a fun exercise, and easy for people to do. There was an overwhelming turnout. And this allowed the discussion for awareness,” Phillanders remembers the day with surprise and satisfaction. This event was a part of a broader campaign at a national level.

“Getting people to step outside their selves and their comfort zones” seems to be an effective first step for students to engage with society through selfless giving. It is one technique that may be useful to bring young people to the core concept of service learning and community engagement in the arsenal of a cross-functional team under the purview of the Deputy Principal of the UWI, Professor Rhoda Reddock.

Reddock believes that the role of the university is “to develop leadership and commitment, and graduate human beings who are strong in their disciplines but who also have the competencies required to be good and useful citizens with a sense of social responsibility and social justice.”

Phillanders, community engagement liaison in the Division of Student Services and Development, is the point person for the Community Engagement Programme, particularly the community service component. Since 2011, she is the principal link between NGOs, CBOs and students.

“Engagement with organisations like the Cyril Ross Home, Adult Literacy Tutors Association (ALTA), Nature Seekers, Habitat for Humanity, as well as mentorship programmes such as GoodStart and SUMMON, have been going on for years. We are in the process of solidifying and structuring relationships; providing assistance for student-based causes, communications such as the call for volunteers, and coordination and record-keeping for semester-long or ad hoc (one-day) programmes.”

Building A Student Conscience

A database of students and their engagements, and of agencies or companies participating in service learning and community engagement, is being built. And as more students come to see service learning as a vital feature of their growth and development, there is need to engage a wide variety of NGOs, CBOs and even government agencies or companies whose CSR activity extends to interventions in communities as well as student internship and apprenticeship programmes.

Lynette Joseph-Brown’s forte for collecting the evidence, collating the data and analyzing trends is the appropriate foil to Deputy Principal Rhoda Reddock’s over-arching vision for a just society through interventions such as service learning and community engagement. Joseph-Brown, through the Office of the Deputy Principal, has embarked on an exercise to win support from corporate citizens for the Service Learning and Community Engagement (SLCE) programme that will provide practice-based learning and research opportunities for students, as well as needed funds and resources for aspects of the programme in need of development; such as the database, an interactive website and tutors for courses.

As a consultant/ monitoring and evaluation specialist who has worked with UN agencies and other regional and international organizations, she brings a wealth of insight and experience to the process. (Companies interested in partnering with the UWI to participate in any aspect of SLCE are encouraged to get in touch with Joseph-Brown in the office of the Deputy Principal at the UWI.)

Across the campus, many students and staff are already involved in volunteering, mentoring and giving, through home, charities and churches. The working group that came together in 2012 to review the community engagement programme conducted a survey and presented the findings in a study titled, “Are you engaged?” Phillanders confirms that there is need for all faculties and departments to be aware of the structures being put in place to assist and encourage students in community engagement, which includes service learning, community service and community-based research.

Through this programme, all students will have opportunities to build skills, gain broad experience and enhance employability. Critical thinking, interpersonal or customer-oriented communications as well as a value system that embraces social responsibility are qualities that employers respond to, over and above certifications. So it is a win-win for all parties involved.

Miss, your socks don't match

Engaging students through service learning and community service

BY PAT GANASE



Lots of Socks: One of the activities with members of staff of what was formerly Student Advisory Services, now the UWI Division of Student Services and Development PHOTO: ESMOND TELESFORD JR.

Structuring Another Arm of Learning

“Students and faculty are recognizing that many post-graduate programmes require evidence of community engagement on students’ transcripts. And it’s not enough to simply state the activity. We have to ensure there’s qualified supervision for students in the field to ensure authentic participation and attendance. We also want to ensure that there is learning,” says Joseph-Brown. She identifies key steps in the process as important in the achievement of the objectives: reciprocity (what is being exchanged between the organization and the student) and reflection (what does it mean; how can the exchange be improved for mutual benefit?)

Considerations for reciprocity include asking, among the pertinent institutions and the 5000 registered NGOs in Trinidad and Tobago, what are the resources they lack? Do they have the resources to provide initial training to students?”



UWI students taking part in the international coastal clean-up in 2015, one of the annual community service events. PHOTO: ODESSA FORTUNE.

The restructuring of the programme is overseen by the Community Engagement Advisory Committee. This Committee draws representatives from all faculties, from the student body and from the private sector and community-based organizations, for the purposes of promoting understanding and awareness of SLCE, deepening the practice and fostering linkages between faculties and organizations/corporate citizens in the wider society.

“Trinidad and Tobago is listed tenth in the 2014 World Global Index for Giving. This is an indicator of the generous nature of the people in our society. Many students want to give – time and talents – but don’t know how or where. They now have a desk and a face in Student Services. Come to Shilohna Phillanders!”

Phillanders is enthusiastic about her own path to community engagement. With a BSc in International Relations and MSc in Global Studies (with research on development issues, community development and service learning), she grew up in Interact, the school arm of Rotary, and has also been a member of the Eastern Youth Chorale, Habitat for Humanity, and recently joined the Child Welfare Association.

Joseph-Brown reminds us: “There are still many students who come to the university with one purpose in mind: to get the degree that will allow them to get the good job and earn big bucks. To those students, I encourage you to become engaged through service learning and community service. Your chances of obtaining a better job will increase.”

Phillanders added, “Many of these students may come reluctantly but they find fulfillment and satisfaction outside academic achievements. And they are hooked.” That the initial reason to participate may be because of requirements on a transcript doesn’t faze them: “It matters not how you come to us, but that you do come!”

“We need to get the language of service learning and community engagement out there... to teachers in secondary schools as a start, as well as the campus community. We need to change the culture,” says Joseph-Brown.

COMMUNITY



Benefits & Definitions

These are December 2015 remarks from **Michael Cuyjet**, Ed.D. Visiting Fulbright Senior Fellow; currently supporting the Service Learning and Community Engagement programme at The UWI.

An important goal of the initiative is to educate students on the benefits of community engagement. To many students, the most obvious is for resume building and gaining experience for jobs after graduation. Secondary is a sense of social responsibility through service learning activities that provide (1) voluntary service and (2) practice-based use of academic knowledge. A third benefit is the development of a personal and communal sense of social justice.

The community engagement activities may be classified in three groupings:

1. **Service learning**
Practice learning
Community-based learning
Practice-based service
Institutional outreach
2. **Community Service**
3. **Active Research in the Community**
Community engagement scholarship
Community-based research
Practice-led research

UWI ETC (Engaging The Community)

The Service Learning and Community Engagement programme is the “go to” place for students looking for service learning or community engagement.

Every year, the UWI invites NGOs, CBOs and service learning partners to appeal to students for volunteers.

The next Open Day is in October 2016.

Here are some of the current partner organizations:

Animal Welfare Network
Nature Seekers: turtle conservation
Habitat for Humanity T&T
Rotaract St Augustine
ALTA
Down Syndrome Family Network
Caribbean Youth Environmental Network
Cyril Ross Tutors for Tots
Goodstart Mentors
SUMMON mentors
Raffa House

We Want to Give Back

Students eager to go out into communities



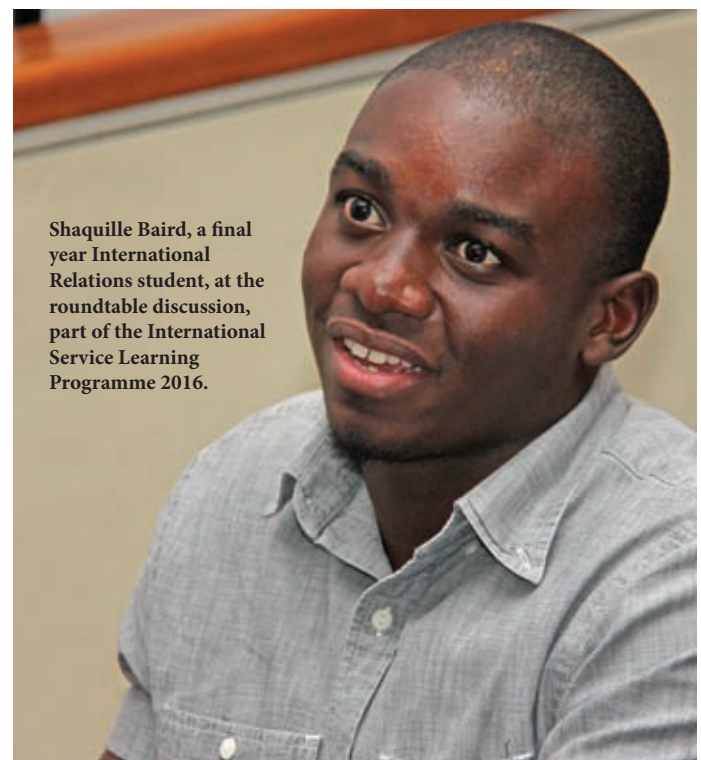
Laura Mc Curdy and Ashleigh Hazley, MSc students from the College Students Professionals Programme, at the roundtable discussion part of the International Service Learning Programme 2016.

On March 17, the Division of Student Services and Development (SLDD) presented a Roundtable Discussion on Service Learning and Community Engagement with staff and students from the University of Louisville, Kentucky as well as other southern state universities in the US.

UWI staff and students were broken up into groups facilitated by Louisville University staff to discuss ways that community engagement could be implemented at the St. Augustine Campus. Practical applications of volunteerism on the campus were brought up, such as tutoring children affected by HIV at the Cyril Ross Home, Habitat for Humanity and outreach to animal welfare groups such as the El Socorro Wildlife Centre. It was also mentioned that students from the Faculty of Medical Sciences and Engineering already do projects to help provide solutions for community projects, however there was a greater need to streamline service-learning across the curriculum.

The differences between the US and Caribbean curricula were also discussed as a possible deterrent for service-learning since in the Caribbean system, undergraduate students traditionally take three years as compared with four years in US-based schools and there are no semester breaks, so “Spring Break” service-learning options would not be feasible.

Faculty and SLDD representatives stressed that they were excited for service-learning to be integrated into the curriculum and they would work hard to provide resources for educators such as a database of related non-profit organisations to help them create syllabi with service-learning components. Overall, the desire to give back to the community was seen as the driving force behind service-learning for everyone in attendance and in the words of a Louisville student who gave her time to her local firefighting department and now works there full-time, “once students try it, they will love it.” (*Jeanette Awai*)



Shaquille Baird, a final year International Relations student, at the roundtable discussion, part of the International Service Learning Programme 2016.

■ INFORMATION



The Library of Our TIME

UWISpace now holds more than 17,000 digital objects, complete with metadata records that describe each item stored

A few months ago, UWI Press announced that 250 books from its catalogue had been digitized and would be available as an online library for subscribers. The Alma Jordan Library (AJL) at the St. Augustine Campus was responsible for developing the technical platform on which this e-book library will be hosted. In many ways this collaborative project is in keeping with the Library's drive to help shape and support the scholarly communication and publishing landscape across the University and the Caribbean.

"Features of the new site developed by the AJL include responsive design, tailoring the attractive and functional interface to any device; turning pages; and such tools as advanced search filters, social sharing, and reading recommendations using linked data and elements of the semantic web," says the new Campus Librarian, Frank Soodeen, with some pride.

In a sense it was the kind of project they had been anticipating for 16 years at the AJL, ever since Soodeen moved the in-house available only library catalogue to the world-wide web and began digitizing content for student use and access. The first digitization project involved scanning UWI past exam papers and making them available via the Library's web site as a solution to the ever increasing demand for the limited number of print copies that were housed in the Reserves Collection. "The database that was developed now holds just over 13,000 past papers covering the years 1993 to 2016," he says.

The digitization programme at the AJL evolved over the years and a repository had to be established to house the digital objects created. The UWISpace institutional repository was therefore set up in 2009 to capture and preserve digitized content not only from the AJL collections, but also the intellectual record of the St. Augustine Campus.



Frank Soodeen, Campus Librarian: Despite the move to e-resources, students are still visiting their university library quite often and spending significant time there when they do.

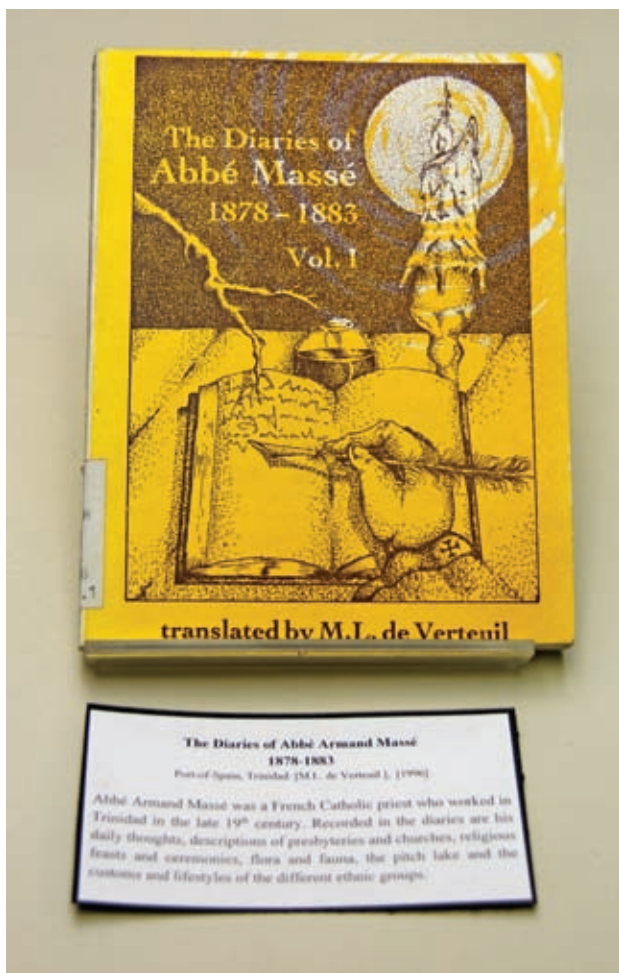
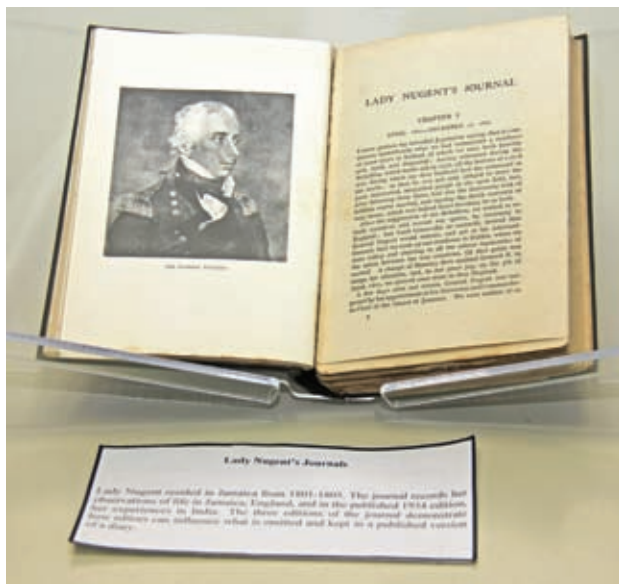
In the UWISpace archive there is the precious West Indian material, which includes special collections, UWI post graduate e-theses, the recently acquired audio news reports from the BBC Caribbean Service, the Goldberg Collection of postcards; faculty material, pre-prints and post publication versions of scholarly articles produced by the University community. The repository was eventually extended to allow submission of digitized content from all the UWI campuses as it was known that university research in most instances being born digital, there was no framework for managing the archiving and proper preservation of this content.

UWISpace now holds more than 17,000 digital objects, complete with metadata records that describe each item stored. Content management portals such as UWISpace have really opened the door for libraries to be agile, efficient and ubiquitous; for UWI it has meant support for administrative, teaching and research programmes.

"We want to push this model," says Soodeen. "The Library now has two faces – one of brick and mortar and the online presence."

It has been about six months since Soodeen took up the position of Campus Librarian after the retirement of Jennifer Joseph. His priorities for the next five years include "engagement and outreach, harnessing and distributing Caribbean content, organizational learning and growth, prudent fiscal management and developing a culture of accountability and assessment," he says.

He's already done some physical work in what he describes as "re-engineering spaces" to add facilities like a research commons – spaces for undergraduate students, collaborative learning rooms, media centres and general improvements to enhance the brick and mortar element, but he has a clear idea of the role of a university library in today's world of technology.



“Despite the move to e-resources, students are still visiting their university library quite often and spending significant time there when they do. Particularly in the arts and humanities, undergraduates may well spend more time with their librarian than with their lecturer. That time is spent supporting students to become self-directed learners through our information literacy consultations,” he says.

“We are the stewards of the heritage materials of the region, organizing them for access, and preservation, and to represent the cultural identity of the Caribbean. The technology helps us to make that heritage visible to the world. Once digitized, content from institutions such as The UWI can be an important economic force as a source of material to be re-used for added-value services and products in sectors such as tourism and education, for example.”

The challenges are many and the resources are few, but Soodeen is committed to finding creative and innovative ways to keep on the edge of technology, and he believes it will come by continuous collaboration with faculty, researchers and students, aligning library services in terms of the evolving teaching and learning modalities.

He wants people to see the library as both a physical and virtual environment, and as a place of learning – a cultural and social space. (Vaneisa Baksh)

My travels through WEST INDIANA

BY ANU LAKHAN

We were, after all, in the middle of a war. There was a base right here in Chaguaramas bustling with American soldiers and half the local population trying to find work there. Trying to unravel the mysteries of the movie-theatre accents, chewing gum and cigarettes. The Americans were also busy building roads and acquiring a taste for local wonders like rum, warmth and, um, nocturnal hospitality. Will anyone ever be able to explain why, in all of literature, every time you hear about American bases, chewing gum plays such an important role?

In the year...never mind the year, this is exactly what my professor feared when he sent me in search of newspaper clippings about forgotten fiction writers of Trinidad from the 1940s. What he meant was that I was not to neglect my search for stories, poems and others clues about the local literary scene in that decade. What he said was: “Don’t read about the war.”

I read about the war. Because it’s just not possible to stick to one thing when you can have all the things.

On the second floor of the Alma Jordan Library, West Indiana has a world-unto-itself air. It is inhabited by dissertations, rare books, special collections and reference materials too important or fragile to be left to the dangers of the general, grubby-pawed public. The people who use it are as likely to be students as visiting scholars or independent researchers.

Dr Glenroy Taitt, head of West Indiana, would like to see more students coming across the border. See, the secret club aura is not real. In my undergrad days it pleased me to think of it as private space. I wanted to stay in that cold (it was always cold), walled-off, closed-door section of the big rambling building and let the careful hands of the librarians set the books I asked for in front of me. Never more than three at a time. This was no dream world but it was the world I dreamt of: West Indian studies wall-to-wall, floor-to-ceiling. It mattered not one whit what I was actually meant to be researching, there was always a reason to find a West Indian connection or reference.

Ask not what you can do for West Indiana but definitely ask what it can do for you

Dr Taitt has in his care the Special Collections of the St. Augustine Campus. The papers of Eric Williams are here. So too those of Sam Selvon – the author himself donated them to the university. Part of the CLR James collection is here. These are some of the better-known treasures. The names are famous and there’s an added layer of importance that comes from – in the case of these three in particular – being part of Unesco’s Memory of the World programme. There are less popular ones, less, arguably, significant ones. But that’s where the real alchemy that makes for the best research happens. Once the West Indiana and Special Collections folk agree to admit your body of work or papers into their realm, everything becomes important.

A giant corpus of legal material – estates, deeds, conveyances, small disputes – may seem dull even to law students. But to a historical novelist, it may be a brilliant source of quarry for a new work. With these legal papers a writer might bring from the past a story of ancestral fortunes, draw characters who may love or hate each other depending on the vagaries of inheritance, consider preferred china patterns of a household if it exists in an inventory of sale items. Imagine, this is by no means the most or even nearly the most extreme example of interdisciplinary work.

When most of us think of West Indiana, we think it is for students in Humanities or Social Sciences. Consider: it started all the way back when The UWI was the Imperial

College of Tropical Agriculture. Yes, you could say it started as a science library. All of this really does have something to do with crossing faculties for better research.

West Indiana and the discipline of thinking carefully about what I needed (remember, only three books at a time) and being very careful handling some fairly old type-written theses helped me to care about the work I was looking at and the people who kept it safe for me. Because these things felt precious I wanted to make the most of them, so I learned to take better notes and keep a sharp eye out for something that might help me later on or for a different reason from whatever the current one was.

Even during my war days I did not disparage the rest of the library. Far from it. Each floor had special nooks, tables or windows I spent time at. If I was thinking of Shakespeare I’d find a reason to be in the history section. Diaspora writing sent me to comparative religion and myth. And on a good day with not much to do I could take up residence in the sociology stacks to work on something truly important like poetry.

Get thee to a library

While West Indiana was never actually off limits to anyone, the process of accessing material if you were an undergrad required special permission. Those were the bad old days. Now, the division is open to all campus students and they are working on outreach programmes to encourage greater use of the resources. Once per semester an open lecture draws in academics from different backgrounds to discuss the different ways specific types of information can be used to enrich research. The most recent one, on the use of journals and diaries as source matter, was facilitated by historian Dr. Brinsley Samaroo and Dr. Nicol Albada from psychology. The session is very deliberately set up like this to demonstrate how students from varied disciplines can approach the same information and draw from it the facets relevant to them.

There’s also the Teaching with Special Collections programme. Here, faculty is encouraged to use West Indiana, but in particular focusing on the unique, the specially archived, original manuscripts and the like. Lecturers are encouraged to use this information to find new and engaging ways to teach. It’s important for this to reach the undergraduate part of the campus.

That keeps coming up, doesn’t it, this business of preaching to the first-degree seekers? So much of the work being undertaken by West Indiana and Special Collections is trying to make itself more accessible to the whole university and the wider public. The online catalogue of dissertations – the effort of digitizing as much as possible – can compete with far more resource-rich schools. The work is labour intensive and plentiful. But it has such noble goals: changing the perspective of the division as one that caters to graduate students and foreign academics; nor is it just for those reading arts or social sciences. All the work, all the programmes, are taking a hard look a student body long accustomed to getting by with their course books and a handful of references to pass their exams and term papers. And what they see is the need to increase the analytic skills of, well, everyone. The methodological acumen needs a boost. We need the ability to think beyond the easiest, most superficial way through the course outline.

The above, it’s not hype, and no, the library staff are not collectively running for guild positions. There are serious gaps and flaws in how we think about our education: the main one is a lack of stretch and creativity in how we conduct our research. Go talk to someone at the library about how to strengthen your work.

Anu Lakhan is a writer and editor. She still reads books made of paper.

The Education of a Writer

Lawrence Scott instructs writers while relearning himself

In the midst of a recession what do we need? “I think more literature, more writing,” says Lawrence Scott, second-time writer-in-residence at the Department of Literary Cultural and Communication Studies. Scott was also the featured guest speaker for Campus Literature Week 2016 commemorating the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare’s death. Jeanette Awai sat down with the renowned writer of works such as “*Leaving by Plane Swimming Back Underwater*,” and “*Light Falling on Bamboo*” among others, to discuss his growth as a writer under the influence of “Funso” (Professor Emeritus Funso Aiyejina), how his writing led him to love historical research and the difficult themes being grappled by the current crop of MFA in creative writing students.

What does it mean for you to be writer-in-residence in 2016?

I did it before in 2004, but it’s always nice to come back to UWI. I’ve known Prof. Aiyejina for a long time, 40 years. I came back to live in Trinidad in ’77 and he was a young student and we were young aspiring writers. At UWI, I also did a lot of research at West Indiana (special collection at the Alma Jordan Library). So UWI played a big part in my development right from the beginning.

How did you decide to get into writing?

It goes back to the time I met Funso, I always wanted to write. I came back here to teach and it was during that period, I was able to find myself and able to start writing. Earl Lovelace was very significant in that time for me just to see him and talking to him, seeing a writer functioning. I started writing in those years... being in Trinidad and discovering, that’s what I want to write about and now I’m slightly moving away from here.

Are there any rituals or exercises that you use to stay creative?

You need to be writing all the time. Every day. You need to have a notebook. And what I learned in “*Light Falling on Bamboo*,” research is very important. Writing is about reading... you should be searching for the best writers... find out how it’s done by imitating them. Walcott said that sometimes he’d write over the light of an established poet and copied. That learning by model is very important and reading widely... that culture of writing every day, constant reading. I discovered a magnificent writer called Colm Tóibín, one of his books was made into a film “*Brooklyn*,” simply fantastic.

Some people view writing as an impractical profession in the time of a recession, what are your thoughts?

I think it’s part of a holistic education. In creative writing, you’re exploring your emotions; you’re becoming empathic in writing characters, to enter into other lives. All that is part of education... I think more literature, more writing, but for education, not necessarily “I’m going to be a writer.” If you’re going to be a writer, you’re going to be a writer. You’re going to find a hut in the forest to go and write or maybe a bedroom in the back of your house that you feel comfortable, but you’re going to write.

PHOTO: ANEEL KARIM



Trinidad is in the world, it’s like the world and it’s a very small place and has things like motor cars, the Internet, crime... all the ingredients of the modern world, impacting on a very small place.

LITERATURE

Aside from not reading widely enough, do you see any recurring themes coming up with your students?

I think they're excited... most people are writing about themselves as women, in problematic relationship with men... writing about taking her position in the world, or about children, children who've been abused or damaged lives. Very strong themes and to write about those things is difficult. For me coming back now, the sort of things people are choosing to write is quite different. Trinidad is changing, hugely all the time.

Trinidad is changing, please elaborate.

It's changing in obvious ways, a lot of what I've been saying because people ask me all the time, "What is it about Trinidad?" and I say it's like any other part of the world, Trinidad is in the world, it's like the world and it's a very small place and has things like motor cars, the Internet, crime... all the ingredients of the modern world, impacting on a very small place.

What advice would you give to students trying to retell the stories of important historical figures like you did with Michel-Jean Cazabon?

When I was finished my research, "*Light falling on Bamboo*," I realised you have to become as familiar with the time you're writing about as if it was contemporary to you. If you see research in someone's book that means it's not a good book – you want to see the story. You need more than you'll ever possibly use in the book, you also need language, food and travel.

The Gala ceremony celebrates the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death. How has Shakespeare's work influenced you?

How could Shakespeare not be an influence? His language and wonderful stories. I write poetry as well and Shakespeare is poetry. I don't know how students can cope with learning Shakespeare without seeing it really well acted. Shakespeare is about big human emotions – jealousy, revenge, love, humour, hubris... and extraordinary writing. Once you see it come together, it all works. I think it's hard for a student just to start reading it and getting it. And yes, we should celebrate Shakespeare and why not, but perhaps we should celebrate Dante as well! I don't see why Shakespeare should be so privileged, but I don't mind being on the same stage as Shakespeare.

With your work, how you've been able to touch on so many different themes from religion to eroticism to history, how do you balance that and how do you get the courage to touch on things knowing the kind of conservatism that exists in the Caribbean?

I suppose you're talking about "*Aelred's Sin*" – When I came down to launch it, I was quite apprehensive, but the book had a very good reception in the press. Since that book in 1998, the amount of literature has changed and Trinidad is an odd, liberal yet conservative society... but we have come a long way with subjects like that and

if "*Aelred's Sin*" played a part in that, then great. The book came out of my own connection with England. In the middle of writing that book people were beginning to die of AIDS, it's not something I choose necessarily, you just go with what you feel strongly about. I think that's the best kind of writing to do – you have to write out of your guts and your heart. To me it's commitment.

What's next for you?

I got a big taste for historical research so that's all I have to say is next for me. I've got a draft and I'm working on it.

After this interview, the soft-spoken Scott I met was transformed into a role-playing chameleon as he gave spirited readings from his poetry and prose works including: *Leaving by Plane Swimming Back Underwater*, *Golconda – Our Voices, Our Lives* and *Light Falling on Bamboo* at the **Campus Lit Week's Gala Reading and Closing Ceremony** – an event put on by the first-year MFA in Creative Writing students. Scott shared the stage with an acting troupe from the Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA) who performed an excerpt of Shakespeare's *Much Ado about Nothing*. The camaraderie between Scott and the MFA students was evident as one of the Masters of Ceremonies for the night, L.A. Wanliss (the other M.C. was Gilberte O'Sullivan) gave an emotional vote of thanks, praising Scott for his mentorship as well as other members of staff and her fellow students without whom, she noted, the event would not be possible. The night ended with satiated literary lovers hungry to purchase Caribbean novels from the tables set up by The UWI Bookstore and Paper-based Bookshop in the atrium.



Lawrence Scott (seated) with students from the MFA programme and Professor Emeritus Funso Aiyejina.

Flickering Hope

BY EWART WILLIAMS

I must confess that even before reading the book, I was seduced by the catchy title *"In the Fires of Hope"* which conditioned me to expect as the dominant theme some kind of message that would reassure me that "things were going to be all right." While the book did not quite provide that assurance, it certainly succeeded in fulfilling one of its aims – to add to the body of literature that illuminates our society's understanding of itself.

I have sought the permission of my hosts to focus on the three papers on the economy (specifically on the energy sector, leaving the very stimulating political discussions to others who are more qualified and more daring).

Even so, I could not avoid making a passing comment on [Dylan] Kerrigan's piece on the history of Woodbrook over the period 1920-1960.

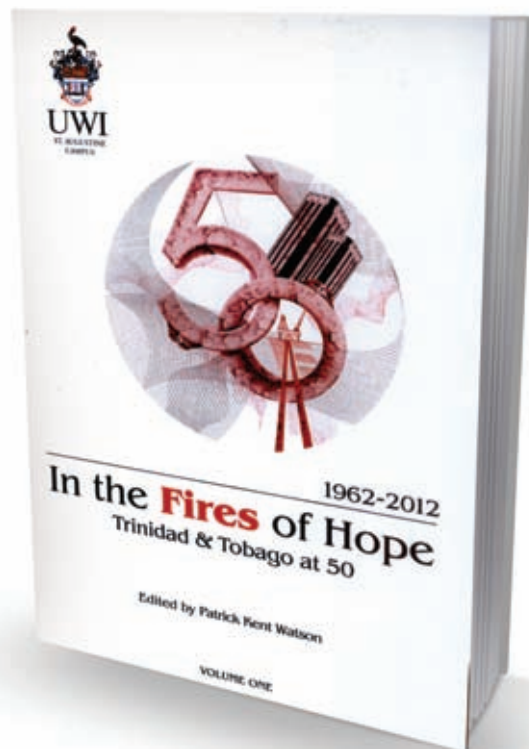
Now, I am not from Woodbrook (according to Kerrigan's typology, I could not possibly have been part of the Woodbrook of that era). However, I attended Fatima College in the late 1950s and the early 1960s and I remember well what Woodbrook was then. And believe me, it was far from what is now – physically, culturally and in terms of its socio-political significance. In college, I remembered what it meant to be from Woodbrook. Kerrigan's article demonstrated clearly the road through which Woodbrook travelled and left me to wonder about the origins and significance of more recent changes. I really hope that I could look forward to a sequel to this article.

I thought that it was most appropriate that the first of the three articles about economics in this commemorative publication sought to give recognition to our first Caribbean Nobel Laureate and first West Indian Vice-Chancellor of our University, Sir Arthur Lewis. His contribution to economic policy-making in the Caribbean as well as to a general theory of economic development (if there is such a thing) was enormous though perhaps not sufficiently recognized.

The article by [Ranita] Secharan and [Roger] Hosein gives a concise but insightful review of Sir Arthur's celebrated treatise on "Economic Development with Unlimited Supplies of Labour," and his development blueprint christened by Lloyd Best as "Industrialization by Invitation." The blueprint was originally intended for the small economies of the Caribbean but, over time, was adopted by developing countries all over the world.

Sir Arthur challenged the prevailing orthodoxy which insisted that the small economies of the Caribbean should focus exclusively on agriculture since they had no hope of achieving sustainable development through manufacturing activity. While there is much disagreement on elements of his framework even to this day, his proposed strategy of fiscal incentives, export promotion as against import substitution and the crucial role of Government intervention in the development process, became standard fare in the Caribbean and elsewhere. The notion that over time, the locals would learn the tricks of the trade and take over the manufacturing sector clearly did not envisage the capacity of multinational firms to protect their turf.

In their article, Secharan and Hosein see the Atlantic LNG project in Trinidad and Tobago, started in the late 1990s as a special case of Industrialization by Invitation. In my view that is somewhat of a stretch. While this project has clearly been an important part of Trinidad and Tobago's strategy of gas-based development, to me it does not fit into Lewis' IBI framework.



The underlying assumption of the Lewis approach was that because the marginal productivity of labor and wages in the agricultural sector were low and that this gave the foreign investors easy access to a large pool of low-wage workers to be combined with their advanced technology to produce labor-intensive goods for export. Sir Arthur saw his strategy as a way of increasing employment opportunities for the excess agricultural labor force and at the same time, using the manufacturing sector as an agent of economic transformation.

For all its success, Atlantic LNG has been essentially an extension of the mining sector, offering a negligible contribution to employment and limited value added. It came into being after the significant gas discoveries of the 1990s as a way of more fully exploiting our gas resources. Atlantic LNG was no more a product of "industrialization by invitation" than all the firms that made up the Point Lisas Complex. They all got fiscal incentives in varying degrees and they involved even greater value added. Atlantic LNG, for all its success, represented an increased dependence on our gas resources and could not have been seen as a tool of economic transformation. Arthur Lewis saw his manufacturing sector strategy as a way of transforming the economy.

The paper notes the success of the Atlantic LNG plants gave a major boost to government revenues and foreign exchange earnings. This is certainly true. I was disappointed, however, in not finding some discussion of the questions and concerns that have plagued our gas-based strategy over the years.

For example, several commentators have questioned our gas-utilisation plan, of which Atlantic is an integral part. About 80% of our gas production is converted into LNG to be exported. The conversion simply involves the liquification of gas to make it exportable, thus there is very limited value

added. In fact the value added is transported from Trinidad and Tobago to the industrialized countries. Many people take the view that a better allocation of our exhaustible gas supplies between the export and the domestic market would have been more in our national interest. As total gas production has been on the decline, our petro-chemical industries have been starved for supplies.

There is also a view that our energy taxation regime provides the wrong incentives.

Traditionally oil was more heavily taxed than gas because gas was not considered as valuable. The disparity in the tax regime has continued even when gas prices rose sharply because the producing companies resisted changes in the gas regime. Moreover because Atlantic was perceived as a processing as opposed to an energy company it became subjected to a tax rate of 35% while oil companies are taxed at an effective rate of close to twice that level (about 67%). The point is that Atlantic may not be the golden goose that it is made out to be.

Secharan and Hosein did, in fact, recognize some of the limitations of Atlantic LNG's performance and proposed that these be addressed through an active policy of Localized Economic Development based on greater Corporate Social Responsibility. Quoting from the concluding remarks of the article "Atlantic could certainly do more to assist its localized host community where the poverty rate is 24 per cent and the unemployment rate is 13 per cent".

I am not convinced that such an approach will yield the required quantum of resources or has much chance of succeeding, if only for the reason that the extractive industries operating in today's environment see CSR as a marginal activity; a type of social service, not a strategy of local development. A similar recommendation is repeated in the article on Dutch Disease by [Roger] Hosein and [Rebecca] Gookol.

The other two articles on the economy deal with the hot-button issues of Dutch Disease and Economic Diversification. The article by Hosein and Gookol gives an interesting new spin to the theory of Dutch Disease. While there are many definitions of the phenomenon, the term is most commonly used to refer to the negative consequences arising from large increases in a country's national income. It is most commonly used in the context of commodity based economies and refers to a whole set of adverse factors, including for example: inflationary pressures in the non-commodity sector; these lead to a real appreciation of the country's exchange rate which, in turn, retards the non-commodity export sector and promotes imports. The end result is that the non-resource industries are hurt by the wealth generated by the resource industries.

The article introduces us to a different dimension of the Dutch Disease causality. It argues that Dutch Disease leads to a decline in genuine savings, defined to take into account the decline in commodity resource wealth as an offset to increased export revenues.

According to the authors the causality works as follows: resource boom brings higher depletion rates along with higher export revenues. As commodity incomes rise there is the well-known tendency for an increase in consumption that can also negatively affect the nation's savings. Lower savings could in turn also contribute to lower rates of human and physical capital formation. The line of argument has merit.

■ BOOK REVIEW

Our economy has serious skills gaps, particularly in the public sector, yet patronage politics tend to keep many competent managers and professionals from full participation, *resulting in the under-utilization of scarce human resources.*

Based on this analysis, to achieve inter-generational equity, the resource rents generated from exhaustible or non-renewable resources must be re-invested in reproducible capital.

But the authors then apply this reasoning (called the Hartwick rule) seemingly to justify economic and social outcomes in Tobago. In my view this is another case of forced fit.

First of all, the transfers from the Central Government, which comprise the bulk of the Tobago's budgetary resources, are treated just as commodity export revenues. They are certainly not. Moreover from 2005 to 2013, a period in which there was a substantial increase in commodity export earnings, there was no commensurate increase in budgetary transfers to Tobago.

Secondly, the calculations use several proxies because of the "unavailability of data." The Central Statistical Office has produced inflation data for Tobago for many years. Yet the article uses the prices of agricultural commodities and construction materials as a proxy for inflation in Tobago. The Office of the Secretary of Finance produces annual GDP data for Tobago so it is not entirely correct to say that these data are unavailable. At any rate, it is not obvious that foreign tourist arrivals are a good proxy for economic activity in Tobago. There is a view that since the start-up of the new inter-island ferry service in 2008, the increase in domestic tourism may have more than compensated for the decline in foreign tourists.

It is likely that ongoing oil and gas exploration off the Tobago coast, if successful, could create pressures associated with Dutch Disease. Thus the recommendations for increased investment in human and physical capital are in order.

I do not think it is realistic to expect the oil companies to play a major role in the financing of these infrastructural investments, as a demonstration of corporate social responsibility. (At least in this article the authors are somewhat less sanguine about the possibility.) I would suggest that an alternative approach, from a policy view-point, would be a government levy on the extractive industries with the funds earmarked for community development.

The last of the articles on the economy is authored by three staff members of the World Bank and deals with our pressing challenge of economic diversification. For those who like to dabble in econometrics, the article contains a very interesting survey of a number of studies on the determinants of economic diversification in resource-rich countries. Not surprisingly the results are sometimes conflicting and counter-intuitive, underscoring the fact that there is no one blueprint for diversification. Instead diversification policies need to be tailored to the specific circumstances of each country.

Applying their econometric model to the specific case of Trinidad and Tobago, the authors conclude that the main impediments to economic diversification are the usual suspects: Dutch disease, largely brought on by counter-cyclical fiscal policies; the unsatisfactory quality of education; inadequate economic infrastructure; insufficient innovation and technological readiness outside the energy sector and a business climate still in need of improvement.

While the factors cited are indeed critically important,

the article fails to adequately consider the role of our institutions in our still unsuccessful efforts at economic diversification. Recent research has begun to analyze the diversification challenge faced by resource-rich developing countries not solely in terms of economic incentives but through the lens of political economy.

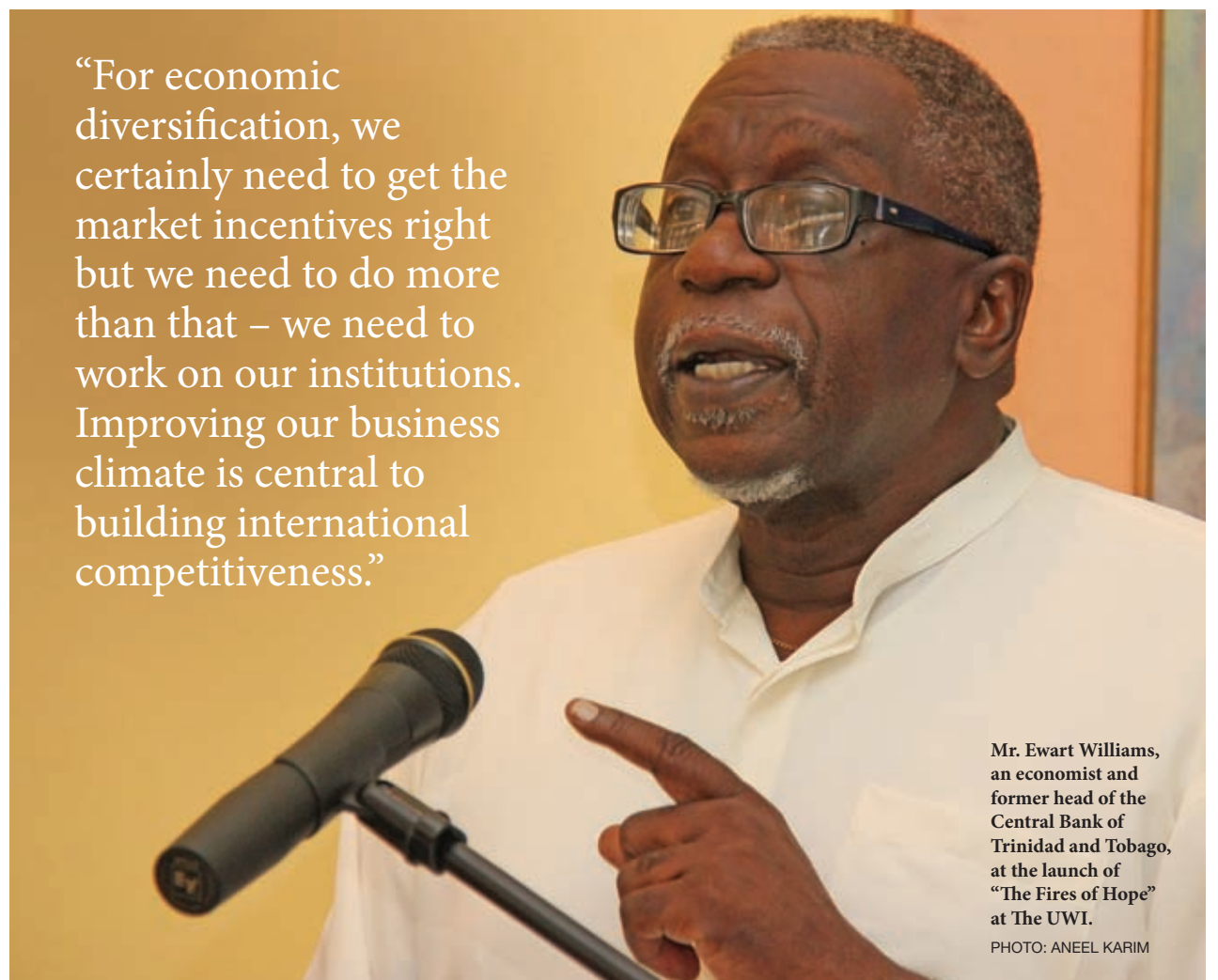
Thus, Alan Gelb from the Center of Global Development puts the blame squarely on weak institutions and poor governance. Gelb argues that "large natural resource rents make young democracies malfunction and there is tendency for these countries to lack accountability and to practice patronage politics." According to Gelb, these small countries tend to become hostage to economic policies that are driven by short horizon, patronage-driven electoral competition and a non-transparent allocation of resource rents.

Some of that may be operating here in Trinidad and Tobago, reflected in the disproportionate concentration of government expenditure on subsidies, transfers and make-work programmes, as against economic and social infrastructure. Our economy has serious skills gaps, particularly in the public sector, yet patronage politics tend to keep many competent managers and professionals from full participation, resulting in the under-utilization of scarce human resources.

This is a very informative and provocative article, which perhaps does not go far enough. For economic diversification, we certainly need to get the market incentives right but we need to do more than that – we need to work on our institutions. Improving our business climate is central to building international competitiveness. However, it is time that we accept that this requires not only reducing red-tape and improving our work ethic; it also means dealing with crime and corruption, which too, are major blots on our investment climate.

"In the Fires of Hope" has certainly brought greater clarity to some of the economic and political challenges Trinidad and Tobago still faces 50 years after independence; and that is an important service. The three articles on the economy have all pointed to issues in the energy sector which have impeded progress towards economic diversification. The recent slump in oil and gas prices has made economic diversification even more urgent but a bankable diversification strategy is still not in the offing. I have tried to point out areas where the economic analysis and the policy prescriptions could be strengthened. Even with these shortcomings, "In the Fires of Hope" is a formidable undertaking and all those who made it possible should be commended.

"For economic diversification, we certainly need to get the market incentives right but we need to do more than that – we need to work on our institutions. Improving our business climate is central to building international competitiveness."



Mr. Ewart Williams, an economist and former head of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, at the launch of "The Fires of Hope" at The UWI.

PHOTO: ANEEL KARIM



UWI
ST. AUGUSTINE
CAMPUS

Team



Faculty of **Social Sciences**
Department of Management Studies

M.Sc. Management Studies

Specializations in
Human Resource Management,
Marketing & Finance

21st century dynamics: how do you operate effectively in an environment where change happens by the second?

Prepare yourself for a world of diversity where nothing is as you knew it.

Find out more about the **MSc Management Studies** and other exciting programmes at:

www.sta.uwi.edu/fss

M.Sc. Aviation Management
M.Sc. Tourism Development and Management
PgDip Tourism Development and Management
M.Sc. Sports Management
PgDip Sports Management
PhD Business Administration

All classes are taught in the evening.

T: 662 2002 ext 83296

E: pavitra.mohammed@sta.uwi.edu



APPLY ONLINE NOW

www.sta.uwi.edu/admissions/postgrad

APPLICATION DEADLINE

May 31, 2016

CAMPUS NEWS

A father, who is unable to donate blood, brought his wife and two teenaged children to do so. A student, whose low body weight means she cannot donate blood, brought her mother to make her second donation; and first-year medical students were enthusiastic partners in the 2016 Blood Drive.

These were high points for Dr. Kenneth Charles, Chairman, of The UWI Blood Drive Foundation (UWIBDF), and he was even more thrilled that the Drive yielded 73 pints of blood, the highest ever.

Dr. Charles reflected on how the UWIBDF was established in 2011 during a period of acute chronic blood shortage brought on by an attempt to change from replacement to voluntary non-remunerated blood donation (VNRD). He was Director of the National Blood Transfusion Service at the time, and it was depressing.

“It was clear that the population and its health care professionals had not been adequately sensitized to the need for change. At around this time, I joined The University of the West Indies and continued to explain the need for VNRD to my students. Their response to shared information has astounded me. Through several voluntary and religious groups, they immediately committed to raising awareness in the UWI and our communities through research, education and example.”

UWIBDF was officially launched in 2013 with the University’s Chancellor Sir George Alleyne as its willing patron.

“Its Chief Operating Officer, Mr. Deepak Lall, is not a medical person but an engineer with a heart of gold and social passion to match it. Public Relations Officer is Mr. Ryan Persad, one of my students of whom I am immensely proud,” says Dr. Charles.

“Today’s drive was an overwhelming success, as we collected the most voluntarily donated pints ever in a single day in Trinidad and Tobago. A total of 73 pints were collected voluntarily, comprising 37 male and 36 female donors. It was fantastic to see such a high turnout of female donors, as historically around the world women have a greater fear of donating blood,” said Mr. Lall.

He said that the number of donors has been steadily increasing over the past year when it has been done every three months. The first drive yielded 13 donations, the second, 22 and the third, 69.

“Trinidad and Tobago currently has less than one third of the recommended blood supply. The main reason for this is because blood is only donated in times of emergency; for example if a family member or friend needs surgery, or gets into an accident.”

He said that blood is usually donated non-voluntarily or remuneratively at various blood banks. “Remuneration donation means that blood is claimed by an individual via

The JOY of GIVING



Deepak Lall (left) Chief Operations Officer of the UWI Blood Donor Foundation together with the Year 1 Medical Students who helped with arranging donors for the Blood Drive.

a donor card or issued in the form of a chit for use. When this is done, this means that the donated blood already has an intended use and the nation’s supply can never be boosted significantly. There are also many disadvantages to donating non-voluntarily as it opens the way for the sale of blood, which is illegal according to the Human Tissue Transplant Act.

“Another alarming occurrence is that when donating non-voluntarily, people are motivated to do what it takes to donate. Even if it means falsely answering questions when being interviewed, which can lead to infected blood getting

into our blood banks, as tests cannot detect certain viruses at early stages.

“Voluntary donation is when you donate for nothing in return. That means the blood is used for anyone, at any time and has many advantages. In developed countries, blood donated voluntarily has a zero per cent infection rate in their blood banks.

“Most importantly donating voluntarily adds to the nation’s supply, for everyone’s benefit and can help curb the panic of emergency donation when a loved one needs it most,” he said.



Human Worth and Dignity

To commemorate the Social Work Unit 25th Silver Jubilee anniversary celebration, the Social Work Unit at UWI St. Augustine incorporated a two-day conference and exposition, “Promoting Human Worth and Dignity: Social Work and Social Development in Trinidad,” in March.

Using a multi-disciplinary approach, the conference dealt with topics like the challenges that social workers encounter; the need for social workers in all areas as an intervention to reduce crime and other social issues; the history of social work from an international perspective, and the strides that social work has made and the contributions of women.

Professor Sandra Crewe Dean, School of Social Work, Howard University addresses the conference. Seated at the head table (from left) are Dr. Linda Hadeed, Dr. Emmanuel Janagan, Coordinator, Social Work Unit and Dr. Nasser Mustapha Ag Head, Department of Behavioural Sciences. Photo: Yolissa Passley

UWI CALENDAR of EVENTS

APRIL–JULY 2016

HOW TO DIVERSIFY T&T

6-8.30pm
April 6, 2016
Daaga Auditorium
UWI St. Augustine

The Trade and Economic Development Unit (TEDU) in collaboration with Guardian Media Limited and the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) invites all to a panel discussion on How to Diversify Trinidad and Tobago. Panelists include: Senior Lecturer and TEDU Coordinator, Dr. Roger Hosein; SALISES Director, Professor Patrick Watson; Guardian Media's Business Editor; Mr. Anthony Wilson; former Minister of Trade, Mr. Mariano Browne and former Minister of Planning and Development, Dr. Bhoewar. Dr. Bhoewar.

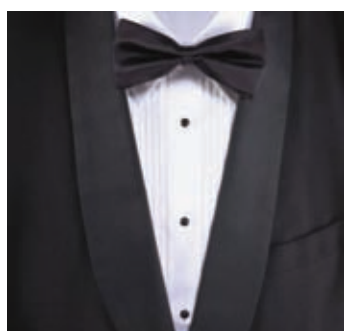
For more information, please visit the Campus Events Calendar at www.sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar.

LIFE SCIENCES RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

April 7 to 8, 2016
UWI St. Augustine

The Department of Life Sciences presents their 6th Annual Research Symposium with the theme, Sustainable Development. Both days will showcase the research being carried out by the Departments MSc, MPhil and PhD students with poster, oral and video presentations at the Chemistry Lecture Room 1 (C1) and Natural Sciences Conference Room.

Updates will be posted on the Campus Events Calendar at www.sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar.



IIR – BLACK TIE DINNER

April 8, 2016
UWI St. Augustine

The Institute of International Relations (IIR) presents their 50th Anniversary Black-Tie Dinner from 7 to 11pm at the

University Inn and Conference Centre, Circular Road, St. Augustine. Tickets cost \$1000 and all proceeds will be used to facilitate IIR Student Development.

For more information, please contact 662-2002 exts. 83235 or 82011 or email iirt@sta.uwi.edu.

DCFA'S RASHOMON – WHAT IS TRUTH?

April 3 and April 8 to 10, 2016
UWI, St. Augustine

The Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA) Theatre Arts Unit presents their annual student theatre production, Rashomon based on Akira Kurosawa's masterful film. Witness a courtroom mystery unfold in ancient Japan, as directed by head of DCFA, Dr. Danielle Lyndersay. Shows take place from 8pm on weekdays and on 6pm on Sunday at DCFA Agostini Street. Tickets are also available at that location. General Tickets: \$100; Tertiary students with ID: \$75; Secondary students: \$50.

For information about the DCFA Season of the Arts, please visit the Campus News section of the Media Centre at <http://sta.uwi.edu/mediacentre>.



LUSOFESTA 2016

April 11 to 15, 2016
UWI, St. Augustine

The Portuguese and Brazilian Studies Section of the Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics (DMLL) present LusoFesta 2016 – a week of events showcasing the many characteristics of Brazilian and Portuguese culture through song, dance, play, food and film.

Updates will be posted on the Campus Events Calendar at www.sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar.

RIGHTS AND ACTIVISM

April 23, 2016
UWI, St. Augustine

The UWI Network and Outreach for Disability Education and Sensitisation (NODES) presents their one-day symposium on the theme, Rights and Activism in the wake of the Ratification of the United Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Symposium takes place at the Noor Hassanali Auditorium.

For further information, please contact Dr. Jean Antoine-Dunne at jean.antoine@sta.uwi.edu or visit the website: www.nodes.co.tt.

COOLER CRUISE

April 30, 2016
UWI St. Augustine

The After School Care Centre (ASCC) present their We Cruisin' Cooler Cruise fundraising event. Set sail aboard Point Loma at 7pm, sailing at 8pm and the boat returns at 11pm. The boat will be leaving from Peake Marine Ltd., Western Main Road, Chaguaramas. Parking will be available at that location. Tickets cost \$200.

For more info, please email ascc@sta.uwi.edu or visit the Campus Events Calendar at www.sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar.

SPORT AND HIGHER ED

May 18-20, 2016
UWI St. Augustine

Save the new date for the 2nd Biennial Conference on Sport Studies and Higher Education: An Interdisciplinary Approach under the theme, Physical Literacy: Gender, Science, and Sport for Development. They conference will feature panels addressing sub-themes including but not limited to topics such as The Role of the State; Sexuality and Gender Identities in Sport, Anti-Doping Policy and more.



For further information, please email sportstudiesconference@sta.uwi.edu or visit www.sta.uwi.edu.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIETY CONFERENCE

July 6 to 9, 2016
UWI St. Augustine

The Department of History, Faculty of Humanities and Education presents a three-day Conference on Public Health and Society in Latin America and the Caribbean. The conference is hosted by The UWI St. Augustine in collaboration with the University of York and Casa de Oswaldo Cruz/Fiocruz, Brazil. Interested persons can look forward to presentations on topics such as, but not limited to: Imperialism, Decolonisation and the role of public health; New Technologies and Procedures and their impact on the society; The impact of Ethnicity and 'Class' on public health and several others.

For more information, please continue checking the Campus Events Calendar at 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

