



UWI TODAY

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES · ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

SUNDAY 25TH JULY, 2010



When Oil and Water MIX



PHOTO: © BP P.L.C.

OIL SPILL AFTERMATH: PELICANS FROM THE REHABILITATION CENTRE IN BURAS, LA WERE FLOWN FROM NEW ORLEANS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TO THE ROCKPORT AIRPORT AND WERE RELEASED AT THE ARANSAS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE IN ARANSAS PASS, TX. 27 JUNE 2010

When the explosion occurred at BP's Deepwater Horizon drilling rig on April 20, 2010, unfortunately killing 11 platform workers, injuring 17 others and triggering an oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM), no one could have imagined its impact.

Now recognised as one of the worst spills in history, estimates from US scientists suggest that approximately 160-380 million litres (between 42 to

100 million gallons) of oil have already entered the GOM.

Two of our scientists, **Dr Judith Gobin** and **Dr Azad Mohammed** try to assess the impact of the oil spill on eco-systems, and offer some reassurance to the Caribbean.

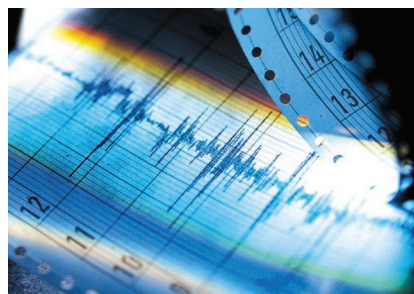
"The impacts of this disaster are compounded by the sheer size and scope of it. The picture is indeed

grim, not only for the Gulf of Mexico's environment and proximal areas—their coastal and marine ecosystems—but for the cascading effects, and ultimately on human beings in terms of loss of livelihoods and severely affecting the tourism industry. The longer-term socio-economic impacts are therefore expected to be severe," they say in their review on Pages 8&9.

NATIONAL SAFETY - 04

A Shake Up Call

■ Earthquake Consultation



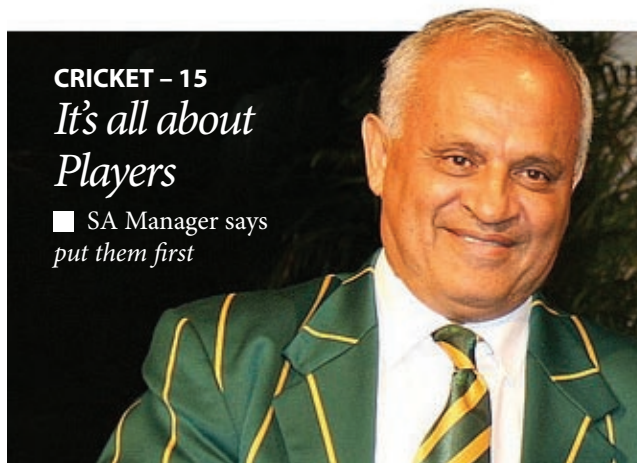
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It's all about Players

■ SA Manager says put them first



FIFTY AND FORGING AHEAD
1960-2010

■ INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION

A SELF-STUDY FROM INSIDE AND OUT



Professor Jonas Addae, Head of the Department of Preclinical Sciences, Faculty of Medical Sciences, delivered remarks at The University of the West Indies (UWI) Staff Consultation Forum in support of candidacy for institutional accreditation, held at the Learning Resource Centre on July 6th, 2010. Photos: ANEEL KARIM

Just over a year ago, the St. Augustine Campus of The UWI welcomed a team from the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT) headed by the Ag. Executive Director, **Mr. Michael Bradshaw**, for an orientation session on the Accreditation and Self Study process.

It was part of an exercise towards preparing for institutional accreditation, a process led by the Self-Study Steering Committee, and supported by six working groups whose efforts, rich discussion and debates have provided the substance of the Self-Study Report that has now emerged.

This Self-Study Report is a product of the campus community's embrace of institutional accreditation as an opportunity for reflection and deeper institutional understanding. The framework within which this introspection has been carried out is the University's 2007-2012 Strategic Plan. The campus community deliberated over the accreditation criteria and standards for a year. Members of the six working groups debated issues and drew on the documentation of a variety of institutional regulations, systems, policies and practices. The intention of all contributors to the process that has shaped this product is that it must now serve as a living document illuminating the path as the institution continues to grow and develop. Each step along this path must be deliberate, designed with the architecture of continuous improvement and with the goal of excellence in view.

As part of the consultation, external stakeholders of The UWI were invited to read and comment on the Report and many insightful observations and suggestions were made.

With presentations from each of the six working groups prefacing each bout of questions, it was a very lively session. A staff consultation also contributed enormously to the process.

Producing the Self-Study Report was a complex exercise, but one that yielded so much value that all involved agree that continuous self-examination is the way towards staying on the cutting edge of excellence.



Dr Sandra Gift, Senior Programme Officer, Quality Assurance Unit, The University of the West Indies (UWI), St Augustine Campus, delivered remarks on Commitment to Continuous Improvement at the UWI Staff Consultation Forum in support of candidacy for institutional accreditation, held at the Learning Resource Centre on July 6th, 2010.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

A Flood of Initiatives



One of the perennial challenges facing the country, particularly during the rainy season, is flooding. Its impact has been felt at all levels, from the inconvenience of flooded streets and traffic congestion to the damage to homes and crops and the destruction of infrastructure and roadways through landslides. The attendant losses and hardships carry an enormous economic cost, quite apart from the emotional distress to the affected families and communities.

At the St. Augustine Campus, we have been supporting initiatives that can address some of the flooding factors. These include training engineers and environmental scientists, conducting research and establishing formal links with relevant governmental agencies.

At the graduate level, for instance, the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering is currently expanding its offerings in water management. A new M.Sc. in Water and Wastewater Services Management will deliver courses applying hydrologic models for flood mapping and designing a network for measuring and monitoring rainfall and streamflow. Several ongoing research projects are assessing links between land use and flood risk. This is particularly important as it pertains to land zoning and watershed management, construction methods and emergency response planning.

Issues surrounding quarrying have been of great concern as activities associated with it affect the environment because of heavy discharges of sediment loads into streams and rivers. When these sediments are deposited, they significantly reduce waterways, making them unable to contain river flows within their banks. The UWI St. Augustine has been involved in two major studies seeking to quantify sediment amounts so that proper mitigation strategies can be employed. Another major concern has been the issue of solid waste disposal in our rivers and its effect on the free flow of water.

Currently being reviewed is a proposal to use remote-sensing data to support flood risk assessment. This proposal details how the collection of data will support flood inundation modelling studies in Trinidad and Tobago. Our Campus, in particular the southern side, has been susceptible to flooding in recent years and we are working with the Tunapuna/Piarco Regional Corporation and our Member of Parliament for the area to treat this issue.

The Campus stands ready to assist national efforts to solve flooding problems. We signed an MOU with the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA), and have been working closely with the Water Resources Agency (WRA), which is responsible for hydrologic data in our country, on building flood mitigation capability. We are also currently working with the Ministry of Works and Transport to reduce nationwide flooding.

The Campus' research and technical expertise are central to the effective execution of initiatives by public and private sector agencies. We will continue to provide intellectual leadership and service in the area of research and innovation, as our contribution to advancing the national and regional development agenda.

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A SHAKE UP CALL

Consultation delivers an earthquake action plan

The location and geologic setting of Trinidad and Tobago make it susceptible to earthquakes. Most of the previous earthquakes which could have caused significant damage have been centered in a number of zones offshore.

Increased vulnerability and our understanding of the seismo-tectonics of the south-eastern Caribbean indicate that the earthquake threat is very significant within the 21st century. (The UWI recently collaborated with the European Centre for Training and Research in Earthquake Engineering (EUCENTRE) to produce new seismic hazard maps for the Eastern Caribbean.)

As the country increases its building stock, population and infrastructure will become exposed to the seismic risk. Implementing mitigation measures and reducing vulnerability are the most effective mechanisms to reduce the potentially devastating impact of future strong and major earthquakes. Measures such as the application of building codes and land use policies are most effective when applied at the planning and design stages of projects. In order to reduce the potential impact of the next large magnitude earthquake that could affect Trinidad and Tobago a comprehensive strategy needs to be determined.

The UWI Seismic Research Centre and the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM) held a two-day national consultation, “*Earthquake Safety in Trinidad and Tobago – A call for action!*” in early July to identify measures to improve earthquake safety.

Out of just over a dozen presentations on related themes—some identifying vulnerable areas as south-west of Tobago, Toco and Chaguaramas, and that the Central Plain Fault may be locked and could experience a significant magnitude earthquake—discussions identified several deficiencies in the country’s state of preparedness and proposed ways to address them.

■ DEFICIENCIES IDENTIFIED

At the organisational and administrative level, flaws were found in the design approval process regarding construction of buildings, as well as in the regulation and monitoring of construction.

Since builders and contractors are not licensed, no mechanisms exist to ascertain their competencies or knowledge in earthquake risk reduction techniques.

The registration process for engineers needs improvement.

Data collection on risk assessment and management is inconsistent. No database on building structures exists.

National disaster legislation does not exist, and there is no active public education programme.

■ RECOMMENDATIONS

Discussions took place at regular intervals between presentations and at the end, several recommendations were made by participants and a way forward proposed. The following outlines those proposals.



Dr. Richard Robertson, Director Seismic Research Centre

1. A National Earthquake Stakeholder Organization (NESO) should be set up with a Steering Committee to take the work forward. The NESO should be a public-private partnership to which any individual or organisation can belong.
2. The Government should be apprised of recommendations made with respect to Earthquake Risk Reduction.
3. A series of workshops/meetings will undertake to establish work groups and define a work programme, designate an operational base, and develop a business plan.
4. Specific actions identified by Consultation participants:
 - A. **SHORT-TERM (1-2 YEARS)**
 - i. Publish a National Building Code and enact legislation to govern its use
 - ii. Make the Small Building Code freely available to all builders (one presenter, Richard Clarke, provided a link for builders that he called a free, how-to-manual at <http://ideascaribbean.com/hurri/>)
 - iii. Organise earthquake risk reduction training for engineers, disaster management professions, building inspectors and builders.
 - iv. Assess the state of critical facilities with respect to susceptibility to earthquake and determine the needs for retrofitting.
 - v. Undertake economic impact analysis of earthquake risk reduction and analyze the financial requirements for preventative action.
 - vi. Analyze the organisational capacity of regulatory and monitoring agencies to undertake the tasks required.

- vii. Develop risk management financial solutions for property owners (driven by the insurance sector).
- viii. Employ engineers with experience in Earthquake Resistant Design in the Regional Corporations and City Councils.
- ix. Establish clear guidelines for the construction of buildings in Trinidad and Tobago.

B. MEDIUM-TERM (3-5 YEARS)

- i. Draft and enact national disaster legislation.
- ii. Access the quality of all building stock and determine the needs and costs for retrofitting.
- iii. Undertake comprehensive rehabilitation of critical facilities and infrastructure and implement other required solutions for total national resilience to optimal levels.
- iv. Undertake public awareness programmes designed to obtain a mindset/culture change with respect to natural hazard mitigation.
- v. Establish a budget for preventative action.
- vi. Undertake scientific quantitative regional loss estimation.
- vii. Review the existing system for the registration of Engineers (including Structural Engineers).
- viii. Review and improve the approval process for building design and construction.
- ix. Establish a mechanism for the licensing of Contractors.
- x. Instrument the Central Plain Fault.
- xi. Promote and undertake engineering research on unique forms of local construction.
- xii. Establish clear procedures for the registration of foreign engineers working in Trinidad and Tobago.
- xiii. Arrange for ongoing training and professional development of staff of the regulatory approval agencies.



From left, Mr. Lloyd Lynch, Instrumentation Engineer SRC, and Dr. Myron Chin Former Director of NEMA (now ODPM) and Former lecturer Dept of Civil Engineering UWI, at the national consultation.

PHOTOS: MARLON ROUSE

CCDC'S CHILD RIGHTS PROJECT

By Heather Gallimore, Course coordinator

The Caribbean Child Development Centre (CCDC) of the Consortium for Social Development and Research at The University of the West Indies Open Campus, has recently developed and delivered the pilot multidisciplinary Child Rights & Responsibilities Course. This specially-designed course is for professionals working with or on behalf of children.

The 21-year-old United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) includes binding obligations which need to be understood by those who bear responsibility for children. As well, children need to understand their rights, and the numerous responsibilities of both children and adults associated with each entitlement. The cultivation of positive behaviours, values and attitudes in our youngest citizens begins with respecting each child's

rights, throughout childhood (birth to 18 years). Children's rights, and associated responsibilities, therefore, must be clearly understood by civil society if they are to be respected and upheld.

Implementation of the CRC requires the provision of education, training and awareness-raising to engage all sectors of society, including children themselves. This process of capacity-building requires focus at the individual, organisational and societal levels. In the absence of sustained and continuous capacity-building opportunities, the CCDC has embarked on a child rights education project with funding from UNICEF. This project will place heavy emphasis on competence-building and organisational development.

During the 2009 first phase of the CCDC's child

rights education project, training was provided to 42 professionals, including social workers, medical social workers, police officers, community development officers, case managers, children's officers and managers of Jamaica's Child Development Agency (CDA). Phase Two of the project will run until 2011 and will provide training to an additional 20 police officers from the Centre for the Investigation of Sexual Offences and Child Abuse and Police Academy (CISOCA), 20 juvenile corrections personnel (including officers, teachers, case managers and trainers), and 20 Ministry of Education guidance officers and deans of discipline who will participate in a new Training of Child Rights Trainers Course (TOT). Phase Two also includes an impact assessment of this new course on learners and their institutions.

The 40-hour Child Rights and Responsibilities Course goes beyond sensitising learners to the rights of the child. It also presents critical knowledge, tools and techniques to course participants who are required to effectively uphold and advocate child rights.

The CCDC plans to eventually offer a Child Rights Programme, with different courses and activities, for professionals, UWI students and paraprofessionals.



The group of social workers who participated in Phase One, share a moment with trainers at the end of the course.

PHOTO: HEATHER GALLIMORE

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3 NEW PROJECTS FROM SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Reading, Information Literacy and Leadership

By Dr Susan Herbert

During the 2009/2010 academic year, the School of Education (SOE) launched three new and exciting projects on behalf of the Ministry of Education. Two of these projects, a Master's in Education in Reading and The Certificate in Education for School Librarians, were awarded to SOE under the aegis of the Secondary Education Modernization Programme Coordinating Unit (SEMPCU) and the third project, a three-year Training Programme and Professional Development and Support Initiatives for Secondary School Principals, was awarded directly by the Ministry of Education.

Addressing some of the burning issues in Education—reading, information literacy and school leadership—the programmes were designed and developed specifically for the local environment and are being delivered by staff from the SOE.

MASTER'S IN READING

Started in August 2009 with 90 secondary school teachers, the two-year Master's in Reading programme focuses on literacy, particularly relevant amidst concerns about the levels of literacy among the student and adult population.

Included among the expected outcomes of the Master's in Reading programme are that participants should be able to:

- Demonstrate a sound understanding of the various instructional approaches to reading
- Organise creative and effective learning environments
- Design and apply strategies to improve the reading performance of secondary school students including students with mild to moderate disabilities
- Apply different models of learning and teaching to design effective learning environments and experiences to facilitate the implementation of the reading
- Integrate the reading curriculum across the school's curriculum
- Coach and mentor other teachers in the secondary school system in the area of reading in the content areas.

In the first year, participants were exposed to the following courses:

- Theoretical foundations of Reading Instruction
- Reading Diagnosis, Intervention and Assessment
- Teaching Reading in the Content Areas
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for Reading

During the second year, participants will be exposed to

- Supervision and Leadership in Reading
- Setting up School-based Reading Programmes

CERTIFICATE IN EDUCATION FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL LIBRARIANS

The Certificate in Education for Secondary School Librarians started in December 2009. Though not directly related to the Reading Project, it is expected that the synergy that will develop between teachers of reading and librarians will contribute to capacity-building at the secondary level. This programme aims to enhance the skills of school librarians so that they can collaborate with teachers to deliver the Information Literacy Curriculum in the secondary school. School librarians help students to develop the love for reading. With a changing concept of the role of the librarian to that of media specialist, there is need to continually enhance the skills of the librarian. Therefore, among the aims of the programme are the following: To

1. Promote the ongoing professional development of librarians assigned to secondary school in Trinidad and Tobago
2. Support the development of competencies that will equip secondary school librarians to deal with the challenges of the present era of education reform
3. Prepare school librarians to implement the national Library and Information Literacy Curriculum in secondary schools, both independently and in collaboration with other members of the school community

It is hoped that the enhanced capability of the secondary teachers in the area of reading along with the support of the librarians who have developed skills as media specialists, will contribute in significant ways to educational reform.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT INITIATIVES

Finally, the third new and exciting project at the SOE is the three-year training programme of Professional Development and Support Initiatives for 134 secondary school principals. Principals, as leaders, have a unique role within the school system and the development and enhancement of their leadership qualities, problem-solving skills and interpersonal skills require more targeted attention as we negotiate the 21st century environment. The programme's innovative approach allows for customized collaborative work among members of the SOE team, including Mr. Carol Keller, Dr. Ewart Taylor, Dr. Jerome De Lisle, Dr. Arthur Joseph, Mr. Raymond Hackett, and the principals to create a community of learners, which aims to enhance the management skills of the current school leaders.



From left, Dr Susan Herbert, Head of the School of Education; Ms Esther Le Gendre, former Minister of Education; Ms Yvonne Lewis, Acting Chief Education Officer; and Dr Heather Cateau, Deputy Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Education at the launch of the three-year training programme of professional development and support initiative for secondary school principals, held in April 2010 at the School of Education Auditorium.

...the programmes were designed and developed specifically for the local environment and are being delivered by staff from the SOE.

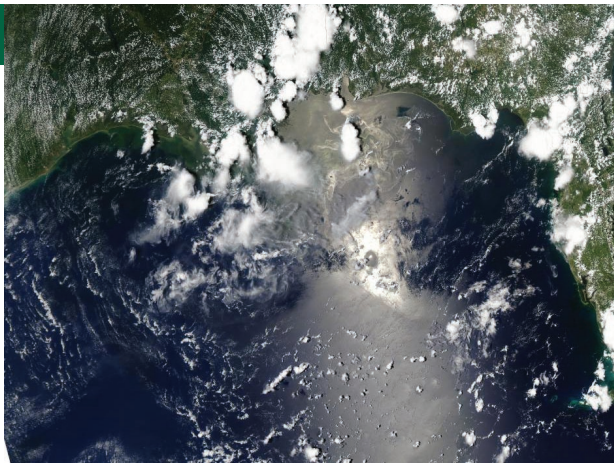
ENVIRONMENT

On April 20th 2010, an explosion occurred at BP's Deepwater Horizon drilling rig, unfortunately killing 11 platform workers, injuring 17 others and triggering an oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM). Little did we know that this would potentially be one of the worst spills in history, even as the flow continues to date (Day 76). Latest estimates from US scientists suggest that approximately 160-380 million litres (between 42 to 100 million gallons) of oil have already entered the GOM. The *Exxon Valdez* disaster of 1989 which was earlier considered the largest spill now pales in comparison—it released 41 million litres of oil.

Impacts of the spill: The impacts of this disaster are compounded by the sheer size and scope of it. The picture is indeed grim, not only for the Gulf of Mexico's environment and proximal areas—their coastal and marine ecosystems—but for the cascading effects, and ultimately on human beings in terms of loss of livelihoods and severely affecting the tourism industry. The longer-term socio-economic impacts are therefore expected to be severe.

On the ocean's surface is the obvious oil slick while beneath the sea's surface there is now a toxic soup of hydrocarbons and dispersants (being used to disperse and/or break down the oil). It is this combination of processes which will potentially harm many sensitive parts of the ecosystem. The millions of barrels of oil being released enter the water and begin to break up or scatter into the marine environment. This occurs as a result of a number of chemical and physical processes related to the oil itself (chemical make-up) and the environment (ambient conditions). These processes begin to change the compounds that make up the oil. The main factors that influence the fate of oil include: *the type of oil, the direction of ocean currents, wind speed, turbulence, temperature, solar radiation and tidal flows.* These factors influence the rate at which the oil spreads and the areas that are subsequently affected.

The impacts of oil can be realised at different levels and may be either *short* or *long* term as it relates to *petroleum toxicity* and *oxygen depletion*. Ecological and environmental effects arise as a result of exposure to the oil itself or to the components of the oil. The most visible effects of oil are associated with the direct coating of animals and the environment as we have seen in the numerous GOM photos presently on the web and newspapers. Oil interferes with



NASA Satellite Shows Oil Spill as Silver-gray ribbons. On June 19, 2010, oil spread northeast from the leaking Deepwater Horizon well in the Gulf of Mexico. The oil appears as a maze of silver-gray ribbons in this photo-like image from the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) on NASA's Terra satellite. IMAGE: NASA

insulation, respiration and mobility of many animals and this is the primary cause of mortality during the initial phase of a spill. The immediate negative impacts are also on the millions of translucent zooplankton which, being a food source for other marine organisms, ultimately end up having cascading effects up the food chain. Additionally, oil reduces the amount of light penetration in the water and thus significantly affects primary productivity, one of the main driving forces of all ocean productivity.

The GOM spill has already reportedly killed over 1500 animals, although this may not be a true estimate as many carcasses would have sunk and may not yet be found. GOM reports have indicated that dolphins were seen blowing oil from their blow holes. Some GOM fauna will die as a result of ingestion of toxic components of the oil itself or from oil-covered carcasses. Juveniles or sensitive life stages are even more susceptible and losses in these populations are expected to be greatest. In this respect, losses will be exacerbated since this event has occurred at the height of the reproductive season (spring) in the GOM which was teeming with larval stages and coincided with the nesting season for sea turtles.

In the GOM, various shell fish species which rely on the oceans for fertilization and dispersal are particularly at risk because of depleting oxygen and exposure to the toxic oil fractions. Surface oil reduces the amount of oxygen in the water, resulting in rapid oxygen depletion, while toxic

BP's D TROU

The Far and Future L

BY DR. AZAD MOHAMMED



An oiled sea gull is cleaned at the Ft. Jackson Oiled Wildlife Rehabilitation Center.

components may be incorporated (bio-accumulated) in animal tissue and transferred through the food chain. Sedentary fauna and shellfish, such as oysters, are usually more at risk as they routinely filter large volumes of water to extract food, and are therefore more likely to accumulate oil components.

Oil exposure effects will not only be felt in the water but also in coastal environments of the GOM such as beaches, wetlands and coral reefs. In addition to their contributions of biodiversity these environments also provide ecosystem

*The Gulf of Mexico spill has
1500 animals, although this
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Dr Judith Gobin and Dr Azad Mohammed in their lab at the Department of Life Sciences

DEEP WATER TUBES

Effects of the Oil Spill

AND DR. JUDITH GOBIN



enter in Ft. Jackson, LA. 2 July 2010. IMAGE: © BP P.L.C.

services—those direct or indirect contributions that the environment makes to the well-being of humans. For example, wetlands, reefs and beaches protect our coastal communities from natural disasters by reducing storm surges. A destroyed wetland or coral reef will reduce this natural barrier. Another negative effect comes directly from the massive quantities of dispersants being used. The estimated volume of dispersants is now 1.67 million litres: 1.06 m litres on the surface and just over 600,000 undersea. On the one hand, while dispersants assist in breaking up

already reportedly killed over
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the oil (by accelerating microbial activity) and often reduce the toxicity of the oil, at the same time (being chemicals) they also cause additional negative impacts on biological organisms.

The Harte Research Institute (HRI) at Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi, completed an all-species inventory of the GOM in 2009. Data from that study show that the area containing the Deepwater Horizon oil spill contains 8332 species of plants and animals. Having that information in the face of this disaster is fortunate and timely as this data set will be invaluable in helping to assess the effects of the spill and ecosystem recovery following cleanup activities. Despite the dreadful circumstances, it is an almost ideal situation, as there is excellent “pre-spill/impact” data which will be used to compare with “post-spill/impact” data.

Another critical impact of the GOM spill is a human health one, as oil contains a mixture of volatile hydrocarbon compounds (such as benzene and xylene) which are known carcinogens. Exposure to these compounds—especially by response teams—may lead to dizziness, nausea, headaches and chest pains. Over 143 cases of exposure-related illnesses have been reported for the GOM spill and we can expect this value to significantly rise as response efforts continue.

The Deepwater Horizon spill therefore brings far-reaching and multi-pronged devastation since there is an associated billion-dollar value of annual economic activity as well as the ecosystem services at risk. Many livelihoods revolve around harvest from the sea (fish, lobster, shrimp, oysters, etc.). The Louisiana fishery has been devastated with the banning of fishing and damage to property such as boats and fishing gear. Oily beaches will also have a direct negative impact on tourism in the affected coastal areas.

According to Drs. Shirley, Tunnell, Jr., Moretzsohn, and Brenner (of HRI) loss as a result of the GOM spill “includes ecosystem services of \$1.2 billion; recreational fishing (\$114 million), commercial fishing (\$30.3 million) and tourism (\$77.6 million).”

As expected, tropical storm activity (given the hurricane season) will increase turbulence and wind speed, accelerating the spread of the oil, which of course, extends the points of impacts. At the same time, oil with an asphaltene content greater than 0.5%, can form stable emulsions which may persist for months after the spill. In effect, the long term effects of this spill may not be fully realized for some time to come.

The Caribbean islands do not appear to face any immediate threats by the GOM oil spill, although concerns were raised (June 18th 2010) by Caribbean Ministers to the US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton in Barbados. Around the same time in Port of Spain, the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) held its 11th meeting of the Caribbean Sea Commission whose chairman, Barbados Minister of Health Donville Inniss, was also voicing concerns.

“It is very important to preserve our marine space.

Oil slick in a west coast tributary, Trinidad.
PHOTO: AZAD MOHAMMED



Cleaning a young, Hawksbill turtle at The Institute for Marine Mammal Studies in Gulfport, MS on June 5, 2010. IMAGE: © BP P.L.C.

The Caribbean Sea is not only vital for recreation but for economic benefits as well. Many of our industries utilise the sea, such as the tourism and fishing industries,” he said.

Based on oceanographic studies, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) suggested that “oil bearing currents will follow an offshore course past the north of the Cuban coast, before turning and passing to the west of Bahamas and away from the Caribbean.”

Trinidad and Tobago is the largest oil producer in the Caribbean with our immediate neighbor (approx. 13km) Venezuela being the fifth largest producer in the world. The possibility of an oil spill of such magnitude in our area is perhaps not far-fetched. In terms of preparedness for such a situation, Trinidad and Tobago recently updated (Feb. 2010) its National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP of 1997). The responsibility of co-ordination now lies with the Organization for Disaster Preparedness Management (ODPM). In the event of a spill being beyond the local and regional resources, the ODPM will “contact relevant operators to engage the services of Tier 3 equipment providers (*ie* substantial resources and support, including worldwide co-operation).” Our Caribbean marine biodiversity is now reasonably well known with the most recent contribution by Milosavich et al. (2010). This work is the first complete report on the status of marine biodiversity including island inventories for the Caribbean. This and other inventories will indeed serve as appropriate data sets for possible comparative impacts (following an oil spill for example), although there are still many data gaps which need to be addressed.

It is therefore timely that the Caribbean heeds this GOM incident as a warning and ensures that we implement an appropriate regional plan of action to address such a potential disaster. This is critical in order to protect our coastal and marine ecosystems (biodiversity and other services) which play a major role in sustaining our economies.

Dr Judith Gobin is a Lecturer (Marine Biology) and an Environmental Scientist, and Dr Azad Mohammed is a Lecturer (Physiology) and a Toxicologist, Department of Life Sciences, UWI St. Augustine.

■ HONOUR ROLL

The Far Journey of WILSON

Nearing ninety, one is hardly surprised by life's servings anymore. If one were born in 1921, as the newly knighted Wilson Harris was, one would have entered a world emerging from the ravages of World War I. In one's twenties, one would have experienced a second, more devastating episode of global violence, and afterwards known a planet continually engaged in warfare—hot and cold.

One would have seen remarkable advances in technology: enabling gizmos that have irrevocably altered ways of seeing and being, communications devices that have all but shrunk the physical space we inhabit.

If one were Wilson Harris, born in New Amsterdam in that dense, abstract and indefinable space we now call Guyana; if one were Wilson Harris, government surveyor, trekking through rainforest and hinterland, and one decided to become a writer, one could take a deep breath and suck all that mystic air into one's lungs, and it could fill one with an imperturbable bubble that could be a shield from the ongoing world—a shield and even a lens through which to view it.

And nearing ninety, having followed the calling to write for nigh all of one's life, one is not overly surprised when the notice comes indicating that the Queen's Birthday Honours list would like to feature your name as a knight.

"I am very pleased," Wilson Harris said about the award, "It was a bit of a surprise, but there you are!"

It was a moment that was reduced for him by the absence of his wife, Margaret, who died in January this year. At his moment of celebration, it was a marked vacuum, eliciting a poignant lament.

"She is not here!"

Sir Wilson was asked what he thought his knighthood meant for other Caribbean writers.

"It's important in the sense that these knighthoods are hardly given to writers. They're hardly given to conventional writers, and a writer like myself is hardly given a knighthood. So I feel that this is an encouragement to other writers in the region to persist in their work, even if they feel that what they are doing is not popular, because in the long run it may tell on their behalf. It's a question of the reality of the arts. The arts have to be pursued irrespective of what people think. And any Caribbean writer who has been working seriously should continue to do that and leave the rest to be judged by people who appreciate the importance of what they're doing."

He explained that what he meant by conventional writing is straightforward writing.

"My writing is quantum writing. Do you know of the quantum bullet? The quantum bullet, when it's fired, leaves not one hole but two. That's how my writing is."



That is true of his writing; writing from the dense, abstract and indefinable space that is Guyana, that no physical journey could erase.

Sir Wilson migrated to England in 1959 and published his first novel *Palace of the Peacock* in 1960. It became part of *The Guyana Quartet*, which includes *The Far Journey of Oudin* (1961), *The Whole Armour* (1962), and *The Secret Ladder* (1963). He later wrote the Carnival trilogy consisting of *Carnival* (1985), *The Infinite Rehearsal* (1987), and *The Four Banks of the River of Space* (1990).

Since his poetry writing days, he has written several novels, non-fiction and critical essays and has been awarded honorary doctorates by several universities. The University of the West Indies conferred an honorary doctorate on him in 1984.

His son, Prof Nigel Harris, is current Vice Chancellor of The UWI.

"My father's knighthood is a fitting tribute to his unique and extraordinary accomplishments as an author," he said as he remarked on the inspirational role he played in his life.

St Augustine Campus Principal, Prof Clement Sankat offered congratulations on behalf of the Campus, "I congratulate Sir Theodore Wilson Harris, an eminent writer and son of our Caribbean soil, on his knighthood. This is indeed a phenomenal achievement."

Indeed, as phenomenal as the man.

"It's important in the sense that these knighthoods are hardly given to writers. They're hardly given to conventional writers, and a writer like myself is hardly given a knighthood."



4 APEX AWARDS FOR UWI TODAY

The Marketing and Communications Office (M&C) of The UWI celebrates four awards from the international Awards for Publication Excellence (APEX) 2010. The UWI Today newspaper has won four awards of excellence at the APEX awards 2010, as follows.

1. Magapapers & Newspapers – Print UWI TODAY – Sunday 26th April, 2009 [Cocoa Research]
2. Green Writing – From Green to Gene – **Vaneisa Baksh**
3. Feature Series Writing – Cocoa Series – **Vaneisa Baksh** and **Frances Bekele**
4. Feature Writing – Parlez-vous Francais? – **Gerard Best**

Director of the M&C, **Dawn-Marie De Four-Gill**, expressed her pleasure at the results, saying that although the paper came up against competition with far superior resources, it reinforced her feeling that the work being done by the editorial team set very high standards.

"We are always trying to raise the bar," she said, "and awards like these are extremely useful as evaluation tools, and they serve as great motivation."

Editor of the UWI Today, **Vaneisa Baksh**, echoed her sentiments, saying that the two awards for the particular issue featuring the work of the Cocoa Research Unit and the role of cocoa—past, present and future—in the country encouraged efforts to highlight the remarkable work at the Campus.

"There are several splendid research projects going on at The UWI, and we try to use the paper to let the public know about them and how it affects their lives," she said.

The work was submitted for the 22nd annual awards competition sponsored by the Editors of Writing That Works: The Business Communications Report. With more than 3,700 entries in APEX 2010, awards were based on excellence in graphic design, editorial content and the success of the entry—in the opinion of the judges—in achieving overall communications effectiveness and excellence.

HONOUR ROLL

FIVE RECEIVE VICE CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

Five members of the academic staff at the Cave Hill, Mona and St Augustine Campuses of The University of the West Indies, namely, **Professor John Agard**, **Dr Kusha Haraksingh**, **Dr Dave Chadee**, **Professor Maureen Samms-Vaughan** and **Professor Clive Landis** will receive the prestigious **Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence** for the academic year 2009/2010 at a special ceremony to be held on October 21, 2010 at the Cave Hill Campus. The Awards will be presented by the Vice Chancellor, **Prof Nigel Harris**.

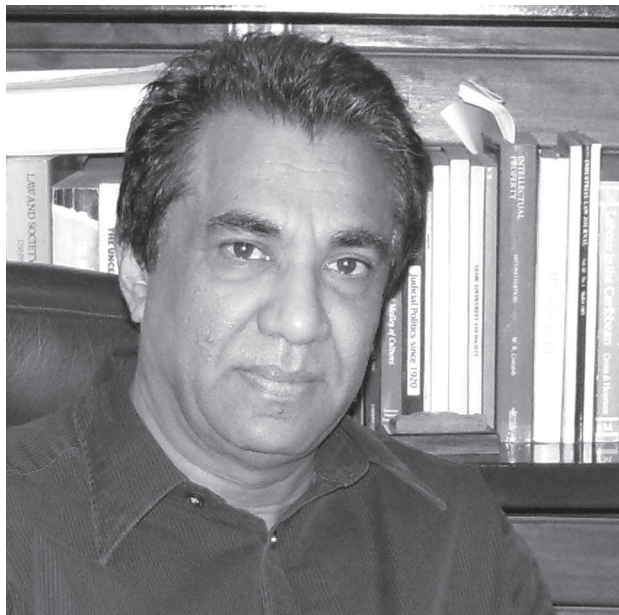
The recipients at the St Augustine Campus are: **Professor John Agard**, Professor of Tropical Island Ecology and Head, Department of Life Sciences, Faculty of Science and Agriculture, for all-round performance in the combined areas of research accomplishments and contribution to public service; **Dr Kusha Haraksingh**, Senior Lecturer, Department of History, Faculty of Humanities and Education for contribution to public service; and **Dr Dave Chadee**, Senior Lecturer in Parasitology, Department of Life Sciences, for research accomplishments.

From the Mona Campus, **Professor Maureen Samms-Vaughan**, Professor of Child Health, Child Development and Behaviour, Department of Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Child Health, received the award for contribution to public service, while from the Cave Hill Campus, **Professor Clive Landis**, Professor in Cardiovascular Research, Chronic Disease Research Centre, received the award for research accomplishments.

Professor John Agard has published over eight book chapters and 20 articles in peer-reviewed journals. Professor Agard is recognised by the United Nations as an expert on climate change and Small Island Developing States; was a lead author of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) 4th assessment report—Chapter 16, Small Islands—and as such, shared in the IPCC's Nobel Peace Prize in 2007. He has served on several boards, including the Environmental Management Authority (EMA) of which he was Chairman.

Dr Kusha Haraksingh's public service activities have been extensive. He was appointed Commissioner and first Chairman of the CARICOM Competition Commission, an essential pillar of the Single Market and Economy (CSME). He provided pro-bono advice to the West Indies Players' Association, and represented them in arbitration

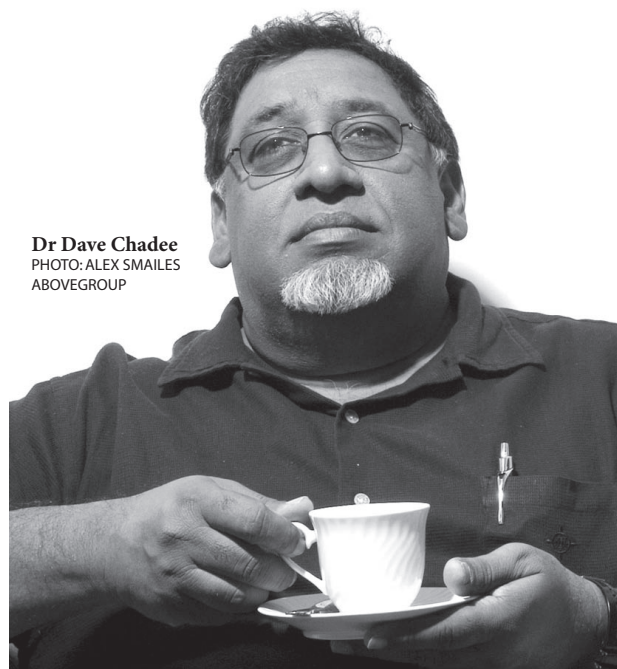
Dr Kusha Haraksingh. PHOTO COURTESY DR HARAKSINGH



proceedings before the Chief Justice of Barbados. Dr Haraksingh sits on various University Committees such as the Augmented Pensions Committee, the Standing Committee on Ordinances and Regulations, and serves as Chair of the St Augustine Examinations Committee and Chair of the University Archives and Records Management Committee.

Dr Dave Chadee is an accomplished researcher, who has published over 180 scientific papers, 10 book chapters and one book. He was conferred with an honorary Doctor of Science degree in 1999 by the University of Dundee in recognition of his research. He is currently on the Editorial Board of five international peer-reviewed journals, *Entomologia Experimentalis et Applicata*, *Annals of Medical Entomology*, *European Journal of General Medicine*, *Open Public Health Journal* and *Journal of Parasitological Research*. He was recently appointed by the International Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) as a Lead Author for the Health and Climate Change section of the 5th Assessment Report on Climate Change, due in 2013.

"I would like to thank the previous and present St Augustine Campus Principals for their encouragement and for providing the opportunity and the environment to develop my research programme," he said. "Most scientific breakthroughs are achieved due to advancing technology



Dr Dave Chadee
PHOTO: ALEX SMAILES/ABOVEGROUP

and the development and/or adoption of new methodologies. In my research I have combined classical biology with contemporary molecular biology approaches."

Professor Maureen Samms-Vaughan is considered an ambassador for the University in the area of child development and is a significant contributor to public service. She was on secondment to the Government of Jamaica for two years as Executive Chairman of the National Early Childhood Commission, a position she served with distinction. She has published two books entitled *The Jamaican Pre-School Child: the Status of Early Childhood Development in Jamaica* and *Cognition, Educational Attainment and Behaviour in a cohort of Jamaican Children at age 11-12 years*. These books have become reference texts used as policy guides in the Ministries of Health and Education in Jamaica. Professor Samms-Vaughan has authored and published over 58 research papers and abstracts in peer-reviewed journals.

Professor John Agard. PHOTO: ALEX SMAILES/ABOVEGROUP



Professor Samms-Vaughan's contribution to non-governmental organisations has been diverse and extensive. She has been a consultant and an advisor to the Jamaica Attention Deficit Disorder Association since 1998 and has served as consultant advisor to UNICEF and PAHO. For her exemplary public service Professor Samms-Vaughan was in 2007 awarded the Jamaican National Honour, *Commander of the Order of Distinction* for service in the field of Early Childhood Development and Child Health.

Professor Clive Landis has published 64 papers in peer-reviewed journals. In the past five years, Professor Landis has published 25 papers, 20 as first author or senior author and has gained international recognition. He has, on several occasions, been invited to present keynote lectures in the US, UK and Australia as an internationally acclaimed leader in the field of heart surgery, particularly as it relates to the dangerous systemic inflammatory response experienced by patients undergoing this procedure. Professor Landis received the Principal's Award for Excellence, Cave Hill Campus, for the academic year 2008/2009.



Professor Maureen Samms-Vaughan. PHOTO: PETER FERGUSON

■ HONOUR ROLL

WHAT THE VC'S AWARD MEANS TO ME

By Dr Clive Landis



PHOTO: ALEX SMAILES/BOVEGROUP

■ RESEARCH: WHAT IS THE POINT?

As a research scientist, I am used to fielding questions about what value, if any, research should have in the Caribbean. A commonly expressed view is that scientific research is the expensive indulgence of richer countries and that our scarce resources should not be diverted from our many pressing social and health needs.

Although I disagree with that sentiment, I do agree with the latter point that we do have many pressing social and health needs in the Caribbean. But what are they? Exactly? We often talk about being in an “Information Age” but do policymakers have access to accurate, locally relevant information concerning our society’s issues? Research at its most fundamental is simply the art of extracting information that is not readily attainable. If I ask you to count the persons standing at a bus stop, that is a quick and mechanical task. But if I ask you to ascertain how many of those people at the bus stop have hypertension, then you will need to do some research (and will no doubt request a budget!).

■ HASN'T IT ALL BEEN DONE BEFORE IN RICHER COUNTRIES?

The Caribbean is under-researched at most levels and policymakers are often forced to rely on dubious Ersatz research performed in different countries on different ethnic populations. Research from my Department, the Chronic Disease Research Centre of the Cave Hill Campus, has identified a major new risk gene for glaucoma, an eye disease, never before apparent in Caucasian populations. That is the sort of locally relevant information that is critical for policymakers to know how and where to target those scarce resources towards improved diagnosis and eye care. Research from my own laboratory has indicated that an inflammation gene present at 30X higher levels in black populations than Caucasians may explain the high incidence of inflammatory disorders in the Caribbean, such as systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and diabetic foot (predisposing to an amputation). The definitive genetic linkage study is currently ongoing, the Wound Healing Study (WHY study) in diabetes.

“The only reason I am able to carry off this prestigious VC’s Award for Excellence is that I am surrounded by talented people whom I enthuse and entrust with their own research projects.”

■ THE WHY STUDY IN DIABETES

Why do we have such a high prevalence of diabetic foot amputation in Barbados? Can we identify individuals who are predisposed to this dreaded complication of diabetes? Can we guide the surgeons to improved clinical outcomes? These are all questions that are addressed by the WHY study. Of particular interest to government and industry leaders, what is the economic impact of a diabetic foot in terms of additional health care cost and loss of productivity? Patient recruitment has begun on the WHY study and we are eagerly awaiting the results of this internationally groundbreaking study. I would like to invite the government and private sector to become involved as a partner in this University research, as we aim to translate academic outputs into practical clinical interventions for better diagnosis, prevention and care of diabetic foot.

■ A PASSION FOR RESEARCH

I have a passion for research and despite being advised on more than one occasion during my career to focus, focus, focus ... I just can't help myself. The diseases and problems out there are just so diverse and important, that I find myself carrying out research in areas ranging from wound healing in diabetes, risk genes for inflammatory diseases, rheumatic inflammatory conditions, recovery from heart surgery, pandemic influenza virus surveillance, laboratory capacity building in the region for HIV/AIDS diagnosis, and research into sexual behaviour in the TIG sex study:

a national survey in Barbadian girls aged 15-19 examining inter-generational relationships with older men.

The yardstick I always set myself when setting out in some new and exciting area of research is that I aim to present my research findings in the leading academic journals and international conferences in the field. If I succeed in that regard, then I cannot be accused of being a jack-of-all-trades (and master of none). I find research in the Caribbean tremendously energizing and challenging. We work in cumbersome governmental and University structures, but the quality of the individuals with whom I interact ... they are just first rate. We have well educated populations with great potential in the Caribbean, but we commit the cardinal sin of not tapping into individual talents sufficiently ... and talent will wither away when not appreciated.

■ WHAT THE AWARD MEANS TO ME

The only reason I am able to carry off this prestigious VC's Award for Excellence is that I am surrounded by talented people whom I enthuse and entrust with their own research projects. I am deeply honored to be receiving this Award on behalf of my many colleagues and collaborators, from the CDRC, my PhD students, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the Barbados Diabetes Foundation, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Youth Affairs, the National HIV/AIDS Commission, regional Ministries and laboratories across the Caribbean, and at every level across the University. I would not have the joy in my career if it were not for my family who support me despite my many “mad professor” moments.

I would like to see the VC's Award act as a springboard to drive the next phase of development at the CDRC, away from abstract concepts of disease prevalence and mechanisms towards tangible patient benefits. This is a call for Caribbean stakeholders in health and the private sector to partner with us to translate our academic outputs into practical clinical interventions for the good of patients and society alike.

■ CAMPUS NEWS

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS



THE ANTHONY N. SABGA CARIBBEAN AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

The Anthony N. Sabga Caribbean Awards for Excellence has called for nominations for its 2011 Awards in Arts & Letters, Science & Technology, and Public & Civic Contributions.

The Sabga Awards, which include a gold medal, TT \$500,000, and a citation, have been presented on three occasions to ten distinguished Caribbean persons since 2006. They are the only awards which canvas the entire English-speaking Caribbean in the three categories. Laureates include Trinidadian film-maker Yao Ramesar, St Lucian poet Adrian Augier, Guyanese writer, poet and critic Professor David Dabydeen, Grenadian anatomical pathologist, Prof Kathleen Coard, Barbadian solar energy entrepreneur, James Husbands, and Guyanese Indigenous Peoples' and environmental activist, Sydney Allicock.

Nominations may be made by any person or institution in any of the categories, and persons may nominate themselves. The descriptions of the attributes desired in nominees in each category, and the nomination form, are available on the awards website, www.ansacaribbeanawards.com.

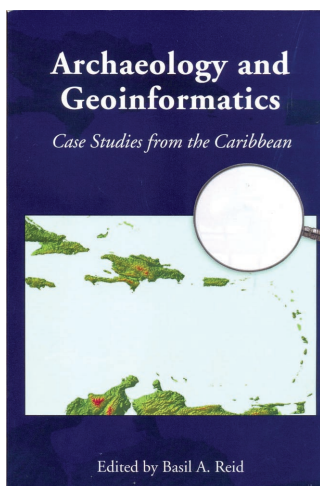
Nominations were initially the responsibility of Country Nominating Committees (CNCs) in Jamaica, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), Guyana, Barbados and Trinidad & Tobago. However, in order to democratize the process, it was decided that the call for nominations should be opened to the public and institutions. The CNCs will still be able to nominate individuals, and it is to the CNCs that all nominations will go to be assessed.



Anthony N. Sabga Caribbean Awards for Excellence 2010 laureates, from left, Sydney Allicock, Prof Kathleen Coard, and Mr Adrian Augier.

Once the CNCs have decided on the best candidates, and the candidates' credentials have been verified by independent investigators, the CNCs pass on their recommendations to the regional Eminent Persons Panel (EPP), who make the final selection. The Awards are funded by the ANSA McAL Foundation, but nominations, selections and all adjudication is independent of Foundation members.

In order to be considered for the 2011 Awards, nominations must be received by August 31, 2010. The Awards may be sent by email, fax, or printed copy to the Programme Office. The addresses are: ANSA Centre, 9th Floor, TATIL Building, 11, Maraval Road, St Clair, Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago; (fax) 868 622 3941 and (email): ansafe@ansamcal.com.



NEW ARCHAEOLOGY REP

Dr. Basil Reid, Senior Lecturer in Archaeology at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, was recently appointed as Senior Representative for the Caribbean and Central America for the World Archaeology Congress (WAC).

His role is to promote the activities of WAC, encourage enthusiasts to become members of WAC, and actively encourage events in the region such as field schools, workshops, symposia, inter-congresses and scholarly research projects. Dr. Reid has either authored or edited a number of books such as *Myths and Realities of Caribbean History*, *Archaeology, GIS and Cultural Resource Management in Trinidad*, *Archaeology and Geoinformatics: Case Studies*

from the Caribbean, and *A Crime Solving Toolkit: Forensics in the Caribbean*.

In 2005, he was Chairman of the 21st Congress of the International Association for Caribbean Archaeology (IACA), which was held for the first time in Trinidad and Tobago.

A recent review of the book, *Archaeology and Geoinformatics*, described it as "valuable for researchers considering incorporating geoinformatics into their archaeological study." Overall, said reviewer, **Derek Miller** of the Anthropology Department of College of William and Mary, "it represents a significant contribution to the use of geoinformatics in archaeology, particularly in the Caribbean."

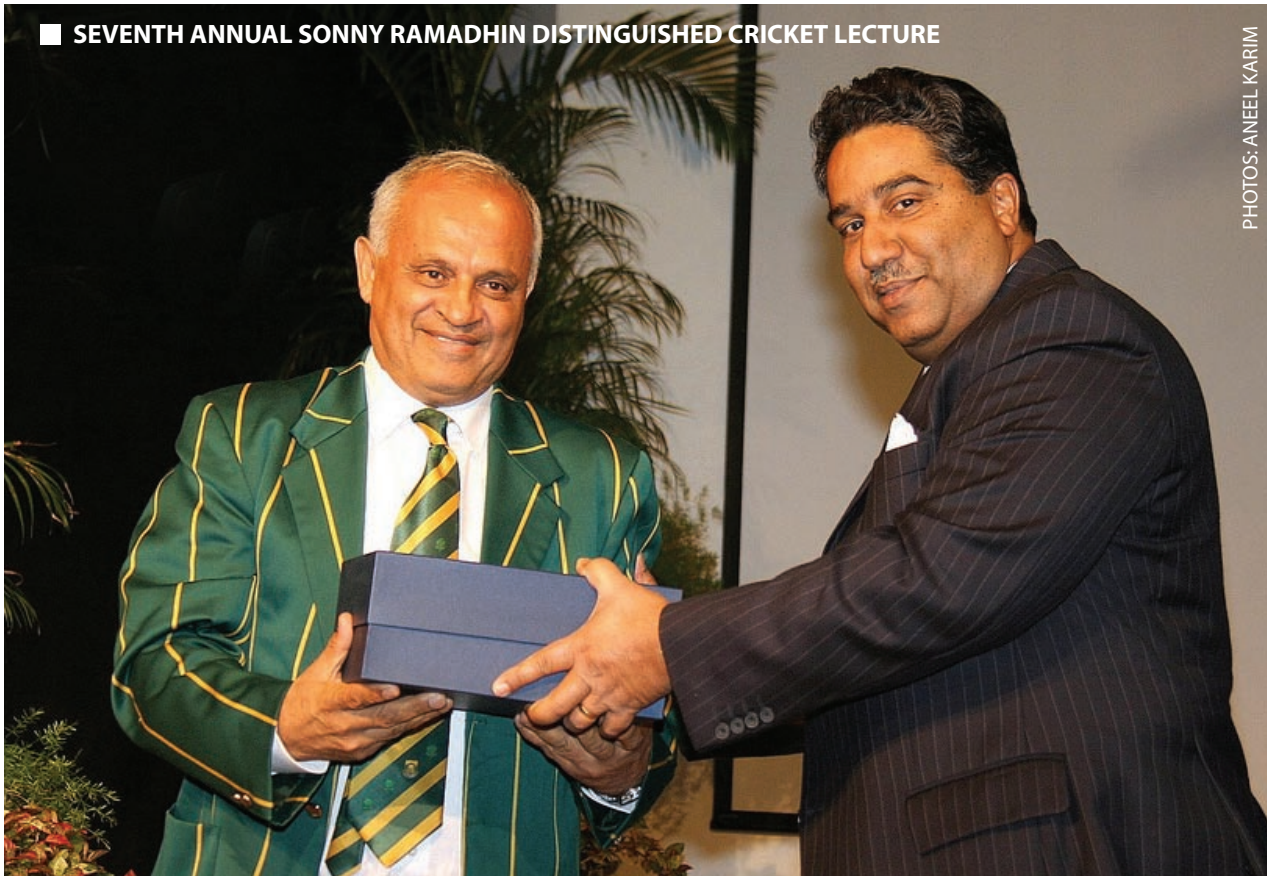
WINNING COMMUNITY HEALTH OUTREACH STUDENTS

The Community Health Outreach Programme is offered to year-two medical students in the Public Health and Primary Care Unit of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, UWI. The course offers these students the opportunity to meet patients/clients at an early point in their training. These students visit antenatal clients in health centres, interview them and write reflective pieces about their interactions with them.



Students who excelled in the programme, from left, Jessie Toney-Duncan, Sadhanna Roop, Dr. Joan Rawlins, Senior Lecturer and Coordinator of the Programme, and Justin Reyes.

SEVENTH ANNUAL SONNY RAMADHIN DISTINGUISHED CRICKET LECTURE



PHOTOS: ANEEL KARIM

Dr Hamid Ghany, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, presents Mr Goolam Rajah with a token of appreciation after the lecture.

THIS GAME IS ABOUT PLAYERS

Unions are not the problem SA manager tells WICB

“When I see the state of West Indies cricket today, it saddens me.” Ordinarily, those would be the words of a patriotic West Indian, but because of the extraordinary impact West Indies cricket has had on the global game, it simply echoes what has been uttered by cricket patriots from England, Australia, Pakistan, India... everywhere.

When Goolam Rajah, Logistics Manager of the South African national cricket team (and Manager of the Deccan Chargers in the Indian Premier League) said it at the Seventh Annual Sonny Ramadhin Distinguished Cricket Lecture, its poignancy was heightened by the tale he had just told of his experience in South Africa pre and post apartheid.

Mr Rajah’s lecture, “Transformation over the last 20 years in South African Cricket,” was related from a fairly personal perspective. He spoke of the existence of two cricketing bodies in the apartheid days, “one conventional one, the white component” and the black one, “which is where we belonged.”

“If you were non-white in South Africa, you could never play for South Africa,” he said, and the rebel tours of the period were not helpful to the cause.

“If you were sitting where I was, you look at rebel tours as a form of acceptance of the white cricket and you give credibility by your presence.”

He recalled that one of his proudest moments was when Viv Richards rejected a lucrative offer to play in South Africa, saying it would be blood money and Ian Botham followed suit, saying he wouldn’t be able to look Viv in the eye.

He said the Minister of Sport under the ANC Government of Nelson Mandela gathered about 20 members from the two cricketing bodies, locked them in a room for discussion, and told them that by the time he returned he wanted one cricket administration.

“If he had not done that, we would never have seen Makhaya Ntini or Herschelle Gibbs,” he said, lamenting that he had never seen the three Ws (Walcott, Worrell and Weekes).

“Today, I can proudly say that our South African team is picked on skill and merit and not on skin colour. I, for one, was beaten up, thrown into a jail, because I believe if you are good enough in terms of skill then you should be allowed to play for your country,” he said, as he emphasized that things have changed.

“Certainly, in my lifetime, you will never see an all-white South African team again.”

For those who knew of the struggles within West Indies cricket to have players selected on the basis of meritocracy rather than skin colour (captaincy especially was the provenance of white players), Rajah was telling an extreme version of a story they knew. He was aware of that.

“I believe that South Africa had bigger challenges and bigger obstacles in its path, because we also had ideological battles,” that made things seem hopeless, he said, as he compared the state of South African cricket with that of the West Indies.

The West Indies nation has produced the best players one could imagine, he declared, “and I look at this nation, and I look at your best cricketers today, and I ask myself what has gone wrong?”

Mr Rajah chomped at the heart of that question.

“I believe this game is about players, and the sooner administrations realise this, not only in this country, the better. It is time your players’ association, your administrators and your Board [WICB] sit down in a room and agree to disagree.”

Unionism, he said, is a fact of life and “it is time administrators accept that.”

“If you think unions are your problem,” he warned, “there are much bigger ones.”

Saying that Test cricket is under threat because of the wildly growing popularity and profitability of Twenty/20 cricket, he said players now ask why they should play Tests when they could earn four times the amount in T20 matches.

The challenge for the WICB is to accept that twenty/20 is here to stay but not to let Test cricket die. The best T20 players are not sloggers, he said, citing Sachin Tendulkar as an example. He said if the WICB was not careful, it would lose the Viv Richards and Brian Laras of the future.

“I don’t believe the team you have at the moment is the best team in the Caribbean,” he said. “Show me one cricketer in the last 10 years who is half as good as Viv Richards, half as good as Gary Sobers!”

He said the WICB must ask where it wants to go and what would be the cost.

“You have to have the infrastructure to produce the cricketers of tomorrow,” he said.

Saying he believed the recently launched High Performance Centre located at UWI’s Cave Hill Campus which is the coordinating hub of the WICB regional cricket academy will go beyond basic cricket and teach life skills as the South African academy does, he said this was necessary because “God-given skills are diminishing.” He felt this was an important developmental step, but as he closed off he asked rather testily, “How many of your West Indies cricketers are used in developmental programmes in the Caribbean?”



Asked by a questioner what he thought kept South African cricket strong despite international sanctions during apartheid, Mr Goolam Rajah said the players were always part of county cricket, so they always faced strong opposition. Noting that West Indian dominance coincided with the period when many players were also exposed to county cricket, he said the West Indies regional infrastructure was not of the standard it should be.

UWI CALENDAR of EVENTS

JULY – OCTOBER 2010

MANGO FESTIVAL

Today
10am-6pm
University Field Station, Mt Hope
Shuttle Service available

There is a lot to be had at this second edition of the day-long Trinidad and Tobago Mango Festival 2010. The day is full of activities meant to promote mango as a business enterprise, to teach people about the various features of mango life and to offer some tempting mango delicacies and fruit. It opens with a mango market, and then a presentation on how mangos are used around the world in various ceremonies. Just after lunch the formal part kicks in, and this includes a tea party. Admission: Adults \$10, Children over 12: \$5, Under 12: Free.

The UWI will provide a shuttle service throughout the day for people coming off the Eastern Main Road/Priority Bus Route. The shuttle will be available outside the North gate of the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex, and is free.

CARIBBEAN LINGUISTICS

Monday 9 to Friday 13 August, 2010
UWI Cave Hill, Barbados

The Society of Caribbean Linguistics, in conjunction with The UWI Faculty of Humanities and Education, will host the SCL 18th Biennial Conference, to be held at the Amaryllis Beach Resort in Barbados. Scholars, students, educators, writers, and the general public are encouraged to participate. Sessions include presentations, workshops, colloquia, poster sessions, and plenary addresses.

For further information, please call Dr. Jo-Anne S. Ferreira at 868-662-2002, Ext 2035 or 3029, or e-mail her at Jo-Anne.Ferreira@sta.uwi.edu.

NEGOTIATING THE AFRICAN PRESENCE

Tuesday 17 to Friday 20, August, 2010
UWI Mona, Jamaica

It has been 50 years since the "Report on The Rastafari Movement in Kingston, Jamaica" was first published by the then University College of the West Indies, and this year also marks the 80th anniversary of the Rastafari Movement itself. In recognition of these two anniversaries, and on the birthday of Pan-African champion, Marcus Mosiah Garvey, the Institute of Caribbean Studies will host the inaugural Rastafari Studies Conference: Negotiating the African Presence: Rastafari Livly and Scholarship.

For further information please e-mail Dr. Sonjah Stanley-Niaah at sonjahst@yahoo.com.

RELIGION IN THE CARIBBEAN

Thursday 16 to Saturday 18 September, 2010
UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad

There has been considerable published research on religion internationally but insufficient work has been conducted in the Caribbean and Latin America. This conference, Religion in the Caribbean: Addressing the Challenges of Development and Globalism, hosted by the Department of Behavioural Sciences, UWI, seeks to fill that gap by bringing together scholars who have been doing research in this area.

For further information, please visit the conference website at <http://sta.uwi.edu/conferences/10/religion/>, or contact Rachel D'Arceuil, Faculty of Social Sciences, UWI, at 663-4968, or via email at Rachel.DArceuil@sta.uwi.edu.

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.

REFLECTIONS, RELEVANCE AND CONTINUITY

Saturday 18 to Sunday 19 September, 2010
UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Black Power Movement in Trinidad and Tobago and this provides an opportunity to re-examine this period in our history and place it in a global context. The Department of History at The UWI, St. Augustine Campus, in collaboration with SALISES, CENLAC, local organizations and trade unions, will host this international academic conference, "Reflections, Relevance and Continuity."

For further information, please contact Jerome Teelucksingh, Department of History, UWI, St. Augustine, at jerome.teelucksingh@sta.uwi.edu

COMSOL MULTIPHYSICS WORKSHOP

Tuesday August 3, 2010 • 9am-5pm
Lecture Theatre 2, Faculty of Engineering
UWI, St. Augustine

The first half of this free workshop provides an overview of COMSOL Multiphysics Version 4: its capabilities, new abilities and functionality enhancements, and its new, more efficient, user interface. The second half of the workshop, which begins at 2pm, is a hands-on tutorial in COMSOL Multiphysics Version 4.0a. Both sessions are directed at both new and existing users. The speaker is Dr. Jiahe (Jan) Wang of Comsol, who specialises in numerical simulation of environmental fluid mechanics and inverse problem modeling. Please note that seating is limited.

For further information, please contact Randall Ali at the Engineering Dept, UWI, 662-2002, ext. 3604 or email at randallali@gmail.com.

AYURVEDA CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

Tuesday August 3, 2010

8.30 am
UWI, Faculty of Medical Sciences,
Amphitheatre A, St. Augustine

The High Commission of India, the Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Cooperation (MGICC) and The UWI hold an International Ayurveda Conference and Exhibition. The event, supported by the Department of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy), Government of India will be inaugurated by the Honourable Fazal Karim, Minister of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education for the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago. A panel discussion with experts on Ayurveda in the Caribbean will also be held as part of the event. All are invited to attend and benefit from the first ever such event in the region.

For further information, please call MGICC at (868) 645 3800, or email Dr Monica Davis, FMS, at em.davis@sta.uwi.edu