



UWI TODAY

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES · ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

SUNDAY 24TH MAY, 2009



Liselli Grunwald, harpist.

PHOTO: VALDEZ BROOKS

Days after the Fifth Summit of the Americas, and against a canvas of flaming red, burnt orange, earthy ochre and flamboyant yellows inspired by the First Nations, the earliest known inhabitants of the Americas, **Professor Rex Nettleford** received the Chancellor's Medal, amid drums, dance, steel and song in a ceremony hosted by UWI Chancellor Sir **George Alleyne**.

Honoured for an immeasurable contribution to cultural development in the Caribbean region, Professor Nettleford sat front and centre in the St Augustine Campus' newest facility, named **Daaga Auditorium**, smiling as **Pat Bishop's Lydian Singers**

enchanted with voice and Allan Balfour entranced with movement.

"If there is one person who completely embodies The University of the West Indies, that person is Rex," said **Professor Clement Sankat**, Pro Vice Chancellor and St Augustine Campus Principal, as he welcomed the guests at the memorable occasion.

Professor Nettleford's soft-spoken successor, **Professor E. Nigel Harris** shared personal reflections on his own interaction with the legacy of Nettleford, one of the region's leaders in the performing arts and an international cultural icon.

When his turn came to speak, after he received the

18-carat medallion, the Vice Chancellor Emeritus at UWI, Mona, Jamaica seemed pensive, full of thought, reflecting perhaps on a lifetime of substantial and enduring contribution to the development of the region's premier University, but he ended with his trademark flair.

"Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, friends and Colleagues, how could I not graciously accept this prestigious honour with the deepest appreciation, humility and gratitude which I owe this flagship Caribbean institution of growth and instrument of development?"

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3rd Biennial International Conference on Business, Banking & Finance

The Financial MELTDOWN

The current global economic crisis has begun to affect the Caribbean region as well. We have already seen a few alarming symptoms manifest in our financial circles. Production in the energy sector has been declining, there have been news of layoffs by several firms (especially in the energy, construction and service sectors), the CL Financial Group, among the largest of financial conglomerates in the region, encountered serious problems with its asset management and had to be rescued by a Government bailout, and retail sales have declined sharply, to name a few warning signs.

As a leader in tertiary education and research, The University of the West Indies (UWI) has a central role to play in responding to the crisis. We are hosting the Third Biennial Conference on Business, Banking and Finance from May 27-29, 2009 with the theme: Financial Services in Emerging Economies: Surviving the Global Economic Meltdown. Various departments: Caribbean Centre for Money and Finance, Sir Arthur Institute of Social and Economic Studies, Management Department and the Economics Department are staging the forum to facilitate those vital discussions.

This conference will focus on the opportunities and challenges arising from the current international financial order, its functioning and maladies as well as explore the concept of business

competitiveness and financial stability.

A wide range of speakers and participants will address the conference. The Honourable Prime Minister Patrick Manning will provide the initial impetus followed by panel discussions and paper



The Honourable
Prime Minister
Patrick Manning



Dr Kenny Anthony

presentations by an assembly of experts including Mr Marlon V. Williams, Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados, Dr Kenny Anthony, Former Prime Minister of St Lucia, Mr Eric-Vincent Guichard from GRAVITAS Capital and Mr Ron Allerby from the Bank of Canada

The University of the West Indies, along with its sponsors, CMMB/First Citizens, Scotiabank and RBTT, has attempted to ensure that we provide a comprehensive, innovative—perhaps even radical—approach to the issues identified for the Conference. This is critical if we are to deal with the issues that confront this country and region as we face the challenges of an economic downturn, our survival as small economies and our ability to ensure that our populations are provided with the business and financial services that will help ensure their prosperity.

It is imperative that the wider community benefits from the proceedings of this Conference. We encourage members of the public to actively participate in the event and share ideas on issues on regulatory framework, economic stimulus and how the civic society is and can be a vital part of the recovery process.

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EDITORIAL

SIBLING RIVALRY AT ITS FINEST

Not many students will remember the last time the UWI Games were held at this St Augustine Campus, because the biennial Games have been rotating among our three Campuses since 1979, so six years would have passed since they were last here.

Those of us who are old enough will recall that the Games first started as the Inter Campus Games in 1968 and were annual events, but within ten years they were restructured and reconfigured as biennial Games.

With sport now recognised as a substantial area of human development, and with sport industries being among those that flourished in recent times, it is much easier to make the case for investment in sport in the Caribbean.

As a University, we believe that by providing the world class sporting facilities and sport-related academic programmes that we are doing on our various Campuses, we are giving students and staff also, new opportunities to engage in recreational sports which contribute towards building healthy lifestyles. Additionally, students with special talents in sporting disciplines benefit from the exposure to competition and can go all the way to the top. In fact, we were quite pleased with performance of our Combined Campuses Cricket (CCC) Team which participated in the recent regional cricket tournament. We are striving to develop and deliver academic programmes in the sports related areas also, so as to build top flight leaders and managers who can take sports to new heights in the Caribbean.

All our campuses are committed to high academic quality, and we continue to stress the emphasis on excellence as we introduce our sport programmes. We want to see our students emerge as well-rounded individuals, and so our challenge is to balance this nexus between sport and scholarship, and we are going to build systems to effectively manage this component.

At the same time, we at the UWI carry the flag of regionalism proudly and work hard to engender camaraderie and common purpose among our staff and students. Athletes representing the campuses of Mona, Cave Hill, St. Augustine and the Open Campus have gathered in their hundreds for the games and are competing in that spirit of healthy competition and sibling rivalry. As the games approached, a number of students were asked how they would base their support for teams. Many on the St Augustine Campus come from the other West Indian islands, and it was warming to see that in most instances, students chose to support their friends no matter where they had come from, and that they also felt a special affinity to the Campus they called home, even if temporarily.

This is the spirit of togetherness that The UWI has tried to foster throughout its decades of existence, and as one of the only institutions that can still truly claim to be West Indian in its nature, we are proud that regional bonds continue to be formed and nurtured within our grounds, even within competitive parameters.

Let the Games continue and I urge staff, students and the community to lend their support.

CLEMENT K. SANKAT

Pro Vice Chancellor & Principal

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■ CAMPUS NEWS

Bridging the Gap between Research and Policy

The Sustainable Economic Development Unit (SEDU) of the Department of Economics, The University of the West Indies (UWI) recently hosted its 12th Annual Conference, with the support of the UNESCO Kingston Cluster Office for the Caribbean. In opening the Conference and welcoming regional presenters and participants, PVC Sankat underscored the need for the UWI to continue to play a leading role in research relevant to the sustainable development of the region and congratulated SEDU for having dedicated all its conferences to showcasing research.

The conference concluded that among the challenges to bridging the gap between policy and research were: (i) the lack of political will (ii) inability of politicians/policy makers to maintain an appropriate balance between immediate goals and sustainable long term plans (iii) financial constraints and improper funding arrangements (iv) bureaucratic processes and ad hoc policy, driven by external directives (v) an absence of reliable data and the euro-centric nature of research which is often not contextualized to small island developing states and (vi) competition for resources between ministries.

Recommended strategies for bridging those gaps included: greater information sharing; strengthening regional partnerships between sustainable development agencies; undertaking policy-relevant research; the creation of more opportunities for dialogue and communication between policy makers and researchers; implementing a more interactive model of stakeholder consultation and building and enhancing local capacity to conduct research.

Another highlight of the Conference was the launch of the SEDU publication, "The economics of an integrated (Watershed) approach to Environmental Management in SIDS: from ridge to reef." The book is co-authored by Professor Dennis Pantin (SEDU Coordinator), Dr Marlene Attzs, Mr Justin Ram and Mr Winston Rennie, and is a compilation of research undertaken by SEDU over its 13 years of existence. The book covers varied dimensions of sustainable development research: economic valuation and cost benefit analysis, policy instruments for internalising externalities, and socio-economic determinants of priority setting for environmental management in many Caribbean case studies.



PVC Sankat and SEDU Coordinator, Prof Pantin in discussions at the Conference



Regional public policy presenters (left to right): Aaron Moses (Grenada), Christopher Cox (St. Lucia), Navin Chandarpal (Guyana) and Colin Bullock (Jamaica)

■ NEW PROGRAMME



Agriculture and Rural Development

The Business Development Unit of The University of the West Indies (UWI) is now offering a course certificate, postgraduate diploma and Master of Science (MSc) in Agriculture and Rural Development by distance teaching. These programmes will be introduced under the Faculty of Science and Agriculture in September 2009.

They are designed for the advanced training of graduates and experienced professionals in Agricultural and Rural Development, and aim to provide advanced training in economics, planning, management, gender issues, technology and rural development. Participants will be kept abreast of current developments and innovations that affect the agricultural and rural sector. Graduates of the programmes will have a broadened skills base and an enhanced capacity to discern issues and problems in the agricultural sector from a developmental context.

Nationals of Trinidad and Tobago are eligible for support under the GATE programme. Online applications will open on April 30, and will continue until June 1, 2009. For details of application procedures and documentation, please visit the official website at <http://sta.uwi.edu/postgrad/apply.asp>.

■ **PROGRAMME ENTRY REQUIREMENTS** Applicants for the Course Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma should possess a first degree in Agriculture, or any other relevant discipline from an approved University. Previous education and experience may also be considered acceptable. Applicants for the Master's programme should possess a Bachelor's Degree of at least Lower Second Class Honours standing in Agriculture, Agronomy, Agricultural Economics, Biological Science, Management or any other related discipline from an approved University.

■ **FOR MORE INFORMATION**, please contact the UWI Business Development Unit at (868) 662 3719 or 662 2686 or 662 2002 Ext. 2686/3719.

RESURRECTING IMPLEMENTATION STUDIES

During the recent announcement of the downturn in the world economy, nearly all the conversations were directed to the economic aspects: the stock markets, interconnectivities, energy and OPEC and the role of governments. Academics and street pundits began with a discussion on neoliberal policies, and this time suggested that the challenges were not the fault of developing countries but had its origins within the more developed ones, such as the USA. They suggested that the problem had to do with the relaxation of regulations, something which had almost disappeared under the new paradigm, New Public Management. But the challenge was not only based on the absence of regulations, sometimes even when regulations exist or are improperly administered, the outcomes are not the expected ones. The more critical aspect then, what is sometimes seen as the missing link, is “implementation.”

In both private and public spheres it is sometimes taken for granted that if the rules, regulations and policies are articulated then the goals of the project will be achieved. However, it is evident that in both the private as well as the public sector, projects are often delayed for reasons including the unclear or ambiguous articulation of the project itself, labour issues, or sometimes the even more mundane, the tardy delivery of material and supplies.

This conference focused on the issues and challenges of “Implementation” in a number of sectors. The aim was to probe the case for the resurrection of implementation studies in the practice of Public Sector Management, to identify the problems that traditionally plagued the processes of implementation, to clarify their theoretical foundations and to propose some solutions for overcoming some the barriers and obstacles involved. Thirty persons represented different sectors and the challenges in implementation in these sectors were discussed over the two days. Speakers from a number of



*The Governance Unit of the Department of Behavioural Sciences hosted a conference on implementation in March. Coordinator of the Unit, **Dr Ann Marie Bissessar**, Senior Lecturer, UWI, St Augustine, facilitated the conference and filed this report.*

countries including Jamaica, Guyana, Barbados, Grenada and even the Camerouns, focused on the following areas: disability, tourism, leadership, poverty eradication, public sector challenges, education, health, decentralization and international relations.

Unfortunately, though, many offered an academic viewpoint of the challenges of implementation and the conference failed to attract public officers who were more in touch with the reality of the challenges. One major advantage of the conference, apart from the comparative experiences on which it touched, was its guest speaker, Professor Deborah Stone. Deborah Stone is a Research Professor of Government at Dartmouth College and a founding editor of *The American Prospect*. She is the author of three previous books, including *Policy Paradox: The Art of Political Decision-Making*, which has been translated into five languages and won the Aaron Wildavsky Award from the American Political Science Association for its enduring contribution to policy studies. It was therefore fitting that if the person whose book “implementation” is the ‘classic’ in the field could not have been at least in person with us for this conference (Professor Aaron Wildavsky unfortunately passed on some years ago), then someone who carries on his tradition could have been there. It was a profound experience for students to meet her.

By the end of 2009, papers from the various presenters as well as partners who were unable to be present will be compiled in an edited collection. Hopefully, when the book is published, governments both in the region and elsewhere would be guided by not only the challenges raised but the solutions offered to overcome these implementation challenges in the various sectors. The conference closed to a lovely cocktail which was sponsored by the Office of the Campus Principal, Prof Clement Sankat, and to the sound of steel pan, speakers from other countries were bade farewell.

ONLY GOVERNMENTS CAN MAKE RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS A REALITY

BY PROF CHANDRABHAN SHARMA

Although the Fifth Summit of the Americas (VSOA) has long gone, there is still a paucity of published information on the discussions on energy security. The joint Declaration of Port of Spain, which was signed by only Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister, Patrick Manning, speaks in Article 13 to the promotion of "diversified economic activity in the energy, transport ...and agricultural sectors." However, a Policy brief of the VSOA, distributed prior to the Summit, suggested that energy security would be one of the main pillars for discussions.

The first Summit, held in Miami in 1995, adopted a strategy for partnering for sustainable energy use. The second summit, held in Santiago, Chile in 1998, acknowledged that the development of energy links amongst the countries of the Americas, would contribute to sustainable development. The third Summit, held in Quebec City in 2001, declared a commitment to pursue renewable energy (RE) initiatives and promote energy integration and enhance regulatory frameworks. The fourth summit, held in Panama City in 2007, declared that there was a need for supporting the use of cleaner energy as well as RE.

As can be seen, the common thread of the Summits was to enhance energy security amongst the member states while simultaneously encouraging the development of a common policy framework for RE.

The major hindrance to this noble ideal is that the countries that make up this club of the Americas are at different stages of development, and hence priorities for the citizenry would be different. It is further complicated in that some countries are net exporters of energy whilst others, being net importers, are subjected to the vagaries of the energy futures market.

RE is seen as the method for reducing this dependence on imported energy and also a necessary requirement for the reduction of the carbon footprint of these countries, most of which are signatories to the Kyoto Protocol. The Caribbean is particularly susceptible to the effects of global warming as most of the population live close to the sea and hence would be the first to feel the effect of a rise in the sea level.

It is agreed however, that all attendees are interested in energy security. Energy security means different things to different countries and can be grouped under four headings:

- 1) Stability of fossil fuel prices
- 2) Long-term availability of energy resources
- 3) The impact of energy use on the environment and
- 4) Susceptibility of energy infrastructure to acts of sabotage and natural disasters.



"In Trinidad and Tobago for instance, 2020 means first world status in 2020. In the EU, 2020 means, at least 20% of electricity generation should come from renewable energy by the year 2020."

PROF CHANRABHAN SHARMA

For the English-speaking Caribbean archipelago, the option of utilising RE as a source for grid power is limited. Biofuels, solar and wind require large land masses for capturing the energy for commercial use. In Jamaica, because of the size of the island and the population distribution, one can find RE being applicable to remote, isolated villages. In Trinidad, where the electrification rate is above 95%, the application of RE in the current environment is a non-starter.

In all countries however, the enabling regulatory environment has to be established prior to the private sector becoming interested in exploiting the RE potential of these tropical islands. In countries where RE is now part of the generation mix (the sources from which you get your electricity, such as natural gas, coal, diesel, solar, wind, nuclear, etc.), it was financial incentives as well as the establishment of a government policy of a mandatory RE portfolio that provided the necessary fillip for the introduction of RE systems as part of that country's generation mix. In Trinidad and Tobago for instance, 2020 means first world status in 2020. In the EU, 2020 means, at least 20% of electricity generation should come from RE by the year 2020. Many states in the USA have more aggressive standards than this. Therefore, before RE can take root, the country must set a renewable portfolio standard and then provide the financial incentives to the generators to meet this standard.

In the interim, countries can control their energy appetite, without reducing their standard of living, by implementing policies on electricity demand response and the implementation of an efficient mass transport system. Demand response can be broken down into three areas: conservation, improvement in efficiency and load-shifting. In Trinidad and Tobago in particular, because of the low cost of electricity, demand response is difficult to implement and hence RE systems would find it impossible to financially survive under private ownership.

Only a Government policy can make RE systems a reality in Trinidad and Tobago. This policy can be developed under two objectives; the reduction of the greenhouse gas footprint as required by all signatories of the Kyoto Protocol and establishing an appropriate RE portfolio standard. This would then inform the planners in the development of the required regulatory framework so as to ensure that the necessary enabling environment is established to sustain the RE systems in its embryonic stage.

Prof Chandrabhan Sharma is a professor of electrical and computer engineering, Faculty of Engineering, St Augustine Campus, The University of the West Indies



"Hopefully in this debate, we can correct this document that is being debated so that we can sign it. But if those corrections aren't made (the issue of bio fuels), then our government, the government of Bolivia, will not sign this document. To implement bio fuel policies means that it is more important than human life. I think that we should go for human life rather than the scraps of the US. I don't want to be an accomplice of implementing these policies that are going to harm human lives so much."

Bolivian President Evo Morales

(from a translation during a press briefing featuring Bolivian President Evo Morales at the VSOA on April 18, 2009).

Mothers of Nature

BY NICOLE HOSEIN

Consciousness Raising was one of eleven groups chosen from a pool of both local and international applicants to host a workshop at the IV Peoples' Summit held at UWI SPEC on Friday 17 April, 2009. The workshop entitled *Understanding the Woman's Role in a Sustainable Environment: A practical skills workshop* was co-hosted with Akilah Jaramoji and the Fondes Amandes Community Re-forestation Project (FACRP). The panel of speakers consisted of Prof Jane Parpart, Dr Grace Sirju-Charran, Gillian Goddard and Akilah Jaramoji.

Prof Parpart, a guest lecturer at the Centre for Gender and Development Studies, opened with a discussion on Eco Feminism and its ideology. She defined Eco Feminism as a feminist approach to environmental ethics. Eco Feminists see the oppression of women and the domination of nature as interconnected. She cited examples of Eco Feminist movements across the globe, from India to Kenya, and critiqued them as she offered possible solutions to their problems.

Dr Sirju-Charran, the Acting Head of the Centre for Gender and Development Studies, discussed agriculture and water use. She emphasised the need to reinforce traditional ways of preventing pest infestation, such as crop rotation. She highlighted current problems with agriculture in Trinidad and Tobago and offered possible solutions. She remarked that water is used differently by both men and women and thus each would be affected differently. She stressed the need to educate people on how to recycle water, especially women doing domestic work.

Gillian Goddard is the former proprietor of a

local organic grocery named Sun Eaters. She shared her experiences as a single mother setting up her own business selling organic produce, while lacking the business knowledge needed for such a venture. Speaking about the challenges, she said they would be different for everyone and individuals would need to find ways to cope with them based on their specific circumstances.

Akilah Jaramoji, the Managing Director of Fondes Amandes Community Re-forestation Project (FACRP) in St Ann's, spoke at length about their activities, which include educating rural communities on forest fire prevention, encouraging the replanting of indigenous trees and fruits, and distributing seedlings to communities. The FACRP is also organising a Disaster Awareness Caravan which deals with issues of land degradation and encourages the use of organic fertilisers. Its main focus is women and children.

The workshop attracted just over 40 participants, both male and female, some of whom took part in a lively discussion after the presentations. Concluding that there was a need for greater environmental awareness in Trinidad and Tobago and throughout the Caribbean, the participants agreed that many people do not understand that they are active players in preserving the environment. They suggested implementing environmental programmes in schools that focused on preservation and conservation. Many attendees felt there was also need for more groups like the FACRP that would focus on community outreach with educational programmes on how to recycle, re-use and reduce.

Nicole Hosein of Consciousness Raising addresses the workshop.



This is what

The St Augustine Campus of The University of the West Indies, held by the Federation of Women's Organisations (FITUN), led by David Abdulah in and the Assembly of Caribbean People. It attracted David Abdulah discussed the ideas behind it with Vaneis

What was the intent of the IV Peoples' Summit?

Essentially, to bring social movements from throughout the hemisphere together. Since 1998, social movements have used the opportunity of heads of government meeting, because there is so much attention focused on the heads, to have an alternative event. There's a long tradition of social movements meeting simultaneously with official meetings. It gives the opportunity to interact, to share experiences to do current analyses of the situation: economic, social and political, depending on what the event is; and also to come together to put forward a common position which could then be communicated one way or the other to heads of government or institutions.

This particular Peoples' Summit was crucial because of the crises globally. We've focused a lot on the financial meltdown but that is just one dimension of what is really far more fundamental. It really is a crisis of the global capitalist system. Then there are the other crises: of environment, of energy, of food, of governance, and so on. We thought it would be a really important moment for social movements to discuss these, as we have been doing through the years, with the changing geo-political map of Latin America, with so many governments left of centre now being elected, and at the same time a new opening in the United States with Obama being elected, and not the very dogmatic ideological rigidity of a George Bush. All of those things combined to say that this IV Peoples' Summit was going to be important.

Several of the events took place at the St Augustine Campus of UWI. What value do you think it brought to The UWI and to the Summit?

There was a comment at the closing plenary that it was a pity that we didn't have more University students taking part in it. I think it was not great for UWI students because it was the week before exams.

(Laughing) In my day, it wouldn't have deterred us. Exams or no exams, we would have shown up. I know there were a lot of make-up lectures that week. There were some students, but not many. I think the University missed the



Left, David Rudder, and Brother Resistance join hands with David Abdulah (centre) at the cultural night hosted by the IV Peoples' Summit of the Americas.

we believe in

The West Indies (UWI) was the site of the IV Peoples' Independent Trade Unions and Non Governmental in partnership with the Hemispheric Social Alliance about 700 participants for its various activities. David Baksh. This is an excerpt of that conversation.



Members of the audience at the Workers' Forum, which kicked off the IV Peoples' Summit of the Americas held at The UWI in April. Few students attended. Photos: Aneel Karim

opportunity of interacting. On the other hand, we did have some students who worked as volunteers, and that was positive. Some of them I think got very excited by what they heard and the people they met. We are hoping that we can keep some of those young people active and get them into the social movements and develop their awareness and consciousness.

We also benefited from having a number of University professors and lecturers taking part actively. Prof Norman Girvan led a plenary, and Prof John Agard co-facilitated one and Prof Dennis Pantin facilitated another on energy sustainability. Dr Olabisi Kuboni facilitated a self-organised group on constitutional reform experiences in the Caribbean and Latin America, and Dr Wayne Kublalsingh facilitated one on resource protection, and there were others.

If you reflect on your time as a UWI student and the environment you inhabited then on the campus, what do you see as the difference today?

Social activism was much greater in my day (1972-1976). My first year I was treasurer of the Students' Guild and in my second year I was its president. I continued to be very active even after. Social activism was clearly much greater. Over the last seven to eight years, there has been some attempt to reinvigorate social activism and consciousness. I know that because I have interacted with a number of young people who are trying to change campus politics. For example, there was a period in the nineties, and the early part of the century when Guild elections were being fought purely on party electoral lines, UNC/PNM, which also translated into ethnic politics.

I got involved with some students, who were very unhappy about that type of thing, and they themselves had tried to contest and lost elections and they actually started a group called Students United Front which was a takeoff from the very group that we had on campus in the seventies. We started doing political education about the labour movement, of youth activism which goes back to the forties and fifties, about social movements and giving them a sense of history which they did not have. It was a complete awakening for them.

The social activism is still very small. It is a process. Certainly the campus of today is not the campus of 35 years ago in terms of social activism and awareness of social issues.



David Abdulah

What implications are there for the region arising from the cluster of summits?

As host country, Trinidad and Tobago, with Caricom's agreement, should have put forward a clear set of policy proposals to deal with the global crisis, or hemispheric issues, and so on. We should have come to the table and said this is what we believe in, this is what we are advocating, this is what we are demanding, then the summit could have made sense.

In that sense the labour movement failed, because we ought to have put forward our agenda to our governments before and agitated for that agenda beforehand and have people in our countries know that this is what we are doing.

Given the recessionary climate, what recommendations would you make to alleviate suffering?

There are some people who have argued for a social compact...interesting that nearly all of them, certainly the business groups and the politicians, are only calling for it now and they didn't think of calling for it in the time of boom. We believe those who are calling for it now really want to use the social compact as an instrument of getting trade unions to agree to moderate our positions in terms of job security, in terms of collective bargaining, and so on. They now realise that they are in trouble and they want a way out.

Before we come together to have a social compact, you have to have some kind of framework, an agreement in



Demanding Accountability in Public Spending: Feminist student group 'Consciousness Raising' makes a statement at the Rally held at the Sport and Physical Education Centre (SPEC) as part of the IV Peoples' Summit of the Americas held at The UWI in April. Photo: Amy Li Baksh



Several Caribbean and Latin American groups were part of the social movements attending the Workers' Forum of the IV Peoples' Summit of the Americas held at The UWI in April.

terms of what kind of society we wish to build. If we want to have a society dealing with equity and social justice, then employers' associations, business groups, cannot condone their members violating the Minimum Wage Law or the Maternity Act. It has to mean that the Government cannot use Chinese or non-Caricom labour on projects when local labour is being shelved. Until we don't change our position on those things, we can't come to the table and talk.

There are solutions, for example, to keep the employment level up, all the Chinese on those construction projects, if they are not there, that's 2,000 more jobs in construction...If Government expenditure is taking place on infrastructure projects, then those projects as a matter of principle have to be given to local business people to enable taxpayers' money to generate successive rounds of economic activity locally.

The government cannot engage in mega projects like Rapid Rail, we have to say no to those because they are all going to be foreign content.

We have to look at projects that impact on people's lives. So let us look at making sure that in every community there are sidewalks for schoolchildren to walk to school safely on. Making sure the schools are properly repaired, that the health centres and the hospitals are okay, that all the recreational facilities are in place and properly maintained.

Let's do those things, things that don't have huge demands on our foreign exchange and can continue to be sustained in terms of employment within the communities and improve the quality of life for people.

These kinds of projects are what we need to be doing, micro not macro.

RHETORIC AND REALITY SUMMING UP THE ‘BENEFITS’

BY DR MARLENE ATTZS

The Fifth Summit of the Americas (VSOA) hosted by the Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago had as its overarching theme “Securing Our Citizens’ Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability”. One can surmise that selecting this theme was meant to reflect key elements of sustainable development; that is, seeking to maximise economic benefits, ensuring purposeful and meaningful environmental management while seeking to address social priorities.

In that context, an analysis of the VSOA in terms of national and/or regional benefits might well focus on whether the “benefits” of the VSOA will contribute to sustainable development of Trinidad and Tobago and the wider Caribbean region.

There has been much talk about the benefits of the VSOA. Prime Minister Patrick Manning was recently quoted as saying that there “can be no doubt about the gains to our country and the region from this undertaking...” “Tourists arrivals will increase...and it will certainly be much easier to market our region as a single tourism destination.” The PM also spoke confidently of the benefits that could accrue to the business community of the Americas since they would be now “more aware than ever of the investment opportunities in Trinidad and Tobago ... and the flow of investment will certainly grow.”

Let’s first look at the economic benefits of the VSOA. What, if any, are the short, medium and long term economic benefits that may be identified? The first bit of tangible economic information is the cost of the VSOA—reportedly somewhere in the region of TT\$400m, but with the speculation that the final cost may actually be much higher. Aesthetically, the people of Trinidad and Tobago can enjoy the newly constructed Waterfront in Port of Spain, as well as the freshly painted walls and roads throughout various parts of the country.

In terms of anticipated economic benefit to the country, let’s begin by taking a cue from the Prime Minister on an increase in tourist arrivals. If such an increase in tourist arrivals does materialise, it will be quite welcomed by those Caribbean countries that are heavily dependent on tourism, such as Jamaica and Barbados and the smaller OECS countries. These have been bracing for, and already are facing, a decline in arrivals as many international tourists from North America and Europe (the main source of the region’s tourism market) are reprioritizing their holiday options: Should I splurge on a trip to the Caribbean or stay closer to home, just in case things get worse in the economy at home?

From the national perspective, 40% of our economic wealth (GDP) in 2008 was derived from petroleum. This suggests for us certainly, that any increase in tourist arrivals may not yield a significant national economic benefit given that we are not as heavily dependent on the tourism industry as some of our other Caribbean neighbours. Regarding the investment benefits, presumably many discussions were



“Regarding the investment benefits, presumably many discussions were held behind closed doors among the private sector members who participated in the VSOA. Only time will tell if those discussions will yield public (vs private) economic fruits.”

DR MARLENE ATTZS

held behind closed doors among the private sector members who participated in the VSOA. Only time will tell if those discussions will yield public (vs private) economic fruits.

The environment was featured in the theme of the VSOA (and it is referenced repeatedly in the Declaration of Port of Spain). However, it is not immediately clear what, if any, tangible decisions were taken at the VSOA that could redound to the benefit of countries such as ours, which rely heavily on the environment but which also face the ravages of the environment, sometimes on an annual basis.

The US President, Barack Obama, has signalled the intention of his new administration to deal with climate change as a clear and present danger to economic development, and to also intensify their initiatives in the area of renewable energy. The environment is central to our national and regional sustainable development—the environment feeds us and provides us with much of the region’s economic wealth via petroleum, agriculture and tourism. Fossil fuels (from petroleum, for example) are a main source of greenhouse gas emissions responsible for climate change. Developing countries, such as ours in the Caribbean, will also be hardest hit by the impacts of climate change and our capacity to adapt to these anticipated impacts is limited, at best.

From where I sit perhaps the greatest opportunity for a tangible benefit to our country and region from the VSOA is in the commitments made by the Canadian Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, who announced, among other things, Canada’s new Emerging Leaders in the Americas Programme (ELAP) which will “provide up to 1,600 scholarships for students and researchers” to develop their knowledge and skills for the benefit of Caribbean people. Not a short-term, finite investment but an investment in human capital and research with the potential to contribute to truly sustainable development.

I think Canada’s initiative could provide additional resources for institutions such as The University of the West Indies (UWI) to continue our research contributions to the regional quest for sustainable development.

Work on alternative energy strategies; on sustainable agriculture and sustainable tourism policies; on climate change adaptation and disaster risk management policies, and on how to survive the global economic crisis (without repeating the mistakes of the 1980s) would be included in my list of top ten research priorities.

Amid the mixed pre- and post- reactions to the VSOA comes the sobering message from T&T’s Central Bank that the country is about to face trying economic times. Not the kind of news one would think consistent with the much touted “benefits” of the VSOA. But I do recognise that the “benefits,” if there are to be any, may not materialise in the short or medium term.

Alas, in the short and medium term, we, the people of the Caribbean, are concerned with more mundane day to day, relevant issues of our sustainable development, including unemployment, inflation, access to quality health care, crime, flooding and our youth.

Based on what has been published as the Declaration of Port of Spain, it would appear, sadly, that the VSOA fell short of addressing and assuaging John and Jane public’s concerns, mine included, of any immediate solutions, “benefits” as it were, in these areas. But maybe if we can survive the hard times ahead, we might be able to say, like Dr Stalin, that “better days are comin... and dey comin and dey comin.”

Dr Marlene Attzs is a Lecturer, in the Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, at The University of the West Indies.



So steep has been the decline in tourist arrivals that some Caribbean locations have reported a drop of more than two thirds in visitor flows and hotel occupancies.”

Belizean Prime Minister Dean Barrow
at the Opening Ceremony of the
Fifth Summit of the Americas.

CRAWLING UNDER RACE'S SKIN

BY RHODA BHARATH

The abrupt exit made by the students was distracting. It appeared to be a rude protest against the lecture taking place upstairs at the LRC Lecture Auditorium. The lecturer was Dr Carlos Moore, Cuban-born ethnologist and political scientist. The topic was “Race and Culture in the Modern World.”

On a good day, surrounded by friends with your favourite drink at hand—on even such a good day—race can be a touchy issue. In a lecture theatre with students from different racial and ethnic groups, it can be an explosive topic. Moore, a former lecturer in the Institute of International Relations at The University of the West Indies (UWI), was on a dual purpose trip to Trinidad: to launch his memoir *Pichon* and give a public lecture on race and society.

He broke the ice by recounting his first memory of racial discrimination. As a child, a little white girl called him “pichon,” a word unknown to him, yet her tone conveyed the weight of its historic hatred. Later that day, his mother would make its meaning clear to him: a Spanish word meaning a nigger who eats dead flesh. Young Moore and other Caribbean folk like his family, who had migrated to Cuba for work, were nothing more than flesh-eating corbeaux.

Moore recalled how scarred he was by this and other slurs, and the intense racism that existed in a pre-Fidel Castro Cuba. It was this stratified society that led him to become a Marxist and an ardent supporter of *La Revolucion*.

“You couldn’t love Castro more than I did,” he said.

But the Revolution did not bring a change in the status quo, and Moore realised that although the government had changed, racism was still very much alive in a Cuba that purported to be both race-less and class-less. Moore protested against Castro’s government, was imprisoned and soon found himself in exile in Egypt. His term of exile would last 34 years, during which, he spent time in Africa, South-East Asia and the South Pacific. He now lives in Brasil; and said it is a result of



“You couldn’t love Castro more than I did.”

his nomadic nature that he speaks five languages fluently.

Within his first year in Egypt, Moore again encountered racism. Blithely greeting Egyptians he met on the street, he would only find out a year later—when he was more fluent in Arabic—that they too were tossing racial slurs at him and addressing him as a slave. This revelation set him to thinking about the history of race and he began to research an area that would become a life’s obsession.

Moore’s lecture challenged the way people tend to view and think about race. Many books have been written about race, he says, but few writers have probed the topic enough and they give the faulty impression that racism is a recent product of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. Moore’s subsequent research dates racism back thousands of years. He cited information that pointed to a time as early as 1700 BC. He sees racism as a “pre-existing order” that was perpetuated by Arabs, Greeks, Romans and Sumerians. He also took an extended look into the invasion of the Middle East and other parts of Asia by the Aryans and its importance to the development of a Eurocentric

notion of racial dominance.

His theories did not sit well with all members of the audience.

But his lecture and research didn’t rely only on historical data. Moore engaged the area of genetics to ground his argument. An obvious believer in evolution theory, Moore linked the beginnings of racism to the early human struggle for resources. Looking at the migration habits of early civilisations, he concluded that the formation of tribes stemmed from people sharing the same phenotype. They banded together, formed communities and shared their resources with each other. Tribes who differed in their phenotypic appearance would be viewed with suspicion. Resources were few during mankind’s hunter-gathering phase and tribes would try to lay claim to as much food as they could. Moore believes this struggle for one race to control the world’s resources continues even today. In the back of my mind, echoes of author, George Lipsitz, and former lecturer at UWI and African historian, Dr Fitzroy Baptiste came calling.

Moore believes that race is not an ideology as much as a historically created consciousness; and because of this, it is a permanent feature of our society. He went so far as to declare race a positive thing for those who use it, and negative only for those groups who are denied access to resources. According to him, this is why we need to challenge the issue and the way it is used.

From this train of thought he made the move to its contemporary uses and touched on the topic of the current President of the United States and what a Barack Obama presidency means for the world. His rise to power did not mean that racial prejudices no longer exist, but that they continue to be challenged.

Rhoda Bharath is a PhD research student in Cultural Studies.

Fresh Fish



Female harassed by two males

If you can imagine the implications of a 1994 study showing that female guppies “may experience up to one forced copulation attempt (a sneaky mating) from males every minute” and how it makes them miss out on feeding opportunities, you might understand why researchers delved even deeper into the sexual behaviour of guppies.

The latest study now reveals the extent to which sexual harassment from males can damage relationships between females. This study, carried out by the Universities of Exeter, Bangor and Bath, in collaboration with The University of the West Indies (UWI), was published in *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, in April 2009.

The research, led by the **Centre for Research in Animal Behaviour at the University of Exeter** and funded by the **Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)**, uncovers the effect of sexual harassment on the ability of female fish to form social bonds with each other.

Guppies, a popular aquarium fish, had been observed to display a very high level of sexual harassment from males towards females. The researchers found that male harassment not only breaks down female social structures but also affects females’ ability to recognise one another. The research provides an insight into the effect of male sexual harassment on female social networks and social recognition. According to researchers, the findings could have relevance to other species.

Lead author, **Dr Safi Darden** of the University of Exeter, explains the link, “Sexual harassment is a burden that females of many species ranging from insects to primates suffer and the results of our work suggest that this harassment may limit the opportunities for females to form social bonds across a range of species.”

The research team, which included **Prof Indar Ramnarine** of the Department of Life Sciences at UWI, worked with a population of wild guppies taken from the lower portion of the Turure River in Trinidad. They isolated the females and introduced males to change the sex ratio so they could identify the effect of males on female social behaviour. Monitoring the guppies kept in semi-natural

pools at the Department’s orchid enclosure, they tested the females’ ability to recognise their peers and form bonds with other members of the group. The study showed that, after experiencing a high level of sexual harassment, females were less able to recognise the other females in the group. They were also more likely to form bonds with new females, introduced from outside their network. “This is an extremely interesting result as it appears that females that experience sexual harassment actually prefer to avoid other females with whom they associate the negative experience,” said co-author **Dr Darren Croft** of the University of Exeter.

“The health and well-being of an individual is dependent, in part, on having strong social bonds with others and females that have weakened social bonds may be less likely to survive in the wild, said Dr Safi Darden. “This makes the effect of male harassment quite significant, but it is an area that has not previously been studied.”

The researchers do not know exactly why sexual harassment from males has such a marked effect on female social interaction. They speculate it is possible that the sheer amount of time spent by females dealing with unwanted male attention prevents them from forming relationships with other females. They believe females from groups with more males may have bonded with females from outside in order to try to establish themselves in a more favourable environment.



A male and female guppy

The study showed that, after experiencing a high level of sexual harassment, females were less able to recognise the other females in the group.

NEW MOU WITH BUCCOO REEF TRUST

He wants to see The University of the West Indies (UWI) increase its presence in Tobago, said St Augustine Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat, during the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding with Buccoo Reef Trust on May 8, 2009.

Recognising the past achievements of the partnership, including significant increases in collaborative research on the science and management of reef systems in Tobago, Prof Sankat said he believed it was now the ideal time to push the partnership to a higher level of interaction.

Dr Richard Langton, who signed on behalf of the Buccoo Reef Trust, said he was “extremely excited” about the range of collaborations being discussed and developed with UWI. These include opportunities for undergraduate and postgraduate teaching and research, field courses and outreach activities with the local community on aspects of science and sustainable use of Caribbean coral reefs and their resources.



St Augustine Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat (left), signed the MOU on behalf of The University of the West Indies, while Dr Richard Langton signed for the Buccoo Reef Trust.

On the list of priorities for the partners is the involvement of the Buccoo Reef Trust in the delivery of aspects of the new MSc in Science and Management of Tropical Biodiversity.

Professor Andrew Lawrence, Director of the new MSc programme said “a key component of the new MSc will be the opportunity of students to meet and learn from professionals working in the industry on aspects of the management and exploitation of terrestrial and marine tropical environments.” Dr Langton said that BRT hopes to offer some teaching and research projects to students registering for the new course.

With courses including environmental legislation, environmental impact assessment, data analysis and management and geoinformatics, UWI the new MSc can meet the needs of a wide range of professionals in the environmental management sector.

“We are hoping to advertise the new MSc in the very near future,” said Prof Lawrence, but if anyone wants more details about the course they can currently register their interest with Course Administrator, Mrs Velda Ferguson-Dewsbury at: aabio.edulink@sta.uwi.edu

■ CAMPUS NEWS

■ NEW PROGRAMME

WATER WORLDS

“If you train the men, you train the men; if you train the women, you train the village,” said Paul Hinds the regional coordinator of Global Water Partnership – Caribbean, at the end of the workshop on Gender, Water and Ecosystem Management held by the Women Gender Water Network (WGWN) at The University of the West Indies (UWI) earlier this month.

He was talking about the realisation that in order for many policies to really take root in communities, the word needs to be spread via the women, because they are the ones carrying the responsibility for much of community life.

The conference was chaired by Dr Fredericka Deare, who said they tried to cover a number of areas.

“The Network (WGWN) has been trying to increase the awareness of water and gender,” she said, and to that end they have been conducting training programmes.

“It is an ongoing process,” she said. “When you say gender, people say WOMEN!” But it doesn’t mean that people are not sensitive to the issues, they don’t always understand how gender differences can affect outcomes.

“So, to me always there is a need to move from research that neglects a gender component. We want gender to be a natural part of research,” she said.

WGWN’s focus is on training, trying to get people to see that there are differences in needs and approaches that are gender-based and they need to be factored in at planning stages.

One of the consultants attending, Jalaludin Khan, agrees and points to how planning processes miss this key element.

“We have a gender-dysfunctional pipeline,” he said. “At every critical point, gender is absent. We have to do a gender audit, and examine the critical points where gender is important and affects things,” he said. Niala Maharaj had earlier read a short story she’d written on commission from the Dutch government for the World Summit on Sustainable Development Prepcom III, which though based on an Indian village, was felt to reflect all the concerns of water and community life.

The WGWN, which falls under the Centre for Gender and Development Studies, emerged out of the Nariva Swamp Project—*The Nariva Swamp: a Gendered Case Study in Wetland Resource Management*—where water was a key variable in the communities life but we felt not adequately addressed in that project.

It was also felt that water in all its complexity was a good theme around which a range of interested scholars, researchers and practitioners, could collaborate from their different disciplinary standpoints. Gender Studies is by definition multi-disciplinary or even trans-disciplinary and the Centre (now the Institute) always sought to collaborate with colleagues in other disciplinary locations in collaborative research. The WGWN works closely with the Global Water Partnership-Caribbean, Caribbean Water-Net and WASA.



Health Management MBA

An MBA in Health Management is now available to students enrolling in the September 2009 International Master of Business Administration Programme (IMBA) at the Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business of The University of the West Indies (UWI).

The IMBA specialisation in Health Management seeks to broaden the knowledge base necessary for managing and achieving effectiveness within a modern health sector. The idea for the specialisation arose out of the growing urgency to address the educational and training needs of the health sector.

The specialisation is designed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the health sector’s limited resources and train the people needed to match the proposed expansion of the sector as outlined in the Vision 2020 National Development Plan. It includes courses in Health Care Management, Service Quality in Health Care, Human Resource Management in Health Services, Healthcare Accounting and Financial Management, Strategic Management, Health Economics and Health Management Information Systems.

Students must do at least five of these courses in order to be awarded the specialisation in Health Management. Graduates of the programme are expected to be equipped with the skills for institutional strengthening and support for a sector which continues to be subjected to significant outward migration.

The International MBA programme is accredited by the UK’s Association of MBAs. Apart from the Health Management Specialisation, students enrolled in the IMBA may choose to specialise in Human Resource Management, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, International Finance, Energy Business Management and International Marketing Management.

■ FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact the UWI Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business Communications Unit at 645-6700 Ext. 154.



Largest inflorescence in the world

Its majestic inflorescence is a poignant invocation of the meaning of life. The extraordinary Talipot Palm (*Corypha umbraculifera* L.) which bears the largest inflorescence in the plant kingdom, 6-8m long is monocarpic: it flowers only once in its lifetime when it is between 30 and 80 years old. The fruits take a year to mature, after which the plant dies.

We were fortunate to find two flowering Talipot Palms. The one at the top of the page, photographed by Aneel Karim, stands at the Evans Street boundary of the St Augustine campus of The University of the West Indies and the other, which seemed to be in fuller bloom (see cover shot) in San Juan was taken by Amy Li Baksh. They will soon be no more as the flowering indicates they are nearing their life’s end.

It is native to southern India and Sri Lanka. One of the largest palms in the world, it has reached heights up to 25m with stems up to 1.3m in diameter, leaves up to 5m in diameter and up to 130 leaflets.

It bears the largest inflorescence of any plant (that’s the complete flower head, including stems, stalks and bracts). It produces thousands of small, round, yellow-green fruit before dying.

CAMPUS NEWS

The Criminology Unit of The University of the West Indies (UWI) recently hosted a Criminology Conference entitled “*Developing a Caribbean Criminology*” to evaluate the contributions of researchers to a Caribbean Criminology. It was intended to set foundations for the development of a Caribbean criminological school of thought.

The keynote speakers were the immediate past Director for the Centre for Criminology and Criminal Justice, **Professor Ramesh Deosaran** and the first Commonwealth/UNESCO Regional Chair in Education (HIV Health Promotion), **Professor David Plummer**.

Many criminological, criminal justice, safety, and security issues were raised; though the main themes were:

- *The relationship between gender and crime*
- *Distrust between the public and the police*
- *The need to seriously address crimes against children*
- *Penal reform*
- *Guns, drugs and gang related activity and*
- *Uniform crime reporting*

■ GENDER AND CRIME

Many presentations connected the high level of street crimes to “machismo.” Prof Plummer defined machismo as the male’s desire to prove his manhood by violence. He recommended holistic education that emphasises that violence does not equate to manliness, and that education is not a female “thing,” as a likely solution.

■ PUBLIC AND POLICE

Ethnographic and survey research show a high level of distrust between the public and the police. Members of the public believe that the police’s response time is slow and their overall honesty questionable. Prof Deosaran said citizens fear retaliation when they report crimes. Recommendations included a democratic policing strategy, a system for citizen feedback, courteous police and community policing.

■ CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

Some contended that there is a relationship between being victimised as a child and being a perpetrator of crime as an adult. Others simply drew attention to the paucity of legislation to protect the rights of the child. All agreed that increased child protection was necessary and needs State and academic attention.

■ PENAL REFORM

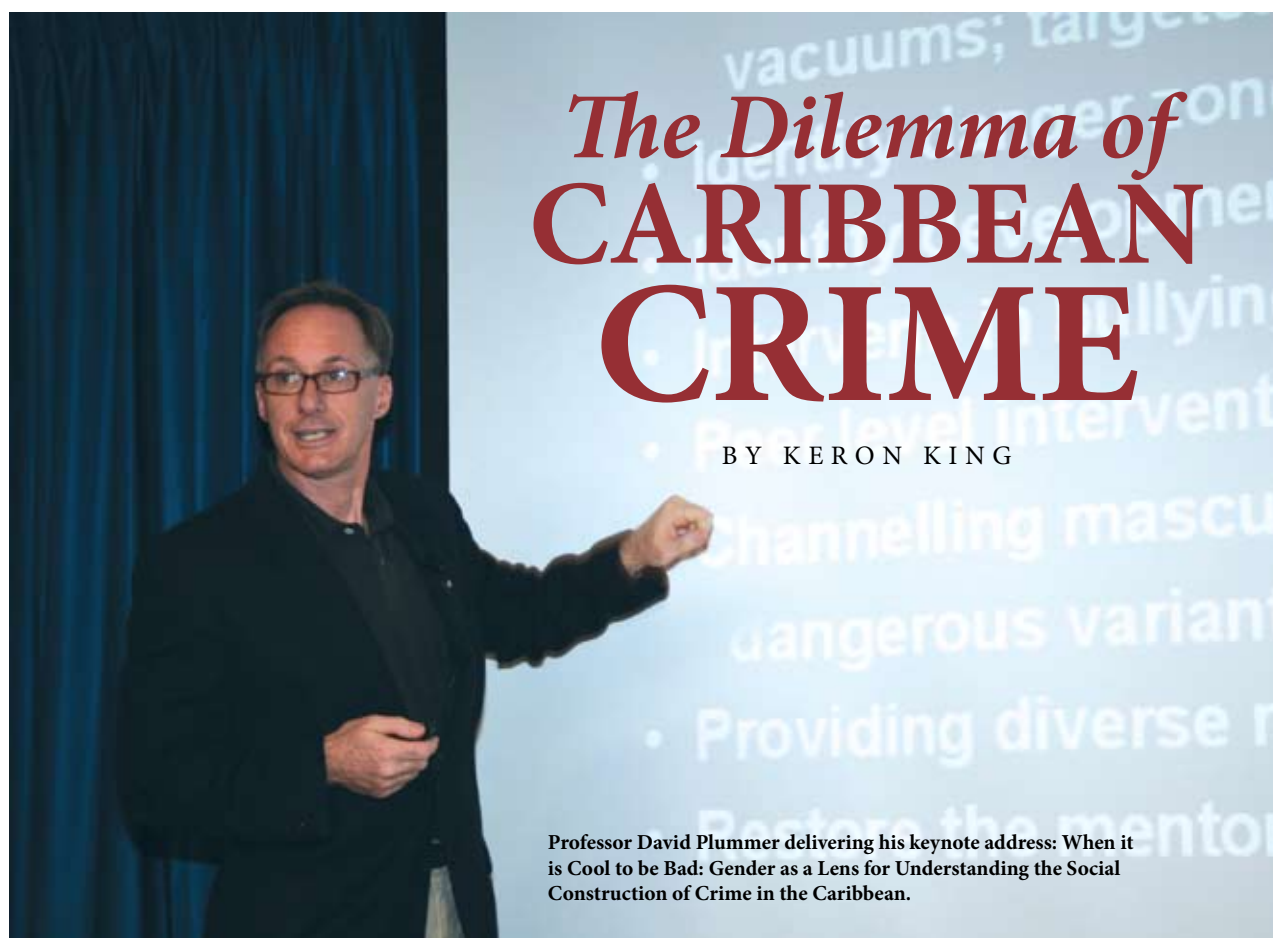
Presenters suggested overhauling the penal system, which was described as archaic and counterproductive and failing to rehabilitate prisoners while in fact producing criminals because of its environment.

A proposal to adopt a restorative justice model was recommended by **Dr Dianne Williams**, Assistant Professor at North Carolina A&T State University. Ironically, a Cabinet-appointed Task Force on Penal Reform and Transformation agreed to adopt a similar proposal in 2002, as the ideal concept to guide penal policy and practice in Trinidad and Tobago. To date it is unclear as to what level this has been implemented.

■ GUNS, DRUGS AND GANG-RELATED ACTIVITY

Tahereh Mirsadoo, an Asst Professor of Islamic Azad University, Iran, related the detrimental impact of drugs in her country. She provided statistics regarding the correlation between criminal activity and the increasing cost of keeping addicts incarcerated. She identified some measures used to alleviate these social ills, such as treatment centres, guidance counselling, youth employment and informative mass media advertisements.

Mr Darius Figueria, an Assistant Lecturer at UWI, and **Dr Thomas Bruneau**, Lecturer at the Civil-Military Relations, Naval Post Graduate School of Monterey, California, warned of a shift in Central American gang activity to the Caribbean, a trend that Mr Figueria believes we may be unable to control. Prof Plummer refuted this, suggesting that we could intervene by empowering the region’s young men to refrain from a life of what he termed “gangsterism.”



Professor David Plummer delivering his keynote address: *When it is Cool to be Bad: Gender as a Lens for Understanding the Social Construction of Crime in the Caribbean.*

Prof Onwubiko Agozino, Coordinator of the UWI Criminology Unit, briefly noted that youth in Caribbean societies are better behaved than those in the United States and the United Kingdom. He added though, that Caribbean youth seem to lack the positive community influences needed to keep them safe from illegal drug use, trafficking and criminal gang activity. He suggested decriminalising drugs and using education to help youth to say no to drugs as is the case with tobacco and alcohol.

■ UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING (UCR) MODEL

A plea was made by **Inspector McDonald Jacob** of the Crime and Problem Analysis Branch (CAPA) of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) for the adoption of a (UCR) model. He lamented that crime reporting was not unified throughout the region and proposed that this be changed. **Ms Kim Ramsay**, Senior Research Officer, at the National Task Force on Crime Prevention

in Barbados applauded the proposal and admitted that the Barbadian Police Force suffered from crime reporting inconsistencies.

Dr Nathan Pino, a Fulbright scholar based at UWI’s Criminology Unit, proposed a more democratic way of policing based on his interviews with members of Trinidad and Tobago’s society. He suggested a radical system where the police are in “subordination to civil authority” and the “people and their elected representatives dictate police plans and behaviours.”

One trend that permeated most presentations was the need for the State, civil society and The UWI to join hands in addressing crime, security and justice issues. The proceedings of the Conference will be released either in the form of a book or as a journal article.

Keron King is a Research Assistant at the Criminology Unit, UWI, St Augustine.



From left to right: Prof Onwubiko Agozino (Criminology Unit Coordinator and Deputy Dean Graduate Studies), Dr Nasser Mustapha (Head, Department of Behavioural Sciences), Professor Clement Sankat (PVC and UWI St Augustine Campus Principal) and Dr Hamid Ghany (Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences)

■ CAMPUS NEWS

“There is no doubt in my mind that the UWI presence over the past six decades has provided for the region tremendous intellectual depth, productive skills of talent and sophistication, with our rich North Atlantic neighbours being decided beneficiaries of that output.”



Prof Rex Nettleford

It was a glowing night of tribute to Professor Rex Nettleford as he received the Chancellor’s medal from The University of the West Indies Chancellor, Sir George Alleyne. As we feature some photographs taken by Valdez Brooks of the celebratory event, we would also like to share some excerpts from Prof Nettleford’s acceptance speech.

“The sixty-year collective investment in our human resources has provided dividends not always as bountiful as one would wish but which have remarkably been at hand to meet many of the challenges which building a nation and shaping a society demand.”

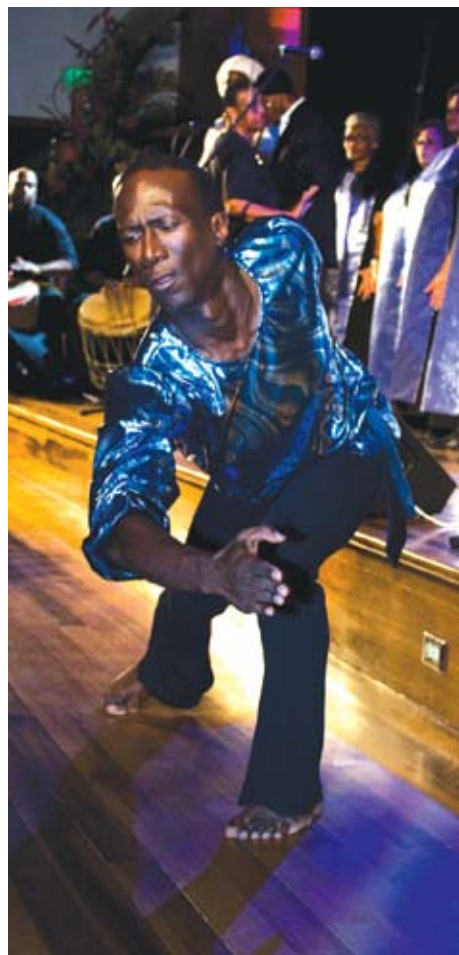


From left, Prof Clement Sankat, PVC and Campus Principal, UWI St. Augustine, Prof Rex Nettleford and Mr C. William Iton, Director of Administration/ University Registrar.

“It is people who decide on trade, aid, healthcare, social development and foreign relations, not summits.”



From left, Prof Margaret Rouse-Jones, Former UWI Librarian, and Mrs Karen Lequay, Campus Librarian, Open Campus.



Allan Balfour, dancer/choreographer.

“Paradox of paradoxes: while countries like Cuba and the Dominican Republic are anxious to join us, a number of us are aching to disengage.”

“But it is the education which the likes of us received at the University of the West Indies which has driven so many of us to innovative initiatives and to serious investigation of the complex nature of our cultural diversity and the dynamic cross-roads civilization it engenders.”



From left, Mrs Elizabeth Nivet-Mc Comie, Events Coordinator/Personal Assistant to the Campus Principal and Sir George Alleyne, Chancellor.

“For the real resources of our regional university lie in the people who teach, conduct research and reach out to the wider society which it was set up to serve.”



From left, Mrs A. Missouri Sherman-Peter, UWIAA Representative, Bahamas, Prof E. Nigel Harris, Vice Chancellor.

UWI CALENDAR of EVENTS

MAY – JUNE



UWI Games 2009

Wed 20th- Fri 29th May 2009
UWI SPEC

It's UWI Games time again! The St Augustine Campus is in the middle of hosting the 2009 UWI Games, biennial student games which are rotated among the three main UWI campuses. Over 400 athletes from the three main campuses at St Augustine, Mona (Jamaica) and Cave Hill (Barbados) are taking part in this year's Games, which include track and field, football, netball, cricket, volleyball, basketball, 6-a-side hockey, swimming, table tennis and lawn tennis, culminating in a festive Closing Ceremony on Thursday 28th May, 2009. The St Augustine Campus invites you to attend and root for your favourite teams in this event which only comes around to our doors every six years.

For further information, please contact UWI SPEC at (868) 662-2002 Ext. 3555.



Elearn 2009 Conference

Monday 8th -Wednesday 10th June 2009
The Hyatt, Port of Spain.

The Elearn 2009 Conference, to be held from June 8th to 11th, 2009, marks ten years since the Educational Technology conference held by The University of the West Indies, St Augustine Campus, in March 1999. Elearn 2009 will provide a forum for the UWI St Augustine Campus to showcase progress, understanding and creativity in using technologies in action in classrooms and libraries.

For more information on the Elearn 2009 Conference visit: <http://elearn2009.com> or call (868) 662-2002 Ext. 3985, 2611, 2214.

3rd Biennial International Conference on Business, Banking & Finance

Wednesday 27th-Friday 29th May 2009
UWI Learning Resource Centre (LRC)

The Third Biennial International Conference on Business, Banking and Finance will be held from Wednesday 27th to Friday 29th May, 2009. This conference is entitled "Financial Services in Emerging Economies: Surviving the Global Meltdown." This event is a forum for the exchange of ideas on critical business, banking and financial issues facing emerging economies in the context of a global financial and economic meltdown of unprecedented proportions. Presenters and panelists include Mr. David Dulal-Whiteway, Mr. Larry Howai, Senator Mariano Browne and Mr. Ron Allenby. The feature address at the Opening Ceremony on May 27, 2009 will be done by the Hon Prime Minister Mr. Patrick Manning

For further information and registration please call (868) 645-1174 Ext. 2549 or email bbf3@sta.uwi.edu

CTLPA 12th Annual Conference

Monday 22nd-Wednesday 25th June 2009
Grafton Beach Resort & Le Gran Courland,
Tobago.

The Caribbean Tertiary Level Personnel Association (CTLPA) will host its 12th annual conference from the 22nd to 25th June 2009. The conference will be held at the Grafton Beach Resort & Le Gran Courland, Tobago. The theme of this conference is "The Power to Imagine, The Courage to Act: New Directions in Caribbean Higher Education Development."

For more information please visit <http://www.ctlpa.org.jm/About.htm> or contact Mr. Chandar Gupta Supersad at 662-2002 Ext 2360

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.

First they must be Children: the Child and the Caribbean Imagination

Thursday 21st-Friday 22nd May 2009
The Learning Resource Centre (LRC), UWI

This conference seeks to facilitate interdisciplinary dialogue on social experiences and representational patterns related to the Caribbean child and childhood. It invites analysis of ideological perspectives and discursive practices in relation to children as social and imaginative subjects; the roles, symbolic codes and identities they have been assigned; their acts of resistance and transgression as cultural agents; and the multiple meanings of their presence in traditional and contemporary Caribbean mythologies of being and becoming. Presentations will cover a vast range of topics including childhood and the literary imaginary, Citizenship, migrancy and transnationality, being and belonging, the child in Caribbean folk and popular culture, Caribbean parenting, and ways of learning: the school, pedagogy and education.

For further information, please visit the website at: <http://sta.uwi.edu/conferences/09/first/> or call (868) 662-2002 Ext. 3567, 3028, 3025.

ACUNS (Academic Council on the United Nations System) Annual Meeting Small, Middle, and Emerging Powers in the UN System

June 4-6, 2009
Institute of International Relations
UWI, St. Augustine Campus

One of the most striking developments of the last 20 years is the redistribution of power in the International system. While the United States remains powerful in many domains, states with burgeoning economic and/or military might, sometimes combined with regional influence, are demanding our attention. The ACUNS Annual Meeting will address this, while giving special attention to the challenges of migration, security, regional prosperity and development, energy, and environmental sustainability in the Caribbean context. Registration for all from the Caribbean is TT\$100.

For further information please contact the Institute of International Relations UWI, St Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago (868) 662-2002 ext 2010/2011. To download the programme please visit <http://www.acuns.org/programs/acunsannua>