



UWI TODAY

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES • ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

SUNDAY 2ND NOVEMBER, 2014



A GIFT *of* CULTURE



A depiction of the national bird of Trinidad and Tobago, the Scarlet Ibis, painted in the traditional Chinese impressionistic style on display at The UWI, St. Augustine. The work was painted by **Zhao Yanbin**, a well-known Chinese artist who, along with equally renowned calligrapher, **Yang Chongguang**, was in Trinidad from September 23 for a two-week exhibition and workshop hosted by the **Confucius Institute**.

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Small Island States, Shared Purpose

*Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal,
Professor Clement Sankat on his journey
to Samoa for SIDS 2014*

In late August and early September, I had the privilege of travelling to Apia, Samoa to participate in events related to the Small Island Developing States (SIDS). While in Samoa, I attended both the Private Sector Partnership Forum on August 30 to 31 and the Third United Nations Conference on SIDS from September 1 to 4. I attended these events in my capacity as Vice Chairman of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), an international institution of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States and the European Union (EU).

Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of the Independent State of Samoa, chaired the forum on August 30, which brought together participants from government, business/industry, international organisations and others. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations was also in attendance. Forum participants engaged in discussion on seven key topics – oceans, natural resources, connectivity (ICTs and transport), sustainable agriculture, disaster risk reduction, renewable energy and sustainable tourism.

The CTA, under the leadership of Executive Director Michael Hailu, led the forum on sustainable agriculture, which focused on the role of the private sector in reinvigorating the agricultural industries of SIDS. As Principal of The UWI, St. Augustine, I spoke on the need to bring technology and entrepreneurship to bear on agricultural production, so as to make it more attractive, sustainable and profitable, especially for young entrepreneurs. I spoke of the development of an Agricultural Innovation Park at Orange Grove in Trinidad that can demonstrate the convergence of agriculture (particularly protected agriculture), food production and consumption, agri-tourism, research and innovation and private sector-led entrepreneurship.

At the SIDS conference, again chaired by the Prime Minister of Samoa and with the participation of several Caribbean prime ministers and ministers, the speeches of all 51 SIDS leaders focused on topics like sustainable tourism, climate change, sustainable energy, disaster risk reduction, oceans and seas, food and nutrition security, social development and many others. CARICOM citizens can certainly identify with many of these issues, but in the Pacific the isolation of islands and the threat of extinction due to rising sea levels and natural disasters are very stark.

In going forward, the leaders of SIDS and others present declared their continuing support for the enabling efforts of such states to meet the challenges identified and “to request the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN) to maintain a partnership platform focused on the SIDS and to regularly convene the inter-agency consultation group to report on the full implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoan Pathway...”

For those of us living in SIDS, complacency is not an answer. We should not wait another 12 years to restate some of the same issues and add new ones that will undoubtedly arise, but as countries we must develop the will to tackle many of the issues raised. The UWI, with its talented staff and students, has a major role to play in the development of creative solutions to our current challenges.

I could not write about my attendance at SIDS 2014 and not mention three developments that came out of the conference. Firstly, the launch of the online Masters’ Degree in “Sustainable Development of SIDS” – a proud moment for The UWI, as we partnered with six other universities to develop this timely academic programme. Those wanting more information on this relevant programme can contact Dr. David C. Smith at david.smith02@uwimona.edu.jm.

Secondly, I visited the National University of Samoa (NUS) and met with its President and Vice Chancellor. I was pleasantly surprised to be joined by two students from Trinidad and Tobago studying at the NUS as well as Samoan students who studied at The UWI. These exchanges were all facilitated by the CARPIMS EU Scholarship programme. For those seeking more information on CARPIMS, contact Sharan Singh at sharan.singh@sta.uwi.edu.

Thirdly, on my way back from Samoa and passing through Fiji, I met with the Vice Chancellor of the University of the South Pacific (USP), Professor Rajesh Chandra. USP, with whom we are collaborating on a few projects, is very much patterned after The UWI and is approved by 12 Pacific Island countries. It is only the second regional university in the world after The UWI. Meeting with him and seeing the progress of USP, I could not help but feel that in the far off Pacific Islands, The UWI is spreading its wings.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Innovation is Our Responsibility



This past October, The University of the West Indies (UWI) St. Augustine Campus held its second UWI-NGC Research Awards Ceremony, entitled “Celebrating Excellence in Research”. This event recognised the outstanding research conducted by our faculty members, departments and graduate students; a vital exercise for the university, one which we look forward to hosting every two years.

In order for The UWI to make the greatest possible contribution to the development of our region and the world, we must intensify our efforts in the areas of research, exploration and scientific inquiry. The Caribbean is young, and it is our responsibility to build upon the foundation of knowledge laid by those who came before. We must leverage our youthful dynamism and unique regional identity to bring forth our innovative capacity, thereby powering development and claiming a place for ourselves on the global stage based on our creativity, ingenuity and ability to find new solutions for the world’s challenges.

This October, The UWI also had the privilege of hosting Secretary General José Miguel Insulza of the Organisation of American States (OAS), as part of our Distinguished Lecture Series. In his presentation, the Secretary General pointed to education, science and technology as keys to greater productivity and economic progress for the region. We also hosted His Excellency, Michel Martelly, President of the Republic of Haiti, who spoke about his nation’s education policy and the critical role of education in their rebuilding efforts.

For education to truly engender sustainable development, it cannot be static. It has to grow and learn, just as it has to teach. We have to be committed to discovering new information, creating new processes and systems, inventing new technologies and refining those that are in current use. This is why we are pleased to highlight the participation of Dr. Judith Gobin of the Department of Life Sciences in a deep-sea exploratory mission in the waters to the east of Trinidad and Tobago. This mission has provided valuable insight into the thriving communities that exist on the sea floor 6,000 feet below the surface.

In closing, on behalf of The UWI, I would like to congratulate all of our Research Awards winners and encourage them not only to continue their work, but to see their results translated into practical tools for the benefit of society. I salute you for your accomplishments and remain committed to working for greater recognition and support for the research efforts of all our students and staff.

CLEMENT K. SANKAT
Pro Vice-Chancellor & Principal

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■ OUR REGION

Education is Key to REBUILDING HAITI

Michel Martelly, President of the Republic of Haiti, was recently in **Trinidad and Tobago for the 2014 VIII Americas Competitiveness Forum**. While here he paid a special visit to The University of the West Indies (UWI) St. Augustine Campus. In a small but well-attended gathering at the Main Salon of the Campus Principal's Office, President Martelly outlined his vision for rebuilding and improving Haiti's education system and discussed the importance of education for the overall rehabilitation of the society, which has been devastated by political and economic turmoil and the destructive effects of the 2010 earthquake. *Here is an excerpt of President Martelly's address:*



Ladies and Gentlemen

I am extremely honoured to be among you this afternoon. Here I am at this University of regional fame that has trained so many leaders of our sub region to tell you about my vision of education which, as you know, is a factor of human development and necessary for the progress of our country.

As soon as I was sworn in on May of 2011, education became one of the priorities of my administration. During the past three years, with the political will, the vision and the dynamism of my governmental team, Haiti has resolutely launched universal schooling. Parents whose children benefit from the universal schooling programme, free and compulsory, no longer have to pay school fees for their children. The Haitian Government assumes the cost through its public treasury.

The educational policy which I have launched meets the pressing need to endow all of Haiti's children with capital required for their growth and their full social and cultural integration. They will become full-fledged citizens and will be easily capable of taking their responsibilities as citizens. By providing schooling for all children with the financial support of the National Education Fund which I have created, my administration seeks to repair wrongs and promote social justice.

Universal schooling is a major asset made available to the population to increase its freedom of action and, through its objectives, is a mechanism that enables the State to play its role of supporting the people whose lack of education is part of the weakening of public powers and pushes to adhere to republican values. Universal schooling also helps the State to affirm its authority by training the population to express a modern and real democratic discourse.

By allowing children so far excluded from the educational system, to acquire basic skills and receive a serious education, they will become better integrated adults in the chain of production of goods and services.

Educated citizens are better integrated on the job market



The Haitian President with Deputy Principal of The UWI, St. Augustine Campus, Professor Rhoda Reddock.

PHOTOS: ANEEL KARIM

and better able to negotiate their employment contracts. They are also better socially integrated. So, providing universal schooling is making sure these children, when they become adults, have an opening on the future, better working conditions, higher salaries, better contracts, and altogether, better living conditions. Educated citizens are more productive and more apt to take part in economic and social activities.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am convinced that the progress of countries must necessarily involve the implementation of a school system capable of training the citizens they need for



President Martelly speaks with two Haitian students attending The UWI.

their economic and social development. During the past few years, my government has deployed efforts to achieve this. New public schools have been constructed or repaired and today, the net rate of schooling is of approximately 88%. Given that 5% of the country's GDP is devoted to education on a yearly basis, Haiti's wish is to catch up with the region's countries, in view of the delays it has accumulated on the issue of education.

Our educational system has not been the subject of such major legislative reform for the past 54 years and my wish was to implement this reform for the sustainability of the public policies that I have undertaken for the sector.

My administration has developed three draft laws to drive higher education by reviewing our strategies on the issue that date back 54 years offering our youth the opportunity to complete high level studies on the home front. Other than public institutions, I firmly believe that the State has a moral and strategic obligation to support private institutions of higher education, because, by financing such institutions the State is in fact financing the training of its citizens. Increasing the availability of higher education is a must to contain the flow of Haitian students forced to travel abroad for their college education.

With the reform of higher education, private institutions and non-profit research centres may receive financial support from the State according to their needs and their level of academic excellence. The establishment of the National Agency for Higher Education and Scientific Research will enable the State to coordinate its efforts and means to modernise higher education.

Ladies and gentlemen, education is our priority, we have mobilised the means necessary and we are happy to report that the results are becoming obvious. Education is a public right and our governments have the obligation to increase their quality for the well-being of our people.

Thank you for your attention.

Can Ethics be Taught?

UWI introduces new Co-Curricular Course on promoting Happiness

BY PROFESSOR SURENDRA ARJOON

The UWI will be introducing a new co-curricular course – *Ethics and Integrity: Building Moral Competencies* – scheduled to begin in Semester 2, 2015. The latest research findings have shown that traditional methods in delivering programmes and courses in ethics have proven to be essentially ineffective in infusing ethics in the culture. The problem is that such training only reaches the “head” (cognitive) but not the heart (affective).

When asked what is the most admirable trait or moral competency they would like to see in people, most people identify “integrity” as the leading characteristic. Integrity is easy to recognise but difficult to define. Persons of integrity are consistently honest and trustworthy, maintain privacy and confidentiality, perform high quality work regardless of pay incentives, follow through on commitments, decline to participate in gossip or spreading rumors, give credit where it is due, and so on.

Recently, there has been a growing field in Positive Organisational Scholarship which advocates a philosophy of promoting what is good or positive (for example, mental well-being) rather than focusing on what is harmful or negative (for example, mental illness). In a positive sense, integrity can

be defined as a state of being complete or whole, in short, a state of fulfilment or *happiness* resulting in improved quality of life and performance.

In a recent Harvard Business School Research Paper (2014) entitled *Putting Integrity into Finance: A Purely Positive Approach*, Werner Erhard and Michael Jensen argue that the almost universal assignment of false causes of the actions that result in damaging effects actually obscures the real source of those actions, which is *out-of-integrity* behaviour attributed to a *veil of invisibility* that hides the actual source of this behavior: a moral disorder of self-deception or delusion.

This co-curricular course addresses this “veil of invisibility” in promoting integrity by developing moral competencies (ethical principles and moral virtues). When we fail to abide and be guided by ethical principles and moral virtues, the quality of performance goes down and the cost of doing business goes up. A commitment to doing what is ethically right (that is, the very definition of personal and professional integrity) demands continuous reflection in building moral competencies. The course prepares you for your journey in life by helping you recognise that nature and experience provide the “raw material” to “complete or perfect yourself”. *We are discussing no small matter, but how we ought*

to live (Socrates in *Plato’s Republic*).

While we recognise that we are imperfect beings capable of doing the most horrendous or atrocious of human acts when placed in situations that can encourage out-of-integrity behaviour, the course provides a “psychological mirror” that encourages self-reflection in gaining knowledge of our moral strengths (and how we can build on them) and recognising our moral weaknesses (in other words, growth in humility) which are necessary for human maturity and personality development.

According to the Greek philosopher, Socrates, who advanced the first view on personal integrity (*to thy own-self be true*): “The greatest way to live with honour in this world is to be what we pretend to be.” *Ethics and Integrity: Co-curricular or Core-curricular?* The time is always right to do what is right (Martin Luther King, Jr).

The co-curricular course on Ethics and Integrity will be facilitated by Surendra Arjoon, PhD, Professor of Business and Professional Ethics, Department of Management Studies. Professor Arjoon is one of the leading international scholars in Business and Professional Ethics and is currently serving as Editor on “Work, Virtue and Happiness” for the Handbook of Virtue Ethics in Business and Management, Springer.

VICTORY! CI Dragon Boat Racers Beat the Odds

“It was the best feeling in the world,” says Andre Earle, captain of the Confucius Institute (CI) at The UWI St. Augustine’s Dragon Boat racing team. Andre and his teammates have good reason to celebrate after their first place finish in B division of the Ambassador’s Cup.

The race was part of the Chinese Arrival Dragon Boat Festival held in mid-October in Chagville, Chaguaramas to commemorate the history and culture of Trinbagonians of Chinese descent. The UWI team defeated all competition in their division, quite an achievement considering they had only begun practising as a team two days before the race.

“The team (made up of UWI students and staff)



really only started training about five weeks prior to the regatta. Two days before the race we actually met and put together the ten-person squad for the race,” Andre said. “We had five sessions. The people unfamiliar with dragon boat racing learned how to row and the people who were familiar learned to row together.”

Yet amazingly they were able not only to win their race but to do so by two boat lengths, one of the longest recorded at the regatta. Andre, a second-year student at the Faculty of Medicine and a seasoned dragon racer, credits the attitude of the entire team (20 people in total including reserves).

“Everybody came with the right mindset,” he says. “We were all open to working together. We wanted to work together. We wanted to be a team.”

FOUNDERS DAY

"THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF
THE WEST INDIAN PEOPLE, INHERITORS
OF A TRADITION OF GREATNESS,
WILL CREATE A GREAT UNIVERSITY."

– Excerpt from 'The University of the West Indies: A Caribbean response to the challenge of change' by Sir Philip Sherlock & the Hon. Rex Nettleford



UWI
ST. AUGUSTINE
CAMPUS

On Sunday October 12, 2014, The UWI, St. Augustine, celebrates its **54th Founders Day** - the day in 1960 that foretold the official establishment of our Campus two years later.

The establishment of the St. Augustine Campus of The UWI two years prior to Independence was an important step toward achieving the vision of an educated and productive citizenry who would take the country forward on a path to economic growth and prosperity.

The Campus first emerged as the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture (ICTA) - internationally renowned for high quality research conducted by top tropical agriculture scientists. Today, we are the region's premier institute for higher education and research in the fields of Engineering, Food and Agriculture, Humanities and Education, Law, Medical Sciences, Science and Technology and Social Sciences. To date, St. Augustine can proudly boast that as the University's largest campus, it has produced over 60,000 graduates who are leaders of society in every sphere and field.

On this auspicious day, we recall our humble beginnings as we forge ahead along a path of continuous transformation, expansion and development.

IN ALL ITS SAMAAAN GLORY: An aerial shot of the ICTA,
now The UWI St. Augustine Campus' Main Administration Building

THE REGION



Prepare for WINTER

OAS Secretary General celebrates the region's season of plenty, warns of challenges to come

OAS Secretary General celebrates the region's season of plenty, warns of challenges to come

Ten years of growth, economic stability and democratic governance was how José Miguel Insulza, Secretary General of the Organisation of American States (OAS), described the fortunes of the Caribbean and Latin America. Speaking at the Teaching and Learning Complex of The UWI St. Augustine Campus, the OAS Secretary General focused on both region's remarkable progress and the numerous and critical challenges it faces today and into the future.

"Latin America and the Caribbean must go back to the many, many successes that we had in the past decade," Secretary General Insulza said before a university audience on October 7 in the complex's Lecture Theatre E, "but at the same time recognise we are faced with many challenges in a time in which the world economy will not be as favourable to us as it was in the past decade."

The OAS head was speaking at The UWI as part of the university's Distinguished Lecture Series. Apart from Secretary General Insulza, Foreign Affairs Minister Winston Dookeran, The UWI Pro Vice Chancellor and Campus Principal Clement K. Sankat and Director of the Institute of International Relations Professor Andy Knight, spoke as well.

"In the past decade, I would put that decade from 2003-2012, our countries achieved a combination of high growth, macroeconomic stability, poverty reduction, even some improvement on income distribution. And democracy became the normal form of government all over the Americas," the Secretary General said.

He pointed to the effects of "unexpected and incredible economic growth" which was more than that of the two previous decades combined. At the beginning of the 21st century, 43.2% of the region's people lived below the poverty line, Insulza described. Today that figure has been whittled down to 28.8% with around 70 million people crossing over the poverty line.

Alongside these economic and social strides were political stability and democratic governance, Insulza added:

"It is around 25 years that the last dictatorships ended in Latin America and around 20 years that the civil wars ended. The result is well-known. We should not lose sight of that. When we came to Trinidad some years ago for the Summit of the Americas, every elected leader sitting at that table had been elected democratically. These have been two impressive decades of democracy."

CHALLENGING CONDITIONS

Despite all this progress however, the Secretary General spent the second portion of his lecture highlighting several challenges to the Caribbean and Latin America's well-being across the economic, social and political landscapes. Challenges, he says, which make the region's democratic systems vulnerable.

Insulza pointed to a slowdown in the region's average economic performance. Regional economies' growth figure fell from 6.1% in 2010 to 2.75% in 2013, with a projected figure of under 2% for 2014.

"The economies that are slowing down have slowed down faster and the economies that are supposed to grow, have grown less than they should have," he said. "I should say that the Caribbean, with very few exceptions, has experienced relatively low growth; the result of the same competitiveness problems that are largely shared by many countries in the hemisphere."

Insulza said one of the core economic productivity and competitiveness issues was the growth of the middle class through people moving out of poverty and the increased expectations of these people for greater equity in their working and living conditions.

"There was a time unfortunately when some governments felt the best way to increase competitiveness was to reduce wages and cut down on staff. Now we know that's not possible. Most people would not stand for that. Therefore the issue here is education, science and technology. Latin America and the Caribbean still invest one fifth of what OECD countries do in science and technology," he said.

The Secretary General pinpointed three areas that could hinder or damage democratic systems in the Americas:

Inequality – "Despite the decline in poverty, we are still the most unequal region in the world.... It is impossible to grow and have a democratic society in a region in which the degree of inequality is as high as ours. A lack of social mobility, lack of opportunity, are incompatible with democratic rule."

Violence – "Some of our countries are some of the most violent in the world. This is a problem for democracy.... We have segments in our society (the poorer parts) that are governed by different rules."

Lack of consensus on moving society forward – "Many of our countries do not have a general consensus in the political area on to move forward. Where do we want to go? What is our national view? What role is our country going to play in our region first and then in the world?"

Secretary General Insulza also spoke of the need for political campaign finance reform, which he said, was necessary to protect regional democracies from the perverting influence of wealthy campaign donors. He also stressed the need – more important than ever – for economic unity:

"Our markets are our main opportunity. It is no longer necessary but absolutely imperative that we undertake serious regional integration. We have to create powerful internal markets to help us withstand external economic pressures."

Despite the challenges however, Secretary General Insulza voiced optimism for the region's ability to face the challenging environment:

"We have much better possibilities. We have stronger economies. We have stronger democracies. We have an improved condition of our people."

MAGNA CARTA in the Modern Caribbean



Professor Sir Robert Worcester, Chairman of the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Committee, makes a point at a Distinguished Lecture on October 18, 2014 at the Learning Resource Centre of the St. Augustine Campus. Sir Robert was in Trinidad to launch a project titled "The Impact and Influence of Magna Carta on the Commonwealth Caribbean" which is being led by Dr. Hamid Ghany, Senior Lecturer in Political Science and Coordinator of the Constitutional Affairs and Parliamentary Studies Unit (CAPSU) of the Faculty of Social Sciences. The project is funded from a grant by the Anniversary Committee, which is seeking to promote the understanding of Magna Carta in the Commonwealth Caribbean.



UWI-NGC RESEARCH AWARDS CEREMONY 2014

EXEMPLARS OF EXCELLENCE



“To achieve impact in research, we must build critical mass.”

This was the statement by Professor Clement K. Sankat, Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal of The UWI St. Augustine Campus. Speaking at the UWI-NGC (National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Ltd.) Research Awards Ceremony, Professor Sankat celebrated the achievements of the university’s top researchers and called for encompassing and dedicated support for research-driven development.

Before an audience made up of participants in academics, industry and government on October 1, 2014 at the Learning Resource Centre Auditorium, the Campus Principal congratulated the awardees, vocalised The UWI’s commitment to supporting research, and voiced the need for greater local, regional and international participation in the university’s research efforts.

“I encourage you in the public and private sectors, and the international community to engage us more,



Team leader, Professor Surujpal Teelucksingh receives the Campus Award for Most Outstanding Regional Research Project from NGC Director, Mr. Mulchan Lewis.

to challenge us to develop new products, propose new processes and systems for your industries and companies and to work with you to gather and analyse data to formulate new policies,” he said. “With increased partnerships and resources, we can achieve so much more!”

Entitled “Celebrating Excellence in Research,” the 2014 Research Awards included remarks from Mr. Jamal Mohammed, advisor to Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training, Senator Fazal Karim; Mr. Mulchan Lewis, Director of NGC; Professor Wayne Hunte, Pro Vice Chancellor – Research, The UWI; and Professor Sankat, who gave the closing remarks.

“To all our awardees, I extend heartfelt congratulations,” said Professor Sankat. “You are exemplars of excellence at The UWI.”

Speaking on behalf of NGC, Mr. Lewis described the company’s commitment to academic-industry partnerships and development through research and innovation:

“The enterprise of research plays a pivotal role in progress, and is especially vital to the modernisation of our industry,” he said. “It is therefore imperative that we, as an industry leader, encourage this enterprise and reward the achievements and breakthroughs of its intellectual vanguard.”

With the support of companies like NGC, governments, international agencies and a university determined to create an environment where research can flourish, the 2014 Research Awards Ceremony awardees have made their own contributions to The UWI’s 60-year legacy of regional intellectual inquiry.



Principal Sankat presents the Campus Award to Most Outstanding International Research Project team leader, Professor Carlisle Pemberton.



Pro Vice Chancellor for Research, Professor Wayne Hunte, congratulates Most Impacting Research Project team leaders Professor Rhoda Reddock (centre) and Dr. Sandra Reid.

UWI-NGC RESEARCH AWARDS RECIPIENTS

■ Faculty Awards Most Outstanding Researcher

Dr. Michelle Mycoo
Department of Geomatics Engineering
and Land Management, Faculty of Engineering

Dr. Michelle Mycoo's award-winning research focuses on natural hazard risk reduction, climate change adaptation and water resources management and governance.

Dr. Jerome DeLisle
School of Education,
Faculty of Humanities and Education

For the last three years, Dr. De Lisle's work included (among others) evaluating the Ministry of Education's Continuous Assessment Programme and identifying high and low performing primary schools.

Professor Shivananda Nayak
Department of Pre-Clinical Sciences,
Faculty of Medical Sciences

Professor Shivananda Nayak is an award-winning Professor of Biochemistry who has done extensive research in the area of type-II diabetes.

Professor Dave Chadee
Department of Life Sciences,
Faculty of Science and Agriculture

Professor Dave Chadee serves as Professor of Environmental Health. This second-time recipient of the Most Outstanding Researcher Award has done extensive research on Dengue and Chikungunya epidemiology and control.

Professor Patricia Mohammed
Institute for Gender and Development Studies,
Faculty of Social Sciences

Professor Patricia Mohammed is a leading regional expert in gender and development studies. Over the last three years her most significant research has been in national gender policy making, implementation and intervention.

Most Productive Research Department

**Department of Mechanical and
Manufacturing Engineering,
Faculty of Engineering**

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: Professor Edwin Ekwue
The Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering is a second-time recipient of the Most Productive Research Department award. The Department specialises in a wide range of research areas including renewable energy, asset management and quality engineering.

**Department of Life Sciences,
Faculty of Science and Agriculture**

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: Professor John Agard
This Department's research specialisations include ecophysiology, aquaculture, and plant taxonomy and physiology. This is the second consecutive time the Department has received the award.

**Department of Economics,
Faculty of Social Sciences**

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: Mr. Martin Franklin
The Department of Economics covers a wide range of research specialisations including mathematical optimisation, microfinance and climate change.

■ Graduate Student and Research Mentor Awards Most Outstanding Graduate Researchers 2012

Dr. David Anthony Adeyanju – PhD in Mechanical
Engineering, Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing
Engineering, Faculty of Engineering

Dr. Adeyanju focused his dissertation, entitled "Thermal Performance of a Simultaneous Charging and Discharging Packed Bed Energy Storage System," on creating a system to provide an uninterrupted supply of energy during fluctuations in the availability of solar energy.

Dr. Meena Rambocas - PhD in Business Administration,
Department of Management Studies, Faculty of Social
Sciences

Dr. Rambocas investigated the role customers' thoughts and feelings played in their preference in retail banks. Her dissertation is titled "Modeling Service Brand Equity through Cognition and Emotions: An Examination of Aspects Driving Customers' Knowledge."

Most Outstanding Graduate Researchers 2013

Dr. Richard Bachoo - PhD in Mechanical Engineering,
Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering,
Faculty of Engineering

Dr. Richard Bachoo's doctoral research, entitled "The High Frequency Vibration of Fibre Reinforced Composites," focused on predicting the high frequency vibration of anisotropic materials.

Dr. Henry Hugh Bailey - PhD in Economics, Department of
Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences

Dr. Henry Bailey's research, titled, "A Framework for the Prioritisation of Health Programmes for Trinidad and Tobago," examined means of optimising resource allocation decisions among health treatments and programmes.

Awards for Outstanding Research Mentorship

Dr. Krishpersad Manohar
Department of Mechanical and
Manufacturing Engineering, Faculty of Engineering

Dr. Krishpersad Manohar was mentor to Outstanding Graduate Researcher (Sciences) Dr. Anthony Adeyanju.

Dr. Manohar believes that Dr. Adeyanju's research has opened new opportunities for an application that was generally viewed as impossible.

Mr. Errol Simms
Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences

Professor Emeritus VH Manek Kirpalani
Chairman, Centre for International Business Education
and Research

Mr. Errol Simms, together with Visiting Scholar, Professor Emeritus VH Manek Kirpalani, served as the supervisor for Dr. Meena Rambocas. Mr. Simms felt the study not only had theoretical importance, but also had practical significance to the financial community.

Dr. Jacqueline Bridge
Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering,
Faculty of Engineering

Dr. Jacqueline Bridge served as supervisor for Dr. Richard Bachoo.

Dr. Althea LaFoucade
Health Economics Unit,
Faculty of Social Sciences

As the mentor of Dr. Henry Bailey, Dr. LaFoucade kept him reminded of the economic dimensions of his ideas.

■ Principal's Special Award

**"The Oral Health of Pre-school Children in Trinidad"
Project**

TEAM LEADER: Dr. Rahul Naidu
School of Dentistry,
Faculty of Medical Sciences

The first of its kind in Trinidad and Tobago, this research project examined the oral health of pre-schoolers in central Trinidad. The multidisciplinary team consisted of researchers from Trinidad and Tobago and Ireland.

■ Campus Awards Most Impacting Research Project

**"Breaking the Silence: A Multisectoral Approach to
Preventing and Responding to Child Sexual Abuse and
Incest in T&T" Project**

TEAM LEADERS:
Prof. Rhoda Reddock
Institute for Gender and Development Studies,
Faculty of Social Sciences

Dr. Sandra Reid
Department of Clinical Medical Sciences,
Faculty of Medical Sciences

This year's Most Impacting Research Project, titled "Breaking the Silence: A Multisectoral Approach to Preventing and Responding to Child Sexual Abuse and Incest in Trinidad and Tobago," aimed to deepen the understanding of child sexual assault and incest, and its implications for risky sexual behaviour and HIV.

Most Outstanding Regional Research Project

**"The Caribbean Regional Non-Communicable Diseases
Surveillance System Project" Project**

TEAM LEADER: Prof. Surujpal Teelucksingh
Department of Clinical Medical Sciences,
Faculty of Medical Sciences

This year's Most Outstanding Regional Research Project sought to develop a Caribbean Regional Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) Surveillance System that would improve the collection and analysis of data.

Most Outstanding International Research Project

**"Strengthening the Caribbean Scientific Community
in Natural Resources Management and Developing
Integrated Watershed Management Plans" Project**

TEAM LEADER: Prof. Carlisle Pemberton - Department of
Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Food and
Agriculture

The Most Outstanding International Research Project sought to bolster the regional scientific community in natural resource management and developing watershed management plans. It drew participants from Europe, Haiti and Trinidad and Tobago.

■ HUMAN RIGHTS

Under the Hoodie

Jasmine Rand – Trayvon Martin family’s dynamo attorney

BY JOEL HENRY

No incident better defines the condition of modern race relations in the United States of America than the killing of Trayvon Martin and its subsequent handling by the justice system. The 2008 election of Barack Obama to the US Presidency had allegedly heralded a new “post-racial age”; and while the accomplishment was amazing and there certainly has been change in the country’s racial dynamic, observers could argue quite convincingly that the shift had not been so profound. Four years later, in February 2012, the notion of a post-racial America died on a sidewalk in Sanford, Florida alongside 17-year-old Martin. Since then, Jordan Davis, Eric Gardner, Michael Brown and others have utterly dispelled that notion.

But despite the jarring reality that these incidents force us to face, there are still people willing to work and confront the system to try and bring society closer to that dream; not just of a place where race is not a factor but one in which true justice protects the interests of all people, no matter their differences. One of the ironies of the death of Trayvon Martin is that it brought about the emergence of such a person, a truly fierce and effective advocate for human and civil rights – Jasmine Rand.

“It’s not just race,” Ms. Rand explained, sitting with me in the dining room of The UWI Inn. “Sometimes it’s class, gender, religion. It is about the manner in which you are able to hold your government accountable for its actions.”

Followers of the Trayvon Martin case would recognise Ms. Rand as one of the attorneys for the Martin family. She regularly discussed the case on behalf of the family on networks like CNN, MSNBC and Fox News. On the day of the verdict for George Zimmerman, the man who shot Martin, she appeared on CNN wearing a hoodie. She would also create the “I am Trayvon Martin” campaign.

“I was relatively young,” she recalled her experience. “I had only been out of law school for two years when the case first started. It was incredible.”

Ms. Rand was in Trinidad and Tobago for a panel discussion entitled “Trinidad and Tobago’s International Obligations regarding Race Relations, Gun Violence and Human Rights – Assessing the Trayvon Martin Case,” hosted by the Faculty of Law on October 21, 2014.

Young and attractive in an immaculate business suit, at first impression she doesn’t seem like the type to make a career as an advocate for social justice, travelling around the world campaigning for things like the rights of Rastafarians in Jamaica, voting rights for ex-convicts and against human trafficking. But within a few minutes of interacting with her it is easy to sense both her plainspoken devotion to the many causes she has taken up and her iron determination to succeed.

How big is her ambition? Ms. Rand’s visit was part of her “I Am the Change World Tour”, a quest essentially to encourage people to fight against “oppression and mistreatment” in their countries.

“I am not committed to any particular human rights cause,” she said, because her commitment is to all.

Already her work has taken her to Colombia, Jamaica and Morocco, where she is consulting with the Supreme Court Justices to implement human rights throughout their national judiciary.

Her resume is expansive, professor and lecturer at several universities, including the prestigious Harvard Law School (as guest lecturer). She is a member of the National Bar Association of the US, where she holds the position of National Chair of the Human Trafficking Task Force and Deputy Chief of Staff to the President.

When asked about the source of her driven nature she points to her grandparents:

“They didn’t have a lot but they sacrificed everything they had to give me an opportunity to go to school and become a lawyer. That’s why I don’t take education for granted. Through their actions I was given an understanding of Christ. He sacrificed what he had for others. That is what I believe people should do and it is what I do. I give what I have to others.”

Apart from Ms. Rand, the Faculty of Law event included two other panellists – Mr. Khafra Kambon, President of the Trinidad and Tobago Reparations and Professor Rose-Marie Belle Antoine, Dean of the Law Faculty and a powerful advocacy attorney in her own right. Ms. Rand spoke on the Trayvon Martin case and the political situation in Trinidad and Tobago, focusing specifically on the divisions created through race and religion.

“When I go somewhere I want to see how the people live,” she said. “I love going to places and learning about the culture.”

But what of the case that started it all? Although the Martin family won a civil suit, Zimmerman received a not guilty verdict and is a free man today. How does a champion for social justice cope with what is quite often an unjust world?

“Getting the not guilty verdict left me numb. It’s really the love of the people that got me out of bed after that,” she said.

“You have to stand up for what’s right, win or lose. I have to humble myself and work for God’s earthly purpose. There’s a piece of me that probably gives up hope every day. Sometimes I feel inadequate. Sometimes I feel the world can’t change. But it’s not about me. At the end of the day, God is love and I have to believe light conquers darkness.”



Professor Rose-Marie Belle Antoine, Jasmine Rand (centre) and Khafra Kambon at the Faculty of Law panel discussion.

OUR CAMPUS

The world is a very different place at 6,000 feet under the sea. Cold, lightless and with crushing pressure, one could easily assume that few creatures could survive at such a depth. But in certain places, not only can creatures survive the abyss; they have formed thriving undersea communities of exotic mussels, tube worms, prehistoric fish, crabs, shrimp and other species that are unearthly as they are beautiful. These oases of life in the deep dark void are known as “cold seeps”, and thanks to an international team of explorers, including two Trinidadians and one faculty member from The UWI, one such seep has been discovered in the waters to the east of Trinidad and Tobago.

“It’s called a siphonophore,” Dr. Judith Gobin, Lecturer in Zoology at The UWI’s Department of Life Sciences in the Faculty of Science and Technology tells me. We are watching a short video clip of a sea creature that the crew of the Exploration Vessel *E/V Nautilus* captured on their expedition to the Southern Caribbean.

The creature is unreal, a column of seemingly both gas and solid with two long elegant feathers protruding from it. Up close the feathers aren’t feathers at all, more like structures made of transparent flower petals moving independently of each other. Strangest of all, the siphonophore is a “colony” animal, made up of many individual organisms living together as one slow drifting creature.

“It was an amazing experience,” Dr. Gobin says, perhaps seeing the wonder in my eyes.

For one week, Dr. Gobin and fellow Trinidadian, deep-sea biologist D. Diva Amon, joined the crew of the *Nautilus*. The *Nautilus* carries out research and exploration of the sea floor on expeditions all over the world, using advanced technology, 24-hour live streaming and inviting scientists, geologists and other researchers to partake in or even suggest missions. The ship is part of the Ocean Exploration Trust, which was founded in 2008 by Dr. Robert Ballard, who led the team that discovered the wreck of the *Titanic* in 1985.

“It is an incredible operation and it is so well done, so precise,” Dr. Gobin says. From October 2, 2014, she served as a member of the *Nautilus*’s science team, working and forming friendships with crewmembers of various ages, races and genders from around the world.

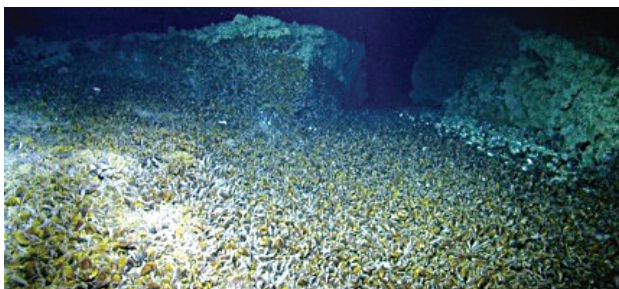
“We all had to work two four hour shifts up in the Van (the ships command centre where the video is viewed and decisions are made as to what images should be captured). Every shift there was eight or nine of us in the Van looking at six video screens. That number included two scientists, videographers and the remotely operated vehicle (ROV) pilots (the *Nautilus* team comprises 28 people while the ship’s crew is about 13-14),” she describes. “I was really impressed by the amount of women that were on the crew doing everything the men did. Some of the ROV operators were women.”

For Dr. Gobin, the ROVs, because of their sophisticated technology and the intricacy of their operations, were particularly fascinating.

“When you watch them pilot the *ROV Hercules* it is extraordinary. It has arms, it has cameras, it has thrusters that allow it to move in every direction. The arms can pick up samples and store them in containers. And this is a multi-million dollar piece of equipment, so the pilots cannot make mistakes with it,” she says.

LIFE IN THE DEEP

Dr. Gobin joined the team in Grenada, where they were continuing work they had begun last year exploring Kick’em Jenny, the Caribbean Sea’s most active deep-sea volcano. The UWI lecturer had been a member of that 2013 team as well, which she hoped would be able to explore Trinidad and Tobago’s undersea terrain at that time. However,



An overview of one of the cold seep sites found off Trinidad and Tobago.

Secret Life on the Sea Floor

Dr. Judith Gobin takes part in landmark expedition to T&T’s cold seep



Dr. Judith Gobin (left) and Dr. Diva Amon (right) in front of ROV Hercules



Dr. Diva Amon (left) and Dr. Judith Gobin (right) measuring some of the *Bathymodiolus* mussels sampled from the cold seeps

circumstances prevented it from happening and were it not for the frantic efforts on Dr. Gobin’s part and support from several Government ministries it would not have happened this year either. The area, about 17 nautical miles east of Tobago, is oil and gas exploration territory, and is primarily the domain of the multinational energy companies. It took a major effort to get the necessary permissions for the expedition in the short timeframe.

“We knew there were seeps but there isn’t much documentation,” Dr. Gobin explains. “We know the oil companies have some information on it as well but we do not have access to that. That’s why this was such a breakthrough, it was the first time we have underwater video being taken of a cold seep in our waters. It was exciting for me because it was all about Trinidad and Tobago. It was about exploration and understanding what we have.”

And what did they find? In the words of Dr. Gobin, an amazing “array of life”.

Cold seeps are formed by seismic activity, the shifting of the earth’s plates on the sea floor. Through that activity, substances like methane and hydrogen sulfide seep through fissures into the water, creating “pools”. Bacteria metabolises these substances, in other words they use it as a source of fuel to survive. The term for this is “chemosynthesis” – obtaining

energy from chemicals. This is different from “photosynthesis” obtaining energy from light, which is the basis of life as we know it, but which is impossible in the lightless environment of the deep sea.

These bacteria form the base of the cold seep food chain, either as bacterial “mats” that other species can feed from directly, or through symbiotic relationships with species like mussels. At the Trinidad cold seep the *Nautilus* crew found a massive community of mussels and tubeworms.

“We found the largest mussels ever recorded last year at Kick’em Jenny (the species *Bathymodiolus*),” Dr. Gobin said. “This year the scientists were saying that here in Trinidad, it was the largest community of mussels that they had ever seen.”

The cold seep food chain can include snails, crabs, shrimp, certain species of deep-sea fish and octopus. This is all remarkable because these creatures are living in a lightless environment in temperatures as low as 4 degrees Celsius and 120 atmospheres of pressure (120 times the pressure we are accustomed to).

“These deep-sea organisms have to be adapted to the pressure, the lack of oxygen, light and food. Many of these animals are blind,” Dr. Gobin said.

So what’s next for Dr. Gobin after this enormous find?

“For a coastal person (Dr. Gobin specialises in marine biology) this experience made me very interested in the deep sea. I will definitely do more deep-sea work. My trip last year (to Kick’em Jenny) was the highlight of my career and this year was outstanding because it was in Trinidad and Tobago.”

Looking at the siphonophore, gliding along in that hidden world so far beneath the waves, who wouldn’t want to know more?



Chemosynthetic *Bathymodiolus* mussels with *Alvinocaris* shrimp and amphipods.

■ OUR PEOPLE

THE PUBLIC INTELLECTUAL

Professor Funso Aiyejina on retirement, writing and his university

“It’s time to say goodbye. It’s time to say goodbye,” the children sang, mimicking the clapping of the teachers and guardians leading them in song. It was “Teacher Appreciation Day,” and The UWI’s Family Development and Children’s Research Centre (FDCRC) had two special visitors. Seated in front of a performance troupe of energised four year olds was the new Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education, Dr. Heather Cateau and her predecessor, Professor Funso Aiyejina. And though the children’s song was meant as a farewell to their guests, it carried another meaning for Professor Aiyejina, who after six years as Dean and well over two decades as a member of the Humanities Faculty, is retiring this year. Award-winning short fiction writer, poet, playwright, educator and intellectual, the professor has arrived at the retirement age of 65. He looks almost identical to when he taught me creative writing some 20 years ago. Still as vital, still driven by his deep love of the humanities and his confidence in their importance to society, he spoke with *UWI Today*.

UT: Professor Aiyejina, what’s the next step for you?

FA: I’m going to return to my creative writing. I will still do some teaching for the Department (of Literary, Cultural and Communications Studies) such as the Creative Writing programme which I started in 2004 and I want to see continue. I’m back on post-retirement contract to keep that going. That and my own writing is what I will be doing.

UT: So we can look forward to a new anthology?

FA: Hopefully soon.

UT: What do you think Dr. Cateau will bring to the position of Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education?

FA: Dr. Cateau has been part of the management team in the faculty since I became Dean and she has worked very closely with me. She knows the ins and outs of the faculty. She is a very dedicated worker, very focused and she shares the vision that all of us have at the faculty. So I am positive that she is going to take the faculty forward to greater heights. I have total confidence in her leadership.

UT: And what is that vision of the faculty?

FA: We want to remain central to the intellectual, philosophical and cultural development of the community. As the Faculty of Humanities and Education, we see ourselves as the ethical centre of the society. We believe we should lead the way in making the community better able to assess itself, to understand the details of its identity they need to cultivate in order to develop as a multicultural society. When you look at all the various disciplines within the faculty and their role in society you realise that while we may not be seen as a “dollar and cents” faculty like engineering and medicine and so on, without us the society would be empty. We would have all the material but we would be lacking the ethical and intellectual understanding of what is of vital importance to the society.

That is just one area in which I am particularly happy with the kind of synergy between our faculty and the Faculty of Engineering for example. The dean of that faculty, Professor Brian Copeland is very aware that the best engineers are those who are culturally grounded. We are always talking about how we can collaborate. I don’t know how many people know that in the development of the G-pan and the PHI (innovative, electric versions of the steelpan developed by Professor Copeland) he had the help of the Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA). That synergy is very important. The more the society recognises that we should not have a dichotomy between the hard sciences and the humanities, the better we will be for it.

UT: You spoke about the overall vision for the faculty, but I’m sure you as dean brought your own stamp to that vision.

FA: You’ll have to ask other people that (laughter). Everything I touched on before is in line with my outlook for the faculty – which is in essence the centrality of the humanities to the development of society. When this country celebrated its 50th anniversary of independence, one of the things the History Department did was to



take all the discussions to the various communities instead of keeping them on the campus. We were all over the country having seminars – Tobago, San Fernando, Caroni, Port of Spain. I always believe personally that any intellectual who wants to be effective has to be a public intellectual. Not a closet intellectual, not an ivory tower intellectual. And I have practised that in my involvement with education all my life.

I started the Campus Literature Week, which has grown from strength to strength over the years. I started the (Master of Fine Arts in) Creative Writing programme. I am very involved with the Cropper Foundation’s workshop for emerging writers. I am part of the team that started the Bocas Lit Fest. That is my way of taking the university out there and making the community feel the impact of what we do. It’s not just a question of coming here and teaching students on campus. It is also about asking what do we as a university have that we can take out there to the community. In all these initiatives you will see a similar collaboration between the university and the larger world. My colleagues, such as Dr. Merle Hodge, who has worked with me on the Cropper Foundation since 2000, understand the power of that collaboration. If you want me to typecast my vision, it has always been that the university must always be relevant to the community it serves, what I call the “enabling community”. The community out there enables us to be



Professor Aiyejina receives a farewell gift from a student on behalf of The UWI FDCRC. PHOTOS: ANEEL KARIM

who we are and we must always be relevant to them. It doesn’t mean that we will always do exactly what they want us to do. We are in a community of ideas and we have to work together to ensure that the ideas we go forward with are good ideas.

UT: Are there things you would have liked to have done during your tenure that you were not able to do?

FA: Oh yes. My greatest regret, my greatest sadness that I have in leaving the deanship is the fact that the Department of Creative and Festival Arts does not have a suitable home. It is something that we have tried over and over to get done. I wouldn’t put it down as a failure it is just something I could not get done because of the cost and the financial situation on campus at this moment. It is the saddest thing I can think of that up to now we have not been able despite all the efforts of the faculty and the university that we have not found an appropriate home for the department. I would like to add however that we have not stopped. We are continuing and the new dean is going to fight to get it done.

UT: Retirement must be bittersweet for you. You have been at The UWI for the last two decades.

FA: I believe in process. The process is clear: I’m 65 and it is time to retire. So I was ready for retirement at 65. Anything other than that would be defeating the process. And retirement is not going to stop me from doing any of the things I do anyway. I did exactly the same things I did at the university that I did before I got to the university. I have always been in the arts. I was always about seeing how best to help other people. It doesn’t mean now that I am retired that I can’t be instrumental in the development of the arts. Not at all. The Cropper Foundation is outside of my university commitment, Bocas is outside of my university commitment and I will continue with them. As a matter of fact, it means that I now have more time to devote to these things and more time to devote to my own creative writing. I haven’t written any significant work for awhile now. My last collection of poems would have been published in 2006 or so. It is time for me to go back and do my own writing. Also, one thing that I am happy for with my retirement is thank God I have no more meetings to go to (laughter). We have too many meetings.

UT: Professor Aiyejina, is there anything you would like to add?

FA: Yes. I believe in The UWI. I believe UWI is a great institution. I think that anybody in a leadership position at UWI must always keep that at the forefront of their mind – this is a great institution that people have sacrificed to build and we have to make our own sacrifices to ensure that the future inherits something that is greater than it is now. I tell people all the time that the only constituency I have is The University of the West Indies. I do anything to make sure that that constituency remains relevant and self-respecting, that we do not prostitute ourselves for anything, because as an intellectual institution we must set the bar for others to follow. The moment we forget that, we are destroying a great legacy that has been given to us.

OUR STUDENTS

In the theatre world, especially the smaller productions, the informality of the proceedings can mean actors don't know if and when they are getting paid. It is not uncommon for newcomers to be offered exposure or experience in lieu of payment. The idea that an art should be pursued for the love of the thing and not money sometimes translates into a flippant approach towards the financial needs of those who choose to pursue it. It can be a daunting task to challenge the standards of worth placed upon Caribbean artists by an unappreciative society, but a young theatre production team, made up of UWI students and alumni, have taken up the challenge. Hannah Sammy, production manager and half of the duo behind Halqa Productions, sums it up as, "We want to give people a chance – young artists, newcomers."

The practitioners of the arts have found themselves in a business culture where their trade often goes underpaid and underappreciated. "In no other business in the world do you treat people like that," laments Sammy. Matter-of-factly, she establishes that her priority is making sure Halqa (pronounced hal-kah) protects the rights of aspiring Caribbean thespians. She figured out the legal jargon herself to put together contracts ensuring everyone is being properly compensated for their time, and, in her words, being treated like a person. "They need to know they have rights. I worked so hard on these contracts. But the actors come on time, they perform well, they bring good energy all the time. You just feel like this is a healthy environment."

Of course, this is only the business side of their operation, and these priorities feed into a larger ideal that the young company stands for. Simeon Chris Moodoo, founder of the company and fiancé of its other member, stresses that their focus is on community. Even the name of the company reflects this.

"I came across the word 'Halqa' when I was studying Asian and African theatre, and it means ring or circle in Arabic," he explains. The circle calls to mind oral traditions, where the storyteller is at the centre and the community gathers around them. "The idea of telling stories in a circle, the idea of unity and community, that's where the name came from."

Retracing cultural roots seems to be a central part of this project, and naturally their first play is heavily steeped in local culture. The team of two has expanded to ten for their upcoming production, *Under the Mango Trees*, written by Moodoo himself.



MANGO SEASON

Young theatre company runs it like a business for the benefit of the artists

BY AMY LIBAKSH

"The work that we do is Caribbean, not only in content, but in essence," he explains. Traditional mas' characters, rich with the histories and struggles of our ancestors, have a weighty influence on his work, but like all modern creators he must find a channel to translate these images and ideas into the setting that we inhabit now. These traditional elements, he says, are being used to thread the story along, to work through the issues of politics, gender roles, domestic

violence; preoccupations of modern society that come out in the play.

"These things aren't written down... but we are pulling from different academics and practitioners to piece together something that is Trinbagonian; that captures the essence of who we are," he says.

This is uncharted territory for these young creators, both UWI alumni graduating with the class of 2014, and as such there is a lot of experimentation. The aggressive visuals of the traditional stick-fight are translated into tension between characters, and there is an abstractness to the setting itself. Director of the play, another UWI alumnus Marcus Waldron, describes it as happening "in a space where the issues of time and place are less relevant." Waldron considers the play a work in progress, and even the actors are involved in the creative process. For someone who borrows so heavily from traditional ideas, Moodoo has chosen an untraditional method to convey them. But, as Sammy notes, the entire company is a work in progress.

"We're all learning," he says. "But that's what makes Halqa so close-knit—everybody, from the leadership go down – is learning. We're making a lot of mistakes, but I like where we're going."

Under the Mango Trees, which runs from the 14th to the 23rd of November at the Little Carib Theatre, is the first of many projects being planned by the couple, who hope to expand into the realm of teaching. Their idea is to incorporate theatre in education with other aspects of learning not focused on in the schooling structure; areas like adult literacy, catering to those that the current system does not.

"As far as helping the community, I think as big as the Caribbean," says Moodoo. "But you need to start somewhere. You need to start at home... We're trying to foster a sharing of energy; that idea of being aware that there are other people in your space; you're not alone on this island."



Simeon Chris Moodoo and Hannah Sammy, 2014 UWI graduates. PHOTOS: ANEEL KARIM

Under the Mango Trees

Written by Simeon Chris Moodoo
Directed by Marcus Waldron



OUR CAMPUS

Fluid strokes flow scarlet across the page. It is the national bird in flight, a familiar symbol rendered in a most beautiful and unfamiliar form by the hand of Chinese painter Zhao Yanbin. Mr. Zhao's piece was a gift to the President of Trinidad and Tobago, Anthony Carmona, and his visit to the nation, alongside calligrapher Yang Chongguang, is both gift and cultural exchange to art lovers and learners from the Confucius Institute (CI) at The UWI's St. Augustine Campus.

As part of their 10-year anniversary, CI brought the highly accomplished and acclaimed Chinese artists to Trinidad and Tobago in late September for a two-week Calligraphy and Painting Exhibition.

"The purpose of the visit was to hold an exhibition, do a lecture series and hold workshops," explains Meghan Ghent, Secretary of CI. "They exhibited their work and conducted activities at both The UWI and NALIS (the National Library) for students interested in learning Chinese calligraphy and painting."

The artists were given an opportunity to meet with President Carmona (an art enthusiast himself) and presented him with both the scarlet ibis painting and a work of calligraphy with the character "longevity". What was intended to be a 20-minute visit between the President and the contingent from CI lasted over an hour.

Both Mr. Zhao and Mr. Yang are extremely respected artists and teachers in China. Mr. Yang, a professor at Beijing University, gave workshops on the basics of calligraphy and "bang shu", a style appropriate for writing large script. Mr. Zhao gave workshops on the freehand, flowing and impressionistic style of Chinese painting. During their 15-day stay they taught an array of people, including students from The UWI, primary and secondary school students and art lovers of all ages with an interest in these exotic (to the region) styles.

Professor Hu Youzhen, Chinese Director of CI at the St. Augustine Campus, says activities like the exhibition are an excellent way of strengthening the ties between China and Trinidad and Tobago:

"Cultural activities are a very good way to engage an audience in T&T. Culture is a very good way to learn about people," she says.

Brush Stroke Diplomacy

Confucius Institute holds Chinese calligraphy and painting exhibition and workshop



Calligrapher Yang Chongguang presents a piece of art to President Carmona.

The Research and Development Impact Fund

On October 1, 2014, The University of the West Indies (UWI) St. Augustine Campus, in partnership with the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Ltd. (NGC), held the UWI-NGC Research Awards Ceremony. Apart from recognising the outstanding research achievements of The UWI, the ceremony was also used to give Letters of Award to recipients of the UWI-Trinidad and Tobago Research and Development Impact Fund (RDI Fund).

Established in 2012, the RDI Fund supports research in the areas of Climate Change and Environmental Issues; Crime, Violence and Citizen Security; Economic Diversification and Sector Competitiveness; Finance and Entrepreneurship; Public Health; and Technology and Society. The fund supports projects which address some of the more urgent developmental issues and possess the capacity to make an impact in the short and medium term.

Eleven research teams received RDI Fund awards totalling just over \$5 million at the ceremony.

Speaking at the Research Awards Ceremony, Professor Clement K. Sankat, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal, said: "Let me say that our RDI Fund, in its conceptualisation and execution, is a model, the first of its



Recipients of the 2013 RDI Fund awards at The UWI-NGC Research Awards Ceremony.

kind here in Trinidad and Tobago that others may well wish to follow. Despite its modesty in terms of capitalisation, the concept must be the way of the future to build responsible, competitive societies."

The successful projects include, among others, research on the decision-making and economic livelihoods of

school dropout, volcanic emissions monitoring, smart grid technology, mitigating dementia and neurobehavioural development in school children.

This was the second call for proposals in the RDI Fund's brief history. The 2014 call for proposals was recently concluded on October 17.

UWI CALENDAR of EVENTS

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2014

HARNESSING SCIENCE

November 21-23, 2014
Magdalena Grand Resort, Tobago

The Caribbean Academy of Sciences (CAS), in collaboration with the Tobago House of Assembly hosts its 19th general meeting and biennial conference, “Harnessing Science and Technology to Create Knowledge-Based Economies and Preserve Caribbean Ecosystems”. One of the main objectives of the conference is to assemble regional and international natural scientists, social scientists and engineers to deliberate and focus their thoughts on the two areas identified in the theme.

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

CHALLENGES OF PROJECT ENGINEERING

December 5-6, 2014
Faculty of Engineering
The UWI, St. Augustine

The Third Industrial Engineering and Management Conference 2014 (IEM3-2014) will be held at the Faculty of Engineering of The UWI, St Augustine, from December 5-6, 2014. In keeping with the past two IEM Conferences in 2006 and 2010, the theme of the 2014 Conference is “The Challenges of Project Engineering and Management in a Sustainable World”. Submission deadline was October 1, 2014. Conference registration for authors and participants is US\$100 per person, and for student authors/participants, US\$50 per person.

For further information please contact:
Professor Kit Fai Pun
c/o the Faculty of Engineering
Email: KitFai.Pun@sta.uwi.edu
Tel: 662-2002 exts. 82068/82069



LONG TERM EVOLUTION (LTE) NETWORK DESIGN AND OPTIMISATION BOOT CAMP

December 8-12
Faculty of Engineering

CelPlan Technologies, Inc. and The UWI, St. Augustine Campus have renewed an Academic Programme Courseware Licence Agreement by which CelPlan provides training materials on radio communications and Radio-Frequency (RF)-based systems, standards and technologies to The UWI. The 4G Technologies Boot Camp is designed to give CEOs, CTOs, managers, engineers, and technical staff the practical knowledge and expertise on LTE and WiMAX 4G networks.

For further information, please contact the Faculty of Engineering at Tel: (868) 662-2002



DCFA EVENTS

Cultural Research Colloquium
November 17 | 9:00am
School of Education Auditorium

Festival of Plays
November 20 – 23 | 8pm & 6pm | LRC Auditorium

DCFA Music Staff in Concert
November 26 | 8pm | Daaga Auditorium

Holiday Dance Recital
November 29 – 30 | 7pm | JFK Lecture Theatre

UWI Guitar Ensemble in Concert
November 29 | 6:00pm | CLL Auditorium

UWI Arts Chorale and Steel (Christmas)
December 6 | 7:30pm | Daaga Auditorium
December 11 | 7pm | Santa Rosa RC Church
December 14 | 6pm
President's Grounds (Chorale + NSSO)

CMOS IMAGE SENSORS IN EVERY CAMERA: A STORY OF TECHNOLOGY INVENTION, INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

ERIC FOSSUM
November 10, 2014
Lecture Theatre 1,
Faculty of Engineering,
The UWI, St. Augustine

The UWI, St. Augustine hosts a Distinguished Open Lecture by Eric R. Fossum, Professor at the Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth. His work on miniaturising NASA interplanetary spacecraft cameras at Caltech's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in the early 1990's led to his invention of the CMOS image sensor “camera-on-a-chip” that has touched many here on Earth, from every smartphone to automobiles and medicine, from security and safety to art, social media and political change. The lecture takes place at 5.30pm and all are invited.

For further information, please contact Ms. Christine Nanton, Marketing and Communications Office, UWI, St Augustine at 662 2002 ext. 83726.



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

