



UWI TODAY

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES · ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

SUNDAY 27TH APRIL, 2014



OLD SCHOOL

It's undated, but the photo is on the face of one of those post cards that were so popular for travellers to send back home. It carries the words: *CUNARD LINE Sunshine Cruises to the West Indies and South America, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, B.W.I. Queen's Royal College, Government secondary school for boys*. The photo was taken by **Herbert Lanks**, and it is described as a *Mike Roberts Color Production*. It would be nice to find out who the young QRC students are, wouldn't it? This reproduction comes from the **UWISpace Institutional Repository**, one of the newly digitized collections at the **Alma Jordan Library** at The UWI St Augustine.

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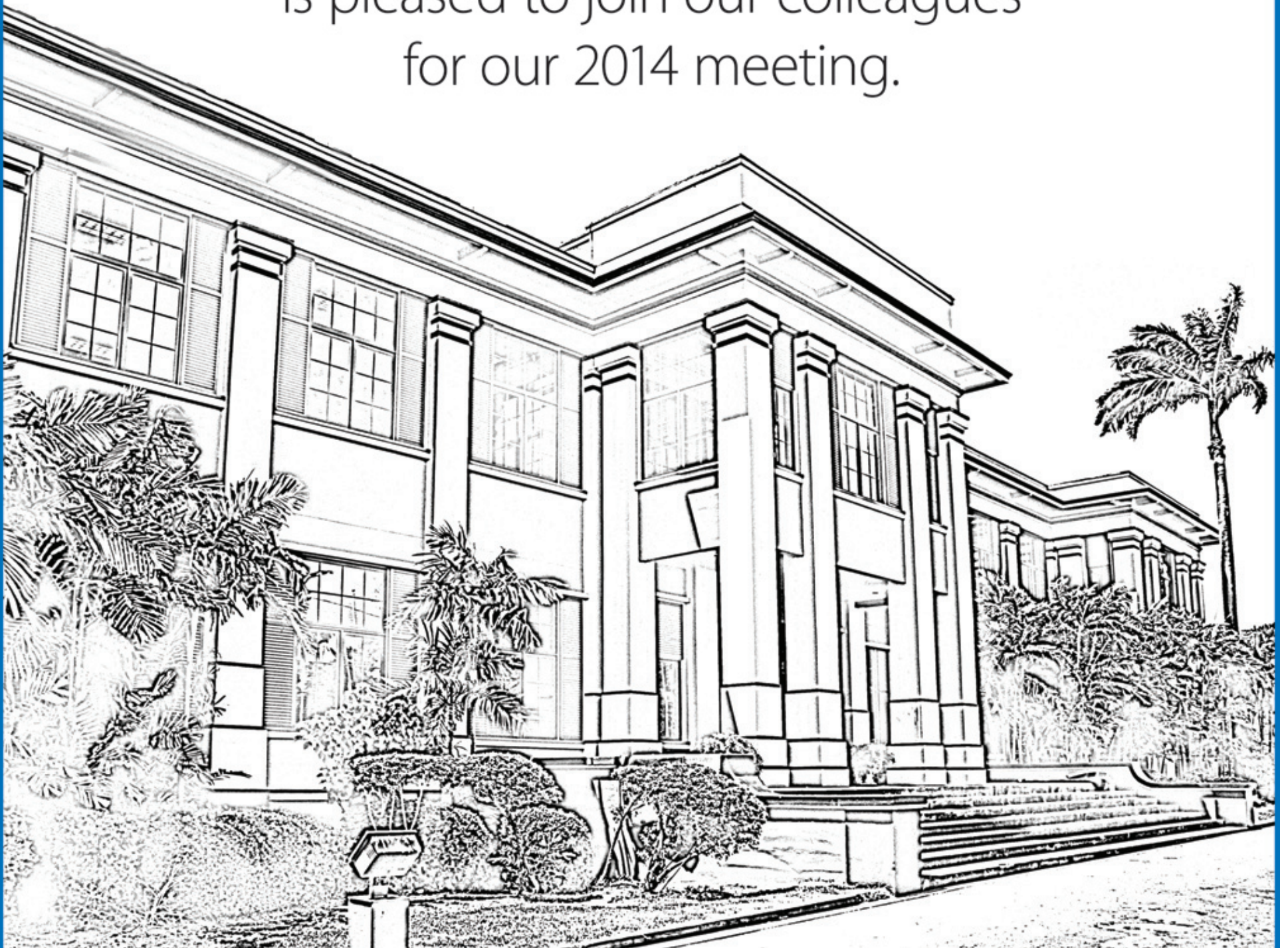




UWI
ST. AUGUSTINE
CAMPUS

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL 2014

The St. Augustine campus
is pleased to join our colleagues
for our 2014 meeting.



■ OUR CAMPUS

LOCAL, BUT REGIONAL

The Law Faculty at St Augustine was launched on April 15, and although it may be located on one campus, its outlook remains steadfastly regional.

The new Dean, Professor Rose-Marie Belle Antoine had this to say in terms of her vision.

“I see the Faculty of Law, St Augustine as positioning itself as a prime player in advancing a regional developmental agenda. In many ways this Campus, located in Trinidad and Tobago, is the natural ‘hub’ of the region, having close links with the OECS, with Guyana, and with Barbados. In addition, the country and the campus is better placed to strengthen links with Suriname and Haiti, because of the fact that TnT is the geographical home of the CCJ—which includes Suriname—making a powerful argument for upgrading our syllabus to elevate our understanding of the civil law tradition to which our CARICOM sisters, Suriname, Haiti and to some extent, Saint Lucia belongs.

“The creation of this Faculty in Trinidad and Tobago provides a timely opportunity to

enhance our ties with the region, especially our longstanding and deep links with the OECS, never forgetting that this Faculty remains embedded in the vibrant regional institution that is the UWI. As such, we have a duty to include the wider region in our plans, and we have done so.

“Many outstanding OECS citizens have served this country with distinction—in Law—I think of the legal giant, Telford Georges, of Dominica who was on the Court of Appeal, and later, the Privy Council and of course, our own President of the CCJ, the distinguished Sir Dennis Byron, of St Kitts and Nevis. Such distinction is not limited to law—recall that the Mighty Sparrow, a Grenadian—was honoured this year, with the highest honour of our land.

“Thus, the Faculty must use this space to entrench the regionalist agenda and view itself as a truly regional faculty, making concerted efforts to attract students from across the region. It must also, in its research agenda and curriculum development, speak specifically to this need.”



President of the CCJ, Sir Dennis Byron receives a copy of Professor Bridget Brereton's book, "From Imperial College to University of the West Indies: A History of the St Augustine Campus," from the Principal, Professor Clement Sankat after the unveiling of the plaque marking the launch of the Law Faculty on April 15. PHOTO: GUYTN OTTLEY

Please visit our website at <http://sta.uwi.edu/uwiToday/default.asp> for the full text of Professor Belle Antoine's speech.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Our 7th Faculty is here



On April 15, we commemorated the establishment of the Faculty of Law at our St Augustine Campus. For me, it was the realization of a vision rooted in both practical considerations of access and responsiveness and a deep sense of honour and respect for the legal profession in Trinidad and Tobago.

Early in my career as Principal, I realized there was an overwhelming need to treat with the demand for places by T&T nationals for the

LLB programme. The Faculty of Law at Cave Hill had served us well, but the typical enrolment of T&T nationals in its LLB programme was 40-50 students. The pool of applicants was more than 1000. Thus, if we were going to meet the huge demands for legal university education—we had to establish a Faculty of Law at St Augustine, as Mona did in 2010-11. I thank our Vice-Chancellor, Professor E. Nigel Harris for supporting us in this decision, a challenging one within a regional university system.

Last October, this campus celebrated its first 70 LLB graduates from our new Faculty of Law, which became operational in August 2012. To get to this stage, we had to build new facilities at St Augustine to accommodate more students and new staff; this included the Noor Hassanali Law Auditorium. The Faculty of Law now has 139 students in year one; 86 in year two; and 99 in year three.

Committed to extending our reach into south Trinidad, the University Council agreed in 2011 to establish The UWI St Augustine South Campus in Penal-Debe—an extremely scenic and pristine environment that is conducive to scholarly pursuits and which will be the home of our flagship Faculty of Law. The facilities there will be on par with those of leading universities for the conduct of teaching, research and service to support legal education.

There are three ingredients to build a great Faculty of Law: outstanding students, a dedicated faculty of scholars and practitioners, and a supportive environment for teaching, learning, research, critical thought and service. We are putting these elements in place.

My hope is that this new Faculty will alter the landscape of the legal profession in a way that is tangible, strengthening the foundation of our young democracy and protecting the rights of all citizens, particularly the vulnerable. In so doing, The UWI continues to strengthen its contribution to the development of Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean.

Join us on this journey of 'great expectations'!

CLEMENT K. SANKAT
Pro Vice Chancellor & Principal

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■ OUR CAMPUS

Vice-Chancellor to discuss STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS



Professor E. Nigel Harris, Vice-Chancellor of The UWI has been invited to speak at Going Global, the annual flagship conference of the British Council, in Miami this month.

Going Global brings together Higher Education Institutes (HEI) representatives from around the world

to share best practices, network and strategies about the future of Higher Education and presents an opportunity to showcase The UWI and the higher education system of the Caribbean to a highly relevant audience of international policymakers and HEIs, in collaboration with the British Council.

Vice-Chancellor Harris has been invited to serve on three panels: Strategic Partnerships and Inclusive Internationalisation and on the final wrap-up panel. Strategic partnerships will consider the major role of international partnerships in driving innovation and delivering impact and the models that have been developed in this regard. The

session will consider models from The UWI and universities of Warwick and Monash and Swansea.

Inclusive internationalisation focuses on internationalisation as a hallmark of, and a path to, quality in higher education. The panel will question whether inclusive internationalisation has been achieved, what distance remains to be travelled and the measures needed to reach this objective at institutional and policy levels.

Vice-Chancellor Harris sees The UWI's singular focus at Going Global as positioning the University in the global landscape as an authority in small-island state development and an ideal global partner.

"The UWI, as the largest university in the English-speaking Caribbean, and as one of just two regional (multi-country) universities worldwide, is well placed to take advantage of regional and international partnerships to strengthen its mandate as an engine of development in teaching, research and public service," he said.

The UWI will also have a booth and host a breakfast meeting for selected stakeholders. Caribbean Export Development Agency, the only regional trade and investment promotion agency in the African, Caribbean and Pacific group, is the main sponsor ensuring The UWI's participation at Going Global. Going Global 2014 takes place in Miami from April 29 to May 1, 2014.

A CARPIMS CELEBRATION

Two CARPIMS scholars, who began their studies at the University of the South Pacific in Fiji in February 2013, won gold medals for the best overall results in a postgraduate diploma. There were five recipients of this award: two from the Caribbean and three from Fiji. Each awardee gained a perfect GPA of 4.5.

The King of Tonga, King Tupou VI, presented the award at the recently held presentation ceremony. This Gold Medal,

Awards and Prizes Ceremony is a special event, held two days before the actual graduation ceremony. There were 29 recipients of these medals, awards and prizes out of a graduating cohort of almost 1,300 students.

Kerwin Livingstone (current lecturer from the University of Guyana) pursued a Master of Education, and **Camille Reid** (UWI St. Augustine graduate from Jamaica) pursued an MA in Psychology.



Creating a Culture of Transparency: Revenue Reporting

The issue of transparency and accountability in the extractive industry has been a hotly debated topic for the last decade. Merging from this debate was the formation of the Publish as You Pay civil society network which was launched in 2002 and has a global outreach. The main campaign of the network is a call for extractive companies to publish what they pay to governments and for governments to publish what extractive companies pay to them. Advocates of publish what you pay note that this information will bring transparency and accountability into a sector that is plagued by rent-seeking and high incidents of corruption.

"Creating a Culture of Transparency" is the umbrella theme that has been chosen as the mode by which bpTT has engaged and continues to engage the Trade and Economic Development Unit of the Department of Economics at The UWI, to host this internationally pitched Conference. It is the second in the conference series and focuses on revenue reporting. The aim of the Conference is to bring together international, regional and local experts on the issues of transparency and accountability with respect

- to taxes paid;
- tax revenues distributed and the use of petroleum revenues (among others);
- to strengthen the local efforts of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI);
- to improve awareness of transparency and accountability issues;
- to provide the Government, the citizenry, civil society networks, academic and other such bodies with the tools needed to insist on and ensure a continued high level of accountability alongside an improvement in accountability for petroleum resources.

It takes place at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Port of Spain Ballroom on June 5 and 6, 2014.

■ FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Joel Jordan, the Department of Economics, Tel: 662-2002, ext. 83231.

Timely talks at CCMF's VENTURE CAPITAL SEMINAR

Regional executives from private and public sector organisations participated in a venture capital financing seminar hosted by The UWI, Caribbean Centre for Money and Finance (CCMF) at the Hyatt Conference Centre in Port of Spain.

Issues were led by regional and international experts, including Professor Jayanta Mitra, Director, International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Research at Essex Business School, UK. Participants discussed the development of the ecosystem for the venture capital industry to fulfil economic and social roles, weaknesses in the existing financial market legislation and structure, the role of the state and the need for financial technical skills to provide for the creation of suitable financial instruments.

Trinidad and Tobago's Minister of Finance, Senator the Honourable Larry Howai, made the point at the opening that "increasingly, competitive advantage is being derived less from natural resources or cheap labour, and more from knowledge and technical innovations. It is vitally necessary therefore, that we transform the economy's structure to seek new growth opportunities". His point was that "we must begin to build knowledge-based economies."

Jwala Rambarran, Governor of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, noted that the seminar was taking place against the backdrop of a global environment that is likely to be less favourable than in the recent past. He cautioned against the use of inappropriate models reminding that, "many governments including ours in Trinidad and Tobago have attempted to implement policies to encourage venture capital investment but,



From left, Jayanta Mitra Professor of Business Enterprise and Innovation and Director of the International Centre for Entrepreneurship Research at Essex Business School, University of Essex; UK, Miguel Sierra, CEO and Managing Director – Caribbean of Pan-American Life; Judith Mark, Consultant for CBES and Founder/Owner of CME Consulting Limited. Dr. Dave Seerattan, Research Fellow at the Caribbean Centre for Money and Finance.

unfortunately, these efforts have either been misguided or failed to deliver the anticipated results".

The event was supported by a mix of players in the financial services sector, an indication that financial institutions are recognising the significance of pursuing new possibilities and of collaboration in efforts at capital market development. The lead partner and platinum sponsor for the event was Pan-American Life Insurance Company of Trinidad and Tobago

(PALIG). PALIG CEO, Miguel Sierra agreed that the day's discussions were an important step in addressing some of the challenges faced by the regional financial sector. "There is no question that there are important opportunities for growth in the Caribbean," Sierra said. "The discussions we had today, with so many of the sector's stakeholders involved, were crucial to creating the environment that will allow the region to take full advantage of its potential."

"Too often people are condescending to those who are in the vocational sector," said the Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training (MTEST), Fazal Karim. The Minister urged people to change the way they think about the vocational sector as there needs to be less stigma attached to this field of study.

"There is a place in the sun for academia, for pre-technician and technical vocation," he said as he addressed a graduate seminar in early April on the subject: "The vision for TVET in the context of National Workforce Development and Economic Diversification in Trinidad and Tobago."

He encouraged the students of the Master of Arts Programme in TVET which is being offered by The UWI School of Education, to "lift the bar for TVET," and not limit themselves. He told the students that he was interested in knowing what they were planning on doing for their dissertations because he wants to see a return on the Government's investment, as \$2.9 million has been invested in the TVET programme, which he designed. He also hopes to take the TVET programme to the PhD level.

ANYONE CAN DO ANYTHING



Minister Fazal Karim, the Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training (centre) with students graduating with the Master of Arts Programme in TVET which is being offered by the UWI School of Education.

PHOTO: COURTESY THE MINISTRY OF TERTIARY EDUCATION AND SKILLS TRAINING

Health Diplomacy, Science Diplomacy

Can the twain meet?

BY GEORGE A. O. ALLEYNÉ

Chancellor, The University of the West Indies

Can science make a meaningful contribution to diplomacy? There are three aspects that I will address. First, there is the role scientists play as diplomats, and here I refer to the doyen of scientist/diplomats, Benjamin Franklin. I believe that his scientific background and training allowed him to be stoical in the midst of many of the travails he underwent and certainly his scientific credentials gave him access to what were then described as philosophical circles that might have been closed to others less famous. So great was his reputation that on one occasion when he was being criticized in the House of Lords, Lord Chatham referred to him as “one whom all Europe ranks with our Boyles and Newtons, as an honor, not to the English nation only, but to human nature itself.” I would not go as far as saying that scientists make the best diplomats, but I would argue that diplomats should not be ignorant about science and its possibilities for improving human welfare.

Then there are the many examples of the traditional view of scientific knowledge facilitating diplomatic discourse as occurred in the development of international health organizations. Interstate negotiation for global health goes back over five hundred years, but the modern developments can be traced to the sanitary conferences of the nineteenth century. It was the prevention of epidemics and the impact quarantine practices could have on trade and commerce that were the basic motivation for these early efforts. Quarantine represented not only a hindrance to travel and trade as well as financial losses, but also presented opportunities for bribery and corruption.

In the first international sanitary conference of 1851 there were 12 states, each represented by a doctor and a diplomat. The length of the conference: six months, and the arguments by doctors over the merits and demerits of the theories of contagion versus those of sanitation led to the decision that if progress was to be made doctors who represented the scientific opinion of the day should be excluded. Thirteen of these were held and despite the fact that the vibrio of cholera was discovered by Pacini in 1854 and rediscovered by Koch 30 years later and indeed Koch participated in two of the Sanitary conferences, the basic approach of the international effort was dominated by the thesis that the best thing was to keep the infections out of the country and the major debates on how best this was to be done was mainly within the purview of diplomats rather than scientists.

The main infectious disease of the Americas: yellow fever, was of little interest to the European nations, so the Fifth Sanitary Conference was held in Washington in 1881. This was a meeting essentially of diplomats with



four experts in medical matters brought to give a patina of science to the proceedings which were essentially administrative. It was here that Carlos Findlay presented a major scientific theory –that yellow fever required a vector and subsequently described that vector as the mosquito that came to be known as *Aedes Aegypti*, which is still a scourge to the countries of the Americas. But at the First Sanitary Conference of the Americas in 1902 at which the Pan American Health Organization was created, there appears to have been a different tone. At the opening of the Conference, the Surgeon-General of the United States as host was very clear. He said “*Our deliberations will relate to scientific investigations which alone enable us to be rational in both quarantine and sanitation and which form the foundation and the iron girders of our hygienic structure*”. Goodman describes in detail the evolution of these conferences into the International Office of Public Health in Paris. When World War II ended the United Nations was established, WHO was born and some of the impetus for their work would have come from Point 4 of President Truman’s 1949 inaugural address in which he pledged “*We must embark on a bold new program for making the benefit of our scientific advances and industrial progress available for the improvement of underdeveloped areas*”.

The global pattern of disease has changed with increasing dominance of the chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs) over the communicable diseases. More people now die of NCDs—cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer and chronic respiratory disease—than of communicable disease and the incidence of these diseases

is rising in all countries, among the rich and the poor. The need for joint and cooperative action is just as great as before. The control of the vectors of these new diseases is often beyond the capacity of a single nation state although the responsibility for the health of its citizens is to a large extent the state’s or rather government’s responsibility. This is not to remove individual agency, but the necessary change in many of the factors which affect the health of the population as a whole are outside the capacity of the individual. The social determinants of health as the term implies, are not under individual control.

Here I must refer to a Caribbean experience which represents one of the outstanding examples of collective Caribbean diplomacy leading the world. It was the science of the magnitude of the burden of the NCDs in the Caribbean countries that persuaded their Heads of Governments to invest political and diplomatic capital in moving the issue from the regional level to the Commonwealth and then to the level of the United Nations General Assembly. It is science that will facilitate the diplomatic wrestling with issues such as climate change, antimicrobial resistance and the global preparations for a possible influenza pandemic. The growth of interest in the nexus between health and foreign policy in the United Nations and more generally, is in part due to the ability of the health sector to produce the science that facilitates dialogue. I refer to science generally and must admit that it is disciplines beside those in the STEM world that come into play here, especially the social and behavioral sciences.

But the more fundamental question that is rarely debated and has import for the training of all diplomats is whether the essential canons of science are of any relevance in diplomatic practice and discourse. The STEM world in which I dwelt originally would have grave difficulty accepting many of the tenets of diplomacy. I confess that I was weaned scientifically on the works of Sir Peter Medawar and treasured his affirmation that “*no scientific theory ever achieves apodictic certainty*”. (*That it is demonstrably true*) I swore by Karl Popper and his concept of the falsifiability of hypotheses. I believed that science was a logically connected network of theories that represented our current opinion of about what the natural world is like. It is basic to science that assumptions and the data supporting them are subject to review and reassessment and change through criticism from peers and the production of new data. Scientific data and information are public while making information public and inviting validation and possibly rejection is normally anathema to the traditional inter-state diplomacy.

One Thing Led to Another

BY ALEAH RANJITSINGH

I was introduced to the work of Professor Norman Girvan in 2005 when I began studies for a Master's degree in Political Science at Brooklyn College of the City University of New York. I had never taken any classes which specifically dealt with Caribbean political thought or even development for that matter. So, as the lecturer, Dr Judith Duncker, spoke about Caribbean dependency theory, I felt as if that theory was meant to find me and vice versa. It is strange to speak of a development theory this way, but as I sought to find or better yet, position myself in political theory, I knew that this was my worldview. One's worldview can change, but the work of Professor Girvan struck a deeper chord within me. My Master's thesis looked at *Mercado Común del Sur* (MERCOSUR) at a time when Venezuela had become a member of the bloc; and this is how one thing led to another.

After a year of teaching an introductory Political Science class at Brooklyn College, I found myself back in Trinidad. I was to start a PhD in Interdisciplinary Gender Studies at the Institute for Gender and Development Studies (IGDS), UWI, St Augustine campus.

I remember the proposal I wrote as part of the programme's application. I wanted to look at women and development in the Caribbean and of course my theoretical frame was all dependency theory. In 2009, about a year and half into the programme, as the time came to truly decide on a thesis research topic, I looked at the political situation in Argentina. Christina Fernandez had been elected President, but as I looked deeper at the region, Venezuela not just piqued, but stole my interest. A revolution of which the impact to poor women was unquestionable, in addition to a leader in President Hugo Chávez – I was meant to look at Venezuela.

As we sat in class discussing our topics one day, Professor Jane Parpart, the former Graduate Coordinator of IGDS wondered aloud about Professor Girvan.

I remember interrupting her and the class loudly, "Where is he?"

"He is right next door, in IR" she said, IR is the Institute for International Relations, literally next door to the IGDS.

"Maybe we can see if he can be your supervisor," she said. I didn't dare hope. When she told me that he was considering it but wanted to meet me first, I panicked. No way would this work out, I said to myself. But that is how one thing led another.

He would always say to me that he was not a 'gender scholar.' I would laugh because although I studied gender, his ability to create connections based on a solid epistemological foundation, would

often help me to complicate and then further unravel the theoretical gendered underpinnings of my work. This was late 2009 to early 2010 and I remember that the institutional support in Venezuela for my first trip there, scheduled for April 2010, fell through. I was working at an IGDS conference when Professor Girvan called. The conversation was a very hard one as I declared that I would visit Venezuela anyway with or without institutional support. While he did not agree, he stood by me and when I got back from Venezuela after a preliminary three-week trip, I could tell that our relationship had changed. He knew that I was committed to my research, to my PhD and to working with him; and I knew that I had a strong supporter.

When President Hugo Chávez passed away on March 5, 2013, Professor Girvan called me for a quick chat. I think he was one of the few persons who understood how this had and would affect me and how deep a loss I felt.

Throughout December 2013, Professor Girvan and I went through my thesis page by page. When we could not meet face to face, we would have Skype meetings. Often I would get tired going through my work, the words I had written and rewritten, but Professor Girvan would never tire and this would push me to get the work done. We spoke on December 30th 2013. At the end of the conversation, I realized that I would not speak to him again until the new year, so I took the opportunity to not only wish him a Happy New Year, but to thank him for all his support. We promised to speak soon in the New Year after his family vacation. The new year came...

It is hard to put into words the impact that Professor Girvan has had on my life, and not just from an academic or theoretical standpoint. He was my teacher. He was my supporter. He was my defender (especially when my research seminars did not go as planned). He was that person who made me feel that my work would make a difference. He was that person that made me realize my own potential. He was that person who has brought me to a 300 page thesis; and now I am ready to submit and I want him to be here – not just for me, but for his wife and children, for the world. I believe Professor Girvan to be one of the greatest intellectual minds of the Caribbean and Latin American region and I know many will mourn him. Speaking of himself in his 2007 essay, 'One Thing Led to Another,' on which this tribute is based, he said, "I do not see how thinking and informed people of today can fail to address these issues; or at least can fail to take account of them in the work that they do."

One thing did lead to another and I worked with a man whose works I read, whose theories I critically analysed and who, after all was said and done, became my teacher. He will always be my teacher. There is so much he has written that I am yet to get my hands on. But as long as I write, the work of Professor Girvan will continue. I will never forget him and while my heart breaks, I hope he knew of the tremendous respect, admiration and love I have for him. So again, one thing led to another and I am proud to say that I AM a student of Professor Norman Girvan.



The late Professor Norman Girvan was the supervisor for PhD student of IGDS, Aleah Ranjitsingh.

You can read the original 2007 essay, 'One Thing Led to Another,' on our website at <http://sta.uwi.edu/uwiToday/default.asp>, as well as The UWI's tributes to him.

OUR CAMPUS

It's late evening and the campus is quiet, but Professor Antoine is surprisingly energised for her interview. Surprising, because it's the tail end of a Thursday with lots to do since her return from an arduous stint at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in Washington and she is finishing preparation for the launch of the Faculty of Law at UWI St Augustine. This evening hour was the only time she had.

Rose-Marie Belle Antoine, the new Dean of the new faculty, she's as lively as early afternoon. Her eyes are expressive, and it's fascinating to watch her thoughts play across them as she responds to my questions.

"I'm a Caribbean woman," she says when asked how she feels about regional identity.

It's as clear a rebuttal as any to V.S. Naipaul's concept of the mimic men—a post-colonial Caribbean made of fragile pretenders stagnating in false societies. When Professor Antoine proclaims her Caribbean identity she does it with a self-assuredness that would be incomprehensible to Ralph Singh.

Her confidence is well-founded. Through her diverse and prolific academic career she has created a place for herself, The UWI and the region, based on groundbreaking intellectual inquiry and dedication to social justice.

To her, Caribbean means creative energy used for a positive purpose. It's the outlook through which she will shape UWI St Augustine's Faculty of Law over the next four years:

"I don't want to be a copy cat. I want to be the international authority. In the same way, the faculty has to be creative and relevant (in its courses and research). That's how I see my academic work and the work of the faculty. We will do all the traditional things but we also have to be out there breaking new ground."

LAW AT ST AUGUSTINE

On April 15, UWI St Augustine officially launched its Faculty of Law in a campus ceremony that included Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Kamla Persad-Bissessar and Sir Charles Michael Dennis Byron, President of the Caribbean Court of Justice. This means students can now complete all three years of the Bachelor of Laws degree programme at St Augustine. Previously, they had to do their second and final year of the programme at the Cave Hill Campus in Barbados.

It was an enormous undertaking and crucial to its success was finding the right person to head the faculty. There were several strong candidates but in the end the position went to Professor Antoine. Few would argue with the selection.

Her credentials are outstanding. She holds a Chair as Professor of Labour Law and Offshore Financial Law. Previously, at the Cave Hill campus, she was the Deputy Dean and Director of the LLM programme. Professor Antoine is a winner of several regional and international awards, including the *Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence*. In 2006 she won the *Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research* and in 2013 for *Public Service*, making her the first two-time winner in the history of the awards.

True to her word, she has built an international reputation for innovative research and is considered by many the foremost regional expert and thought leader in areas like offshore financial law, labour law and the law on HIV. That reputation extends as well to her published work. Professor Antoine is an award-winning author of 12 books and numerous articles, whose work is on the curriculum of universities in Africa, the US, the UK and continental Europe.

But if there is any area of her work that she is most proud of, it is in the sphere of public advocacy:

"I'm always surprised when people talk about my accomplishments. They are not that big a deal to me. I do get a feeling of quiet satisfaction when I see that my work influences policy. The other day one of my former students who is now a director at the HIV Unit in Caricom told me I was a change agent because of how influential my work has been in HIV."

She smiles.

"I've lived to see labour law work I did in 1992 taken up by governments in the region. When I see equal opportunity legislation in Trinidad and Tobago I know that I wrote the early proposals. You talk about things for years and years and you think no one is listening and then one day, people do it. As an academic that is a very powerful thing."

PROTEST PROFESSOR

On March 21, 2001, Professor Antoine gave an intense example of her commitment to social justice when along with nine of her students she was arrested at a Cave Hill Campus protest.



In the Dominican Republic last December, as first Vice President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, speaking with members of the Haitian community.

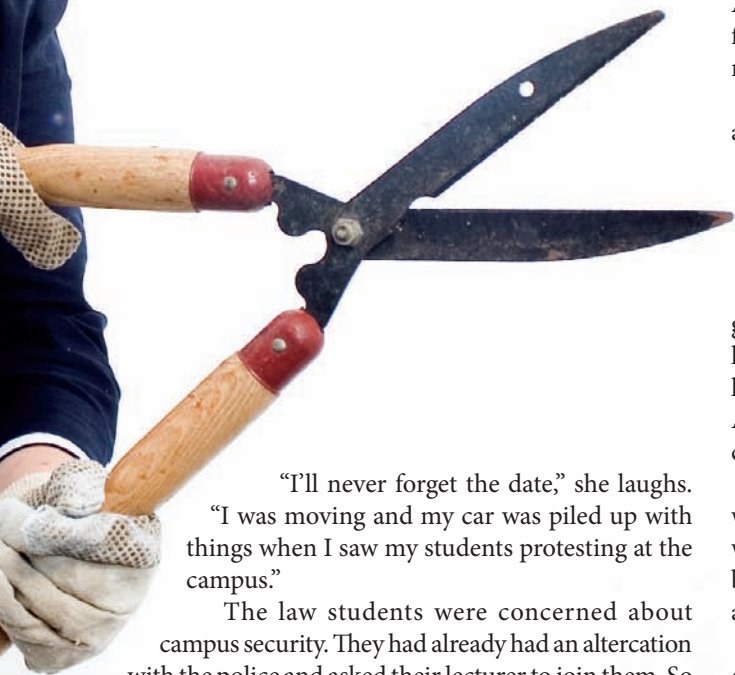


Standing with her best friend in front of the mosaic wall that she built.

A Constant Gardener

*New Dean rolls up her
Caribbean sleeves
and digs right in*

BY JOEL HENRY



"I'll never forget the date," she laughs. "I was moving and my car was piled up with things when I saw my students protesting at the campus."

The law students were concerned about campus security. They had already had an altercation with the police and asked their lecturer to join them. So she did, not as a protestor but as a sign of solidarity. When the police returned, her youthful appearance worked against her. Thinking she was a student, she was manhandled and arrested with the others.

"They came straight at me," she said. "I was dragged—not very elegantly—to the police station."

A case of mistaken identity is easily corrected; but even after being given the opportunity to leave, Professor Antoine stayed with her students, subjecting herself to arrest and fingerprinting.

"It was a very serious thing. A couple of my students couldn't get visas. One couldn't get a job. I am still fighting this battle for some of my students because they were supposed to have their records expunged and they never were," she said.

Fighting for others—students, women, children, the working class, the HIV positive—is part of her nature, embedded early in life through her parents.

"I thought it was natural to stay," she shrugged. "I could not leave. I grew up in that sort of family. You would do your duty. You would serve your community."

Professor Antoine is the seventh of eight children born to a French father and Grenadian mother. She grew up in Arima with her siblings (particularly her two sisters) as her friends and playmates. One of those sisters would become a nun and today is the Head of the Dominican Convent.

"We had a very atypical childhood. We didn't fit into any sort of social circle."

Today she lives in both Trinidad and St Lucia, with a strong preference for nature.

"I'm a Virgo," she says in explanation of her love for the natural world.

One of things she misses most when in Trinidad is her garden in St Lucia, which is also where she does much of her creative work outside of academic law. Even without her long list of achievements in research and advocacy, Professor Antoine's massive garden mosaic is proof of her superhuman creative energy. She's also a vocal soloist.

But apart from her family circumstance, her childhood was unique as well because of her birth. Professor Antoine was one of the first of Trinidad and Tobago's "Independence babies." This, she reasons, is why independence—of spirit and from colonial influence—is so important to her.

"I've always defined myself by my independence. I am extremely independent. I am very outspoken. I've never had a crisis of confidence—even as a woman. Even before I went to Cambridge (for her LLM) and Oxford (for her PhD) I didn't think they were any better than me. And when I got there I realised they weren't. I sat with the supposed best in

the world and yes they were very bright people, but honestly I thought my brother was brighter. I think my husband is brighter."

She added, "a lot of people I meet in the Caribbean, even though they might not have had the same opportunities, have bright and logical minds. I have students like that as well. They may be grassroots but their minds are powerful."

With these twin fixations—intellectual independence and social responsibility—it's easy to predict Professor Antoine's vision for the new Faculty of Law at St Augustine.

"I intend, of course, to make this the best faculty ever," she laughs, but she's not joking. "I also believe very strongly in developing people."

Key to this objective is encouraging her staff to engage in new research. To facilitate, her first priority is the establishment of a research fund. The often overworked and under-resourced academic staff have little time to devote to research, she says, especially in comparison to faculty in the US and Europe.

Professor Antoine also sees her own publishing success as a motivator:

"If they are working with someone who has published then they see that as the standard. This is the culture I'm seeing developing. They all want to publish. I have to say I am very inspired by my staff so far."

Her other objective is to make the Faculty of Law an engaging voice in the public discourse on topical social issues.

"I feel very strongly that the faculty should be community oriented," she said. "Lawyers are very insular. I have always been multi-disciplinary in my approach so it is something I want to push my colleagues to become involved in. We have a duty to be relevant to the society."

Her agenda is ambitious—like everything else she's undertaken and succeeded at in her academic career.

"We need to dream bigger," she says, and there are few who live so in line with the maxim of big dreams.

That's why, apart from the particulars of her agenda for the Faculty of Law, the assets she brings are her inexhaustible creative impulse and the confidence to release it upon the world. If she can impart that—to the faculty, to the students, and to the legal fraternity—we will, like Professor Antoine, become pioneers.



Professor Rose-Marie Belle Antoine addressing the opening of the Law Faculty on April 15.



Amidst disenfranchised Haitian children in the Dominican Republic. PHOTOS COURTESY PROFESSOR ROSE-MARIE BELLE ANTOINE

Revisiting WEST INDIAN INDEPENDENCE

This is an extract from a lecture delivered by Cary Fraser, Former President of the University of Belize, at the Institute of International Relations at The UWI on April 14, 2014.

Please visit our website for the full lecture at <http://sta.uwi.edu/uwiToday/default.asp>

... The focus of my talk today will be the year 1962 and I will try to explore the legacies of that year for the region today as I would suggest that 1962 defined the context within which the region continues to operate in the contemporary context.

I should begin by saying that my comment about historical amnesia in the contemporary Caribbean has a certain resonance with a theme of Derek Walcott's Nobel Prize Speech titled, *"The Antilles: Fragments of Epic Memory"* where he said: *Break a vase, and the love that reassembles the fragments is stronger than that love which took its symmetry for granted when it was whole. The glue that fits the pieces is the sealing of its original shape. It is such a love that reassembles our African and Asiatic fragments, the cracked heirlooms whose restoration shows its white scars. This gathering of broken pieces is the care and pain of the Antilles, and if the pieces are disparate, ill-fitting, they contain more pain than their original sculpture, those icons and sacred vessels taken for granted in their ancestral places. Antillean art is this restoration of our shattered histories, our shards of vocabulary, our archipelago becoming a synonym for pieces broken off from the original continent.*

Walcott's graphic analysis of the challenges confronting Antillean artists is a reminder that the politics of the imagination is a domain in which the creative artists of the region have shown themselves to be very accomplished in their readings and critical analyses of Caribbean reality. I would suggest that Walcott's formulation "this restoration of our shattered histories, our shards of vocabulary, our archipelago becoming a synonym for pieces broken off from the original continent," captures the predicament posed by political independence since the collapse of the West Indian Federation in 1962. Can we as Caribbean people be independent without overcoming the fragmentation and displacement that defined our condition as colonial subjects prior to 1962?

I have posed this question as a way to explore the key issues I am going to address today and I will start with the West Indian Federation which, having been established with great fanfare in 1958, collapsed in January 1962 after the Jamaican referendum of 1961 set the context and terms of Eric Williams' equation – "one from ten leaves nought" – and unleashed the politics of fragmentation that continues to define the contemporary context. According to the summary assessment of the West Indian Federation on the CARICOM website:

"The Federation however faced several problems. These included: the governance and administrative structures imposed by the British; disagreements among the territories over policies, particularly with respect to taxation and central planning; an unwillingness on the part of most Territorial Governments to give up power to the Federal Government; and the location of the Federal Capital."

This summary assessment captures the central issues



that shaped the failure of the Federal Project during its short life. I have explored some of these issues elsewhere but today I will offer some thoughts about the legacies of the Federation and what they say about the regional condition. First, the leaders who were part of the Federal Project could genuinely make the case for the imposition of federal governance and administrative structures. However, what explanation can we offer for the deficiencies that are embodied in current governance arrangements within the region – including the deficiencies that have hindered the development and evolution of CARICOM?

If we take the view that we are independent, and making the relevant recommendations and/or decisions, we have to move towards implementation of agreements and changes that are required to demonstrate independence. Given the challenges of vulnerability and viability that are looming in the next several decades, particularly in the areas of climate change and food security, can we make an argument that we have developed the governance and administrative structures that will enable us to implement the policies and practices that are required to meet those challenges? In effect, the issue that has to be faced is whether we can

formulate and impose upon ourselves the governance and administrative structures that will enable us to meet those challenges.

I would suggest that the current saga of the adoption of the Caribbean Court of Justice as the final court of Appeal in the region offers us a particular insight into the decisiveness that is absent at a broader level. More than fifty years after the onset of political independence, have we made the transition from the colonial condition that would allow us to forge the governance arrangements and administrative structures that signal the capacity to govern ourselves and ensure the survival of the territories into the future? I am suggesting that in 1962, there was the decision made to move towards territorial rather than federal independence. We need to ask ourselves now whether that strategy of territorial independence has worked effectively and whether territorial independence will protect us from the challenges of global problems such as climate change being addressed on the back of vulnerable states and communities – to their disadvantage.

Second, the issues of taxation and central planning to support West Indian independence. Have we, either at the individual territory or regional level, found ways to forge strategies of economic integration and/or collaboration that would ensure both sustainability and survival? Has there been any regional strategy developed to forge effective private sector collaboration that will make CARICOM enterprises capable of competing at the hemispheric and global levels? With the rise of China as the workshop to the world and as a major source of global investment capital, where will the Caribbean fit into a world increasingly dominated by the Asia-Pacific region? In December 1993, I was here at IIR on a panel with Lloyd Best and we were talking about the changing international context after the collapse of the Berlin Wall. I raised the issue then that after the end of the Cold War Caribbean leaders would need to craft strategies to deal with the emergence of an international system centered within the Asia-Pacific region. Since 2008, the shift in the global axis to the Asia-Pacific region has gained increasing momentum across the entire system and the Obama Administration's pivot towards the Pacific should be a reminder that beyond issues of security and the drug trade, the Caribbean Community has declined as an area of importance for many of the major states in the Atlantic world. In effect, the Caribbean Community member states face the continuing erosion of their claim to independence and sovereignty – a development that first emerged as a serious threat in the wake of the oil crises of the 1970s and the onset of the debt crisis of the 1980s. Effective fiscal management as a platform for achieving and maintaining independence has been a central problem for the region – as was evident in the failure of the federal project. Has the situation changed significantly since 1962 with the onset of territorial independence?

Inside from the Outside

New digital library service brings everything to you

How should libraries manage physical space in a world where information might soon be stored in the back of your eye and retrieval can be just a blink away?

It is the kind of thing you think about after talking to Frank Soodeen, the senior librarian at the Alma Jordan Library who manages the Digital Library Services Centre (DLSC).

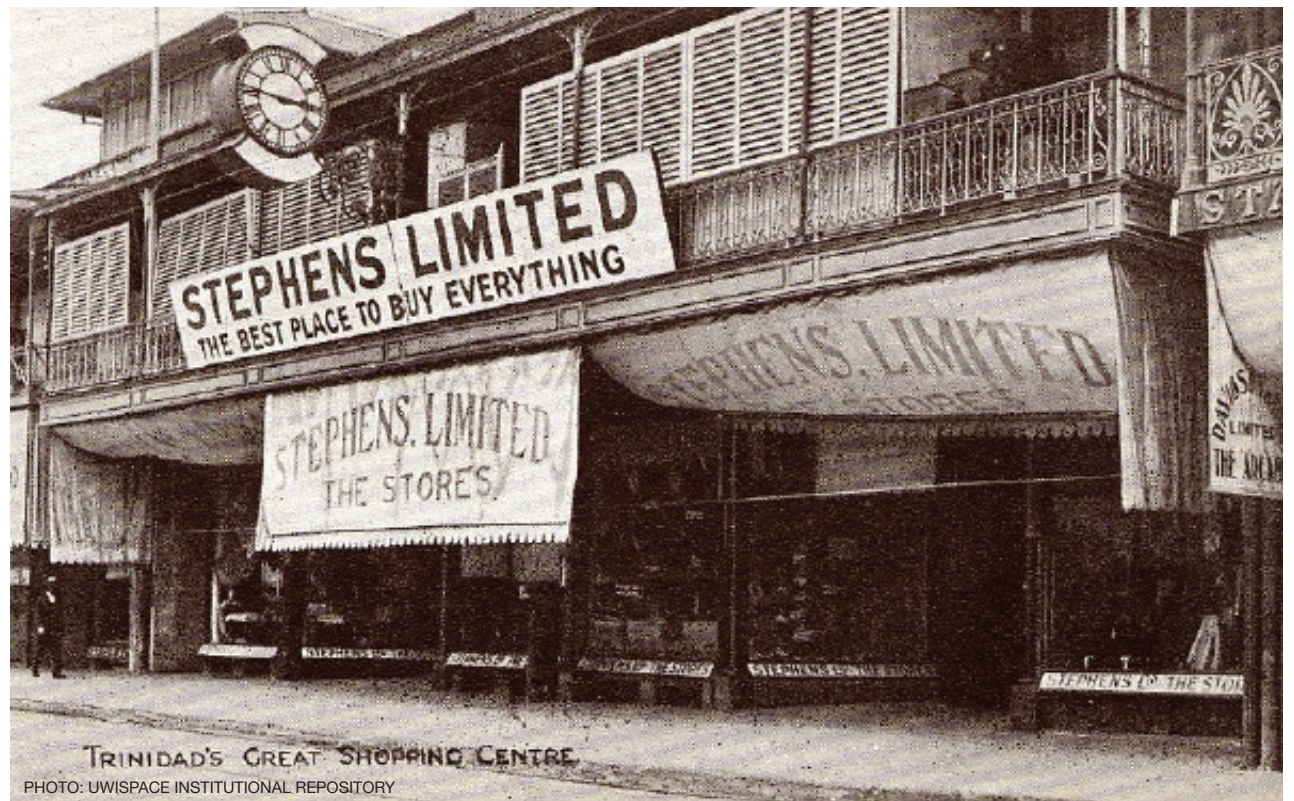
Traditionally, libraries have been physical repositories for information: books, magazines and so on. As the culture changed with the hunkering down of the Internet as a way of life, so too did access to information and the information seeking behaviour of library users. Fewer students and researchers physically come into libraries globally, but that does not mean that the collections have lost importance. Libraries have now found that the challenge is to provide a wider range of information resources through well managed online platforms in the networked landscape that is the Internet and the World Wide Web.

At the St Augustine campus of The UWI, the DLSC creates and manages digital collections for access by the University's community throughout the region and by researchers across the world. These resources are captured, organized and preserved to serve teaching, learning and research needs.

Just so you know, the DLSC is primarily engaged in:

- digitizing West Indiana primary research materials
- converting images, text, audio and video into digital content
- assigning metadata based on standards and best practices
- planning and implementation of digitization projects
- implementation and maintenance of the UWI institutional repository
- organizing digital collections for access and preservation of content

As an example, Soodeen recalls how dissertations were once compiled in threefold, with a fairly involved process to print, bind and then disseminate to each campus. "Now we ask them to bring it in electronically, on DVDs or CDs, and the Library takes responsibility for circulating the theses to other libraries and so on," he says. "The issue of intellectual property rights is also taken into consideration," he adds, noting that the "fluidity of the digital realm" makes managing the rights issue challenging at times.



But, he says, building the Alma Jordan Library's digitization capacity is based on the premise of open access.

"We have this vision for creating open collections, but the success depends on the capacity of the institution to deploy technological and organisational frameworks that will help the libraries to capture digital content and organise that content in a meaningful way, so it can be more readily available."

The plans ahead are ambitious indeed, but must be exciting – both from the point of view of the staff so eagerly pushing it and the library users who will be the big beneficiaries of this project. The

overall goals are many, including digitizing and offering network access to unique collections of West Indiana materials from the University Libraries; preserving rare books and fragile collections while increasing access to them, and (Hallelujah!) establishing a regional and international reputation for developing premier digital libraries at The UWI.

Soodeen is very concerned that the work done by regional scholars and academics should have their first home within the region. He believes that all work pertaining to the Caribbean should be available from The UWI's library network. He laments the fact that too many universities outside the region have staked claims to this wide range of work cheaply and it has fed and enriched their research capacities without properly allowing the value of Caribbean research – as a corpus – to be given the respect it deserves.

This is an underlying guideline for the basis on which the material to be first digitized will be selected. Broadly, analogue materials in all formats are to be digitized, including pictures, maps, ephemera, newspapers, journals, theses and dissertations, audio recordings, manuscripts, and videos. Material that is of historical and or cultural significance tops the selection list, which includes those items in high demand by researchers and students; items selected for publication or exhibition by the library; material that is outside the copyright domain or which permission to digitize has been obtained, and material that may otherwise have restricted access due to its conditions, value, vulnerability or location.

Another benefit of digitization is preserving fragile and valuable material. Libraries often get collections in various states of repair, and while originals are restored as faithfully as possible, the digitization can help so that public access remains feasible.

The digital collections are accessible via the UWISpace Institutional Repository that the libraries use as the platform for organizing and preserving digital content. Links to the collections are provided on the libraries' website and Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC).

(Vaneisa Baksh)



■ OUR REGION

The University of the West Indies, as the premier regional institution should be front and centre in this interchange. I should not have to look to the University of Florida or the University of Miami alone for the expertise to develop some of our own institutions.

As we speak, we are seeking to develop the Bahamas Agricultural and Marine Science Institute (BAMSI). This is being developed in Andros, which is the largest island in The Bahamas. This is a landmass which is larger than the island of Trinidad but with a population of less than 14,000 people. We are seeking to make a concerted effort for The Bahamas to develop its agricultural potential, and train farmers and fishermen who will not only conduct research and development but will grow food for our country. This is a determined effort to make the country more self-sufficient in food production.

An expert from the Caribbean was central to developing our ideas on the subject. However, more of this can and should be done.

I think this expertise can be supplied from the region, particularly in the area of tourism which is now the premier industry, supplying billions of dollars to the gross domestic product of the region. Tourism is very much our bread and butter. The University should be front and centre in the forward movement of our tourism product, particularly as the product moves to an even higher end. It should be front and centre in preparing the management talent and in designing synergies so that our countries can develop and obtain more from the tourism product in a sustainable manner.

The all-important area of climate change and the management of the environment is another area where the regional University can help. It is clear from the latest report on climate change that unless there is some dramatic turnaround in the policies of consumption on energy we are in for dramatic shifts in the climate: longer drought cycles and more intense rains and hurricanes.

This poses life-changing dangers, especially to low-lying island nations like The Bahamas. If sea level rises over one metre there will be catastrophic consequences.

I am advised that in Dominica there is already evidence that the growing cycles are changing because the periods of rainfall are increasing.

Our scientists and academics should be front and centre in the management of these issues for us. This should include not only research and development and advice on what we can do to ameliorate the effects of climate change but also how we can get the capital to manage the issues that we face.

I believe in education. I have already spoken about the development of BAMSI in The Bahamas. BAMSI is just one thrust in the area of education. We have also implemented a new National Training Agency to prepare our people for the phenomenal demand which will come during the next few years for workers in the high-end tourism field. This year The Bahamas will substantially complete a multi-billion dollar tourist product at Cable Beach in New Providence which is expected to create 5,000 new jobs. It is expected to open in December of this year. We have to be proactive in ensuring that we can meet the demand for labour in that facility. That is not



The Rt. Hon. Perry G. Christie, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas

The Bahamas in CARICOM

As part of its ongoing CARICOM focus in the Distinguished Open Lecture Series of The UWI St Augustine, the **Rt. Hon. Perry G. Christie**, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, spoke on April 7, 2014, on *“The Role of The Bahamas in Caricom: My perspective on where we are going.”* We carry an excerpt from his speech here, and the full text can be seen on our website.

the only hotel facility creating new jobs but it shows you the magnitude of the issue for us.

There is also afoot the development of the University of The Bahamas. A decision was taken by the government in 2007 to move toward a University of The Bahamas, upgrading the present College of The Bahamas to university status by the year 2015. We are well on our way. Clearly, there are synergies between the development of this university and the University of The West Indies which should be developed.

I never miss the opportunity however to make the point that there must be a concerted effort in all of our societies to encourage men and boys to get an education. It is a cause of serious concern to us in The Bahamas and I am advised throughout the region. Too many of our men and boys are choosing not to keep up, to drop out and not to engage in the work and development of society. We must make them a special project, even as we continue to encourage the enviable success which women have and continue to make to the development of our societies.

Faced with these new challenges, The Bahamas and all CARICOM members need to invest in more research capacity to anticipate and avoid these new forms of challenges and to inform the making of public policy.

The Bahamas Government recognizes that prosperity is linked to national capacity to meet global challenges, innovate and develop new products and services. Therefore, The Bahamas Government has determined to re-position The Bahamas, which has a global reputation for its tourism and financial services industry, as a centre

of excellence in tertiary education, training, research, food security and ecological sustainability.

While we are fully committed to the University of The Bahamas, we recognize that one regional university cannot meet our needs to build the capital of The Bahamas to better define our reality and increase our competitiveness in the global arena.

The Government recognizes the importance of higher education to sustainable economic, social and cultural development. In common with other countries, graduates with university level qualifications reduce the need for public expenditure by making less use of public services. They also create employment opportunities in all sectors of the economy, from education, to construction, to health care.

As such, they have become in many ways, the motor which drives the economy. Consequently, The Bahamas Government has undertaken to ensure the widest possible access to higher education. Consistent with the aim of increasing the number of people with a university education, the Government is encouraging the College of The Bahamas to diversify its course offering and to increase the number of graduate levels programmes.

We have therefore mandated that the College of The Bahamas transitions by September 2015 to the University of The Bahamas to support and drive national development through education, research, innovation and service by offering programmes grounded in the unique features of the Bahamian environment, economy and history.

■ OUR RESEARCH

When you think of St Lucia's landscape, the magnificent Pitons come easily to mind. The Gros Piton and the Petit Piton are the two volcanic plugs located to the south of Soufrière. They are recognised as one of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites and attract many visitors. The town of Soufrière with a population just under 8,400, attracts many tourists – Sulphur Springs Park draws more than 200,000 annually.

But the volcanic landscape, while it provides a livelihood for many St Lucians, also has a life of its own, which might not necessarily be good for residents and visitors.

Volcanic gases, present even in a passive volcano can be damaging to health, and there has been some concern over what levels exist and how harmful they might be.

In this case, stakeholders from Saint Lucia's health and environmental sectors convened at the Soufrière Community Access Centre for the launch of a new network to monitor these gases.

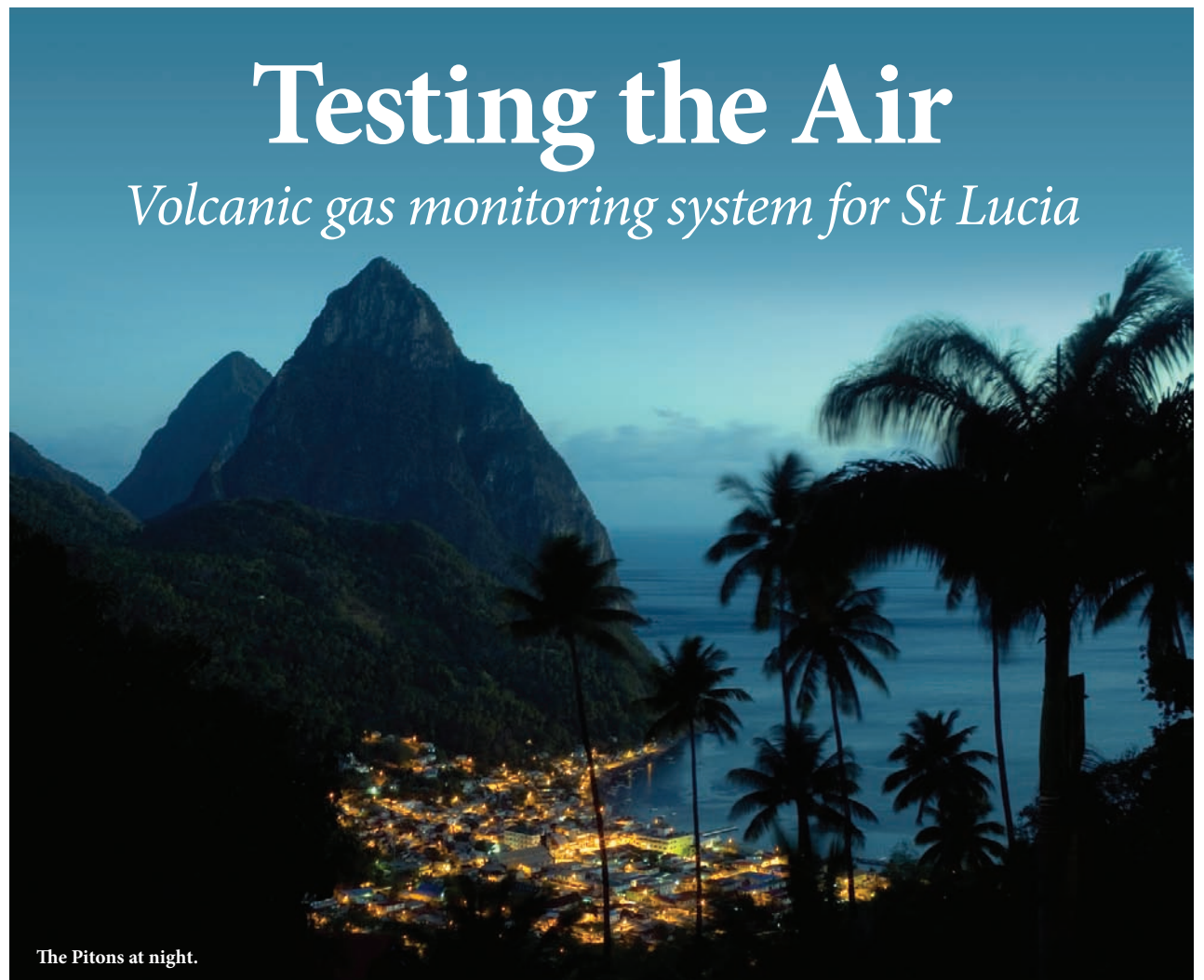
Led by The UWI Seismic Research Centre (UWI-SRC), the primary objective of the project is to gain a better understanding of volcanic emissions at the Soufrière Volcano and the potential impact on environmental and human health.

The UWI-SRC and members of the Project Team will work with the Soufrière Regional Development Foundation (SRDF), management of the Sulphur Springs Park, and NEMO of Saint Lucia, to establish a volcanic emissions monitoring network at two sites affected by geothermal activity.

The project will specifically measure outputs of sulphur dioxide in the air and arsenic in water at the Sulphur Springs Park and the town of Soufrière. The eight month project also seeks to build local capacity as members of the SRDF will be trained in the application of low-cost, low-technology monitoring techniques developed by the UWI Department of Chemistry in St. Augustine.

“The involvement of the community through the training is an important component of the project as it will improve and expand our capacity to provide volcanic monitoring of gases beyond the life of the project,” said the Principal Investigator on the project, Dr. Erouscilla Joseph, a Volcanologist at the UWI-SRC.

By the end of 18 months, she envisages that the main outcomes would be: 1) quantification of the chemical



The Pitons at night.

Testing the Air

Volcanic gas monitoring system for St Lucia

impacts of volcanism on SO₂ in the air, and As in the water supplies of Sulphur Springs and Soufrière; 2) Provide a low-cost low-technology SO₂ monitoring technique as an option for use in reducing the impacts of passive volcanic emissions on human health; 3) Promote knowledge transfer of technology, and increase the capacity of local personnel by training them to perform SO₂ evaluations; 4) Contribute to advancing the knowledge and understanding of volcanic emissions and their potential impacts on the local environment, and hazards to human health through publications in international, peer-reviewed journals; and 5) Promote public education about the risks associated with exposure

to unsafe levels of volcanic emissions and steps that may be taken to reduce these risks.

Similar networks have been established in Hawaii and Reunion Island in the Indian Ocean but this is the first of its kind in the Caribbean and it will be used as a model for other volcanic islands in the region.

The project is funded by The UWI Trinidad and Tobago Research and Development Impact Fund (RDI) and project partners include the Department of Chemistry (UWI St. Augustine), The Soufrière Regional Development Foundation, the Saint Lucia National Emergency Management Organisation and the Montserrat Volcano Observatory.



From left: Mr Viveka Jackson, UWI Seismic Research Centre and Ms. Venus Bass of the Montserrat Volcano Observatory with Ms. Sirmarnt Denys of the Sulphur Springs Park setting up the low cost sulphur dioxide sampler for monitoring. PHOTOS COURTESY SRC



Dr. Erouscilla Joseph of the UWI Seismic Research Centre (far left), discusses the set up of sampling sites with staff of the Sulphur Springs Park as part of the community training.

■ OUR COMMUNITY

Hope and Healing

Methanex pledges US \$150,000 to Telehealth programme



A beneficiary: Roshan Sookoo (second from right in long sleeves), had surgery in 2006 in Canada through the Telehealth programme. Since the surgery, the 10-year-old's health has improved greatly and he now loves to play cricket and football. He is scheduled for follow-up surgery.

“**Brittney was born** with congenital heart disease, club finger nails, blood-shot red eyes...she was unable to stand walk, run for any period of time,” Jitendra Ramai, had his arms around his young daughter while he spoke about her illness a few weeks ago.

Like hundreds of others, he is grateful to The UWI Telehealth programme for the hope and healing the initiative gave to Brittney and the family.

While reading a UWI publication, Jitendra came across an article that spoke about the programme, which since its launch in 2004, has helped children from 228 families with complicated medical needs – including congenital defects of the bowel, heart, nervous system and other organs, as well as developmental problems such as paediatric cancer and blood disorders – gain access to affordable, quality health care through telecommunications and videoconferencing technology.

After surgery in 2008, Brittney's life changed. Now she can play with her dogs, ride her bike, enjoy a game of football and cricket with her friends. Without it, her Dad said, “Brittney could not have done anything at all. We are so grateful.”

The UWI Telehealth programme, with offices located

at the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex (EWMSC) at Mt Hope, has benefitted children with complicated medical conditions as well as health care practitioners. Dr. Hilary Lee Cazabon has been integral to the programme since inception. She recently explained that it is a great resource for physicians and surgeons at the Complex who benefit from “consultations, second opinions and possibly referrals” with tertiary institutions abroad. Doctors can also view and learn from medical rounds in other hospitals and in turn share their local experiences and expertise with those abroad.

In March, Methanex Trinidad Limited pledged US\$150,000 over the next three years in support of the programme. So far, there have been 223 consultations with local and international health care professionals and 19 children have benefitted from free surgeries at The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids), Canada's most research-intensive hospital and the largest centre dedicated to improving children's health in Canada. These surgeries have been paid for by the Herbie Fund at an estimated cost of US \$1.6 million. The survival rate for those who have benefitted from the programme is 100%.

(AWH)



Who's Who in Diabetes

Kingston-based Trinidad-born Professor Dalip Ragoobirsingh has been invited to be a member of the World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines development expert group. Dr Ragoobirsingh, a graduate, of The UWI, is Professor of Medical Biochemistry and Diabetology, as well as Director of the UWI (Mona) Diabetes Education Programme.

The Jamaica Observer reported that Dr Ragoobirsingh's appointment followed his publication in the prestigious British Medical Journal, based on a study done in collaboration with the Florida International University and with the blessings of the Ministries of Education and Health on 276 Jamaican adolescents aged 14-19 years, randomly selected from grades nine to 12 from 10 high schools on the island and including both genders.

The study showed that Jamaican adolescents are at risk of type 2 diabetes mellitus and cardiovascular diseases, with females being at greater risk than their male counterparts. It recommended that intervention measures are needed to educate Jamaican adolescents to reduce overweight and subsequently the risk factors.

Prof Ragoobirsingh, a Rhodes Trust scholar, was previously invited to Geneva in 2008 to advise WHO on its Peers in Progress programme for the treatment of diabetes mellitus. This followed his sabbatical attachment, as a Fulbright Scholar, to the Unit of Non-communicable Diseases of the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) headquarters in Washington DC.

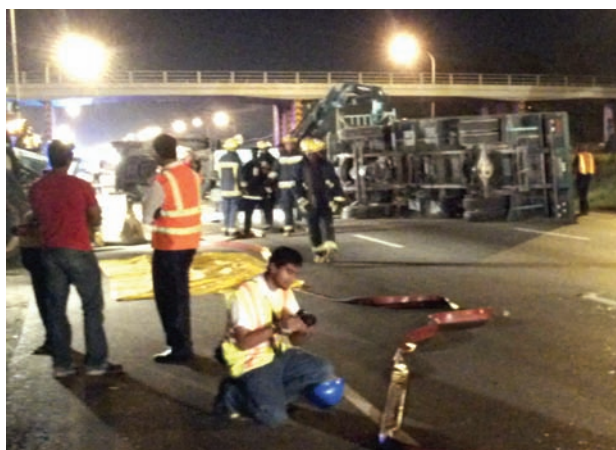
He subsequently served as technical advisor to the PAHO project on Improvement Initiatives for Diabetes Management in the Caribbean. The latter included 10 territories: Antigua and Barbuda, Anguilla, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St Lucia, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. The specific goal of this project was to achieve real and sustained improvements in diabetes care in these countries.

The Caribbean now benefits from 14 technical reports, a major PAHO collaborative manual on diabetes education and the Caribbean Chronic Disease Passport, a patient-held medical record, which were developed out of this exercise.

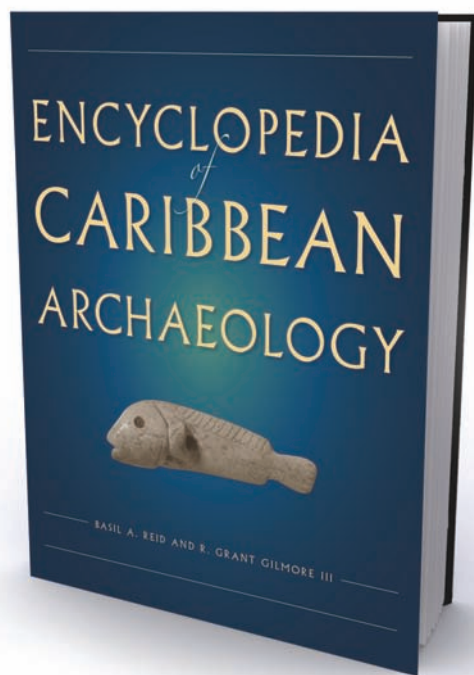
CONTINUING ON THE ROAD TO DISASTER READINESS

When the Office of Disaster Preparedness Management (ODPM) held a nationwide disaster management exercise called Dark Wave 2014, The UWI St Augustine CERT team was there to support again, providing triage for ‘injured’ victims.

This particular exercise involved the Disaster Unit of the Tunapuna-Piarco Regional Corporation (TPRC) on March 26. Beginning at 11pm, it went on until 1am, and involved an overturned oil tanker on the southbound lane of the Uriah Butler Highway. It was an excellent opportunity for the UWI CERT team to practice what they had learnt in the CERT (Campus Emergency Response Training) programme 2013.



■ EDUCATION



All you ever wanted to dig up

Look out for the *Encyclopedia of Caribbean Archaeology*, by Basil Reid and R. Grant Gilmore III, which offers a comprehensive overview of the available archaeological research conducted in the region.

Beginning with the earliest native migrations and moving through contemporary issues of heritage management, the contributors tackle standard questions of colonization, adaptation, and evolution while embracing newer research techniques, such as geoinformatics, archaeometry, paleodemography, DNA analysis, and seafaring simulations. The introduction includes a survey of the various archaeological periods in the Caribbean, as well as a discussion of the region's geography, climate, topography, and oceanography. It also offers a review of the prehistoric and historical archaeology, providing a better understanding of the cultural contexts of the Caribbean that resulted from the convergence of Native American, European, African, and then Asian settlers.

Basil A. Reid is senior lecturer in archaeology at The UWI, St. Augustine and the author of Myths and Realities of Caribbean History. R. Grant Gilmore III is a freelance heritage management consultant on the board of the International Committee for Archaeological Heritage Management of the International Council on Monuments and Sites.

■ HEALTH

Diploma in Management of HIV

The numbers are mind-boggling: toward the end of 2012 there were 35.3 million people across the world living with HIV. In the Caribbean an estimated 250,000 persons are living with HIV (*UNAIDS 2013 Global Fact Sheet*). It has affected millions and remains one of the most challenging diseases to manage. Since the beginning of the epidemic, almost 75 million people have been infected with the HIV virus and about 36 million people have died of HIV, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

The UWI Faculty of Medical Sciences has developed a regional programme to help improve the quality of life for those living with the virus. It has partnered with the International Training and Education Center for Health (I-TECH), University of Washington, Seattle, USA, and the Caribbean HIV/AIDS Regional Training Network (CHART) to offer the Diploma in the Management of HIV Infection.

Last year the first cohort of twelve health care providers crossed the stage at The UWI Sport and Physical Education Centre to shake hands with Chancellor, Sir George Alleyne, and receive their certificates. Three of these UWI graduates gained distinctions.

One of them, Ingrid Marcellin-Wiseman spoke of the importance of the part-time Diploma and its impact on the medical profession and those living with HIV.

“The management of HIV is a very complex one and so I was grateful for this course since it allowed me a greater understanding of the disease, mostly because it encompasses all aspects of HIV care and treatment and as such should be pursued by all medical personnel working in or with special interest in this field of study.”

For UWI graduate Erica Joseph the programme provided, “new and up-to-date information and knowledge,” which was “empowering.”

“This should ideally lead to better health outcomes for HIV/AIDS clients under our care, and should enhance one’s advocacy role when there are gaps in management or sub-optimal care,” she added.

Enrollment is now open and this Diploma in the Management of HIV Infection class of 2014-2015, will find greater flexibility in delivery of the material, as it will be a blended learning programme which combines online as well as face-to-face teaching in clinics. The enhanced delivery will ensure that the course is more accessible throughout the region by maximizing access for professionals working in the public sector, non-governmental organizations and commercial organizations. The deadline date for registration is **July 18th** and classes for the new semester **begin on September 8th, 2014**.

The part-time, one year, blended learning programme offers courses in HIV treatment online as well as in the clinics of medical institutions. Students have the flexibility to access the course material from “anywhere in the world and at any time, while learning about the latest health care for HIV, from experts in the field,” **Programme Coordinator, Professor Zulaika Ali** explained recently.

The modules or courses being taught include: HIV Epidemiology and Pathogenesis, HIV and the Laboratory for diagnosis, General Management of HIV Infection, HIV Co-infection and Related Issues, HIV and the Health System, HIV and Sexual and Reproductive Health, Research Methods and Design, Dissertation and Practicum/Preceptorship. (AWH)



**POLITICS, POWER + GENDER JUSTICE
IN THE ANGLOPHONE CARIBBEAN**

Check out POWER TALKS

The Institute for Gender and Development Studies, UWI St Augustine hosted “Women and Political Power: A Right to Lead” on March 19. The event was a timely intervention into public affairs, raising critical questions and emerging themes from the current political landscape where gender issues have once again come to the fore. There were three major points made by the speakers: (i) it is necessary for academics and members of the community to deconstruct the gendered nature of media coverage, (ii) women’s experiences in politics gives insight into the ongoing unequal gender power relations in the Caribbean and (iii) the IGDS is committed to engaging the society with diverse stakeholders in developing informed analyses of current affairs.

This event was a follow-up on a three-year research project between the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Canadian High Commission, titled “Politics, Power and Gender Justice in the Anglophone Caribbean: Women’s Understandings of Politics, Experiences of Political Contestation and the Possibilities for Gender Transformation.” All presentations may be found on our IGDS St Augustine YouTube page.

UWI CALENDAR of EVENTS

MAY – AUGUST 2014

CONFERENCE ON THE ECONOMY – CALL FOR PAPERS

Deadline: August 31, 2014

The UWI St. Augustine's Department of Economics Annual Conference on the Economy (COTE) 2014 is scheduled for October 9-10, 2014, at the Learning Resource Auditorium (LRC), UWI St. Augustine Campus. A call for papers has been issued and all interested persons are invited to submit abstracts by August 31 on any of the subthemes.

For further information, please visit
www.sta.uwi.edu/conferences/14/cote/

COTE
2014
OCTOBER
9-10

FORUM ON INTERNET GOVERNANCE

May 1, 2014

The local section of IEEE (an Engineering organisation) together with ISOC-TT (an Internet organisation) and TTNIC (a DNS registry) will host a forum on Internet Governance on campus from 6.30pm-8.30pm, at Room 101, Faculty of Engineering Building. The forum is titled "Internet Governance: What it is and why you should care". All interested persons are welcome to attend.

For further information, please visit
www.sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar



MORE THAN JUST JAZZ

May 3, 2014

The UWI Caribbean Contemporary Workshop featuring the Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA) Student Jazz Ensemble presents "More Than Just Jazz," at 7pm, at the Daaga Auditorium. Tickets are \$50 for adults and \$30 for students, and are available at the DCFA, Agostini Street, St Augustine.

For further information, please visit
www.sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar



COMMONWEALTH STUDY CONFERENCE - CSCLEADERS FOR STUDENTS

May 20-23, 2014

CSCLeaders for Students is a four-day programme which provides real and practical leadership experiences, broadens horizons and challenges participants to adapt and thrive in diverse situations. The conference takes place at the St Augustine campus, and the theme is "What makes a city smart?". There are 50 spots available and only tertiary level students may apply.

For further information, please visit
www.sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar



**THE DAWN
OF A KNIGHT**
7pm, May 27, 2014
The Learning
Resource Centre
UWI, St Augustine

Chancellor of The UWI, Sir George Alleyne will deliver the Sir Frank Worrell lecture commemorating the 50th anniversary of Sir Frank Worrell's knighthood. His lecture is titled "Sir Frank Worrell: Of Legends and Leaders." All are welcome.

For further information, please contact
Ms Charmaine Joseph at 662-6013



SECOND CONFERENCE ON HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE CARIBBEAN (II CCHE)

May 8-9, 2014

Regional Headquarters
of The UWI, Kingston, Jamaica

The conference will bring together presenters, facilitators and expert discussants from across the wider Caribbean and internationally to consider 'Best Practices in Higher Education: The Way Forward for the Caribbean.'

For further information,
please contact lacc@uwimona.edu.jm

PRE-BUDGET FORUM

May 28, 2014

Fundraising and Alumni Affairs (FAA) Unit partners with The UWI Department of Economics, UWI Alumni Association T&T Chapter and the T&T Group of Professional Associations to host its Annual Pre-Budget Forum at Daaga Auditorium from 7pm.

For further information,
please contact FAA Unit at 224-3739

CREATING A CULTURE OF TRANSPARENCY: REVENUE REPORTING

June 5-6, 2014

The Trade and Economics Development Unit (TEDU) of the UWI Department of Economics hosts a conference titled "Creating a Culture of Transparency: Revenue Reporting," at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Port of Spain. This event is sponsored by bpTT.

For further information, please visit
<http://sta.uwi.edu/conferences/14/revenue/index.asp>

**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

