



UWI TODAY

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES · ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

SUNDAY 31ST JANUARY, 2010



Derek Walcott

PHOTO: BY NOLAN CRAIGWELL

What the Twilight Says

BY IRA MATHUR

One pre-carnival evening, in the early 1990s, under a livid sky of hot rouge rimmed with orange, with the sounds of steel pan and David Rudder sweeping the Savannah—its yet unpaved dust unsettled by a thousand feet—I first met Derek Walcott.

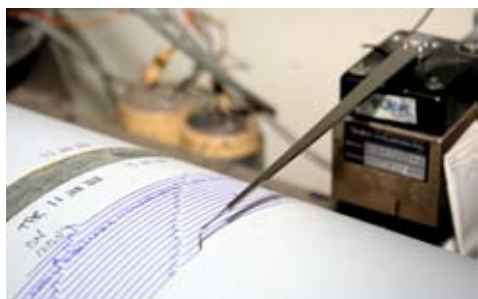
In all that confusion, with the darkness underfoot, I stumbled, almost eyeballing a tall, sexy (red man first, poet after) Poet Laureate with a powerful voice, of the mythical proportions he mastered and executed in his epic “*Omeros*,” (an audacious rewriting of Greek myth, carving in Caribbean stone our landscape, mouthing our voice, giving our region greater authenticity than any independence movement has). The encounter must have lasted thirty seconds, not long enough to warrant an exaggerated retelling of my brush with greatness.

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Are we at risk?

■ Earthquakes



DEREK WALCOTT CONFERENCE - 8

Drama,
Poetry,
Lectures,
Paintings

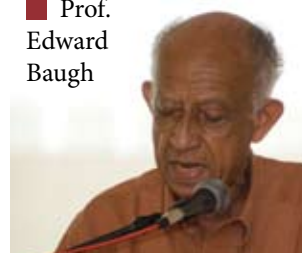
■ Laureate Celebrations



DEREK WALCOTT CONFERENCE - 8

My Community is the world

■ Prof. Edward Baugh



UWI FETE - 14

Were you there?

■ Development and Endowment Fund



CAMPUS NEWS

As Haitian society reels from the devastating earthquake that rocked the island on January 12th 2010, it can gain some small measure of comfort in knowing that the world has rallied together, determined to see it through these trying times. This occasion has forced today's fast-paced, self-centered society to stop and shift its focus to this nation in dire need of help. Organizations and individuals around the world have dropped tasks at hand to offer what help they could, whether it be by physically venturing to the island or providing efforts from home, and The University of the West Indies has joined the ranks in full force.

Immediately, this institution saw the need for public discussion on the occurrence, and on Thursday January 14th, the **Seismic Research Centre** held a press conference to address the cause of the catastrophic earthquake and its impact on the region. On the same day, two engineers from our St Augustine campus and medical personnel from the Mona campus in Jamaica joined a Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) assessment team which accompanied Jamaican Prime Minister, Bruce Golding, on his venture into Haiti. The team's objective was to survey the damage to the island, determine which needs

were of priority and investigate the most effective response strategy to get Haiti back on its feet. UWI will also dispatch a support team of psychologists, engineers, public health practitioners and other technical experts to Haiti, through an appropriate lead agency, if assistance is needed.

The UWI community, propelled by compassion for the people of our fellow Caribbean island, has been constructing avenues through which to provide aid from home. Special bank accounts have been set up in each of the campus islands, here in Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and Barbados, to allow staff and students to donate to an emergency fund. Staff and students are also collecting non-perishable food items, first-aid supplies, linen, toiletries and other such necessities to send to Haiti and encourage the rest of the country to do the same.

UWI Vice Chancellor, **Professor E. Nigel Harris** has voiced his faith that The UWI community, "will respond generously, in cash as well as in kind, to alleviate the suffering of the people of Haiti" and he asserts that the University is determined to continue efforts to aid Haiti in the mid and long-term future. (*Serah Acham*)



People walk by the collapsed Sacre Coeur Church in Port-au-Prince.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

THE SPIRIT OF HUMANITY



Here at The University of the West Indies, we consider ourselves to be an integral part of the communities we serve throughout our region. In that regard, we have always felt duty-bound to use our resources and technical expertise to improve the quality of lives.

None of us could have remained impervious to the horrendous devastation wrought by the earthquake that shattered Haiti on January 12. Apart from the distress invoked by the gut-wrenching scenes in its aftermath, it called to the spirit of humanity within us and there has been an outpouring of efforts to provide some measure of relief to the ravaged island.

The UWI will continue to lend its expertise in whatever way it can, and we expect this to be a lengthy process as time reveals in more precise ways the nature of the needs and the mechanisms that can be instituted.

In the short term, our regional institution has already made it possible for staff and students to make monetary contributions through established bank accounts. I am appealing to our alumni to also join our efforts to mobilize assistance and to help Haiti recover from this disaster. At the St Augustine Campus, we have been discussing additional ways to enable support and are keeping our internal lines open for suggestions from our UWI community as well as to let everyone know what is being done.

In the face of such overwhelming catastrophes, it is tempting to succumb to despair, to wonder interminably whether our efforts can even begin to have any impact in alleviating the suffering of our neighbours. We have to remain steadfast in the belief that every little bit counts, and we must not dismiss any act as too insignificant to make a difference.

I encourage everyone to continue to be guided by the spirit of giving. It is what defines our humanity.

CLEMENT K. SANKAT

Pro Vice Chancellor & Principal

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WEBSITE MAKEOVER

Usability Lab helps make your users fall in love



Savvy organizations know that it simply isn't enough for their information portals and websites to be functional. Not if they want to maximize revenue. To satisfy web-based end user needs and to remain competitive in the online community, websites must be intuitive. Designers must be able to fit themselves fully into the users' shoes. Websites and web services that are useful, usable, and appealing must put the user at the centre of the website design process. Designing web interfaces according to user-oriented guidelines usually significantly increases (2-10 times) the website's profitability, as well as increases the chance that key messages are communicated to the user.

To help organizations achieve a powerful and effective online presence, the Faculty of Science & Agriculture's Usability Lab (UL) at The UWI held a one-day training workshop on Modern Consumer-Oriented Website Design (<http://www2.sta.uwi.edu/usability>) in December 2009.

The workshop was organized by the Business Development Unit of the Faculty of Science and Agriculture. There were 13 participants from the Ministries of National Security, Foreign Affairs, Information, Agriculture, Legal Affairs and Sports & Youth Affairs; as well as from the National Library and Telios Systems Ltd. The workshop provided training on the latest international trends in user-centered design for building efficient, effective, user-satisfying, competitive and highly profitable websites and web-based services. This understanding helped workshop participants define ways to improve their current website designs.



The full-day event combined lectures, practical training and testing of workshop participants' websites in the UL. Participants were trained in:

- Modern principles of user-oriented web design and development
- Maximising user productivity with highly effective website design
- Avoiding costly design mistakes by properly implementing a proven user-centered design approach
- Applying user-centered design integration during the website creation process
- Applying practical website design know-how
- Conducting usability testing

The usability testing of participants' websites uncovered considerable usability problems and led to development of proposals for improvement.

Attendees took away a complete set of user-centered website design principles that they could quickly implement within their organizations.



THE USABILITY LAB

The UL is the Caribbean's foremost usability resource for promoting usability practices within the Caribbean by providing usability testing facilities, resources and services including analysis, engineering and design of ICT systems and industrial products in addition to offering training in these areas.

In well-equipped stationary and mobile usability labs, users are studied interacting with a system. That interaction is evaluated to determine the system's usability. Types of products analysed include web-based and desk-top applications; large, and small (including mobile technology) hardware devices and even entire workplaces. The UL will help to develop leading edge products through unbeatable user experiences.

The Usability Laboratory promotes and facilitates innovation and quality through academic-industry relationships within many areas of Human-Computer Interaction: user-centered design, usability and interaction design.



TYPES OF PRODUCTS STUDIED IN THE UL

- Traditional to web-based or multi-media systems
- Most types of software or web-based services, e.g. eCommerce, informational, educational or entertainment websites, mCommerce or online information services.
- Most types of hardware, e.g. kiosk systems, mobile computing (mobile phones, PDAs).
- Industrial products, e.g. TVs, washing machines, refrigerators, ovens with displays.
- Most types of procedures, e.g. assembly procedures, task instructions, software installations, and so on.
- Workplace design and workplace furniture—elements to consider in purchasing, layout and deployment



UL SERVICES

User-Centered Design and Development

User-oriented design and development of interactive systems and products like websites, software, mobile devices, etc.

Usability Testing

Usability tests in the Caribbean's first usability lab



Personalization

Design and development of user-adapted/personalized interactive systems and products.



Emotive design

*Design and development of interfaces that adaptively and positively appeal to the emotions of the user. Usability, personalization and emotive design are **hi-tech approaches** for any web-based services and websites. They can increase web user productivity and satisfaction; decrease user errors, training time and need for user support.*



Human-oriented workplace design

■ HAITI EARTHQUAKE

Has the Earth's stress been released?

The following is a list of questions and answers compiled by the UWI Seismic Research Centre (Website: www.uwiseismic.com) following the Haiti Earthquake on January 12th, 2010. The Haiti Earthquake was of magnitude 7.0, caused major structural damage and resulted in thousands of deaths.

What type of plate movement caused this earthquake?

The northern boundary of the Caribbean plate exhibits left-lateral strike-slip motion and the fault plane solution of this earthquake is consistent with that regime. The Enriquillo-Plaintain Garden fault system in southern Haiti appears to have hosted this earthquake. (Source: USGS).

Is it normal to have an earthquake of this size in the Caribbean?

Yes, it is normal to have an earthquake of this size and larger in the Caribbean. In the last three years at least three earthquakes greater than 7.0 magnitude have occurred in the Caribbean.

What is meant by a shallow earthquake?

Earthquakes that occur within the crust, which in the Caribbean is about 0-35 km thick, are described as shallow earthquakes. Shallow earthquakes are generally felt more strongly than deep earthquakes since they are closer to the surface of the earth. The Haiti Earthquake was 13km deep which is a shallow earthquake.

What does this earthquake mean for neighbouring countries like Jamaica or Puerto Rico?

Countries in the near vicinity may have felt the earthquake. For example, the quake was reportedly felt along the Eastern corridor, particularly the North East and South East coasts of Jamaica. Assessments are being conducted to determine if there has been any structural damage to buildings and infrastructure. As strain adjusts in the area following the occurrence of an earthquake of this size, seismic activity in the area is expected to be somewhat elevated for some time to come.



At the Press conference held by the UWI Seismic Research Centre, Dr Walter Alexander, earthquake engineer, Lloyd Lynch, Ag Director of the SRC, and Dr Joan Latchman, seismologist, take questions from the media.

Are the Eastern Caribbean islands in any danger as a result of the Haiti Earthquake?

Large earthquakes can, in some cases, advance or delay the occurrence of some future earthquakes. That said the Eastern Caribbean is known to have a history of major earthquakes and the reality is that, with or without the occurrence of the Haiti earthquake, big damaging earthquakes can and will occur in the Eastern Caribbean.

If the earthquake occurred near Haiti how come it was felt in Caracas, Venezuela and not in any other islands in the Eastern Caribbean?

When an earthquake occurs, the energy is released in waves of different frequencies. The effect of the high frequency waves is reduced rapidly as they travel through the crust. The shaking generated by such waves mostly affects buildings with few stories. Therefore those closer to the earthquake in low-rise buildings would be affected by these waves. Low frequency waves, on the other hand, can travel for greater distances and tall buildings respond to such waves. The report from Caracas came from someone on the 14th floor of a building. It may also be that features exist on the eastern side of the Caribbean plate that serve to lessen the energy of the waves coming from that direction reducing their effect as they pass through the region.

Does the occurrence of this earthquake mean that stress has been released and so we probably won't have any big earthquakes in the region for a while?

No. In a zone that generates earthquakes, there is a system of faults of varying sizes. The distribution of faults in a seismically active area may be pictured as a pyramid with there being many small faults at the bottom of the pyramid and the number of faults scaling such that the bigger the fault the smaller the number. In the Haiti area there are fault segments that can generate earthquakes larger than magnitude 7.0 and these faults will continue to accumulate strain energy until they can absorb no more, at which time they will rupture. It is unknown, at this time, how close such faults are to their limit.

Where can I get more information on this earthquake?

The earthquake and subsequent aftershocks which occurred near Haiti on January 12th, 2010 are located in a region outside of the responsibility of the UWI Seismic Research Centre. The SRC monitors earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanoes for the English-speaking Eastern Caribbean countries and as such it is inappropriate for the Centre to provide scientific advisories and updates on this event.

HEALTH



Lifestyle Survey of University Staff Tracks Health Status

BY DEBBIE HILAIRE

Mirroring the global increase in the prevalence of chronic disease, recent data coming out of Trinidad reveals the emergence of non-communicable diseases as the main causes of death during the past decade. The impact of diet and environment in the development of these lifestyle diseases has been well documented and therefore an assessment of the current eating patterns and lifestyle behaviours, which have changed during the past decade due to various national as well as international triggers, is necessary for understanding, and subsequently addressing the problem. With limited national data available, a comprehensive study of a sub-sample of the population has provided a unique opportunity to examine several facets of the local culture such as diet and physical activity, to determine the burden of disease in a high risk sample, with particular focus on the prevalence of chronic disease risk factors and to plan and execute a risk reduction programme.

To determine health status and identify risk factors for chronic disease, a proportionate cross-sectional study design was employed, comprising 273 randomly selected full-time employees of The University of the West Indies. The following standardized methods were employed: (i) anthropometry, to determine BMI and waist circumference; (ii) biochemical analysis of a fasting blood sample for glucose, total cholesterol, HDL-C and LDL-C and triglycerides (iii) duplicate blood pressure measurements using a random zero sphygmomanometer (iv) dietary assessment using 24-hr recalls to define nutrition status and identify dietary behaviours and associations between current health status and chronic disease risk factors; (v) physical examinations to identify signs of nutrient deficiency or toxicity. Questionnaires also provided data on demographics, family history/health status, behaviour

and lifestyle, physical activity and health-related quality of life. All statistical analyses were performed with the use of SPSS 17.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, USA). A p-value < 0.05 was considered significant. Descriptive statistics, independent t-tests and ANOVA and Pearson's correlations were used to assess the burden of disease and to identify associations between chronic disease risk factors i.e. central obesity, high blood pressure, elevated glucose, cholesterol, blood triglycerides and LDL, low HDL and (i) dietary intakes (ii) physical activity and (iii) quality of life. Post ANOVA comparisons explored the differences between persons with and without risk factors. Associations between independent risk factor components and anthropometry, dietary/nutrient intakes, physical activity and quality of life were detected by the use of correlation and regression techniques.

Dietary intake as well as nutrient composition of foods were analyzed with the use of a nutrition software program, Nutribase, and food composition tables, after recipes were collected for 89 commonly consumed foods. The frequency with which specific foods were consumed facilitated the development of a culture-specific draft food frequency questionnaire which would more appropriately guide community-based interventions aimed at reducing chronic disease risk factors in Trinidad.

The data gleaned about the diet and lifestyle behaviours of the sample has provided insight into factors which are associated with the prevalence of chronic disease risk factors. It also formed the basis for the development of risk reduction strategies that can improve overall health, as well as enhance well-being and improve the quality of life of staff members, and by extension, the wider Trinidad community.

The impact of diet and environment in the development of these lifestyle diseases has been well documented

CAMPUS NEWS

TALKING ABOUT REVOLUTION

The Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business recently hosted their 2009 Essay Competition offering two scholarships as prizes. At the presentation ceremony Professor Miguel Carrillo, Executive Director of the Lok Jack GSB, said the competition is an example of the School's commitment to attract, educate and develop the very best students in Trinidad and Tobago and the wider Caribbean region.

Applicants submitted essays on the topic "What strategies can a Caribbean leader use to become innovative?" Semone Moore of St. James and Avinash Maharajh won the scholarships to the IMBA programme at the School. Both expressed their gratitude and pledged their commitment to working with the School to develop and promote a national innovation system.

In her essay, Semone pointed out that "A cultural revolution is needed among regional leaders. Shedding the traditional dependence on the bureaucratic organizational structure and its associated organizational culture as well as transcending misoneism through new paradigms, methods and technology is a necessary watershed. Such changes must be embraced in order to precipitate the transformation in culture that will cultivate innovation."

Avinash wrote: "The enhancement and diversification of their educational backgrounds, the utilization and refinement of their technological savvy and intra-disciplinary as well as inter-disciplinary knowledge sharing are just a few of the methodologies that can be employed to foster the growth of an innovative leader."



Competition winners Semone Moore and Avinash Maharajh; and Mrs. Kamla Mungal, Academic Director of the Lok Jack GSB.

“When West Indian literature, emerging out of a colonial history which would seek to keep it a mere tributary of English literature, came to realize itself as a literature with its own separate, distinctive identity, and a West Indian criticism began to emerge to define and theorize the literature, the dominant impulse was to close the doors to outside presences and influences, in response to an imperative to look into and at ourselves on our own ground and our own terms, even if this impulse of necessity had something idealistic and reductive about it.”

PROFESSOR
EDWARD BAUGH



PHOTO: ABIGAIL HADEED

MY COMMUNITY IS TH

*Professor Emeritus Edward Baugh delivered the keynote address at the opening ceremony of the conference **Interlocking Basins of a Globe**, held at The UWI, St Augustine from January 13-15, 2010. This is an excerpt from his address, titled **Walcott's Island(s), Walcott's World(s): On inhabiting disparate, shifting,***

...I begin by taking as generally recognized (whatever one's own response to it may be), Walcott's ideal of multiculturalism and hybridity, the idea of “the interlocking of the races,” of the Port of Spain of his desire as “a city ideal in its commercial and human proportions” which would be “so racially various that the cultures of the world—the Asiatic, the Mediterranean, the European, the African—would be represented in it [and] its citizens would intermarry as they chose, from instinct, not tradition, until their children find it increasingly futile to trace their genealogy.”

I have thought it remarkable that from early Walcott sought to imagine himself into Indo-Caribbean mind-space, especially when we consider that the (East) Indian presence in St Lucia was very much a minority. I once heard the late Earl Warner say something about the play *The Sea at Dauphin* (1954) which he was directing at the time, and what he said articulated something I had felt but unconsciously. That play is dominated by the eloquently God-cursing, history-cursing Afa, but Warner said that it really became Hounakin's play, the tragedy of the old Indian Hounakin, who is the test of Afa's humanity. Walcott's compassion and respect for the Caribbean person of the Indian diaspora was developed in another play, *Franklin*, which has, regrettably to me, never been published. In his portrayal of Ramsingh and his daughter Maria, Walcott builds on his depiction of Hounakin. Ramsingh, too, is a tragic figure, unable to come to terms with the erosion of his cultural traditions. Then there is the poem “The Saddhu of Couva,” and the use, in the Nobel lecture, of the performance of the *Ramleela* at Felicity as the foundation-stone, so to speak.

When we come to Africa, we are in uneasy terrain. Walcott has not been known for any desire to “inhabit” Africa. Harold McDermott has remarked his “seeming failure to accord the African the same privilege he does to the European in his work...”. Decades earlier, Maria Mootry, comparing the poetry of Brathwaite, Césaire and Walcott wrote: “As a man committed to ‘West Indianness,’ Derek Walcott tends to play down African influences and to insist on the West Indian's potential for creating a new world.” That was true enough, but later in the same piece she spoke of Walcott's “rejection of Africa.” True enough, in his early poetry, such instances of African consciousness in the Caribbean as he essayed tended to be of the more questionable kind, as in “Chapter V” and “Chapter VI” of “Tales of the Islands,” and in the story of Manoir, the island's “first black merchant baron” (*Another Life*), “pillar of the Church,” and his pact with the Devil in *Another Life*. The much-cited “A Far Cry from Africa,” while stating some allegiance to Africa, has its problems and has come in for some strong criticism. Walcott also emphasized the transported African's loss of memory of Africa—“customs and gods that are not born again” (“Laventille”), seeking to turn this “deep, amnesiac blow” to the advantage of his thought-provoking theory that this erasure of memory enabled Caribbean people to free themselves of the tyranny of history and to inscribe their presence on a “virginal, unpainted world” (*Another Life*) and to create a world like nothing the world had ever seen.

It is worth remembering that Walcott's position was, at the time, partly a reaction against the upsurge of Black African consciousness in the Anglophone Caribbean in the later 1960s and early 1970s, which he saw as being too much of “political nostalgia” for “a kind of Eden-like grandeur.” Hence the necessity of Makak's dream journey back to Africa to purge himself of his illusions, just as he had to kill,

psychologically speaking, the ghost of the White Goddess who had held him in thrall.

At the same time, though, and interestingly, although he acknowledged that he didn't “think in the African mode,” “that is not to say one doesn't know who one is: our music, our speech—all the things that are organic in the way we live—are African.” Again, “The African experience is historically remote, but spiritually ineradicable. Nothing has really been lost,” and, he comes to say in the Nobel lecture, “even the actions of surf on sand cannot erase the African memory...”

More to the point, though, is that Africa and reconnection with Africa eventually came to be represented in a major, regenerative, self-realizing way in Walcott's poetry, notably in

*“Yes, he won the Nobel Prize
really get the respect he deserves
His American colleagues tend
Brits don't claim him as one of*



PHOTO: ABIGAIL HADEED

THE WORLD

reference in celebration of Derek Walcott,
excerpt from Prof Baugh's address which was
overlapping spaces.

eros. If I may be permitted to quote myself: "If the poems
ings to a head Walcott's long involvement with the classics,
s also his deepest, most unqualified acknowledgement
date of the African presence in the Caribbean." Two
cial sequences are those in which Achille makes his
am-journey to Africa and Ma Kilman journeys into the
est to find the lost African root that will heal Philoctete's
und, symbol of all the wounds of heart and history that
poem probes. Achille's journey parallels but contrasts
h, balances Makak's. It is a journey to complete himself,
as with Makak, to discard a misguided part of himself.
ilarly, Ma Kilman's journey into the forest revises the

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...but does *Derek Walcott*
...ives from his fellow poets?
...l to ignore him, while the
...of their own."

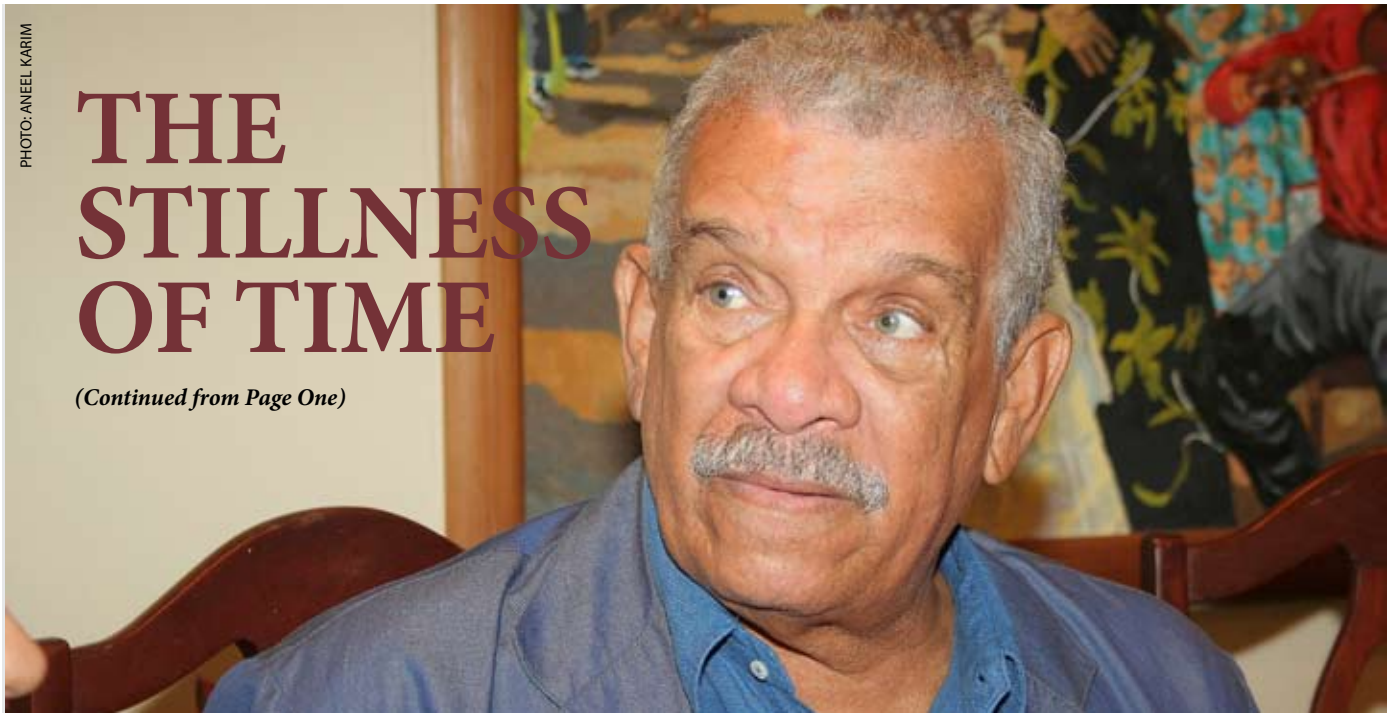


PHOTO: ANEEL KARIM

THE STILLNESS OF TIME

(Continued from Page One)

I mumbled something about working in the Government Information Division, feeling horribly pedestrian, and he responded quicker than light with a question: Well then, can you multiply 25435 by 234? Then laughed raucously as I looked up, completely floored (I'm refiguring the numbers, but you get my drift). He vanished into the Savannah. But I saw him again, directing his play (may have been *Moon over Monkey Mountain*) at the Old Fire Station building which then housed the Trinidad Theatre Workshop he'd started in 1959, jocular, intimate with his actors, clearly relishing the authenticity of producing one of his plays, here, by people he loved.

A few years later came "The Bounty," a slim volume of poetry which, while retaining his unstinting examination of our new world—the unlikely conversion of strands of four continents, a colonized people with lost languages and clean slates, who resist further colonization and maintain authenticity. It is a celebratory volume: lush and tender, with intimations of loss and a claim too of other continents. (Remember this? I'm just a red nigger who love the sea/ I had a sound colonial education/ I have Dutch, nigger, and English in me/ and either I'm nobody, or I'm a nation.)

By then he had already produced as if a mere tossing of omelettes (a phrase borrowed by Virginia Woolf) not simply (ha!) "Omeros," but the bulk of his twenty plays, enough landscape paintings to fill an exhibition, essays, and a Nobel lecture that has already in his lifetime become a timeless classic: the *Ramleela*, acted out in Felicity, plucked out of obscurity.

This January, when The University of the West Indies had a week-long poetic and literary tribute to this Nobel Laureate, the poet was far more subdued. There were intimations of the man I'd met years back in the chuckles in his own wit in our unique humour, his obvious enjoyment at watching the audience howl with laughter during the performance of *Fragments*.

But he was different, older. His twin brother was dead. His sister's death was fresh in his memory. The diabetes was obviously taking hold of his body. And so when he read from his latest

volume of poetry, "White Egrets" to be published in April this year, it was heartbreakingly lovely. His preoccupation of time, with the here and now, with memory and rain, is reminiscent of TS Eliot. His subject, as he put it before he began to read, a kind of quiet, meandering through St Lucia, London, New York, Trinidad, Italy—his preoccupation with the light making transitions between continents seamless. He maintains in "White Egrets" that the perpetual ideal is astonishment. He strives for it, but also falls into stillness, a quiet, that could be death, that could transcend it.

Consider the *Sweet Life Cafe* from "White Egrets":

*If I fall into a grizzle stillness
sometimes, over the read-chequered tablecloth
outdoors of the Sweet Life Cafe, when the noise
Of Sunday traffic in the Village is soft as a moth
working in storage, it is because of age
which I rarely admit to, or, honestly, even think of.
I have kept the same furies, though my domestic rage
is illogical, diabetic, with no lessening of love
though my hand trembles wildly, but not over this page.
My lust is in great health, but, if it happens
that all my towers shrivel to dribbling sand,
joy will still bend the cane-reeds with my pen's
elation on the road to Vieuxfort with fever-grass
white in the sun, and, as for the sea breaking
in the gap at Praslin, they add up to the grace
I have known and which death will be taking
from my hand on this chequered tablecloth in this good place.*

In the interview I had with him his one regret (and there were many: he wished he'd written more, done more) was that he hadn't been tender enough towards our islands). Walcott bemoaned our self-loathing. The sum of what we are, he felt, the amalgam of many continents, allowed us a sophistication and identity that went far beyond that claimed by people of the old world, be it Italian or Persian. We had three continents, four, for God's sake. They had the one. He wanted less veneration of that old world and a greater recognition of our own authenticity.

At 80, Walcott should have no regrets. If what we feel now is a lasting gratitude for helping to restore our lost selves, for taking us out of the reach of imposed touristy stereotypes, allowing ourselves confidence in who we are, we should let him know. All his work, all his greatness, can be distilled to one point, that of a paean to our New World, that of love, of a boundless, heartbreaking tenderness for us, for the continents we inhabit in these tiny islands.

(Continued from Page 9)

ironic “truth” enacted by the story of Manoir: that “One step beyond the city was the bush. / One step behind the churchdoor stood the devil” (*Another Life*). Drawn by her subconscious African memory, she leaves her pew in church to go into the forest to find the healing herb.

In a recent interview, Walcott, telling the interviewer that he is “travelling [now] more than [he] ever did before”, and that “seeing another place is always good,” let on that he had recently been to Nigeria, “quite an experience,” and that that was his first time in Africa. The interviewer, Dante Micheaux, then asked him what the experience of Nigeria was like. This was his reply:

“I don’t want to summarise it in a sentence because there’s bound to be a germ from the experience that I might use for writing. The one thing I would say is that it felt as if the years between Africa and the Caribbean, the 300 or 500 years, had vanished. A weird feeling.”

Perhaps there will be more to come on the matter of Walcott’s inhabiting, or being inhabited by Africa.

But to return to *The Prodigal*. He returns to his island in pre-Easter drought, and notes that the ground dove, which “flew / up from his path to settle in the sun-browned / branches that were now barely twigs”, coos with a “relentless ... tiring sound” that is “not like ... the flutes of Venus in frescoes”. In his “scorched, barren acre”, “he had the memory of rain / carried in his head, the rain on Pescara’s beach”. The drought breaks, and the rain images the blessing and renewal of the return home, but it is now, as the poem draws to its close, even in the peace and fulfillment of “the enclosing harmony that we call home”, that the dialogue between the Caribbean and Europe comes to a head in complex twists and turns, nuanced, subtilized, to a new level of self-conscious scrutiny of how “we have tortured ourselves / with our conflicts of origins”. The simultaneous inhabiting of disparate places is true, but conflicted.

The persona reaches the point where he asks himself, “So has it come to this, to have to choose?” To choose, that is to say, between the island and Italy, between Canaries and Venice, between “the marble miracles of the Villa Borghese” and “villages of absolutely no importance”, with “streets untainted / by any history”; between “a plank bridge” and Florence’s fabled Ponte Vecchio. But, no, he says, “the point is not comparison or mimicry.” “Both worlds are welded, they were seamed by delight.” So the blending is enacted when

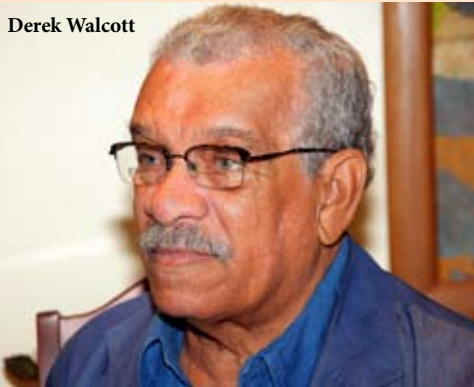
*A crowd crosses a bridge
from Canaries to the Ponte Vecchio, from
Piaille to Pescara, and a volley of blackbirds
fans over Venice or the broken pier of Choiseul,
and love is as wide as the span of my open palm
for frontiers that read like one country,
one map of affection that closes around my pen.*



PHOTO: JERMAINE CRUCKSHANK

*A crowd crosses a bridge
from Canaries to the Ponte Vecchio, from
Piaille to Pescara, and a volley of blackbirds
fans over Venice or the broken pier of Choiseul,
and love is as wide as the span of my open palm
for frontiers that read like one country,
one map of affection that closes around my pen.*

Derek Walcott



To inhabit, simultaneously, different, shifting, overlapping spaces is, to borrow a phrase from *Tiepolo’s Hound*, to live by “maps made in the heart”, such maps being truer than the maps of everyday, factual use. While, in his right ear sounds “oak-echo, beech-echo, linden-echo” (62), his left hand writes “palms and wild fern .. / sea-almond ... and agave,” but the one set is “not [the] opposite or [the] enemy” of the other. So, the stately Caribbean cabbage palm, the palmiste, stands beside “Doric and Corinthian” columns in the same line of verse, on equal terms. The palmistes speak, in their “correcting imprecations,” saying to poet and reader,

*Listen, we have
no envy of the white mountains [the Alps],
or of the white horn [the Matterhorn]
above the smothered inns, no envy of the olive
or redoubtable oaks. We were never emblems.*

In other words, they were and are only themselves, and that is everything.

In the final analysis, there is no resolution in the sense of accepting one place and rejecting the other. Europe will still have its place in the poet-Prodigal’s head space, but he knows where his groundings are, he knows where is home. It is where he has the privilege of “mak[ing] each place”

*new again from naming it, the gaping view
of the bay with its toy yachts at Marigot,
and the plunge into the rich banana valley
under the haze-blue ridges into Roseau.*

Incidentally, the representation of home provides another instance of the simultaneous inhabiting of different places. Home is configured, in the most particular sense, as one would expect, in images of St Lucia, but at times it is also configured in images of Trinidad, “Sancta Trinidad” as he says, and more particularly the Santa Cruz valley, locale of the white egrets that will provide the title of his next collection of poems:

*Santa Cruz, in spring. Deep hills with blue clefts.
I have come back for the white egrets
feeding in a flock on the lawn, darting their bills
in that finical stride, gawkily elegant,
then suddenly but leisurely sailing
to settle, but not too far off, like angels.*

Significantly enough, the poem ends imagining another kind, another level of space, beyond worldly spaces, another “idea of home,” another idea of “Out There.” At the end, the poet-Prodigal is on a dolphin-sighting boat ride, heading out between Martinique and St Vincent. In a visionary, epiphanic close, the dolphins become the possibility of angels,



PHOTO: ABIGAIL HADEED

Derek Walcott signs a book for Ira Mathur, while daughter, Dr Elizabeth Walcott-Hackshaw, looks on.

And always certainly, steadily, on the bright rim of the world, getting no nearer or nearer, the more the bow's wedge shuddered towards it, prodigal, that line of light that shines from that other shore.

We may simultaneously inhabit worldly and other-worldly spaces.

Now, after all that, listen to this. In its list of "The Best Books of 2007," *Contemporary Poetry Review* named, as "Best New and Selected Edition," Derek Walcott's *Selected Poems*. On the winner in each category, there was a comment. Here is the comment on Walcott:

"Yes, he won the Nobel Prize, but does Derek Walcott really get the respect he deserves from his fellow poets? His American colleagues tend to ignore him, while the Brits don't claim him as one of their own. 'What are his politics? Who does he belong to? What group does his work represent?' You can just imagine the academics asking their reductive questions about him and shaking their heads in dismissal. Walcott is, however, one of the greatest poets alive in English—only Richard Wilbur, Seamus Heaney, and Geoffrey Hill are in his league."

In other words, "Where does he belong, especially since acceptance and acclamation depend on our being able to place him, never mind that he has said, 'My community, that of any twentieth-century artist, is the world' (*Conversations*, 83)?" Interestingly enough, he has also said, "I think it's very exciting to be outside English literature, English literature in a hierarchic sense" (*Conversations*, 47). And speaking of himself and his close Nobel laureate friends Brodsky and Heaney, he remarked, with an implicitly self-confident sense of place, "The three of us are outside of the American experience" (*Conversations*, 119). Haven't "the academics asking their reductive questions" ever heard of the Caribbean? What can we say: "Alas, poor Derek?" Or, better, following the CPR line, "More power to Walcott"? Perhaps I should say, "So much for all my wanderings and wonderings about the desire to inhabit different places simultaneously."



PHOTO: ANEEL KARIM

Early in the week of celebrations, Derek Walcott unveiled a painting which had been donated to The UWI by the estate of former lecturer Dr Patricia Ismond, a Walcott scholar. Afterwards, he posed with daughters, (from left) Dr Elizabeth Walcott-Hackshaw and Anna Walcott-Hardy, and the Campus Principal, Prof Clement Sankat.

*Santa Cruz, in spring. Deep hills with blue clefs.
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PHOTO: ANEEL KARIM

Dr Paula Morgan was one of the driving forces in the Liberal Arts Department behind the conference in celebration of Derek Walcott.



PHOTO: JERMAINE CRUCKSHANK

The performances of "Fragments" had to be extended to cater for the hundreds of secondary school students who turned up on a day specially reserved for them.

Blending Tertiary Level English with Educational Technology: A MARRIAGE IN MODERN TIMES!

BY TYRONE ALI

When it comes to blended learning at The UWI, it may surprise some that the discipline of English Language has been at the forefront in the use of educational technology. Not so to the huge student population pursuing related courses over the past four years, nor to the administrators and practitioners directly involved in the planning, preparation and delivery aspects of the English Language Foundation Programme.

The most recent technique employed by the Programme has been the enormously successful video recording of summarized lectures that students download, view and interface with, seemingly anytime and anywhere!

Over the past two decades or so, the Programme was largely paper-based with weekly two-hour face-to-face sessions. Students were expected to achieve success through these sessions supplemented by the obvious need for research on their part.

The seed for transition in the Programme was planted six years ago and revolved around forward and backward linkages between the secondary and post-secondary student entering The UWI and the strategic plan of The UWI itself. Recognition and a full appreciation of the technological skills possessed by school-leavers was the catalyst.



Tyrone Ali, Coordinator

The use of *my-Elearning* as an electronic platform at St Augustine has had tremendous positive impact for students who need to relate to the instructional content of the courses in a manner that reflects their learning pace. Beyond interfacing with *my-Elearning* to select tutorials, view time-tables, gain access to course materials, visit related websites and download and upload assignments, which can be done using any computer with Internet access (both on and off campus, 24/7), since 2007 students have been engaging Camtasia, the software that links power point presentations with audio feed as related plenary lectures are designed to incorporate this dimension that allows students to download audio recordings of lectures and so relate to the courses' content at their own pace.

Introduced last semester, video recordings of summarized lectures have been most helpful, but not for the videos themselves, for *the accessibility* of the video for students to download and interface with, regardless of time or location, that has served them well in their studies.

Summarised lecture presentations lasting twenty to thirty minutes are done and then processed for web delivery. The link is then accessible to students on *my-Elearning*. The videos can be run on any Internet-enabled device that supports Windows Media Video. And it is this feature that students maximize as they download and utilize on their personal computers, laptops, MP3 players, MP4 players, tablet PCs and even the very popular Blackberry phones.

In order for students to really function successfully in formal English at university, backward and forward linkages with the national community cannot be ignored. The Programme has already begun an intense three-month training workshop for secondary school teachers and other officers of the Ministry of Education that focuses largely on teaching and assessment strategies using blended learning techniques. Plans are underway for a one-day secondary school staff developmental workshop that will allow English teachers to interface with the Programme's offerings, methodologies and aims, with a view to assisting students bridge the gap between the secondary school and the university in a smoother and more holistic manner. On the other side of the coin, a proposal is being prepared for the Foundation English Programme to be part of the University's *World of Work* seminars to invite firms and potential employers to outline the requirements and attributes of a model employee, with an obvious focus on the need for graduates of the University possessing formal English communicative competencies. This will undoubtedly continue to shape the Programme's courses as the quest continues for the production of the distinctive UWI graduate capable of functioning successfully in a globalized, competitive world.



Summarised lecture presentations lasting twenty to thirty minutes are done with the assistance of Nolan Craigwell, Technical Assistant (right) and Barbara Constance-Baptiste, Assistant Coordinator of the Programme.

■ BLENDED LEARNING OFFERS:

- An electronic teaching-learning platform
- Power point presentations
- Electronic dissemination of lecture notes
- Online tutorials
- Exposure of students to related web links
- A Writing Centre

■ THE FOUNDATION ENGLISH PROGRAMME

serves four faculties of the St. Augustine campus – Humanities and Education, Social Sciences, Law, and Science and Agriculture. Additionally, there is face-to-face contact with an outreach centre in Tobago as well as outreach colleges in St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. There is also the relatively recent and separate Foundation Programme that caters for Evening University students reading related courses.

“The use of my-Elearning as an electronic platform at St Augustine has had tremendous positive impact for students who need to relate to the instructional content of the courses in a manner that reflects their learning pace.”

UWI FETE PHOTO ALBUM



UWI FETE

In support of scholarship

There was a subtly subdued air at the annual UWI Fete which took place on January 17 at its traditional venue, the Principal's Grounds at the St Augustine Campus, this year. Although patrons of the 20-year-old fete came out in their numbers as usual, the shadow of Haiti hung in the air.

The Fete is one of the fund-raising elements of the **Development and Endowment Fund** which facilitates scholarships to UWI students at both undergraduate and post graduate levels. Later this year, in September, there will be an official award ceremony, at which 160 bursaries will be handed out to students for the 2009-2010 academic year. It is a measurement of the success of the fund-raising ventures that the Fund has moved from granting 15 bursaries when it started to the 160 at present.

The UWI organising committee is grateful to all those who participated in making the 20th UWI Fete a significant contributor to the well-being of our students, who are after all, our future.





UWI CALENDAR of EVENTS

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2010



SOUTH AMERICAN FIESTA

Today – Sunday January 31, 2010

3pm to 9pm

The University School Compound,
Baker Street, St Augustine

The University School holds its second all-inclusive Carnival event, “South American Fiesta” at the school’s premises, with performances by Iwer George, Alison Hinds, Anil Bheem, and the BMRZ, among others. Admission costs \$400, and the cuisine is South American.

For further information, please contact the University School Office at 662-4832, Michele at 720-2702, Nicole at 681-6640, Or Randall at 704-1909.



WORLD OF WORK (WOW) CAREER FAIR

January-March 2010

St Augustine Campus, UWI

Registration:

27 January-3 February, 2010

Interview Preparation and Resume Writing Workshop:

4 February, 2010

Seminar:

6 February, 2010

Mock Interviews:

27 February and 6 March, 2010

Recruitment Fair

11-12 March, 2010

For further information, please contact Student Advisory Services at (868) 662-2002, Ext. 2360

UWI Benefit Gala

Saturday 27 February, 2010

6.30pm

Four Seasons Hotel, 21 Avenue Road, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. The UWI Benefit Gala will take place on Saturday 27th February, 2010, at the Four Seasons Hotel, 21 Avenue Road, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, under the patronage of Dr. G. Raymond Chang, Chair of CI Financial (CI), one of Canada’s three largest investment fund companies, and Chancellor of Ryerson University. Held for the benefit of UWI’s Scholarship Fund which provides scholarships for outstanding academic achievers, this gala will honour the recipients of the 2010 Luminary Award, the 2010 Chancellor’s Award and the 2010 Vice Chancellor’s Award. The reception begins at 6.30pm and dinner starts at 7.30pm. Please note that this is a black tie event. To reserve your ticket, please call 416-214-7578, or email uwi@adriaansandassociates.com.

For further information, please visit the UWI Benefit Gala website at www.uwitorontogala.com

Making Literacy Improvement a Reality

March 11-12, 2010

Mona Visitors’ Lodge, Mona Campus, UWI

The School of Education at the Mona Campus in Jamaica, hosts its biennial literary conference, “Making Literacy Improvement a Reality for Adolescents and at Risk Youths.” The SOE literacy symposium is the premier regional forum for dissemination of research findings, exploration of issues and initiatives that contribute to or mitigate literacy improvement. This biennial symposium attracts participants from the Caribbean, North America, and Europe.

For further information, please contact the School of Education, UWI, Mona through Dr Beverley Bryan at beverley.bryan@uwimona.edu.jm, or Dr. Clement Lambert at Clement.lambert@uwimona.edu.jm

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.



CARIBBEANTALES FILM FESTIVAL AND SYMPOSIUM FILM MARKETPLACE

February 25, 2010

Shridath Ramphal Center, Cave Hill Campus, UWI

CaribbeanTales, in association with One Caribbean Media and the Shridath Ramphal Center, presents “The Best of the CaribbeanTales Film Festival, Symposium & Marketplace” in Barbados from February 23rd to March 2nd 2010. Alongside a Symposium on global distribution, workshops, master classes and screenings, the Festival will feature the first ever Caribbean Film Marketplace, where selected independent producers will have an opportunity to pitch their projects and have one-on-one meetings with regional and international film and TV buyers, broadcasters, cinema owners, and government representatives.

For further information please visit the website <http://www.caribbeantales.ca>, or contact Frances-Anne Solomon at francesannesolomon@gmail.com or Keith Nurse at keith.nurse@cavehill.uwi.edu

TURMOIL AND TURBULENCE

March 24-26, 2010

SALISES, St Augustine Campus, UWI

The 11th Annual Conference of the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social & Economic Studies (SALISES), “Turmoil and Turbulence in Small Developing States: Going Beyond Survival” will be held at the St Augustine Campus. The small economies of the Caribbean and other areas are grappling with the consequences of a global financial and economic meltdown. These consequences include falling demand for traditional products like tourism, dwindling remittances and the accompanying intensification of negative social ills like unemployment, rising criminality, overburdened health and educational facilities and the like. What are the options, given the limited policy space now available to these small economies? The conference addresses these issues.

For further information, please visit the website <http://sta.uwi.edu/salises>, or contact Francine Alleyne at the.salises@sta.uwi.edu