



UWI TODAY

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES • ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

SUNDAY 22 JANUARY, 2017



#BeUWI

“What does it really mean to be a student of The UWI?” That’s the question at the heart of the #BeUWI – BeYou. BeWe. BeUWI. campaign launched in November 2016 to kick off The UWI St Augustine’s 2017-2018 student recruitment cycle.

BeYou speaks to students finding their niche while remaining part of The UWI family. The campaign highlights the personal stories of students. **Christopher Lou-Hing**, one of the campaign ambassadors captured above is a first-year Film Studies major.

“UWI is a really great place, with a vibrant community. There are many interesting people and when interesting things happen, like at the Film programme!”

BeWe captures the diversity of students who come to The UWI; millennials fresh out of secondary school to mature, career-oriented people with years of real-world experience. “We” are students from different countries and socio-economic backgrounds.

#BeUWI reflects the ongoing institutional philosophy that it does not matter where you come from, it’s where you want to go. To **BeUWI** is to Be ready for the possibilities of life, to Be people who are not only capable of academic excellence, but also critical thought and innovation and most importantly to Be individuals who effect change all over the world.

See #BeUWI in action by following us online @ **UWISTA Facebook** and @UWI_StAugustine **Twitter**.

PHOTO: ATIBA CUDJOE

RESEARCH IN ACTION – 07

Controlling the Bio-control

■ The Guppy Campaign



CAMPUS NEWS – 10

Too Young To Wed

■ Public Forum on the Marriage Acts



RESEARCH IN ACTION – 12

The Edible Campus Project

■ Edible Trees on Campus



UWI IN THE COMMUNITY – 16

Detection and Treatment of Diabetes in Pregnancy

■ Health in Pregnancy Trinidad and Tobago (HiPTT)





20,000+
Students

120+ Degree,
Diploma &
Certificate
programmes

7 Faculties



UWI
ST. AUGUSTINE
CAMPUS

A Great West Indian Tradition

On October 12, 1960, the foundation of the St. Augustine Campus of The University of the West Indies was created from an earlier institution - the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, a renowned teaching and research institution of the British Empire.

The Imperial College, which was primarily attended by British students, became the Faculty of Agriculture for the newly emerging University of the West Indies, established to meet the tertiary education needs of citizens of the Commonwealth Caribbean. Within a few short years, the St. Augustine Campus had expanded from its initial cohort of 67 students in agriculture to a multi-disciplinary campus serving more than 19,000 students.

Today, St. Augustine, the largest of The UWI's four campuses, serves the region's needs through teaching, research, consultancy, and policy development. Men and women of the Caribbean have gone on to become leaders of industry and government, helping to chart a path of regional identity.



www.sta.uwi.edu

■ CAMPUS NEWS

A Tribute to Sir Dwight Venner

BY SIR GEORGE ALLEYNE

I had just returned from my walk on the beach where I watched the rosy-fingered dawn herald the rising of a brilliant Caribbean sun, to open my computer and learn of the setting of another brilliant Caribbean son. Caribbean he was by birth and inclination and brilliant he showed himself to be through decades of persistent and insistent efforts to foster the growth and human development of his beloved OECS, not only for their sake but for the benefit of the wider Caribbean. Sir Dwight Venner had died.

We spoke at length just about ten days before, when we discussed his health and he assured me that he was willing and able to continue as Chair of the Campus Council of The University of the West Indies (The UWI) Open Campus and he looked forward eagerly to our University Council meeting in April. He spoke of his new library and the opportunity it gave him to sit and watch the Caribbean Sea and write about our non-aqueous ties and the nature and possible solution of some of our most pressing problems.

The tragedy of a death often lies in the perception and persistence of the loss and the extent to which the one we know is missed and mourned. But if it is true that a man never dies until the last man calls his name, then we can be sure that Dwight Venner's death will be a long time coming. His name will be called often by those who practice in the field of Caribbean human development, and although his métier was the economic dimension, Dwight knew and felt deeply that that our full development as a people embraced other dimensions. Many who listened to him in various fora, as I have, would be moved by his concern as to whether the lads who were in charge would be deaf to the imperatives which he saw so clearly. He would speak always with passion and sometimes with impatience about the examples of collective action in the OECS which were not being replicated and expanded into the wider CARICOM region.

I will cite such an imperative that is one of the many which arose out of his commitment to cooperative and collective Caribbean action. The Eastern Caribbean Drug Scheme which, at least when I knew it, was hailed as the only successful example in the Americas of a group of countries coming together to acquire drugs at lower prices by collective purchasing. This was possible mainly because of the backing and guarantee given by the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank and its President Dwight Venner.

The UWI is proud to claim him as one of its brilliant Pelicans. He wears our honorary degree with pride and has never been reticent about proclaiming his academic lineage. We hope that his name will be called loudly and often for a long time by the Caribbean citizens who owe him so much. We also hope that the grief of his family will be assuaged somewhat by the knowledge of our appreciation of what he did and what represented among us.

Sir George Alleyne was appointed Chancellor of The University of the West Indies in 2003. Prior to this, he has had a long and illustrious career in the medical field, holding among others, the positions of Professor of Medicine at The UWI and Chairman of the Department of Medicine. He is an emeritus professor of the The UWI.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

WELCOME 2017



As 2016 becomes a distant memory, the new work year has emerged with attendant urgency to be productive, to meet objectives and accomplish goals. The year 2016 was challenging so it closed with some reflection and

introspection on the past and with a commitment to focus on what can improved in the future.

As most of you are aware, the global financial downturn has resulted in an economic recession that has impacted Trinidad and Tobago and, by extension, the St Augustine Campus. It is no secret that we have had to manage the campus with a reduced funding allocation. Senior management and academic heads have met in an effort to identify and agree on mechanisms for more effective financial management. While one of our priorities is to try, as far as is possible, to maintain staffing, cost containment measures have had to be implemented throughout the Campus. Regular systematic reviews, exploring ways to be even more productive and efficient, are the "new normal."

Subsequent to these meetings at the campus level, there were university level sessions on the new Strategic plan for the period 2017 – 2022. Guided by the Vice-Chancellor's vision of the triple-A strategy - Agility, Alignment and Access –and our campus vision for innovation and entrepreneurship, we are developing a five year plan to take the institution forward. As a university we are years behind in this particular initiative. However, we have already put things in place for a rapid start. In particular, with Professor John Agard's assiduous leadership of the Office of Development, Research and Knowledge Transfer, we are well on the way to meeting our target of having our first spin-off by August 2017. This would represent our first direct contribution to the economic development of our country and our region through the nurturing of foreign exchange earning small and medium enterprises.

Over the last six months I have spent much time learning more about the processes,

policies, the people and the physical plant at the St Augustine Campus. The campus and university are rather unique entities. In fact, although I have been part of this institution for over 36 years, I am now no longer surprised at the discovery of something new. It has achieved much in its relatively short existence. However, the institution must be on a constant drive to transform itself to improve its support for national and regional development while simultaneously having international reach and appeal. This is a challenge to which we must all respond – staff and students alike. Change is the only unfailing characteristic of our environment and the survival of our region, our nation and our university requires that we properly assess and adapt to the ever-changing environment.

I closed 2016 giving heartfelt thanks to all for their support. I am encouraged by and appreciative of the commitment demonstrated by all staff to the institution, to regional development and to the generations to come, to their service beyond the call of duty to ensure that UWI remains the premier teaching and learning institution, and to the families of this network of people who we must not forget also provide support for what we do here. I am sure I can speak for all in expressing appreciation and gratitude to our institutional, government, corporate and community partners with whom we work tirelessly in making our service mandate a reality. Let us all move into a new year with that spirit of gratitude - thankful for what we have, in the midst of the financial constraints, and mindful of the fact that there are many who are not as fortunate.

So, with 2017 only just begun, allow me to offer best wishes - for good health, success, productivity and prosperity to each one of you and all of your families.

Brian Copeland

PROFESSOR BRIAN COPELAND
Campus Principal

EDITORIAL TEAM

CAMPUS PRINCIPAL
Professor Brian Copeland

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS
Dr Dawn-Marie De Four-Gill

EDITOR (Ag.)
Rebecca Robinson

CONTACT US

The UWI Marketing and Communications Office
Tel: (868) 662-2002, exts. 82013 / 83997 or email: uwitoday@sta.uwi.edu

New UWI Professors Announced

Drs Elizabeth Walcott-Hackshaw and Jerome De Lisle both of the Faculty of Humanities and Education, St Augustine Campus and **Dr Jean-Pierre Louboutin** of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Mona Campus, are the newest professors at The University of the West Indies (The UWI).

The three were recently promoted to the highest academic rank at the institution following a rigorous assessment process, which included a review of their respective distinguished and original works and professional activities as well as their contributions to the enhancement of the University's reputation.

At The UWI, promotion to a professorship must also be supported by external assessors selected by the Vice-Chancellor, after consultation with the Dean of the applicant's respective Faculty. The endorsements from external assessors for Walcott-Hackshaw, De Lisle and Louboutin confirm their exemplary performance and justified their promotion to the rank of professor.

About the professors at the St Augustine Campus

Dr Elizabeth Walcott-Hackshaw completed her PhD in French Language and Literature in 1995 and went on to join the Faculty of Humanities and Education at The University of the West Indies' St Augustine Campus four years later, in 1999. A Senior Lecturer in French Literature since 2009, Walcott-Hackshaw teaches, coordinates and supervises academic work at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. As an academic and published author Dr Walcott-Hackshaw has published two books of fiction; a collection of short stories and a novel. Her short stories have been widely anthologised and translated. She has co-edited four works and also co-edited three Special Francophone issues in the journal *Small Axe*.

Dr Walcott-Hackshaw served as a Deputy Dean Graduate Studies and Research in the Faculty of Humanities and Education for six years. Presently, she is Board Member of the University Committee Graduate Studies and Research. She also serves as a member of the Board in numerous campus-wide committees. She has delivered several literary readings, invited lectures, conference presentations, and creative writing workshops.

Dr Jerome De Lisle has been a Senior Lecturer in Educational Administration at the School of Education, Faculty of Humanities and Education, The University of the West Indies, St Augustine Campus since 2010. He teaches postgraduate courses on measurement and evaluation and educational leadership, and also supervises a significant complement of postgraduate students. Dr De Lisle also played a leading role in the development of the new Masters programme: MEd Measurement, Evaluation and Assessment and has contributed significantly to the new MEd Educational Leadership.

Dr De Lisle's core areas of research and training competence include education evaluation, research methods, student assessment, educational measurement and whole system reform. More specifically his research into the analysis of student performance in the Secondary Entrance Assessment (SEA), computer adaptive testing, the development of value added and traditional school performance measures, and evaluation of education systems all have local, regional and international relevance. These areas of expertise have opened up doors for several consultancy projects locally and internationally. He was awarded the Nuffield Foundation Fellowship in 1994 and in 2014 was recognised for his research and named Most Outstanding Researcher of the Year by the Faculty of Humanities and Education, St Augustine Campus.

Dr Elizabeth Walcott-Hackshaw is now Professor in French Literature and Creative Writing and Dr Jerome De Lisle holds the title Professor in Education Leadership. These appointments were effective as of September 28, 2016.



Dr Elizabeth Walcott-Hackshaw



Dr Jerome De Lisle

■ CAMPUS NEWS

FETE TO FUND EDUCATION

The UWI Development and Endowment Fund's (UWIDEF) all-inclusive UWI Fete is all-new in 2017 with new event managers, Caesar's Army, at the helm. They unveiled the theme, Wanderlust – Taste the World for this year's Fete, carded for January 29, 2017 from noon to 8pm at The UWI St Augustine, Grounds of the Office of the Campus Principal.

"UWI Fete has always been known for its quality ever since its inception as the country's first all-inclusive fete – we aim to raise expectations. Having Caesar's Army as our event management team for 2017, will undoubtedly raise the bar once again," said the Chairman of UWIDEF, Ewart Williams, as he welcomed the new management.

More than just a party, UWI Fete's proceeds go towards fundraising for scholarships and bursaries for deserving students. Jules Sobion, CEO of Caesar's Army expressed his desire to create "an enhanced experience – not just a party or fete. There will be something for everyone; a mix of the old and the new." He elaborated that this year's theme is set to



be a "Foodie's Paradise." Patrons will have the opportunity to have a taste of the foods from six countries – Africa, China and India – three previous themes of UWI Fete and France, Italy and Mexico.

The coveted slots for UWI Fete's performance line-up thus far include Machel Montano, Roy Cape All Stars and Dil-e-Nadan. More acts will be revealed in the new year.

The Fete continues to be possible thanks to steadfast dedication of the UWIDEF Committee. Their work continues to provide the young people of Trinidad and Tobago and the region with opportunities for higher education despite the challenging economic environment nationally, regionally and internationally.

Early-bird UWI Fete 2017 tickets are available for TT\$1,100 at some Republic Bank outlets, from The UWI, and, online at ticketfederation.com. Regular tickets will be at a cost of TT\$1,250. Limited tickets for UWI Alumni Association Members will be available for TT\$1,000.



Many beneficiaries of The UWIDEF huddle together for a happy moment with some board members and academic staff. From left (front row): Jerry Medford, board member; Deirdre Charles, board member; Brian Copeland, Pro Vice Chancellor and Campus Principal; Lisa Wickham, board member; David Lewis, board member; Kenrick Nobbie, secretary of the board; Heather Cateau, Dean of Faculty of Humanities and Education; Indar Ramnarine, Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology; Rhoda Reddock, Deputy Principal



UWI
ST. AUGUSTINE
CAMPUS

MEd Health Promotion

Faculty Of Humanities And Education | School Of Education
July 2017 / Part-time (2 years)

Are you concerned about lifestyle-related diseases that affect individuals, families and communities? Would you like to become involved in promoting healthy lifestyles for the prevention of conditions such as obesity, diabetes and hypertension?

This programme is designed to facilitate professional advancement of persons working in education, community health, community development, health education, social services, health and family life education, youth services, or related fields. Emphasis is placed on the cultivation of strong skills in developing, implementing, and evaluating health promotion programmes which focus on social, economic, and behavioural determinants.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 28, 2017

APPLY NOW

Visit the School for Graduate Studies and Research online at www.sta.uwi.edu/admissions/postgrad

For programme details and financial information contact:

Tel: 1-868-662-2002 ext. 83337 | Email: kwesi.bowen@sta.uwi.edu

Visit www.sta.uwi.edu/fhe/education/healthpromotion



A Tribute to Sir Dwight Venner

BY SIR HILARY BECKLES

I remember it well, as did everyone whose eyes witnessed the event. It was the ending of the 1980 Jamaica cricket season, and I was called upon to bowl the last over in a tense match between The University of the West Indies (The UWI), Mona Campus and Kingston Cricket Club at the University.

With the opposition requiring just a few runs to win and The UWI in need of the last wicket I nervously bowled the most ordinary, unacceptable of balls. It was wide and short outside the offstump and the batsman, seeing glory, looked to the point boundary and swung.

What followed was a bespectacled, excessively afroed, Venner in his customary second slip position diving full stretch to his left, eating grass along the way, and emerging from his undignified posture with ball held aloft!

The batsman stood his ground in shock and awe. But I had seen Venner do this kind of thing before. Everyone in the area, overwhelmed in jubilation, jumped upon Venner as he admonished us to watch out for his glasses. The umpire raised his finger. Then he calmly walked over to us and said to Venner, "I didn't go to church this morning, but thanks to you I know that God is alive because I have just witnessed a miracle."

This is how we knew the visionary Venner; always focused, always giving of his best for the team, always celebrated for his extraordinary efforts. The tale of the miracle in the middle of a dramatic moment is but a metaphor through which we can view the journey on earth of this spirit that was Sir Dwight.



Thousands of his cohort bonded with him at Mona as the 1980s transitioned the region. As some comrades stepped back and came forward as consultants, Venner's vision was to think and act with consistent personal and public coherence. For him remaining true to core values was top priority. The praxis of economic development was always linked to his commitment to social justice. It was within this vortex of progressive possibilities that Venner was distinguished.

Sir Dwight traced the source of his tremendous courage and commitment to his "Mona making." He loved his alma mater and came to see the future of the Caribbean through the lens it provided. Prepared well for public service, he began his monument building in the "Enterprise of the Indies," as an economist who was later reinvented as a

central banker. As Governor of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, and architect of the deeper integration of the OECS, he showed the wider region how to proceed with the functionality of regionality.

Working with his political and civil society colleagues he took the OECS out to the boundary's edge of leadership in CARICOM and gave us all an example of what is possible with hard work, faith, trust and confidence. Here was a brother whose soul, heart, and intellect resided in the same space; he represented a unique integrity that rejected the contradiction between the personal and the public.

Sir Dwight was a leader in the generation that followed Sir Alister McIntyre and William Demas. Surrounded by intellects as sharply as Ralph Gonsalves and Keith Mitchell, he took to the development field with passion and determination to bat for his people in need of good runs as they moved to the rendezvous of victory. No region has ever prospered without the resolve of comrades such as Sir Dwight. No community can persist with resilience without the inculcation of his kind of consciousness in the spirit of those coming behind.

The UWI is honoured to have assisted in the making of a special son who was exclusively engaged in his service to region. All of us within the academy and beyond its boundaries shall miss the presence of his personhood, but we shall mightily remember with delight our Dwight. We salute the distinguished Venner family for their sharing of this special soul and we stand with them in both their reflection and celebration.

Professor Sir Hilary Beckles is the 8th Vice-Chancellor of The University of the West Indies. Prior to this, Sir Hilary was Principal and Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University's Cave Hill Campus in Barbados for thirteen years (2002-2015)

CANE FARM BLOWS AWAY DEMERARA IN UWI-UNICOM T20 FINAL

Cane Farm Sports Club came out victorious at the 2017 UWI-UNICOM T20 Tournament, which concluded after the two week long tournament bowled off on January 5. Twelve teams in total took to the field, with the top two advancing to the final match which took place on Sunday 15 January at the Sir Frank Worrell Cricket Ground, The UWI SPEC. Cane Farm successfully defeated first time tournament participants, Demerara Cricket Club. The Guyanese team fell to the local boys by 67 runs. Roshan

Primus of the triumphant Cane Farm won Man of the Match while the Man of the Series award went to Gajanand Singh of Demerara. Teams competed for \$70,000 worth of prize money, with the winning team receiving \$40,000 in cash and a champion's trophy. Ms. Neela Labban, Marketing Director of UNICOM commended the spirit of camaraderie and sportsmanship that the Tournament showcased and she expressed the company's pride in their partnership with The UWI.

The official results of the final matches are as follows:

FINALS: JANUARY 15 AT 6PM

Demerara Cricket Club vs Cane Farm

Cane Farm - 217/7 in 20 overs

Evin Lewis - 90 (35) 10-6's, 6-4's
Roshan Primus - 43 (18) 3-6's, 4-4's
Lendl Simmons - 26 (27)
Sherfane Rutherford - 3/32 (4)
Kellon Carmichael - 1/10 (4)

Demerara Cricket Club - 150 all out in 17.1 overs

Gajanand Singh - 64 (39) out
Kellon Carmichael - 34 (21)
Keemo Paul - 25 (11)
Roshan Primus - 4/39 (4)
Ravi Rampaul - 2/19 (3.1)
Imran Khan - 2/34 (4)

Man of the Match - Roshan Primus

Other awards

- **Man of the Series**
Gajanand Singh (Demerara) - 327 runs, 5-50's, 4-not outs
- **Best young player**
Keemo Paul (Demerara) - 6 wickets, 66 runs, SR-188, avg 34,
- **Most wickets** - Ravi Rampaul (Cane Farm) - 11
- **Most catches** - Rashad Forde (Club Crusoe) - 6
- **Most 6's team** - Cane Farm - 61 in 4 matches
- **Biggest 6** - Anthony Simmons
almost top of SPEC building 110-120m
- **Most disciplined team** - Merry Boys



PHOTO: 2017 VICTORS CANE FARM

RESEARCH IN ACTION

CONTROLLING THE BIO-CONTROL

BY DAWN PHILLIP

Have you ever heard of the world-famous local fish called *Poecilia reticulata*? You may know it as the guppy, canal fish, seven colours or millions. Many know this tiny fish from hours of childhood fishing pleasure, or as an aquarium pet. The Trinidadian guppy is famous because it is sold in many countries as an aquarium fish, it is the focus of research by many scientists abroad, and it has been introduced to many countries to control mosquitoes since it eats mosquito larvae.

Mosquitoes are a nuisance and threaten human health because they are biting insects that feed on human blood, and they are vectors, or carriers, of several life-threatening diseases such as dengue, yellow fever and malaria. The recent spread of these and other mosquito-borne diseases, such as Chikungunya and Zika, spurred renewed efforts to control mosquitoes. One popular method is to introduce larvae-eating fishes, such as guppies, to water where mosquitoes breed in the hope that they will eventually reduce the number of adults.

As recently as 2013, guppies were released into fresh water in Pakistan to fight a dengue epidemic. In 2014, school children and volunteers joined the *Guppy Campaign*, a programme that released guppies into puddles as a means of fighting malaria. And in 2015 and 2016, they were used in Brazil to control the spread of Zika and dengue. Perhaps because of the familiarity and ease of using this approach, there were reports of people independently releasing guppies in disease-affected countries. A search for “mosquito control guppy” in Google produces hundreds of articles and websites promoting this approach.

But among these you will also find an article recently published by my colleagues and I, casting doubt on the effectiveness and wisdom of using this strategy.

Guppy Campaign volunteers use a simple effective strategy to convince others that guppies will eat mosquito larvae – jars of guppies eating mosquito larvae. The problem with this, and similar experiments showing that guppies eat mosquitoes is that the fish had no other food available.

There is strong evidence that guppies prefer other foods. In experiments in which guppies were given mosquito larvae and other foods, the guppies ate more of the other foods. The faeces of guppies caught in the wild showed that guppies in nature ate even fewer mosquito larvae than in the experiments. Here in Trinidad, we observed that guppies feed extensively on mosquitoes when they are in planters of stagnant water, but not when they are in moving waters or their natural settings. They also eat fewer mosquitoes in polluted water, probably because of the wider variety of foods available.

So, it is not that guppies do not eat mosquito larvae – they do – but it seems that they much prefer to eat other things, and will only eat a lot of mosquitoes when other foods are scarce. In other words, guppies may not be as effective in controlling mosquitoes as we think.

So, why may introducing guppies to guppy-free areas not be wise?

Chances are that the introduced guppies will be released into the wild or escape, for example, through flooding, or young guppies can hitch a ride elsewhere on birds or other animals. Guppy entry to any site is highly likely to result in the fish establishing a population that thrives in its new home. Guppies have become established in at least 69 countries outside of its native range, and use for mosquito control is implicated in about 60% of these cases. Escapees

can easily establish new populations because of the very characteristics that make them attractive for pets, research, and mosquito control – they are hardy little fishes that easily adapt to new conditions, reproduce often, give birth to young fish, and grow and start reproducing quickly.

Guppies can tolerate and quickly evolve in a wide range of conditions. They are found in small ditches, drains, ponds, streams and lakes, in clear or muddy, fresh or brackish water, in temperate to tropical countries. They can be found in polluted water, for example, the drains along the Priority Bus Route, sewers and oil-contaminated streams. A mated female can store sperm for months, and use them to fertilise several batches of her eggs. Females collected from the wild are almost always pregnant, and this, plus their high adaptability, means that a single pregnant female has more than an 80% chance of starting her own successful population if introduced to a new environment, producing her first batch of young about 28 days after the eggs are fertilised.

Guppies alter the streams into which they are introduced. Guppies introduced to previously guppy-free parts of streams in T&T competed with resident species for resources, eventually reducing the diversity of local fishes to become the most abundant species. They changed the biology of the remaining fish species, by altering their reproduction, growth, survival, and hence density (that is, the number of individuals in an area).

In countries beyond their native range, the effects of guppy introduction may be more pronounced. In Hawaii, *poeciliids* (guppies and their cousins), introduced since the 1920s, were found to be 10–30 times more numerous than native fishes. Some native fishes have disappeared from these areas. Guppies also increased the amount of benthic biofilms (the slippery coating on rocks, plants and any solid surfaces in water, that are composed of diverse and complex community composed of algae, bacteria, fungi and other

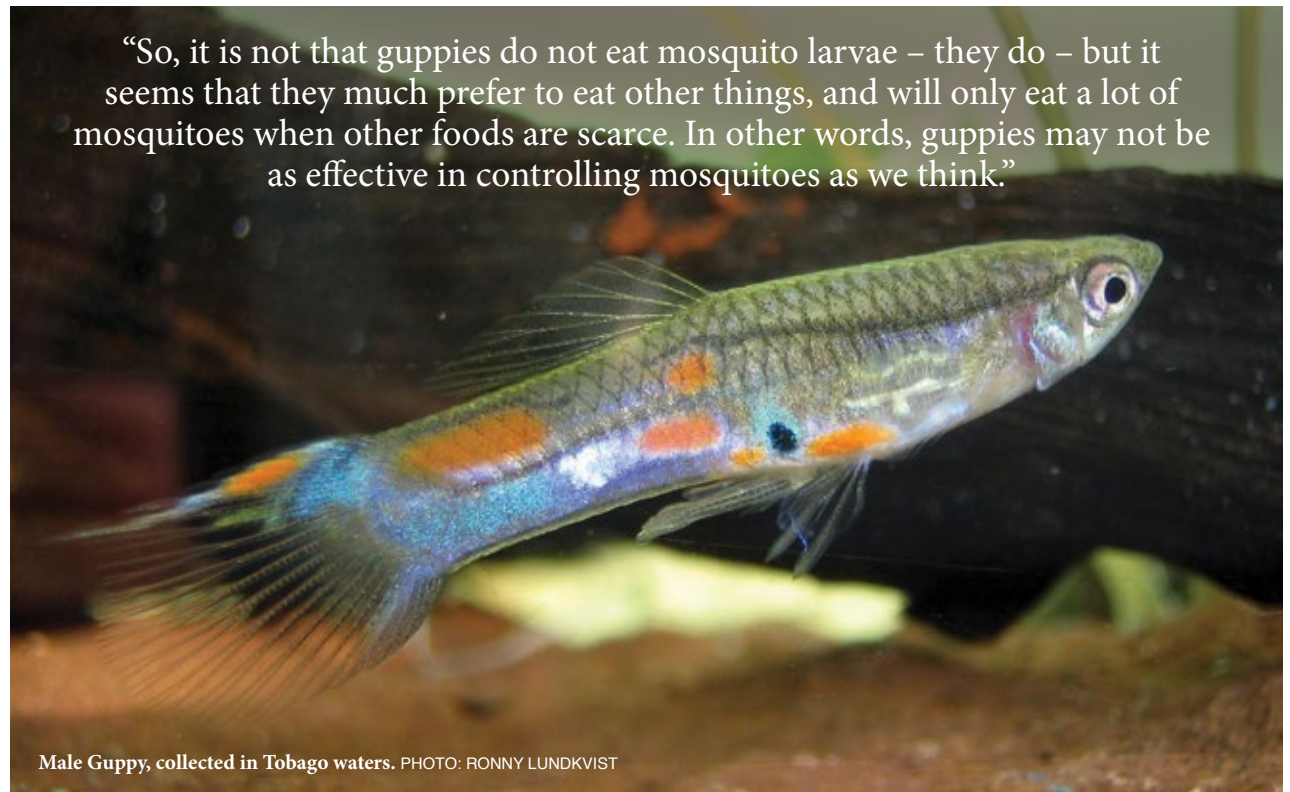
microorganisms embedded in a complex organic matrix). They also increased the abundance of benthic invertebrates such as insect larvae and worms, but this was uneven across species so that some actually decreased while others became more abundant. At least one alien invasive insect became more abundant in the presence of guppies.

Because each species affects its environment in different ways, these changes at introduced sites translate into other changes in the way these stream ecosystems function. One important feature is the cycling of nutrients such as carbon, nitrogen and phosphorus, as this helps ensure that these important building blocks for organisms are available in forms that they can use. Guppies have increased available dissolved nitrogen by up to eight times compared to areas without them, and total organic carbon by up to five times.

What does this mean? Consider the biofilm as an example: biofilm communities play critical roles in aquatic environments. They help cycle nutrients, and supplying energy and organic matter to other stream organisms. They are sensitive and respond to changes in nutrient availability, generally increasing in thickness and extent in response to increases in nutrients. In extreme cases, they can develop those unpleasant green or grey-green mats commonly seen in neighbourhood drains.

So what should be done to control mosquitoes? We recommend against using guppies on a large scale, as they may be ineffective, and have significant risks to local ecosystems and their biodiversity. Instead, more effective methods (for example, mosquito nets or window screens) should be used. Where guppies are deployed, this should be done in well-controlled settings, and be carefully monitored. There is a lot of information on biological control that can be used for guidance on best practice, but we strongly recommend that research into the use of guppies to control mosquitoes needs to merge the medical, health and ecology and evolutionary sciences.

“So, it is not that guppies do not eat mosquito larvae – they do – but it seems that they much prefer to eat other things, and will only eat a lot of mosquitoes when other foods are scarce. In other words, guppies may not be as effective in controlling mosquitoes as we think.”



Male Guppy, collected in Tobago waters. PHOTO: RONNY LUNDKVIST

CAMPUS ACTIVISM

Sustain T&T in collaboration with UWe Speak presented the *Green Screen – The Environmental Film Festival Art x Activism* films and panel discussion, the first of its kind, thanks to the expansion of the Green Screen Environmental Film Series into a 12-day Film Festival in November 2016.

Screenings of short films included *Teach a Man* directed by Carver Bacchus, Green Screen series founder and *Horse* directed by Ozy Merriquer. The featured film was the documentary *Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry* directed by Alysson Klayman which is the inside story of a dissident for the digital age who inspires global audiences and blurs the boundaries of art and politics. First-time director Alison Klayman gained unprecedented access to Ai while working as a journalist in China. Her detailed portrait provides a nuanced exploration of contemporary China and one of its most compelling public figures.

Teach a Man highlights the plight of a fisherman in La Brea, south Trinidad. With beautiful images and candid interviews, it discusses the increasing difficulty fisherfolk face due to decreasing catches, pollution and fish kills and the resulting precariousness of their livelihoods. *Horse* explores the work and artistic practice of Damien Agostini. The artist works with 'found' wood and transforms them into one-of-a-kind sculptures. The film looks at conservation and recycling from a creative's point of view.

The discussion that followed focused on how art and activism are connected for the panelists. Known social environmentalist Kemba Jaramogi, founder of Fondes Amandes Community Reforestation Project and Akilah's Jewelry highlighted the importance of natural forest products similar to how she incorporates them in her jewelry which is constructed out of seeds and other organic materials. Jean-Claude Courmand, Director of the group *The 2 Cents Movement* discussed how his organisation uses spoken word and digital media to support the work of various non-profits, NGOs and smaller actors in the civil society space. Moderator Wendell Manwarren of the group *3 Canal* elaborated on the background of art for communication and agitation through Carnival with *Jouvert*, *ole mas* and *rapso* as examples.

Students were encouraged to get involved with an organisation on campus that they can support and help to grow. They were also asked to continue supporting similar organisations after graduation and bring that passion to their homes, communities and places of work. Members of The UWI community highlighted the ample spaces and

ART + ACTIVISM

BY JEANETTE G. AWAI



Panelists deep in thought (from left): Kemba Jaramogi of Akilah's Jewelry, Jean-Claude Courmand of 2 Cents Movement and Wendell Manwarren PHOTO: ISRAEL RAMJOHN

opportunities for art and activism to come together on campus, however it rarely happens because of a somewhat apathetic attitude by students.

Speaking on the event, Green Screen Series founder Carver Bacchus stated, "The intersection of art and activism is important to us because we live in that space – creating and exhibiting films to catch the attention of our audiences and move them to action. Bringing this type of event to UWI, in conjunction with Bocas Lit Fest and 2 Cents, was an important step for us in building a relationship with the

campus community and reigniting social and environmental awareness among students. We're keen to establish a formal Sustain T&T presence on campus so this was a natural step toward building relationships to make that happen."

All screenings took place at the Student Activity Centre on Campus.

For more about the Green Screen Environmental Film Festival, please visit their website <http://greenscreentt.com/>

Jeanette G. Awai is a freelance writer and Marketing and Communications Assistant at the Marketing and Communications Office

DISABILITY AWARENESS

In Trinidad and Tobago, similarly around the world, persons with disabilities face physical, social, economic and attitudinal barriers that exclude them from participating fully and effectively as equal members of society. On December 2, the staff of the Student Life and Development Department (SLDD, and formerly ASDLU), celebrated International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) in recognition and in celebration of our students with disabilities. SLDD is a department in the Division of Student Services and Development (DSSD)

The IDPD has been commemorated since 1992 to promote awareness and mobilise support for critical issues relating to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in society and development. This year's theme was "achieving 17 goals for the future we want."

The day was commemorated with an informational booth which was located at the SLDD office at the Heart Ease car park. The public was provided with information on disabilities as well as the services of the Department. Staff and students also visited a number of car park on the campus to distribute flyers on the importance of the provision of reserved car park spaces for persons with disabilities in an effort to prevent the indiscriminate use of these spaces on a daily basis.



Staff members getting ready to bring awareness to the campus community on the celebration of the United Nations' International Day of Persons with Disabilities. From left: Bridgemohan Harry, Angela Gomez, Kelve Richards, Nicholin Brathwaite-Copeland, Cheryl Williams, Kharissa Chow, Dr Jacqueline Huggins (Manager) and Samson Yakubu

EVENTS

The first ever Open Day for the Film Programme was recently held at the department's Carmody Street premises. This was part of the Programme's Secondary School Initiative, an outreach project aimed at educating students about the local film culture and industry. Students interested in film, TV and photography learned about careers in these industries, as well as courses offered at the UWI Film Programme.

Among participants were students from The Arima North Secondary, Carapichaima East Secondary, Hillview College, North Gate College, Presentation College, and San Juan South Secondary.

Yao Ramesar, Coordinator of the UWI Film Programme, introduced them to the world of filmmaking, "Success in this is measurable. You have to be obsessed with what you do, work hard and add value to put money in their (investors) pockets."

Krystian Ramlogan, a filmmaker and lecturer in film, who studied under Haile Gerima at Howard University, introduced students to the art and craft of film. He initiated discussions on the importance of art, literature and film, to the development of the Caribbean and students were introduced to cinematic concepts via clips and stills from select movies. He said the study and practice of film can lead to a career in numerous fields within the creative industries and empower the individual with truth, knowledge and the ability to produce representations of their culture.

Amir Aether Valen, BA film student and 2016 winner of the United Nations Trinidad and Tobago Award for Best Emerging Documentary Filmmaker, spoke about adapting and conceptualising written stories into film: "I try to tell a story through the visual languages of the film." A screening adaptation of "The Nowarian," filmed by Aether Valen and written by Anna Levi, MFA (Creative Writing) student at UWI St. Augustine, raised intriguing questions from the visiting students. "The Nowarian" is an artistic, solemn and nostalgic character piece about a young boy, and his introspective journey as he tries to get a grip on his life and embrace his existence.

UWI FILM HOSTS OPEN DAY



Students at the UWI Film Programme Open Day pay attention to an engaging introduction to film
PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE FILM PROGRAMME

Michael Mooleedhar, independent filmmaker and graduate of the programme gave a guest lecture about his experiences including on his latest film, "Green Days by the River," an adaptation of the 1967 novel by Michael Anthony. Mooleedhar described the challenges of convincing investors to help him realise his ideas on screen.

Production consultant at Film TT and UWI Film Programme lecturer, Jamil Agard gave a presentation on the production pipeline, the corporate world of filmmaking and the benefits of producing a successful motion picture.

Ka'en Haynes, director of and actor in "Legends Revisited" discussed the challenges of making a successful film on an ultra low budget. He explained how his films are tools of connectivity, linking people of different cultures through the themes of magic and mysticism.

Dialogue, action, familiar Trinidad and Tobago landscapes and faces elicited delighted laughter during the screening of the award-winning film "Buck: the Man Spirit" written and directed by Steven Taylor, another graduate of The Film Programme.

UNDERSTANDING CRIME BY RESEARCH



Wendell C. Wallace

It has been argued that crime and crime-related issues are major concerns for Caribbean peoples and governments. With old crime threats continuing unabated and newer threats emerging on the Caribbean landscape, it appears that Caribbean law enforcement agencies are unable to deal with the incidence of criminality in the region.

Mindful of this, a team including students from The UWI

St. Augustine Campus took up the challenge to tackle crime from an academic standpoint. The conference hosts were the Policy Studies Organisation, the International Journal on Criminology, and the American Public University, all based in Washington DC, USA.

The UWI team was the largest contingent of presenters from any one university and comprised five postgraduate students and one undergraduate student. This presence gave rise to eight Caribbean-themed papers at the 1st

International Criminology Conference on *Crime, Criminals, Criminality, and Criminology* at Historic Whittemore House, in Washington, DC.

The UWI contingent comprised of PhD candidates in Criminology and Criminal Justice facilitated five panels on crime in the school context; policing and the criminal justice system. Stephen Williams, presented a paper on *Using GPS Tracking to Reduce Homicides and Shootings in Trinidad and Tobago: A Randomised Trial*. He submitted that the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) was able to utilise a Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking system which assisted in the reduction of homicides and shootings in Trinidad and Tobago. Williams, however, lamented the lack of updated equipment to further enhance the capacity of the TTPS in reducing homicides and shootings using GPS tracking. Another police-related presentation came from Zola Phillips on the nature of witness care in the criminal justice system in Trinidad and Tobago. She highlighted several deficiencies within the system and cogent suggestions to remedy them.

Ayinka Nurse-Carrington, presented on *The ability of mothers to parent while imprisoned in Trinidad and Tobago*. Still doing her research, she lamented some practices at the Women's Prison in the island, but noted that several reforms are taking place at a 'frustratingly stultifying pace.' Karen Lancaster-Ellis presented data on criminally-minded individuals in Trinidad and Tobago, where perceived pleasure outweighed the perceived pain, leading to the commission of criminal offences.

The final two presentations addressed *Teacher Perceptions of the impact of School Violence on Caribbean Societies* and *An Exploratory Study on the Impact of Organized Crime on Societies in Small Island Developing States with Evidence from Five Caribbean Countries* respectively. The first study used the 'Circle of School Violence' model to situate teachers' perceptions of the impact of school violence on Caribbean societies. The other presentation argued that organised crime proliferates in the Caribbean due to our porous borders, weak law enforcement and relatively small budgets (when compared to financial resources of some international crime groups). Further, in combatting organised crime; national sovereignty, political will and differing priorities sometimes hinder a cross-Caribbean approach.

The opportunity to share academic research with the rest of the world augured well for a deeper understanding of crime and social issues facing the region as well as possible academic solutions to the present crime situation in the region. The experience was particularly rewarding for the PhD candidates who were given advice on measures to improve their dissertations.

This review was written by Dr Wendell C. Wallace, a Criminologist at The UWI, St Augustine Campus

TOO YOUNG TO WED

BY JEANETTE G. AWAI



We have been here before, said Dr Gabrielle Hosein. The head of the Institute for Gender and Development Studies (IGDS) was speaking at a public forum on the Marriage Acts in Trinidad and Tobago under the theme, “Too Young to Wed.”

Chairing the forum in October 2016, she told the audience that five years ago, the IGDS had broached the subject at another forum to discuss the Marriage Acts in Trinidad and Tobago, “Is it better for girls to marry? Who decides?” (the video broadcast is available on the IGDS YouTube page). Not much progress has been made since.

This time, the IGDS had joined with the Coalition to End Child Marriage in Trinidad and Tobago to discuss this contentious subject.

Statistics released by the Ministry of the Attorney General show that 569 under-aged girls were married from 2006 to 2016. Child marriages continue to be a global problem, with world leaders like US First Lady, Michelle Obama, and UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki Moon commemorating the International Day of the Girl Child to highlight the need to expand girls’ education in keeping with the theme that Girls’ Progress equals Goals’ Progress.

Advocates against child marriage in Trinidad and Tobago are trying to have the legal age for marriage in all the Marriage Acts raised to 18, and to have more access to sexual help services for those between the ages of 16 to 18 since the country’s legal age of consent was raised from age 16 to 18 in May 2015.

Panelists addressed these issues with a full audience at the Institute of International Relations, starting with Folade Mutota, Director of the Women’s Institute for Alternative Development representing the Coalition to End Child Marriage in T&T. She spoke on the higher age of eligibility

for males than females across the Acts and the Coalition’s role (they comprise over 20 NGOs and have been partnering since 2016) to end child marriage and protect children through legislation and policies.

Dona Da Costa-Martinez presented (FPATT) - Family Planning Association of Trinidad & Tobago perspective on the age of sexual consent and the implications for sexual and reproductive health. She reiterated the discordance between the country’s marriage laws which allow parents to enter their children into marriage from the age of 12 for girls and 14 for boys and the country’s raising of the legal age of sexual consent from 16 to 18 in 2015.

Raising the age of consent actually prevents sexually active teenagers from approaching FPATT for sexual reproductive services. Additionally, the Sexual Offences Act criminalises persons such as teachers, doctors, lawyers if they offer those services to persons under the age of sexual consent. Current data about child marriages does not identify whether young girls were married to adult males, which would be considered a sexual offence. According to the Medical Chief of Staff, 74 girls under the age of 16 gave birth in 2015. Da Costa-Martinez called for not just legislative change, but also a cross-sectional approach.

President of the Hindu Women’s Organisation (HWO), Brenda Gopeesingh said that Hindu pundits who are against raising the marriageable age across the Marriage Acts do not speak for HWO, and they have been fighting for change since 2011. The HWO’s research on the ill effects of teenage pregnancy and the impact of early marriage on the health and education of teenage girls have been documented in their publication: “16 Days of Activism 2014: November 25 to December 10: Campaigning for Change of the Marriage Acts of Trinidad and Tobago &

Policy Statements on Gays, Rights Abortion & HIV/AIDS.” Rounding up the panel discussion was Khadija Sinanan, Co-Director of WOMANTRA, who spoke at length on the myths surrounding child marriage. She started by dispelling the notion that only Hindu and Orisha marriages include the marriage of minors due to widespread media coverage of these groups. However, she said, all four Acts, including the Civil and Christian Acts have the minimum age of marriage below 18 years. She stated child marriages are a contemporary problem citing 51 marriages that occurred in 2014 and 10 in 2015. Like the others, Sinanan emphasised the need for the law to be changed since it violates the rights, education, health and opportunities of young girls and exposes them to violence and traps them in a cycle of poverty. Additionally, child marriage is a driver of early pregnancy, which leads to birth-related complications, often resulting in low mortality rates in young mothers in lower and middle income countries.

In the Q&A session, other NGO representatives in the agreed that changes must be made to the child marriage legislation, and that sex education should be included in the school curriculum.

To add your voice in the fight to change the Marriage Acts of Trinidad and Tobago use the following hashtags across social media platforms: #ChildMarriageisChildAbuse, #MakeChildMarriageIllegal, #AmendtheMarriageLaws.

For more information about the Coalition to End Child Marriage in T&T, IGDS and more, please visit the IGDS website at <http://sta.uwi.edu/igds/>

Spurring Revitalisation and Growth in the Tertiary Education Sector

BY DAVID RAMPERSAD



CARICOM has mandated the tertiary education sector review its systems to enable it to act more effectively as an engine of economic growth in the region.

To this end, a consultation between CARICOM member states took place at the St Augustine Campus of The UWI in early November of last year.

It included representatives of regional and national tertiary level institutions (TLIs), associations of TLIs, international development partners (IDPs and governments).

The consultation was a response to the mandate received from the Heads of Government of CARICOM member states at their Regular Conference in July 2015. At that time, the Vice-Chancellor of The UWI, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, made a presentation that highlighted the importance of tertiary education to national and regional development.

The UWI was asked to collaborate with other TLIs in CARICOM on the revitalisation of the tertiary sector. Part of this process involves convening a conference with regional and international development partners to address the development agenda in CARICOM and the sector's role. The anticipated results would be the effective and efficient realignment of academia with industry, the transformation of higher education into a significant area of economic activity, structured and designed to attract investments, and able to foster the necessary innovation leap to drive competitiveness and resilience. It would thus support the implementation of the CARICOM Strategic Plan which emphasises the mainstreaming of knowledge creation and transfer into all aspects of regional development and contribute to the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In taking their decision, CARICOM Heads recognised that TLIs are significant sources of technical expertise at the national and regional levels. They have considerable strengths in matters relating to development and much experience in working with all the public and private sectors in research, training and development. By pooling their expertise in a mechanism that can facilitate the transfer of knowledge and capacity, TLIs can work with national and regional entities and the IDPs in identifying development projects where their strengths and regional reach can ensure sound conceptualisation, and designing projects that are realistic and capable of successful implementation.

Based on the mandate of the CARICOM Heads, The UWI convened a representative Working Group of tertiary education institutions and the CARICOM Secretariat. The Group met virtually from December 2015 to plan a consultation that was expected to increase their impact nationally and regionally.

The discussions at the consultation laid the groundwork for a renewed role for the tertiary education sector. Presentations were made by a number of individuals including the Vice-Chancellor of The UWI who provided an overview of the imperatives for strengthening the tertiary education sector. He emphasised that sustainable economic growth is a major priority in CARICOM and called on the IDPs to support research that would result in commercialisation and innovation.

Other presentations addressed issues of capacity building and the project implementation deficit. These included, among others (i) the Africa Centres for Excellence, supported by the World Bank, that provide a template to meet the need for building capacity in research in TLIs and facilitate alignment between industry and academia; (ii) the creation of a research management capacity in CARICOM TLIs to support the reinvigorated thrust in research; and (iii) the support that the tertiary education sector can provide to CARICOM Governments throughout the project cycle and the creation of a mechanism that would facilitate this activity.

The decisions at the end of the consultations reflect agreement on the role of the tertiary education sector.

These include:

- Identification of opportunities for development programmes/projects where regional approaches are likely to be more effective and efficient
- The need for a survey of TLIs to determine strengths, weaknesses and areas of particular interest, and to identify the institutions that have capacity to lead programmes/projects
- Identification of capacity-building required to improve implementation/aid effectiveness
- Preparation of an action plan for presentation to the CARICOM InterSessional Heads of Government in February 2017.

It was agreed that the consultation will be followed by others that will include the private sector and governments.



David Rampersad (standing), chairman of the Working Group, engaged with colleagues during sessions aimed at making education the engine of regional growth

RESEARCH IN ACTION

THE EDIBLE

BY RYAN SEEMUNGAL &

The trees growing on the grounds of The UWI, St. Augustine Campus have as much significance as its iconic buildings. Yet they are often overlooked and under-valued. In a recent publication by the Department of Geography titled, *The Edible Campus*, the Dean of the Faculty of Food and Agriculture, Dr Wayne Ganpat, wrote, “Trees are life giving and they are gifts. We must not forget this. They provide oxygen, vital to our very existence and the existence of this planet; they shade us from the hot sun; they add an unmatched visual and aural aesthetic as they tower over us and the breeze plays with their leaves; and for some trees, their roots, bark, leaves, flowers, and seeds can be medicinal and nutritional.”

The sprawling Samaan trees (*Albizia saman*) that shade the grounds of the Faculty of Food and Agriculture and Faculty of Engineering have edible seed pods known as “monkey pods” or “cow tamarind” that can be eaten, though they are most often used in animal fodder. The majestic Elephant Ear tree (*Enterolobium cyclocarpum*), northeast of the Main Administration Building, has edible seeds that have been part of traditional diets in Central and South America from time immemorial.

The Edible Campus project began in 2013 as a series of conversations on campus between Dr Priya Kissoon, John Stollmeyer and Alain Huitdeniers, all of whom are passionate about food sovereignty and environmental sustainability at the margins of modern agriculture. Subsequently, as a part of inquiry-based coursework, students from the Geographies of Food course conducted a campus-wide survey of eating habits, which found that most participants preferred foreign fast food versus local and creole food, they were not aware of most edible trees on campus (for example, chimet/star-apple, carambola/five-finger), and they were also unaware that many trees were edible (example, stinkin’ toe/locust, calabash).

The Geographies of Food course also mapped the readily edible plants on campus (such as, those that could be eaten raw or with little preparation) using Global Positioning Systems (GPS) units to mark coordinates, and then used Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to create full colour cartographic maps of the plant locations in relation to the built environment of the campus.



Ryan Seemungal is a graduate student in the Department of Geography which is headed by Dr Priya Kissoon

THE EDIBLE CAMPUS

BY PRIYA KISSOON



Students had to learn how to identify edible trees and plants, which is especially difficult when plants are not bearing. Additionally, the rapid development of the campus means that trees are frequently lost to make room for new infrastructure and amenities, which requires updates to the survey and mapping of the campus. Areas off-limits to the general public, such as the Office of the Campus Principal and the grounds of halls of residence, were mapped after receiving special permission from Campus Security and the Office of the Deputy Principal.

The book that resulted from the Edible Campus Project shares descriptions of the campus' edible plants, their origins, and value-added uses, showcasing students' research skills and culinary imaginations. Readers of *The Edible Campus* will find a short history of the UWI-STA campus and the Faculty of Food and Agriculture; full maps of the trees and plants with marked walking routes; an associated pictorial and descriptive guide to each mapped plant; and the results of the social survey of the campus food culture.

Readers are also exposed to the origins of many contemporary "Caribbean" fruit trees and will discover that they may not be Caribbean at all. For example, bananas and coconuts are typically iconographic of the Caribbean; however, neither of these fruits are "local", because they originate (with some academic debate) from the general Australasia/South-Pacific region. The Division of Facilities Management, National Herbarium, and Alma Jordan Library were vital sources of knowledge for the project. This Project was partially supported by the Campus Research and Publication Fund. The project is ongoing and will be updated on a continuous basis.

Ideally, the project can be replicated in all public spaces to bring food security, famine-foods, environmental awareness, and urban foraging into the popular culture of all citizens.

Copies of the "grazing maps" are free to anyone taking the Edible Campus tour, which can be booked through the Department of Geography. *The Edible Campus* book is available for purchase from the Department of Geography where all proceeds go to student development, programme enrichment, and outreach activities promoting geographic education. The campus community and visitors are asked to be respectful of the trees on campus. Do not climb, throw objects, or break branches to reach fruit. Pick what you can reach with your fingers, and only what you can eat at the moment. Sustainability requires respect and restraint.



EVENTS

#UWIGrad2016: *In a Digital World*

BY CHRISTINE NANTON

In the past decade, social media platforms have become increasingly important tools in the higher education marketing and communications professional's arsenal. Why? It gives us the opportunity to connect with our audiences in real-time and at minimal cost. In the world of reduced advertising funds and budget cuts everywhere, social media is where we get to flex our creative muscles and leverage major university events and activities to reconnect with and expand our online fan base. As the largest campus event, our 2016 graduation ceremonies were a perfect opportunity.

We chose to visually profile the graduating class – using multimedia content to tell their stories; create online interest and participation in the ceremonies; and increase our fans and reach.

When one considers that at the St Augustine Campus we have over 50K fans and 10K followers on Facebook and Twitter respectively, developing a social media strategy for graduation meant taking our knowledge of the audience and mapping out the kinds of content that people would want to see. We used photos and video to develop a campaign that would resonate. Our guiding theme: simple but effective.

We maximised in-house resources and chose to focus on three areas of innovation: introducing Graduation Correspondent Interviews with graduates after each ceremony; using Facebook Live as a second live streaming medium to complement the existing UStream channel, and publishing the Humans of New York type stories to profile our graduates. We decided on the unique hashtag #UWIGrad2016 to brand all our content across both Facebook and Twitter. The use of the hashtag allowed us to see how users were interacting with our content and sharing their own.

What were we able to achieve across those three days?

On Facebook, we generated 1,394,565 impressions. Impressions refer to the number of times a post generated by UWI St. Augustine was displayed on Facebook. 41,666 users were engaged and we reached 397,339 users. We had 72,550 video views (these were viewers of both the Facebook Live stream as well as our interviews) and we also earned 472 new fans. The top 10 countries engaging with our content were those residing in Trinidad and Tobago (naturally) as well as the US, Jamaica, Guyana, Canada, Barbados, the UK, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada and St. Lucia.

Whilst our reach was less on Twitter, we were still able to generate 63.3K impressions and engage 7,952 users. It was interesting that the top performing post on Twitter was the same as Facebook – the image of student Amanda Thomas in tribal makeup. On Twitter, that Tweet amassed 22,115K impressions and engaged 3,877 users on Twitter.

When compared to last year, the introduction of the three areas of innovation in the approach resulted in a 61% growth in impressions, a 200% growth in reach, a 131% growth in new fans and 200% growth in engagement – this was all on our Facebook page. In retrospect, the strategy we developed focused heavily on Facebook interaction. As a result, whilst there was a 24% growth in impressions on Twitter, our engagement levels dipped by 25% and there was also a 51% decline in our number of new followers. Developing specific strategy for Twitter for the 2017 ceremonies, therefore, is one of our key lessons.



141,917
persons reached

12,346
reactions, comments
and shares



'My husband and I graduated today from the Faculties of Medical Sciences and Humanities and Education respectively. Our last semester was very hard for us as our oldest child also sat the SEA exam and we both worked on our theses. We spent many all-nighters together in the library and by the grace of God we made it. We are so excited about graduation especially as we got the opportunity to attend each other's ceremonies' #UWIGrad2016



107,803
persons reached

7,195
reactions, comments
and shares

Being one of four campuses of the largest and longest standing university in the region, serving The UWI has a unique position of influence among some of the newly emerging institutions. Here are some of our major takeaways for graduation.

- **USE LIVE-STREAMING TO CONNECT WITH THE WIDER COMMUNITY** – Facebook Live was a great strategy for increasing the reach of the ceremonies and helping boost our social engagement overall.
- **GET TO KNOW YOUR GRADUATING CLASS** – what are the interesting stories emerging from the graduating class? Find these graduates and capture them. These personal accounts resonate best with the audience.
- **MAKE SOCIAL MEDIA A TEAM EFFORT** – every member of the team (even those who did not have a specific responsibility for social media) were apprised of the strategy and on the lookout for content and would alert the team to capture a moment worth sharing. You don't need fancy equipment to create great content – we shot a lot of our student interviews with a smartphone. A steady hand is all it takes.
- **USE STUDENT TALENT** – postgraduate student Nikoli Edwards was this year's graduation correspondent. Nikoli has broadcasting experience which made him a great asset to our team. As a student, he was also flexible enough to be on-call for each of the ceremonies.
- **GET CAMPUS MANAGEMENT INVOLVED** – have leaders on your campus who are socially inclined? Let them help you with content. I mean, how else could we have landed this 'behind the scenes' selfie of our Campus Principal, Professor Brian Copeland and Chancellor, Sir George Alleyne?



UWI St. Augustine (UWI St. Augustine) - Oct 23
Some tried, but only one was successful in getting a selfie with Chancellor, Sir George, our Principal, Prof Brian Copeland #UWIGrad2016



. Wanderlust.

- Taste the world -

UWI FETE 2017

SUNDAY JANUARY 29

*Travel with us & indulge in exquisite foods from:
Africa, China, France, India, Italy, Mexico & MORE*

FEATURING



**MACHEL MONTANO & FULL BAND
ROY CAPE ALL STARS • DIL-E-NADAN**
Plus many more surprises!

**TICKET
OUTLETS**

UWI, St. Augustine

*Saith's Service Station,
Vistabella, San Fernando*

*Republic Bank Limited Branches -
Long Circular Mall, Gulf View, Trincity & Valpark*

www.uwifete.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION : CALL 662-2002 EXT 82326 OR 235-ARMY(2769)

Campaign to DETECT DIABETES IN PREGNANCY leaves the womb

BY JOEL HENRY



Surujpal Teelucksingh

“If there is a problem it is better to go to the source,” said Surujpal Teelucksingh, Professor of Medicine at UWI St Augustine’s Faculty of Medical Sciences.

The problem in this instance is diabetes. In fact the “problem,” he and several other

speakers repeatedly made clear, is an understatement. In Trinidad and Tobago diabetes has become an epidemic. In the space of three decades it has become the second highest cause of death in the nation.

And the “source” that Teelucksingh is referring to is even more concerning. The source is the womb.

Professor Teelucksingh, speaking before an impressive audience of government officials, technologists, medical practitioners, humanitarians and UWI students and staff, had not come to focus on the problem. This was an event about solutions. The gathering was for the unveiling of an innovative and promising answer to the dangers of diabetes in pregnant women.

In October the Helen Bhagwansingh Diabetes Education Research Prevention Institute (DERPI) launched the *Do Campaign* at the Port of Spain headquarters of Microsoft. The campaign is a sweeping initiative that brings together a host of stakeholders to develop the mechanisms for diabetes screening in pregnancy. A key aspect of the *Do Campaign* is Health in Pregnancy Trinidad and Tobago or “HiPTT”, a mobile application that connects patients, doctors, laboratories and health institutions.

The main purpose of HiPTT is detection and treatment of diabetes in pregnancy as early as possible: “We know that many women enter pregnancy with pre-existing diabetes. What’s worse, more are going to develop diabetes during pregnancy. And guess what? We are not going to recognise this disease until it is too late,” says Professor Teelucksingh.

HiPTT changes how detection takes place, moving from the conventional “linear” model of steps towards a circular model in which all parties are connected simultaneously – patient, doctor, laboratory, and health institution. The app was developed and tested by a team of lectures from The UWI Department of Clinical Medical Sciences and the Faculty of Engineering, members of DERPI and the CARIRI Microsoft Innovation Centre.

For more information on HiPTT read: https://sta.uwi.edu/uwitoday/archive/october_2015/article4.asp

STRONG ADVOCATES FOR PREVENTION

From the groundwork laid in the development of HiPTT, the *Do Campaign* is now taking these innovations in early detection to the national audience. The attendees at the launch ceremony included senior representatives of the Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Health, PAHO/WHO, the Trinidad and Tobago Medical Association (TTMA), the Gynaecological and Obstetrical Society of Trinidad and



The main purpose of HiPTT is detection and treatment of diabetes in pregnancy as early as possible

Tobago (GOSTT), the Rotary Club of St Augustine, CARIRI, the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago (NGC) and Microsoft.

“The *Do Campaign* is a combined effort of many organisations in this country,” said Frances Correia, Country Manager of Microsoft T&T. “This is a real problem in Trinidad that we have to solve ourselves. And there is a big part that technology can play in solving the problem. It took many people to collaborate on this and we are very proud.”

One of the most alarming aspects of the diabetes epidemic in Trinidad and Tobago is how rapidly it has grown, closely linked to the rise of obesity. A decade ago researchers found that 11% of school children were overweight, 2.5% of that total considered obese. Today the total figure of overweight children has risen to 33%, a 300% increase.

Research shows that out of 67,000 children, 13 were found to have Type 2 diabetes, “children with diabetes of the kind adults should be getting,” Professor Teelucksingh said. This compares to one in 67,000 Japanese children with diabetes and three in 67,000 Canadian children.

“This is a major public health problem, not a clinical problem,” said Dr Rohit Doon, Adviser, Health Promotion Communications and Public Health with the Health Ministry.

Representing the Ministry of Health at the *Do Campaign* launch, Dr Doon called the diabetes problem “staggering” and “worrying,” and emphasised that the solution required the entire society – not just the medical sector – to come together to solve it.

Dr Doon applauded the broad-based nature of the *Do Campaign* and said it aligned with the Government’s strategy for addressing non-communicable diseases, which includes a loan from the IDB to fund a five- to six-year plan.

“This early intervention screening for diabetes is a significant and innovative approach that is welcomed and supported by the Ministry of Health,” he said, later adding, “be assured that the Ministry will stand ready to partner with you on the way forward.”

By raising awareness and funding, the *Do Campaign* can encourage more women and medical service providers to embrace the HiPTT app, which will increase the chances of early diabetes detection. This is an intervention that will not only improve the quality of lives. It will save lives.

Dr Stacey Chamely, President of the TTMA, said, “we wish to be strong advocates of prevention to decrease the burden and grief associated with the loss of mothers and their babies as a result of complications due to diabetes in pregnancy. We know that if even one child is saved due to screening, well, we have won, haven’t we?”

A SHOWCASE OF CARIBBEAN IDENTITIES

BY JEANETTE G. AWAI

The Departments of Literary, Cultural and Communication Studies (LCCS) and Modern Languages and Linguistics (DMLL) jointly presented “Dialogues 2016 – Celebrating post-graduate research” for researchers at different stages of their careers. This year’s event, chaired by Dr Maarit Forde and moderated by Dr Nicole Roberts, centred on MPhil and PhD students whose research showcased how people in the Caribbean societies produce and maintain difference.

PhD in Spanish student, Adonis Díaz Fernandez gave the first presentation on his work, “The Afro cosmovision: Orishaismo,” Afro-Cuban and Afro-Hispanic identity.” Fernandez highlighted the need for naming and classifying the sacred literature of Cuba using transculturation theory as advanced by Fernando Ortiz. This is in an effort to combat stereotypes associated with orishas and to legitimise Orishaism as a genre for literature, arts and film.

Charisa-Marie Alexis-Francois, PhD in Cultural Studies, addressed the topic, “Zelophehad’s Daughters: Women in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Movement (CCRM) in Trinidad.” In the days of the Old Testament women did not inherit property according to Alexis-Francois, thus Zelophehad’s daughters were the first women on record to challenge patriarchal rule since they insisted that their father’s property be transferred to them. It is in this tradition that the women of the CCRM follow. Using

interviews to examine the lived experiences of these women, Alexis-Francois examined the basis of female leadership and empowerment in the CCRM and the establishment and features of the community from their pre-call to being fully committed members (post-call).

Jamaica took centre stage in PhD in Cultural Studies, Nadia Whiteman’s presentation, “Between the Mainstream and the Alternative: An Ethnographic Analysis of Social Capital and the Politics of Difference in the Jamaican Rock Music Scene.” She highlighted the way mainstream music in Jamaica is used to maintain the local music economy while oppressing other forms of music such as rock and alternative music. Using information obtained from over one year of ethnographic fieldwork in Jamaica, as well as a Jamaican Rock WhatsApp chat group, Whiteman showed how persons who listen to rock are seen as fringe dwellers yet maintain the connected viewpoints to the status quo. She proposed that the suppression of Jamaican rock was also tied to the nation’s connection to blackness and by lessening the rigidity of the Jamaican identity to include rock could have positive effects on the music industry.

Fay White, PhD Literatures in English, presented Female Same-Sex Desire and Mother-Daughter Imagery in Caribbean Diasporic Women’s Writings.” She focused

on fictional representations of mother-daughter bonding and how they are tied to motherland and Mother Nature as well as female same-sex desire. Using textual analysis, literary and feminist theories White examined books such as Michelle Cliff’s “Abeng,” Shani Mootoo’s “Out on Main Street,” and Stacey-Ann Chin’s “The Other Side of Paradise,” among others.

The final presenter and lone MPhil student, Carol Hosein, from the Cultural Studies programme gave her take in “A Study of the Socio-Cultural Effects of the 1970 Black-Power Revolution in Trinidad.” She stressed the significant socio-cultural impact the revolution had in Trinidad, including religious identities and practice, the creation of a memory trove and proliferation of works in the theatre and the arts.

Professor Elizabeth Walcott-Hackshaw weighed in on the discussions, saying that presenters should try to problematize the solidity of identity. The other discussant, Dr Charleston Thomas, advised presenters to consider that in their attempt to challenge hierarchies they should be careful they do not construct hierarchies of their own. During the Q&A session, panelists defended their works by going more in depth about the non-binary ways they fleshed out the concept of identity in their theses.

This year’s event centred on MPhil and PhD students whose research showcased how people in the Caribbean societies produce and maintain difference



From left: Nicole Roberts, Nadia Whiteman, Carol Hosein, Elizabeth Walcott-Hackshaw
PHOTO: ROGER MC FARLANE AND FHE



Undergraduate & Postgraduate
ADMISSIONS 2017/18



#BeUWI

You can use your education to build a better life for yourself and your family, a better country, a better world. But ultimately, education is about becoming a better you. Who do you want to be? Tell us using **#BeUWI** and find out how UWI can get you there!

APPLY TODAY! Visit www.sta.uwi.edu/admissions to apply online and for information on any of the hundreds of accredited and internationally recognised undergraduate and postgraduate programmes offered at The UWI St. Augustine Campus. Find out about our entry options for CSEC graduates and mature students, as well as the facilities, opportunities and support available to help our students to succeed.

Come visit us in person! Sign up for a Campus Tour at: www.sta.uwi.edu/campustours

**Application Deadline: May 31, 2017
for programmes starting August 2017.**



REACHING THE ZERO HUNGER GOAL

One of the goals of the United Nations is summed up in the tagline, “Climate is Changing, Food and Agriculture Must too.” The aim is to end all forms of hunger and malnutrition thereby achieving zero hunger by the year 2030. To participate in this illustrious goal, some students of The UWI aspire to highlight the key challenges, major steps that should be taken as well as consequences and benefits of achieving the status of “Zero Hunger.”

Four of the major challenges affecting the Caribbean region on the way to achieving zero hunger are:



Hunger is a problem that has plagued the world throughout history. Despite the media's heavy focus on countries such as those on the African continent, hunger is present worldwide. Some methods specific to the Caribbean which will aid in accomplishing the “Zero Hunger” goal include:



Home gardens will allow people to produce a portion of their food, thus resulting in an overall diminishing demand. Consequently, large producers will begin to lose sales and in a scrambling effort to maintain their market share, will decrease their prices. Accordingly, more people would have regular access to cheaper, more economically priced foods.

Aquaponics is an integrated agriculture system whereby fish waste and water fertilize plants and inversely, the plants filter the returning water for the fishes. A small aquaponics system which can produce up to 100 fishes and 1.5m² of crops cost an average of TT\$700. Use of such systems will result in a cheaper, more accessible supply of food and allows us to have assured year-round production.

Another idea could be to have prisoners cultivate marginal lands.

These methods take the impacts of climate change into account. However, the following highlights some specific considerations about working in tandem with these growing climate-related challenges to achieve the zero-hunger goal in the Caribbean.

Culture is the backbone to any nation, and in order to produce substantial yet sustainable change within a country, we must get personal. The installation of aquaponics systems in schools introduces the notion of a green culture. By exposing youths to simple, effective strategies of sustainability, they are able to experience the reality of a greener tomorrow immediately. It becomes a way of life. This fosters the sustainable culture necessary within the Caribbean.

This creative technique of educating the public should not cease with students. It is important to educate the leaders, farmers and home gardeners about the importance of investing in drought-resistant crops and providing incentives for them to do so.

With regard to food waste, we should take “deformed” goods into consideration as they can be perceived as “inedible” based on appearance, although they are indeed highly nutritious, and actually edible. This would end the vicious cycle of disposing these “imperfect” fruits and vegetables to maintain a certain quota of customers and

quality, which is practised by competitive companies. The media plays an influential role in the way we perceive things. Studies have shown it affects consumer patterns and in turn, businesses react to those buying habits. It is important to remind the public of their power and encourage them to make a conscious change in their buying patterns to contribute to less food wastage.

Finally, it is important to consider the numerous consequences which may arise if we do not achieve the zero-hunger goal. These include extreme hunger which evidently leads to malnutrition, lack of access to education, inadequate housing, poor sanitation and nutrition.

The United Nations elaborates that poor nutrition causes 45% of deaths of children under five (3.1 million) each year. These consequences can result in decreased productivity, which hampers sustainable development and GDP. Overall, there would be increased yet severe cost to society, the environment, the nation and the wider world.

Moreover, by achieving the zero hunger goal, previously deprived populations will now have access to safe and nutritious food, improved healthcare, housing and education. Through agricultural biodiversity and technological advancements, they will experience the results of nutritious diets, enhanced livelihoods for farming communities and more resilient and sustainable farming systems. By means of access to education, it will generate a more cultured and knowledgeable population, thus contributing to productivity of their country hence increasing the country's GDP. Finally, implementation of sustainable food production systems would aid in maintaining ecosystems and strengthen their capacity to adapt to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters.

The United Nations elaborates that poor nutrition causes 45% of deaths of children under five (3.1 million) each year. These consequences can result in decreased productivity, which hampers sustainable development and GDP.

ZERO HUNGER CHALLENGE



REFLECTION

The Ideal Man

BY AMÍLCAR SANATAN

Ending rape culture is our issue because men are responsible for freeing men from gender ideals of dominance and control through violence.

This was the central theme of a workshop held in commemoration of International Men's Day (IMD), observed worldwide on November 19, and at the IGDS/Canada Hall workshop, Red Card Rape Culture.

The workshop brought young men from 10 CARICOM countries, all living on the St Augustine Campus, into a conversation meant to cross the region. This was just one of more needed in the de-patriarchal movement to break systems of male domination over women.

For all of us in the room with the Canada Hall men, eager to reason and engage as young men do, it was important to build commitment to the ideal man. Participants were asked to produce messages that defined their own sense of men's responsibility.

The posters read:

**A man is like a taxi driver,
he knows when to stop
Women should not live in fear,
how she's dressed does not mean yes
If she says no, get up and go
No doesn't mean yes**

These messages were distributed across social media and in posters around the campus as part of the goal of transforming masculinities and campus life.

As a university, we house the minds of emerging Caribbean leaders, especially young men who will assume critical leadership roles and status in the future. In our thrust, we must offer an education that can also advance a pedagogy of unlearning, especially in relation to toxic masculinity, as part of masculine transformation in order to redefine the terms in new ways.



In an earlier phase of our independence, we turned to the larger than life male figures of elite Caribbean leadership for self-definition; the “best and the brightest” among us to steer the direction of our societies. The fact is that ‘one-manism,’ messianic and authoritarian leadership that bear striking resemblances to the colonial ruling style we hoped to have banished away, still plague us.

Among populations, there is a persistent feeling that political leadership has failed us. There is greater push-back against the notion of a strong-man leader, hammering through weak institutions undemocratically.

With social media, there is even a greater push-back against misogynist utterances and language that blame women for rape. Gender has been at the heart of the political and cultural debates of our time and Caribbean voices have been speaking out. Women have always been at the forefront of these movements but male centred writings of history have ways of keeping them in the backroom.

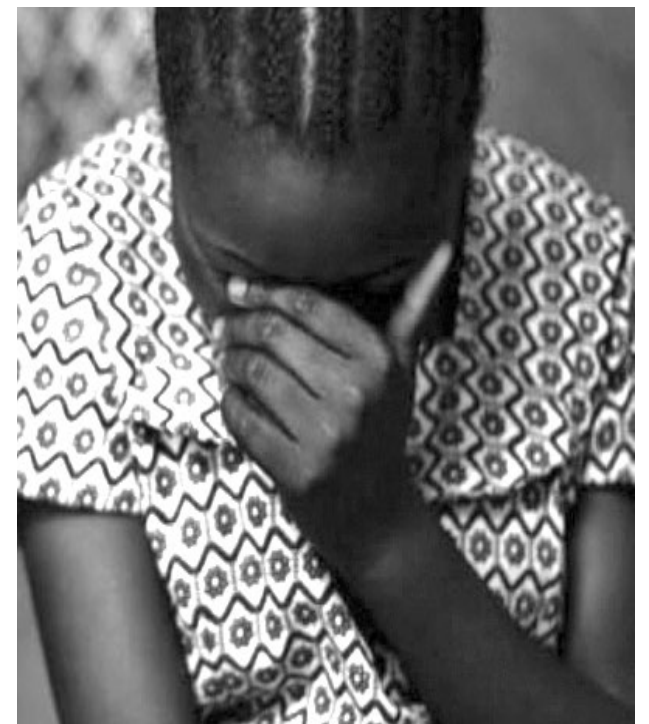
The growing visibility of women in middle management, university undergraduate enrolment and career advances in some traditionally male-dominated sectors may give us the sense of arrival at the point of gender equality. While these structural changes have led to more women accessing social status and economic power in formations, they are the direct result of women and activists' advocacy for over three decades.

A number of men's rights movements and male action groups have sprung up in response to the increasing visibility of women and articulate a counterproductive anti-feminist politics. The battle of the sexes is war often created on the terms of men who believe that human dignity, justice and the economy are made up of scarce resources. It is for precisely this reason that The UWI must engage in public debates on culture and the economy to interrogate the ideological underpinnings in policy and popular discourses.

How can we reimagine and redefine masculinity away from ideals of dominance, violence and control and closer to care, commitment and critical confidence? The ideal man is a leader committed to social and gender justice. He exercises leadership in his life and the decisions he makes to improve the well-being of others, not only himself. A key attribute of this man is his ability to determine his definition of masculinity and the man he wants to be. When concerned citizens sit in a room and think about the future of the region, one might ask, “Who will make the Caribbean a better place?” “That man is one of them.” That is what it means to be the ideal man.

As a feminist, I maintain that addressing men's needs and gender equality work are not oppositional projects. IMD provides an optimal moment each year for men to reflect and raise their political consciousness about their duty to rebel against oppressions that imprison men and women and transform these inequalities to promote a more just society.

Our destiny will not be determined by our economic situation, GDP growth rates or the ability to attract currency from geographies far away. It is our intellectual and cultural independence that will build our Caribbean civilization.



DOUGLARISATION

An Aspect of the Caribbean Self

BY IAN E. ROBERTSON



“The Trinidad Dougla: Identity, Ethnicity and Lexical Choice” responds to the most significant responsibility of The UWI as an institution: to identify, explore, and explicate the essentials of Caribbean self.

If the region is to rise out of the debilitating effects of learned

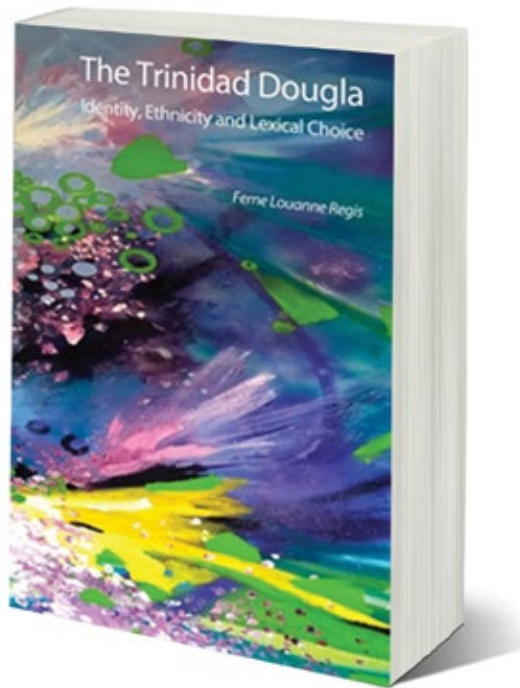
helplessness brought on by such questionable philosophies as First, Second and Third World status or even Developed and Developing status and Globalisation, it becomes important for institutions such as the regional university to confront the society with its own face and its own realities. The need for continuing self-awareness, interrogation and informed-ness is fundamental to the regional remit.

The task is a complex and formidable one which requires perseverance, imagination and a will to explore in depth cardinal aspects of Caribbean being. Even more daunting is the need to interrogate the situations and to present findings in a form that could interest, and be accessed by the wider audiences which the information should target.

“The Trinidad Dougla” represents a serious attempt to address the essentials of the remit set out here. The work focuses on a group of persons within Caribbean societies, Guyana, Trinidad and Suriname, in particular, who, despite their increasing visibility have not been the target of any serious academic research beyond a scattering of analyses and conference presentations.

The first significant step in the work is the use of the name “Dougla” to refer to a specific group within the society. The simple insistence on using Capital “D” in the spelling of the name lifts the group to which it refers to a status similar to Indian, African, Syrian. It is a call to refer to me and my group by our name (spell it with a capital letter). This capitalisation, by itself, is a signal to the region to address the many marginal groups that the nations of the region have learnt to take for granted and about whom a number of dangerous myths and stereotypes have assumed a veneer of truth.

The work itself is published within the Cambridge Scholars Publishing, which dedicates 10% of its publishing output each year to theses and dissertations that have significant scholarly implications. The challenge is to present a work that maintains its



THE TRINIDAD DOUGLA: Identity, Ethnicity and Lexical Choice

Written by *Ferne Louanne Regis*
Cambridge Scholars Publishing

Available for purchase at
Paper Based Bookshop, The Market
at The Normandie, St. Ann's. 625-3197;
from Amazon and from the
publisher's website

scholarly standards while at the same time holding an appeal for every person whose life it is intended to enhance. This work succeeds in significant ways in meeting these requirements.

The seven chapters and the preface provide information at varying levels of academic sophistication. The first two focus on the issues at the core of the work.

There is a clear indication of the distinctions to be observed between and among the critical concepts of race, and ethnicity and an indication of how these are linked to nationalism. It also sets the Dougla issue at the heart of the discussion.

The Dougla individual is further contextualised through exploration and examination of the historical underpinnings of the societies that gave rise to this group. The exploration of societies with a similar experience in other societies places the work in a wider context and facilitates comparison and contrast across the respective historical experiences of the mixed groups. This helps the reader to a further and more refined appreciation of the significance of the work.

The remainder of the work is more tightly focused on the research processes, the findings and the implications. Here, the rigour and protocols of academic research present a different set of challenges for both writer and reader. The writer must retain the rigorous academic research conditions and requirements while seeking to maintain contact with an audience with wide and varying levels of skills and competences. This Ferne Louanne Regis adroitly manages to do.

From an academic point of view, the work succeeds in outlining with a close attention to detail the research processes engaged in the study. It is faithful to these and presents a good model for academic research of this kind. From the theoretical perspective, the work addresses a dilemma of much of Caribbean research where the contexts of operation often challenge orthodoxy. This work shows an awareness of significant relevant research approaches. Ultimately, it makes use of three significant conceptual frames, Communities of Practice, Social Networking and Accommodation interaction, to bring clarity to what might otherwise have been lacunae in the research findings.

One significant challenge that the writer had to face was the justification of the use of lexical items to determine personal allegiances within the mixed group contexts. This was challenging because one of the input groups could not readily be seen or determined to have an input at the lexical level.

This work holds important information for several publics. For the lay Caribbean person as well as for the student in secondary education and early tertiary education, the work encourages a review of stereotypes. “The Trinidad Dougla” confronts issues of definition and the systemic failure to include a section of the population whose significance keeps rising in the context of empowerment and national development.

“The Trinidad Dougla: Identity, Ethnicity and Lexical Choice”
responds to the most significant responsibility of The UWI as an institution: to identify,
explore, and explicate the essentials of Caribbean self.

Ian Robertson is a retired Professor of Linguistics at the St Augustine Campus

Ferne Louanne Regis PhD, teaches in the Faculty of Medical Sciences Centre for Medical Sciences Education and is Course Instructor in the MA English Language programme at the Open Campus

MERVYN COLERIDGE ALLEYNE

A Life well lived

BY LAWRENCE D. CARRINGTON AND IAN E. ROBERTSON

The stellar contributions to Caribbean linguistics made by Mervyn Coleridge Alleyne will indefinitely resonate among language and identity scholars in the region and his presence will be missed for a long time.

At the start of his academic career, Alleyne taught French dialectology and French medieval literature. He acknowledged the influence of the anthropologist Sidney Mintz on his transition from Philology, French Dialectology and Medieval French Literature to Linguistics more broadly, the field in which he became a pioneering academic and scholar.

Alleyne was a fervently Caribbean person and it was not long before he applied his skills and the discipline earned from exposure to French dialectology to address problems of what he later termed “oppressed languages of the Caribbean.” For him, “Caribbean” included the “Francophone and Hispanic” Caribbean. The vision embraced in his definition has eroded, albeit slowly, the linguistic parochialism that has characterised academics in the Anglophone (or English-official) Caribbean.

His seminal work, “Comparative Afro-American,” exposed the major areas of similarity across the languages described as “creole” by other linguists. He himself did not consider the term “creole” adequate for the languages it attempted to describe. For Alleyne, the similarities were brought on by the circumstances and experiences of the persons who speak these languages rather than by their exemplifying an exotic typology. He used the national names for these languages – he insisted that he spoke “Trinidadian” even though he lived virtually all of his adult life outside of the country of his birth; Jamaicans spoke “Jamaican,” not Jamaican Creole; and Haitians spoke “Haitian,” not Haitian Creole. It was a statement of empowerment through language.

Alleyne had an abiding disrespect for orthodoxy, a fiercely protective attitude towards the African heritage in Caribbean languages and a facility with argument that was difficult to defeat. He was supportive of creative and imaginative thinking, tolerant of views contrary to his, gentle in his rebuke and resolute in his personal beliefs and perspectives. He treated all persons with considerable respect for their humanity even though he might have been very opposed to their expressed positions.

His graduate students were marked by his mentoring. He urged them to go for the extra bit of information, to answer the fringe question that could embarrass their certainty about an analysis. One could grow impatient with him but the insights that came from responding to his skepticism were always rewarding, making his resistance a motivator for the

improvement of one’s work. He was not easily diverted from his positions but after the argument, he lived comfortably with your own decision to be different.

Alleyne’s conviction that understanding acculturation processes was critical to understanding Caribbean languages led him to explore themes beyond linguistics. His 1988 “Roots of Jamaican Culture” added a new dimension to his scholarship, a dimension that found equally powerful expression in his 2002 publication “The Construction and Representation of Race and Ethnicity in the Caribbean and the World.”

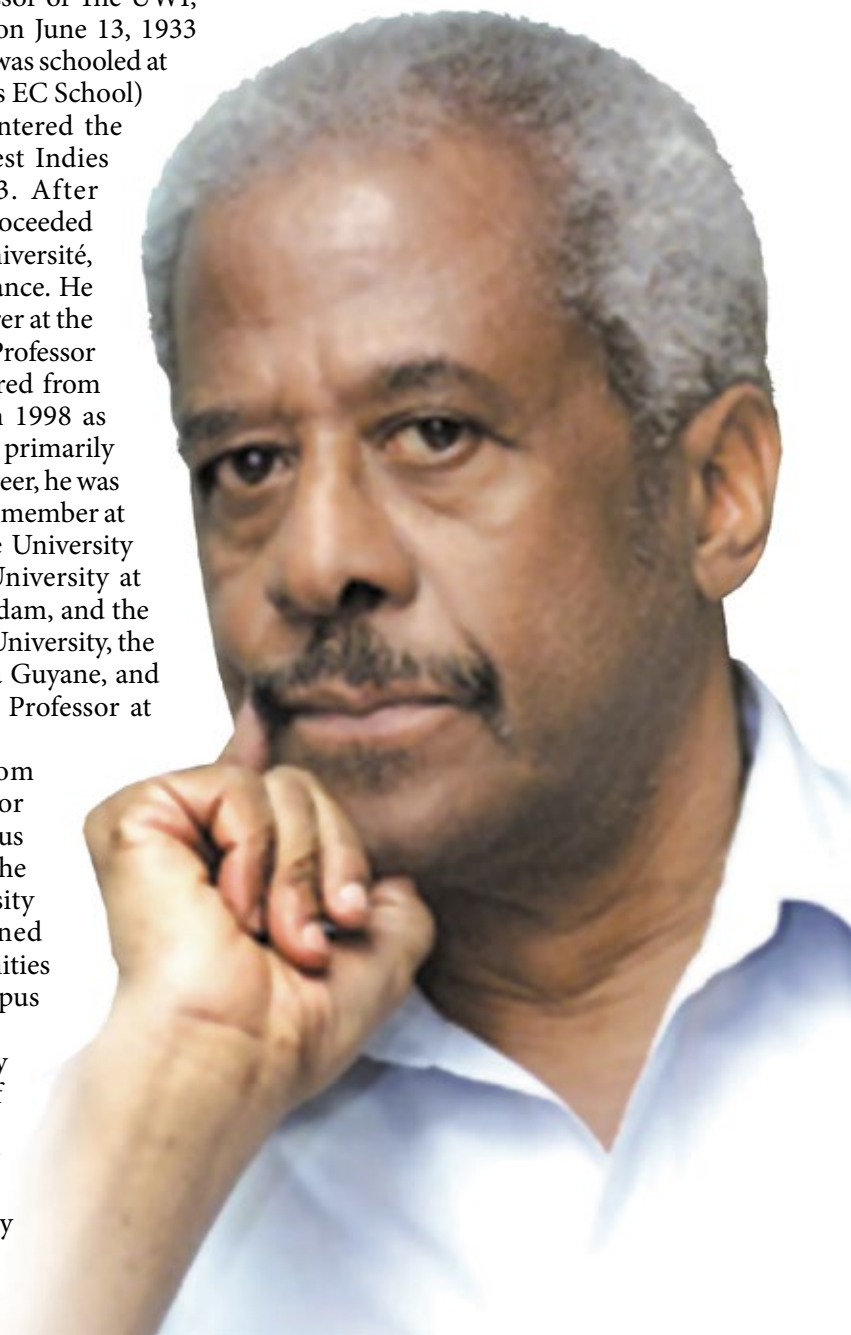
This illustrious Emeritus Professor of The UWI, was born in Trinidad and Tobago on June 13, 1933 and died on November 23, 2016. He was schooled at Mucurapo EC School (now St Agnes EC School) and Queen’s Royal College, and entered the then University College of the West Indies (UCWI) on scholarship in 1953. After completing a Bachelor’s degree, he proceeded to a doctoral degree (Docteur d’Université, DU) at Strasbourg University in France. He returned to the Caribbean as a lecturer at the UCWI in 1959, rising to the rank of Professor of Sociolinguistics in 1982. He retired from the Mona Campus of The UWI in 1998 as Professor Emeritus. Although based primarily at The UWI for the majority of his career, he was a frequent long-term visiting faculty member at other universities, notably the State University of New York at Buffalo, Indiana University at Bloomington, University of Amsterdam, and the University of Puerto Rico, Stanford University, the then Université des Antilles et de la Guyane, and was the Langston Hughes Visiting Professor at Kansas University.

Following his retirement from Mona, Professor Alleyne taught for three years at the St. Augustine Campus of The UWI until 2003, after which he began a new career at the University of Puerto Rico where he functioned until 2014. He was also the Humanities Scholar (2007) at the Cave Hill campus of The UWI.

He was a member of the advisory committee on the “Dictionary of Caribbean English Usage” and served on several campus and university committees. He had a central role in establishing the language laboratory at the Mona Campus and charted the way for the programme in

Caribbean Dialectology. The Society for Caribbean Linguistics, of which he was one of the first members (1972) and of which he was a former President (1990-1992), conferred honorary membership on him in 1998 in recognition of his outstanding scholarship and his contribution to the disciplines under its purview. He was also one of the founders of the “Journal of Pidgin and Creole Languages,” and was also an honorary member of the Linguistic Society of America (1997).

Mervyn Coleridge Alleyne lived a rich and meaningful life as an academic and influenced many people.



■ CAMPUS ACTIVISM

Raising Consciousness with VAGINA CUPCAKES

BY GABRIELLE HOSEIN

Towards the end of the last semester, a handful of first-year students sent cupcakes with frosting in the form of vaginas, some of them with swirls of red to represent menstruating vaginas, to the Campus Principal. This wasn't just youthful generosity, it was part of learning that to raise awareness about an issue, first you have to draw people's attention.

The students were undertaking the final assignment for the first year course, Introduction to Women's Studies, offered by the Institute for Gender and Development Studies, St Augustine Campus. The assignment required them to raise awareness about contemporary women's issues and global women's rights struggles amongst their campus peers. These 'popular actions' aim to teach students to connect scholarly analyses to public engagement in order to advance gender equality. It also encourages them to see dialogue and debate amongst their generation as a core part of their learning and university experience.

Students chose their own topics, ranging from sexual harassment to sexism in media to child marriage. Clear messaging was key as were their use of creative and interactive methodologies, for making learning fun and building allies. Most of the groups created pamphlets that explained the concepts they were mobilising, whether these were patriarchy, androcentrism, gender-based violence or child rights, and they included places for their campus peers to leave transformative ideas and recommendations.

'Vagina cupcakes' might seem frivolous, but they can spark discussion about the shame, silencing and hiding associated with women's bodies, and with menstruation in particular, about which students were concerned. They also allow students to connect with art by hijabi women, resistance to Instagram's initial banning of Rupri Kaur's photo-essays on menstruation, as well as the Periods for Pence campaign when women sent then-Governor Pence thousands of messages about their periods after he signed a law imposing new limitations on abortion earlier this year.

Medical students could benefit from better training in ending taboos around menstruation and so could future HR managers, psychologists and sociologists, for those taboos are part of a larger culture that reproduces women's subordination and violence against women, as well as silences regarding matters of women's bodies and sexuality. A campus now dominated by women students is the first place to practice changing norms about what is considered 'private' versus 'public', especially when those distinctions have traditionally cast women's issues as private, although they are collectively experienced, and despite their implications for public funds and public spaces.

As two of the students, Kadija McClure and Raqiya Alexis, wrote, "We chose the issue because we were weary of having to hide and be ashamed of something that is natural to us. Menstruation is perceived as impure, disgusting, and dirty. We chose the issue to inform the public that, no, menstruation is not a taboo, it is not disgusting, but is powerful, as it was once seen."

Their idea was inspired by campaigns like Binti Period which promote menstrual dignity through access to sanitary protection and education, as well as through enabling women to produce sanitary towels as a sustainable social enterprise, in India and Nairobi.



Themed cupcake



A student defining her feminism PHOTOS: ATIBA CUDJOE

Their key message was that "menstrual taboos reflect patriarchal ideologies which devalue and stigmatize femininity." They started conversations with dozens of students, asking them "Have you ever thought of menstruation as powerful?" They created a 'hopscotch' game in which different squares contained empowering facts which highlighted that, before the addition of contemporary religious beliefs, menstruating women were thought to have special powers that if not used properly could harm others. In ancient Egypt, menstrual blood was used in medical treatment. Ancient Greeks spread menstrual blood with wine over fields to increase the fertility of the soil.

Citing Cherise Charleswell, in her 2016 article published by working class think tank, The Hampton Institute, "How Patriarchy and Capitalism Penalize Periods," the group, which also included Mika Ali, Jade Marchand and Jernece Vialva, created a petition calling for free pads and tampons to be accessible in the female bathrooms on campus – 330 students signed their petition.

They met with UWI Guild president, Makesi Peters, who agreed that the Guild of Students would provide support.

UWI CALENDAR of EVENTS

JANUARY – MARCH 2017

HUMAN RIGHTS OPEN DAY

January 26, 2017

The UWI St. Augustine

The Faculty of Law hosts the EU-Human Rights Open Day under the project, Growing Local Capacity for elevating Trinidad and Tobago to International Human Rights Standards. The Human Rights Open Day will showcase the project's work with a focus on human rights issues such as gender, LGBTI, and the death penalty. There will also be activities such as performances, video presentations, symbolic representations, spoken word art pieces and more. The Open Day takes place on January 26 from 10am to 4pm at the Faculty of Law, Noor Hassanali Auditorium and Greens.

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

LEARN A LANGUAGE WITH CLL

Don't miss your chance to learn a new language with the Centre for Language Learning (CLL) in 2017! Courses are offered in a variety of languages from Arabic, Mandarin, French, German and more. Registration for the Mid-Year programme will run from April 24 to 28 so save the date to learn a language now!

For more information, please visit <https://sta.uwi.edu/fhe/ctl/>

CLL | Centre for Language Learning

CALL FOR PAPERS – DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES POSTGRADUATE CONFERENCE

Online

The Department of Behavioural Sciences (DOBS) presents their 3rd Biennial Postgraduate Conference under the theme, The Importance of Interdisciplinary Social Science Research in the Caribbean: Alleviating Inequalities/Integrating Approaches. The conference is carded for March 22 to 23, 2017 at the Learning Resource Centre (LRC). They have issued a call for papers with the deadline January 23, 2017. Possible paper topics include, Social and Community Studies, Regional Security, Gender and Sexuality and several others.

For more information, or to submit a proposal, please email dbsconference@sta.uwi.edu

UWI FETE

January 29, 2017

The UWI St. Augustine



The all-inclusive cornerstone event of The UWI Development and Endowment Fund: UWI Fete 2017: Wanderlust – Taste the World takes place from noon to 8pm at the grounds of the Office of the Campus Principal. You can look forward to live performances

by Machel Montano and his full band, Roy Cape All-Stars, Dil-e-Nadan. Dishes from six territories – Africa, China, India, France, Italy, Mexico and so much more. Regular tickets cost \$1250 at select Republic bank outlets, from the University and online at ticketfederation.com. Special alumni tickets are available for UWI St. Augustine Alumni Association members for \$1000.

For details, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/UWIFete/>



BASIC SURGICAL SKILLS WORKSHOP

March 18 and 19, 2017
The UWI St. Augustine

The Faculty of Medical Sciences, Department of Clinical Sciences in conjunction with the Royal College of Surgeons are hosting the Basic Surgical Skills Workshop with course directors from the UK including Eric Drabble and Professor Michael Parker. The local course director is Michael James Ramdass. The workshop takes place at the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex, Mt. Hope and costs \$9000TT. Registration continues to be open until February 26, 2017.

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

**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

