



# UWI TODAY

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES • ST AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

SUNDAY 3 MARCH 2019



Roland "Watchie" Barnwell, in fancy Indian mas' with Lionel Jagessar and Associates, holds his tomahawk high at *The Old Yard*, a celebration of traditional mas', music and art held on February 24, 2019. Every year The UWI's Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA) holds *The Old Yard* at their headquarters at Gordon Street, St Augustine. This year the beloved Carnival event celebrated its 10th anniversary. For more on *The Old Yard 2019* see our special four-page feature starting on page 11. PHOTO: ANEEL KARIM

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## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

# THE HUMANITIES

## *Vital for Innovation, Entrepreneurship and a Better Society*



**Dr. Winston McGarland Bailey, “The Mighty Shadow”**, who passed away in October of 2018, stated with great authority in his classic *Dat Soca Boat*, “I belong to the house of music”. What a powerful statement of commitment to culture. What an audacious statement of pride in our creative forms.

We too at The UWI belong to the house of music – and dance, drama, festival, literature, art, history,

philosophy, language and education, the areas that falls under what we refer to as “the humanities”. We reside in every form of cultural and creative expression that exists on these islands. We promote them, preserve them, further their development, seek out new opportunities for them, and train generations of professionals in their industries.

Science, technology, innovation – all of these are the solid underpinnings of successful and competitive economies. As such, it is our belief, even more, our recommendation, that the Student Learning Outcomes for the 21st Century Learner in Trinidad and Tobago must of necessity include creativity and collaboration. While the role of the science-based disciplines as well as law is clear in the agenda for innovation, it is not as obvious for the humanities. The aim of this edition of the Principal’s message is precisely to clarify that role and show its significance.

Critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity are all widely accepted as crucial to Learning for the 21st Century. Studies show that these are all in the domain of the “right brain”. The logical capabilities necessary for mastery of the sciences resides in the left brain. Science suggests that we get the best of both worlds when we stimulate the interconnections between the two halves of the brain. Much has been made of the need to strengthen STEM education – teaching and learning in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. However, we at The UWI have proposed to the Ministry of Education that in order to achieve national and regional goals, our national and regional system of education must shift its paradigm from the purely functional approach in STEM, to one that actively facilitates and integrates function and form with design in science, technology, engineering, **arts** and mathematics – STEAM.

Evidence of practice and research has shown that STEAM is the educational paradigm to bridge innovative thinking for 21st Century Learners since it stimulates and nurtures the left and right brain thinking skills.

Indeed, Steven Pomeroy in his *Scientific America* article notes that “Nobel laureates in the sciences are 17 times likelier than the average scientist to be a painter, 12 times as likely to be a poet, and four times as likely to be a musician.”

Evidence of the powerful nexus between technology and the arts exists through known history, as shown by the works of the likes of Pythagoras and Da Vinci and more recently, by the clever inspiration of Steve Jobs at Apple. Even closer to home, in Trinidad and Tobago, we all know of master mas’ man Peter Minshall, whose design sketches for his early Carnival portrayals often displayed a potent combination of art and technology.

I spoke of this issue at a recent workshop hosted by the Faculties of Humanities and Education (FHE) across the *UWIVERSE* some weeks ago. I stressed the fact that the disciplines spanned by the humanities – art, dance, theatre, music, literature, language and linguistics, history, and philosophy – are crucial to the creation of the culture of innovation. Indeed, by their very nature, much of the work

of the humanities requires a creative step. So, for example, every painting created by an artist is a physical embodiment of a new concept that conjures up some desired effect in those who view it. By definition, then, each new work of art is an innovation.

This creative capability is what must be infused in other disciplines to stimulate the imagination of its students and experts, thus enhancing their problem identification and solving skills and, in alignment to a critical UWI strategic agenda, to fashion new inventions, processes and systems that could be commercialised or otherwise implemented for beneficial application. Indeed, this stronger infusion of the humanities must be a hallmark of our national education systems, formal and informal, from early childhood to tertiary to give true meaning to the oft spoken mantra of a well-rounded education. In this regard, I note that we need to urgently curtail the practice of streaming students at the secondary level. Apart from the fact that it limits their mental stimulation, it also creates a dilemma when young teens are asked to make a career path. This is not an optimal system for forging productive and innovative citizens.

There are different ways in which we could use the Humanities to boost this stimulation process. First and foremost is the inclusion of a humanities stream in other faculties - agriculture, engineering, science, medicine, law and social science. This is the norm in American university programmes, and for good reason which I will address in a while. One effort of note is the delivery of courses and modules that treat with how science fiction has influenced the course of science itself. I am proud to say that this is actually the subject of a course that is delivered at St Augustine.

One other channel of imaginative stimulation is through the design of the physical environment through the creation of art artefacts, colour and pattern schemes to stimulate and provoke thought in walkways, classrooms, dorms, and conversation spaces. This, of course, requires collaboration with designers in the built environment.

I mentioned above that many programs in the US include a strong component in the humanities – the liberal arts as it is known there. Whether it was through pure intent or quite by accident, many agree that this has contributed in no small way to US dominance in innovation in science and technology. As Holden Thorp writes in his September 2010 article “The entrepreneurial university” in the *Inside Higher Ed* journal, “... liberal arts education has fueled American innovation.” He goes on to explain that the “largest differentiating factor between international higher education and the US is the breadth of learning.... Innovation that addresses major problems facing the world requires an understanding of the human condition, an appreciation of human relations that brings different viewpoints to the table, and a relentless pursuit of collaboration. The study of the humanities and social sciences is critical to the skills and worldview needed by successful entrepreneurs in all sectors.” Need I say more?

Students and staff of the humanities can, of course, be more directly engaged in and therefore more directly benefit from the invention to innovation process, even in technology. There are already local examples beyond the efforts of musicians, artists and sculptors. For example, the PHI – the electronic pan invented at The UWI that will be launched by mid-2019 – was fashioned for aesthetics and ergonomics by designer Leslie-Ann Noel from the St Augustine Campus using a concept she contrived for a suite of furniture while studying in Brazil.

At the workshop, I was also reminded of the fact that sci-fi movies have employed linguists to create whole new language structures. The most famous of these, for sci-fi buffs at least, would probably be Klingon from the *Star*

*Trek* franchise, a language that now has online translator support and is extensively used in the latest series, *Star Trek Discovery*. There are others as well, such as the Na’vi that was used in *Avatar*, the Elvish language in the *Lord of the Rings* franchise and most recently the Dothraki language for the *Game of Thrones* TV series. It should also be mentioned that linguistics is essential to the development of technology for computer language software for translation, text to speech and speech to text systems.

And what of history? There appears to be little innate creativity in recounting stories from long ago. However, this discipline, which has unfortunately been removed from the school curriculum is absolutely essential in understanding who we are and where we came from. A critical consequence of this self-awareness is that it serves to “attract talent, enhance business development, and fortify local economies” (<https://www.historyrelevance.com/value-history-statement>). History is also a critical element in understanding other societies with whom we must engage for trade in goods and services. When fashioning products and developing marketing strategies for the international market, one cannot assume that their tastes and habits are the same as yours. Significantly, one must be aware of their past to understand the nuances of cultural sensitivities.

I trust that this message has dispelled all notions that the innovation agenda and the creation of an entrepreneurial university lies strictly in the domain of science-based faculties – engineering, science and medicine. If anything, the discourse has provided justification for the reengineering of the curriculum to nurture creativity and mold bold, confident and entrepreneurial spirits. We need initiatives for the creation of an environment that would excite and nourish creativity by finally breaking the academic silos that have typified The UWI for so long. At a time when our regional societies, ecologies, and economies are delicately poised, we need the humanities and the arts as much as we need the sciences to place us on a robust trajectory to sustainable development. It requires a culture change of no small proportion – but change we must.

*Brian Copeland*

**PROFESSOR BRIAN COPELAND**

*Campus Principal*

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# The Cost of NOT DECRIMINALISING MARIJUANA

BY LISA LUANA OWEN

**Its Carnival time in T&T once again.** 2019. It is a great time to be in this country; it is a great time to be Trinbagonian; both for Carnival enthusiasts... and for proponents of the recreational and medicinal use of marijuana, as Government pushes ahead in its effort to bring legislation to decriminalise marijuana by July 2019.

A diverse group of individuals representing varying interests— students, evangelical delegates, marijuana activists, businessmen, academia and members of the Rastafarian faith— sat in attendance at the 2nd Public Consultation on the Decriminalisation of Marijuana held on Wednesday 6 February at The UWI Teaching and Learning Complex in St Augustine.

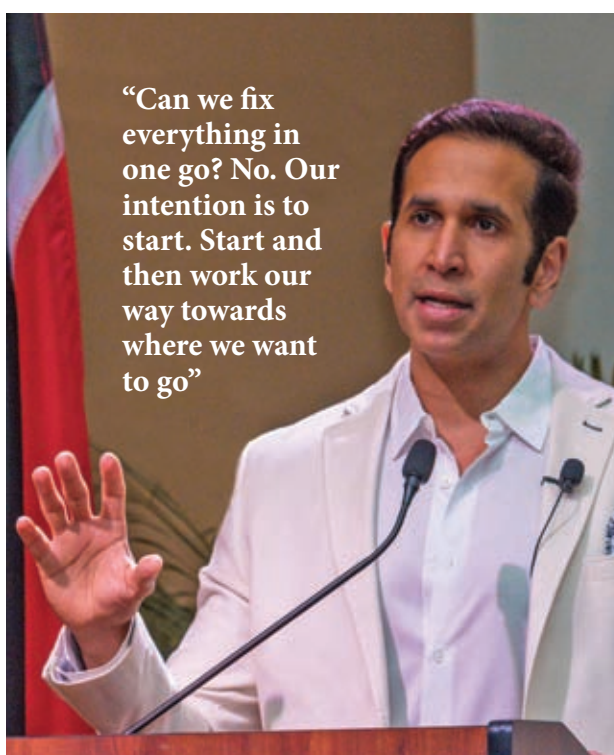
Some 135 countries (92 per cent of nations globally) are involved in a form of cannabis cultivation. Between 183 Million and 238 Million persons worldwide have used cannabis at least once in their lifetime. Most importantly, the marijuana industry is valued at an astounding US\$9.3 Billion (as of 2016).

A Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs poll currently stands at 85 per cent out of 700,000 respondents in favour of legalising the drug. The figure of 85 per cent also represents the percentage of persons held on remand for the possession of marijuana during the period 2007-2018 (68,730 persons out of 80,815).

Facilitating the session was Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Faris Al-Rawi, who shared that the cost of incarceration on remand of one inmate for one month is approximately \$25,000. For an eleven-year period that same inmate costs the state \$2.54 million.

There are currently 1,565 inmates that have been at remand yard awaiting trial for under five years and 246 over 11 years. They represent a malfunctioning justice system at best, a possible human rights violation at worst, and a cost of \$9 billion and \$.5+ billion respectively to taxpayers over the span of their incarceration.

“Our society clearly has an affinity for drugs, because we recognise that we are a transshipment point and there’s an industry in narcotics. The question is, where do we want to place resources as a nation in managing these statistics,” stated Al-Rawi.



Attorney General Faris Al-Rawi PHOTO: ANEEL KARIM

Maximum security prison statistics for marijuana-related offences for the 2014-2019 period also revealed that T&T’s war on pot seems to target mainly young (male) persons of African descent. Approximately half of those in remand and of those convicted are of African origin. Persons of East Indian and of mixed heritage come in at around a quarter in both instances. The Asian and Hispanic population barely appear in the data, under 0.02% collectively. The Caucasian community does not feature in the statistics.

Stating that it was his duty as T&T’s leader to “have this matter properly examined”, Prime Minister the Honourable

Dr Keith Rowley said at a recent political meeting in Diego Martin, “Our jails are full of young people, largely young men, because they smoked a marijuana joint and the law in this country makes the smoking of a marijuana cigarette a criminal offence. Many of them can’t raise bail so they rot inside the jail. That is a matter of social justice that needs to be addressed.

“(But) the marijuana smoking in the upper echelons of society where a serious number of acres of marijuana is burnt, very few of them end up in jail. If they even get charged it is very unlikely that they will end up in the jail. But the ‘gift’ for those who are from Laventille, Enterprise or Cunupia – if you get caught with marijuana you’re going to jail.”

Several speakers from the audience vehemently requested a moratorium on arrests for possession of small amounts of “grass” until the decriminalisation takes effect.

But this suggestion was shot down by the AG who explained, “Nobody in this country believes that if you do the crime, you do the time. No Attorney General could actually make the recommendation until the law is implied and put into effect which is why we are here. So the bottom line is we have to make the changes to the law. And the reason is that we want to make sure the law is applied.”

Instead the country can expect the introduction of a “drugalizer” in the not too distant future that will test for the use of cocaine, morphine, prescribed medications and cannabis among other drugs.

“Can we fix everything in one go? No. Our intention is to start. Start and then work our way towards where we want to go,” pronounced Al-Rawi.

Also participating on the decriminalisation panel were Minister in the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds; Jamaican-born gynaecological oncologist and medical marijuana researcher Dr Anthony Pottinger; and research scientist and regional policy adviser on cannabis Marcus Ramkissoon.

The 3rd Public Consultation on the Decriminalisation of Marijuana took place on Wednesday 20 February in Tobago.



PANEL ON POT: (From left) AG Faris Al-Rawi, Campus Principal Professor Brian Copeland, medical marijuana researcher Dr Anthony Pottinger, Minister in the Ministry of the AG and Legal Affairs Fitzgerald Hinds, regional cannabis policy advisor Marcus Ramkissoon, Campus Deputy Principal Professor Indar Ramnarine and Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries Senator Clarence Rambharat. PHOTO: ATIBA CUDJOE



DECRIMINALISE IT: An attendee shares his opinions. PHOTO: ATIBA CUDJOE



## OUR CAMPUS

# Guild Elections 2019 this Thursday

Students of The UWI St Augustine Campus may still be in Carnival mode but this coming Thursday, the day after Ash Wednesday, they have a pressing matter to decide. On March 7 the Guild of Students' General Elections 2019 will be held. The election will determine who will comprise this very important (and influential) association representing all registered students on the campus.



Students at a 2018 Guild elections forum.

### THE GUILD AND WHAT IT DOES

The Guild acts on behalf of students when communicating with The UWI and gives them a voice in many areas of concern such as safety and security. They also have authority over several committees responsible for student activities and host a wide range of events throughout the year. The Guild is headed by a Guild Council made up of as many as or more than 17 members. Its role is laid out in Article 12 (2) of the Constitution of the Guild of Students:

“The Guild Council shall promote, foster and develop the educational, social, cultural and economic interests of Guild members and represent such interests in the University community and on the national, regional and international level.”

The council itself is headed by the Guild Executive, made up of the president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer.

Some students, taken up with their studies, individual concerns and social lives, don't pay too much attention to the Guild and its activities. They should. Chances are the decisions taken by the Guild of Students are impacting their experience at UWI St Augustine and they most certainly could enhance their time on campus. The Guild's committees include the Games Committee, Inter-Clubs Committee, Student Activities Committee, Student Faculty Committee, Part-time and Evening Committee and the Post Graduate Association, among others.

### VOTING

Guild council elections are held every year between March 1 and 15. On voting day polls are open from 8am to 8pm. A valid ID card is required to vote. Election results will be posted on campus notice boards within 24 hours of the closing of the polls.

The 2019 Guild of Students' General Elections will be held this coming Thursday, March 7.

The General Forum for all students to hear from the 2019 candidates is this Wednesday, March 6 at the Student Activity Centre (SAC). All students should come out, listen and make your voices heard. Most importantly, vote for your chosen candidates.

# Richard Saunders, former Campus Registrar, has passed

On February 10, 2019, Richard Saunders, former Campus Registrar and a well-regarded member of The UWI St Augustine community, passed away. He was appointed Campus Registrar on March 1, 2013 and served until his recent retirement on July 31, 2018.

A Senior Executive with over 40 years' experience in project development, project implementation, real estate sales and marketing, he led several campus management teams. His professional experience bridged the industrial, public and private enterprise, and academic. Saunders held senior executive positions in both the public and private sector, including TSTT, Alston's Building Enterprises Limited, the Airports Authority of Trinidad and Tobago, Guardian Properties Limited and most recently, he was Managing Director at TTPOST.

The former Campus Registrar was an honours graduate of The UWI, attained his MSc in electronic instrumentation at the University of Wales, Swansea, and a diploma in public enterprise management at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. Saunders was a Past President and Director of the Association of Real Estate Agents (AREA) as well as the Association of Professional Engineers of Trinidad and Tobago (APETT). Throughout his career he was very active in professional associations and at the time of his passing was Vice-President of the Trinidad and Tobago Group of Professional Associations (TTGPA).

The campus community extends condolences to the family and friends of Richard Saunders.



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# Our Institution...and Opportunity

*New Campus Council Chair Sharon Christopher knows The UWI can succeed*

BY JOEL HENRY

**On March 19, 2019, the St Augustine Campus Council will host its annual meeting.** For the first time in a decade, it will do so with a new Campus Council Chair. Ms Sharon Christopher has been appointed to the post, succeeding former Central Bank Governor Mr Ewart Williams.

Within a few minutes of her interview with **UWI Today**, it's clear why she was offered the post. She believes in Caribbean institutions - what they are and what they have the potential to become. She believes in realising potential. That belief, in fact, is so strong that Ms Christopher played an integral role in the team responsible for the transformation of one of Trinidad and Tobago's most successful state-owned financial institutions, First Citizens. It is an outlook, coupled with experience, from which The UWI can benefit enormously at this moment in time.

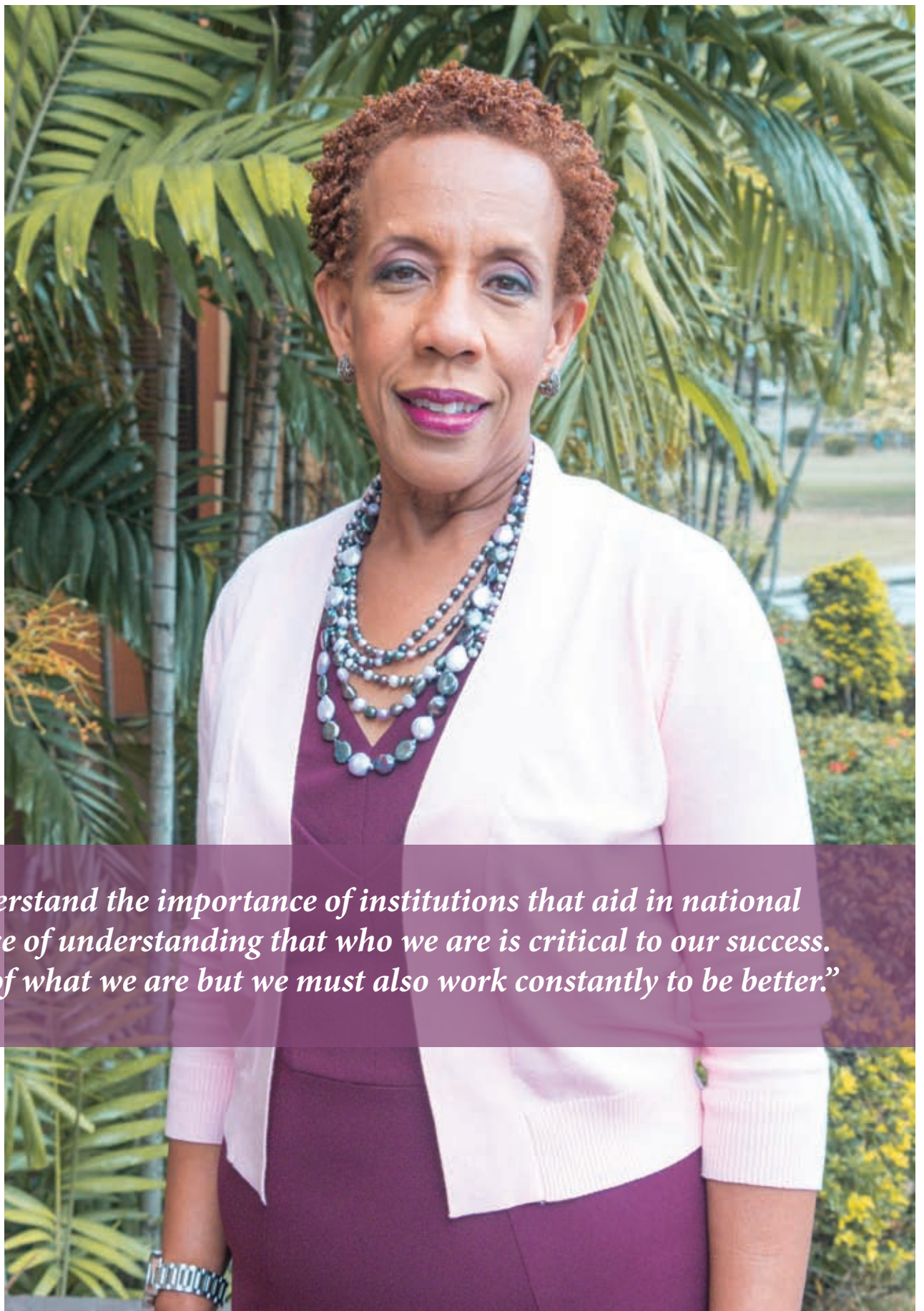
"We have to let people understand the importance of institutions that aid in national development," she says, "the importance of understanding that who we are is critical to our success. We must never feel ashamed of what we are but we must also work constantly to be better."

It's a resounding message for a university, and a region, facing many challenges - financial constraints, increasing international competition, and questions of relevance in the modern age. Those are the challenges with which the Campus Council, a governing body made up of senior campus administrators, staff representatives, members of the Guild of Students, representatives of the academic boards of the other campuses, alumni and several other stakeholders, grapple in the annual meeting.

*"We have to let people understand the importance of institutions that aid in national development... the importance of understanding that who we are is critical to our success. We must never feel ashamed of what we are but we must also work constantly to be better."*

Ms Christopher has already begun to prepare: "I did attend my first meeting with the Finance and General Purposes Committee and I have been reviewing many of the documents related to the governance of the university.... I'm just getting my feet wet. I suppose a lot of my work will be around attending meetings and providing guidance."

An attorney-at-law, leadership development coach, motivational speaker, and founder and CEO of





## ■ OUR CAMPUS

Sharon Christopher and Associates, Ms Christopher has a powerhouse professional history in law, finance and corporate governance. She's sat on the boards of numerous private and public sector organisations, regionally and internationally. In addition, she was a key member of the entity involved in developing the National Code of Corporate Governance. Ms Christopher has even found time to be an advocate for social justice and the empowerment of women, serving as the founding chair of the advisory board of the Institute of Gender and Development Studies (IGDS) at The UWI.

When asked about her many professional successes, she is surprisingly modest:

"I don't know if I would call myself high achieving. One thing I would say, is that I only do things I believe in. I have to believe in what I'm doing. Then, once I'm doing it, I give it my all. That really feeds me."

When it comes to her almost 30-year career at First Citizens, Ms Christopher most definitely believed in the mission and gave it her all. She calls her time there as "one of the defining moments of my life". The bank itself is as outspoken in recognising her contribution to its success. When she retired as Deputy Chief Executive in 2016, First Citizens issued a statement saying "she was instrumental in growing First Citizens from a local commercial bank to a financial powerhouse with subsidiaries and a solid presence in Barbados, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Costa Rica.... We owe much of our growth and success to Sharon Christopher."

While she is undoubtedly proud of First Citizens' achievement (the company went from its US-born CEO declaring it should be scrapped and sold to bringing in a billion in revenue in the space of 25 years), Ms Christopher is very clear on who should be applauded for their success.

"When you are doing the kind of work (we did), being relentless in the execution of our vision, it is critical that every single employee is part of it," she says. "It got to a stage where people would say if you cut a First Citizens person they would bleed green (the company colour). First Citizens people were so loyal to the organisation."

A shared vision from which all actions flow, complete buy-in from staff, maximising strengths in technology and customer service and communicating your achievements so that the society at large can understand and appreciate the work being done - these were the keys to First Citizens success, Ms Christopher says. She believes they will also be useful for The UWI.

"I have seen the University's current strategic plan and it is very robust. What I would really bring to the table is just an understanding of what we did (at First Citizens), what worked, and sharing ideas about other things that can be done at the University," she says.

She has two concerns about The UWI. Branding and communication with the wider society is the first one. "I really think it is important for the university to be totally relatable and relevant to the society," she says. "So much good work is being done, especially in terms of research but how is it feeding back into the public in a way that they can understand?" The second is the shared vision of staff. While organisations might have well-articulated visions, missions and strategic plans, she says, if these do not become part of the psyche of your people. Then they remain just part of the records of the organisation and no more. I know coming out of the corporate world that this is a serious problem. It is why many strategic plans don't work. People don't feel it."

She's not dismayed by the potential hurdles. After all, she has overcome them already. And more importantly she understands the importance of the University and of education in general to the development of individuals and societies.

Born in Grenada, she moved with her family to Trinidad and Tobago when she was almost two-years-old. Her father was a military man who served as aide-de-camp to the Governor General at the time, before eventually becoming commanding officer of the Trinidad and Tobago Regiment, and then after retirement an Anglican priest. Her mother is a housewife. "She's going to be 90 in a few months," Ms Christopher says. "She is a truly forward thinking person. At her age she gets up early every morning and is using WhatsApp on her laptop or tablet. She is always encouraging us (she has three siblings) to do our best and to really understand that the world is somewhere exciting to be."

That combination of parental discipline, dynamism and openness to life was enhanced at school. She attended Bishop Anstey High School, which experience "had a significant impact on many of the decisions (she) took in life" and then studied law at The UWI, before going to Europe and studying at the London School of Economics and Political Science

Now she returns to The UWI to contribute to its further development the way it contributed to hers. "The University has been such a significant institution for national development throughout the entire Caribbean and it is the duty of everyone connected with it to ensure that it continues," she says. "It is up to all of us to ensure that this university is sustainable and continues to be credible and continues to perform a very important role in the area of national development."

Sounds like an exciting place to be.

# A Passion for PROGRESS



**The UWI St Augustine is saying farewell to Mr Ewart Williams** after 10 years of service in the role of Campus Council Chair.

Each UWI campus has its own Council, which serves as its governing body, with representatives from every department as well as the student body and various other private and public sector stakeholders. The Chair is appointed by the Chancellor to serve a five-year term.

Before taking up his position as Chair, Mr Williams worked for 30 years at the International Monetary Fund, retiring in 2002 as Deputy Director of the Western Hemisphere Department. He was appointed as Governor of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago in 2002 and served two five year terms, leaving in 2012.

Mr Williams was passionate and enthusiastic to give back to The UWI, the institution that has contributive so much to his formative years. He credits much of his success at the IMF to his studies at the University, where students were taught to question the established orthodoxy and to analyse economic issues, taking into consideration the social and institutional characteristics of the countries under review. He thought that his undergraduate experience, which emphasised clear thinking and high-quality writing skills, served him very well in his journey through the IMF.

As Chair of the Campus Council Mr Williams felt strongly that the University should take a more active role in seeking to resolve the problems faced by the host country and other regional members. In addition to advocacy and discussion fora, he urged that the University's considerable resources be made available through hands-on technical assistance to the Government and communities. Mr Williams provided strong support for the policy of encouraging faculties to introduce community projects into their course work.

During his two terms he was a champion for the Campus' student-centred focus. In particular, he urged that graduates be made more workplace ready, so that they are able to enhance their contribution to their work environment and community much faster.

Mr Williams is very satisfied with progress that the Campus has made over the past few years, notwithstanding the financing challenges that it has had to confront. He points to the expansion in programme offerings to satisfy the needs of the community, the impressive increase in postgraduate enrollment and the increasing collaboration with the private sector. He is confident that The UWI is well on the way to being the kind of university to which we all aspire – a first class global university, deeply rooted in the development of the Caribbean.

"I'm really convinced that there is strength in numbers and if you could succeed in transferring that passion and that enthusiasm to the people you work with, then people will be enthusiastic about what they do," he said.

Look out for the next issue of UWI Today where we will have an in-depth interview with Mr Ewart Williams about his thoughts on his time as Campus Council Chair.



# How will GUYANA benefit from its OIL WEALTH?

*Copeland speaks at the launch of petroleum engineering programmes with University of Guyana*

As far back as the year 2000 the United States Geological Survey (USGS), an agency of the US Government, reported on the enormous potential of Guyana as a source of offshore oil in South America. In the years since the reporting (and drilling) has only strengthened that conclusion.

“Three discoveries in the 6.6 million acre Staebroek Block have made Guyana one of the world’s three most promising deepwater plays,” an article from *World Oil* magazine said in 2017. Guyana, it said, had the promise of “an oil revenue boom by 2020”.

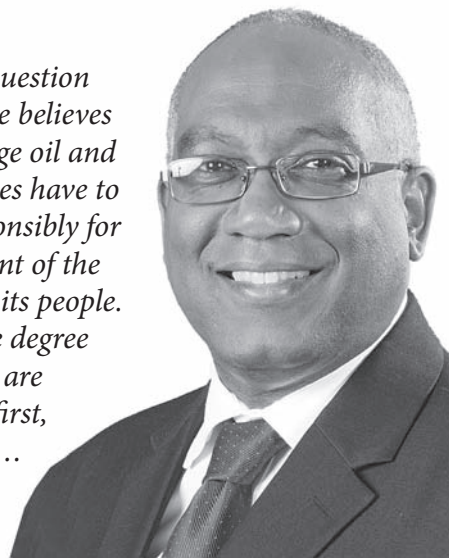
But with an economy dependent on agriculture and extractive industries, and very little experience as an energy producer, how is Guyana to develop the oil industry know-how and manpower to realise that potential? They have a very helpful neighbor.

On January 25, 2019, The University of the West Indies (UWI), the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) and the University of Guyana (UG) formally launched new undergraduate and post-graduate programmes in petroleum engineering at the UG. The programmes will train a new generation of petroleum engineers to lead Guyana’s emerging energy industry.

At the launch symposium hosted by UG’s Turkeyen Campus in Georgetown, Vice-Chancellor Professor Ivelaw Griffith said the programmes were developed through partnerships with The UWI and UTT over a period of 15 months. The Associate of Science Degree in Petroleum Engineering will be offered by UG in collaboration with UTT. The Master of Science in petroleum Engineering will be offered by The UWI in partnership with UG.

UWI St Augustine Campus Principal Professor Brian Copeland led The UWI team to Guyana. He gave the keynote address at the launch symposium. *UWI Today* is pleased to share excerpts from his address. It can be viewed in its entirety online at <https://sta.uwi.edu/uwitoday/>.

*There is no question that everyone believes Guyana’s large oil and gas discoveries have to be used responsibly for the betterment of the country and its people. Indeed, these degree programmes are perhaps the first, critical steps...*



On behalf of The University of the West Indies, I am pleased to bring greetings and congratulations to the University of Guyana on the occasion of this Launch Symposium for its Associate and Master’s Degrees in Petroleum Engineering.

The establishment of an Associate Degree in Petroleum, in partnership with the University of Trinidad and Tobago, and the Master’s Degree in Petroleum Engineering, to be delivered by The University of the West Indies in Guyana and in Trinidad and Tobago, is an important example of how focus, commitment and co-operation can have positive outcomes.

Robin M Mills, CEO of Qamar Energy, and author of *The Myth of the Oil Crisis*, wrote a piece last October for *The National Business*, a publication in the United Arab Emirates. His headline was unequivocal: “Guyana”, he said, “may be the next big beast in global oil”.

He made the point that, by the 2020s, Guyana could

well be sharing output of 700,000 barrels per day among just 770,000 people, producing a medium-light crude which is closer to major Middle East grades – unlike the mostly very light shale oil found in the United States.

In his article, Mills claimed:

*If the discoveries are significant for the world, they will be transformational for Guyana. Gross oil revenues of some United States Dollars 13 billion annually by the mid-2020s, or about \$17,000 per inhabitant, (in) contrast to its 2016 GDP of just \$3.4bn. Only some 14 per cent of this will come to the government for the first two to three years while costs are paid off, but this is still an enormous bonanza.*

The article goes on to identify the pitfalls that await, the fears and the challenges that already exist, not the least of which is the challenge of coping with the speed of the upcoming wealth surge. As Matt Blomerth, head of Latin American Upstream Research for the consultancy firm Wood McKenzie, said in a January 2017 New York Times article, “it’s not often that a country goes from 0 to 60 as fast like this”. As most of us know, this can be exhilarating and frightening at the same time.

Allow me to posit this to you – as South America’s newest oil producer, petroleum can bring untold wealth. But what happens beyond that? What happens beyond the petroleum boom? How will the people of Guyana benefit from this yet untapped wealth? What will Guyana look like in the next few years?

Answers to these and other related questions can perhaps be obtained by drawing from the examples of others. Mills ended his article with these guiding words: “Guyanese are fortunate to have contrasting examples next door in Venezuela of how a mismanaged oil sector can ruin a country; and Trinidad (and Tobago), where petroleum has generally been positive for the country”.

There is no question that everyone believes Guyana’s large oil and gas discoveries have to be used responsibly for the betterment of the country and its people. Indeed, these degree programmes are perhaps the first, critical steps which would equip and encourage graduates to take responsibility, to use their knowledge and expertise to ensure there is accountability in the extraction process and that Guyana would, in the first instance, get its fair share from the monetisation of this natural resource. Even better, it sets the stage for Guyana to take greater command of its oil and gas sectors in the not too distant future.



■ INNOVATION

The Caribbean is fertile ground for great minds, exceptional talents and inspirational leaders.

As a young society, we have made great strides and we have much more to do to realise our full potential.

“There’s a need for something more in terms of leadership in our region,” notes Christa Sankarsingh, Programme Manager of the Institute of Critical Thinking (ICT). “It’s not that we don’t have the intellectual capacity, the wherewithal, and the resilience as a people to do more.”

The “something more” is what the institute helps provide.

Perched on the top floor of the Centre for Language Learning building, the ICT has a panoramic view of the beautiful, tropical gardens of the St Augustine Campus. The state-of-the-art learning spaces demonstrate that it is an entity with a mission and goals that have the potential to transform Caribbean organisations - the way we think, the way we strategise, the way we lead. According to Sankarsingh, the ICT is working to create an environment for Caribbean leaders to get out of fire-fighting mode and develop themselves into the adaptive leaders our region needs for transformation.

The institute is a multidisciplinary learning and performance establishment focused on leadership development. One of its major advantages is that it has access to the international partners, knowledge and expertise of scholars and educators of The UWI. The ICT works with experts in management, law, medical sciences, engineering, mathematics, economics, computer science, the physical sciences and the humanities to give multiple perspectives to solving the complex problems our societies face.

Initially developed by Dr Bhoendradatt Tewarie (then Campus Principal and Pro Vice-Chancellor) in 2007, to improve teaching and learning on campus, ICT refocused its mission in 2014 to provide leadership training and development beyond St Augustine. They work closely with The UWI, its faculties and departments, to build relationships with the wider society.

Sankarsingh, who is a proponent of Adaptive Leadership à la Harvard University, says, “we want them (leaders) to be on board and partnering with us, so that we could serve the needs of our national and regional community.”

The Institute’s strategy is not founded only on abstract ideas but implemented through practical exercises. ICT holds executive development workshops in collaboration with various researchers across campus faculties. They also work closely with companies in the private, public and civil sectors. The institute develops systems and processes to foster innovative thinking and to develop ways to improve sustainability.

And despite the challenges companies face with shrinking budgets, many embrace this mind-set. “We develop solutions specific to your organisation and we help you to diagnose and craft solutions for your specific needs,” expounds the programme manager. As a result, the ICT has influenced companies in finance, energy, manufacturing and more. Their efforts have led to the creation of innovation departments and high performing teams.

However, despite their ambitious goals, you won’t see the ICT’s services splashed across billboards or in full page ads. Talia Dass, the institute’s Marketing and Innovation Officer, says their marketing is based on building relationships and fostering engagement.

“We want to communicate on a personal level and understand the needs of our partners,” she declares.

They reach out through e-mails, social media and their website. Dass and Sankarsingh even assist in conducting

# Entrepreneurs, Organisations INSTITUTE OF CRITICAL THINKING seeks to transform leadership

BY DIXIE - ANN BELLE



Programme Manager of the Institute of Critical Thinking Christa Sankarsingh (left) and Marketing and Innovation Officer Talia Dass.

*They plan to offer even more customised training and to work with entrepreneurs, as well as to provide support for small business owners. They also hope to encourage entrepreneurial thinking within The UWI itself.*

workshops, so they are well known by their partners. Sessions involve role playing, slides, multimedia, case studies, peer to peer dialogue and group and individual exercises.

Participants are key to the agenda and to how findings are implemented. “I love the fact that new ideas are encouraged, and we are able to see those ideas brought to life,” observes Dass.

Sankarsingh adds, “I love the reaction of participants at the end. They’re always happy to have been a part of the experience, leaving with new insights and motivated to take on the challenges ahead.”

The ICT team is clearly committed to continuous transformation within the University and wider society. “Despite the fact that we are a small team, we are powerful. When our ideas are combined, we accomplish great things,” affirms Sankarsingh.

Dass says they are striving to reach wider markets. They plan to offer even more customised training and to work with entrepreneurs, as well as to provide support for small business owners. They also hope to encourage entrepreneurial thinking within The UWI itself.

“We’re in partnership with our own human resource department to do work to create that entrepreneurial, innovative mind-set on campus,” says the programme manager. After all, to be an Entrepreneurial University, we have to be an Entrepreneurial Thinking #TeamUWI.

ICT promotes the philosophy of “Leading through Learning”. As a leader in the 21st Century, a critical tool for success is to keep learning and reinventing yourself, a fixed mind-set is obsolete.

“The challenges that we face in today’s world aren’t always technical challenges, where one expert leader has the solution; but complex, adaptive ones that need our collective intellect to solve” observes Sankarsingh.

The Institute, she says, is well placed to help overcome these obstacles. “We work with you, to co-create knowledge that you need to thrive in your environment. That is what makes us different from anybody else operating anywhere else in the Caribbean.”

To contact the **Institute of Critical Thinking**  
Email: [ict@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:ict@sta.uwi.edu) • Tel: 662-2002 ext. 83310



# REGIONAL HUMANITIES WORKSHOP focuses on Rejuvenation

BY SABRINA VAILLOO

It was German-born physicist **Albert Einstein**, one of the greatest scientific minds to ever live, who said “all religions, arts and sciences are branches of the same tree.”

If that’s the case, certain branches are more healthy and flowering than others. As our technological advancement continues its relentless forward momentum and competition in global markets grows ever fiercer, the arts are losing ground, particularly in academia.

“As a historian, I cannot help but worry over the changes that threaten to overwhelm the humanities,” says Professor Robert Zaretsky of the University of Houston, in a recent article in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

In the Caribbean, the humanities are feeling it as well. From the secondary to the tertiary education level, subjects such as history, English literature and certain languages are seeing persistent decline in student interest.

In response, The UWI Regional Office of the University Registrar and the Faculties of the Humanities and Education (FHEs) jointly hosted “Transforming the Humanities”, a workshop for staff, students, and the public. They came together to find ways to re-energise the humanities and better communicate their potential for the development of Caribbean society.

The workshop convened on February 14, 2019 at The UWI Regional Headquarters, Mona Campus. Online audiences joined their Cave Hill, Mona and St Augustine colleagues through Zoom. Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles welcomed on campus and online attendees. FHE Deans from St Augustine, Mona, and Cave Hill (Dr Heather Cateau, Professor Waibinte Wariboko, and Professor Evelyn O’Callaghan respectively) spoke at the workshop. Dr Heather Hemming, Vice President Academic at Acadia University in Nova Scotia, Canada, gave the keynote address.

UWI St Augustine Campus Principal Professor Brian Copeland, speaking on innovation and entrepreneurship, said the nexus of science and art was instrumental to innovation. “Studies have shown that creativity cuts across disciplines,” he said.

Not enough people seem to be getting the message. In her remarks, Dr Cateau noted the declining student enrolment at the St Augustine Campus in subjects such as history, carnival studies, linguistics, French, early childhood care and education, and teaching English to speakers of other languages (TESOL).

The picture was similar across campuses. Pro Vice-Chancellor of The UWI Board for Undergraduate Studies Professor Alan Cobley compared the 2015/2016 academic year with 2016/2017; it showed total enrolment in the FHEs on all four campuses (including the Open Campus) was lower.

This is not just a tertiary-level phenomenon. Unsurprisingly, the data correlates falling FHE enrolment with falling CSEC enrolment between 2014 and 2018 for secondary school humanities subjects. This was echoed at the CAPE level over the same period.

*Right now in secondary school or at The UWI, there may be a Caribbean Einstein, or Marie Curie (a gymnast in her younger years before becoming a Nobel Prize winning scientist), or even an actress like Hollywood film star Hedy Lamarr, an inventor who developed technology used in the US Navy.*

The workshop, however, was about much more than identifying the issues. Participants came bearing solutions. Dr Cateau proposed several strategies for widening access (including more flexible entry requirements, new programmes, and expanding programmes into its South Campus), and for moving the humanities from the abstract to the applied. These included re-engineering traditional disciplines and aligning programmes more closely to the developmental needs of the region.

She emphasised the importance of partnerships between the campuses as well as other institutions:

*“Our small size means that the demand in certain specialisations per campus may prove to be challenging. Thus, we need cross campus and in some cases international collaboration to develop these areas.”*

She also said that the Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA) and film students would benefit from the next phase of development through the creation of graduate programmes.

“We think that the last 10 years have been about introducing these new areas (creative and festival arts and film) to the University at the Bachelor of Arts level. The next phase is to develop graduate programmes,” she said.

Dr Cateau also spoke on the strategy of “inter-disciplinarity”, partnering the humanities with other disciplines.

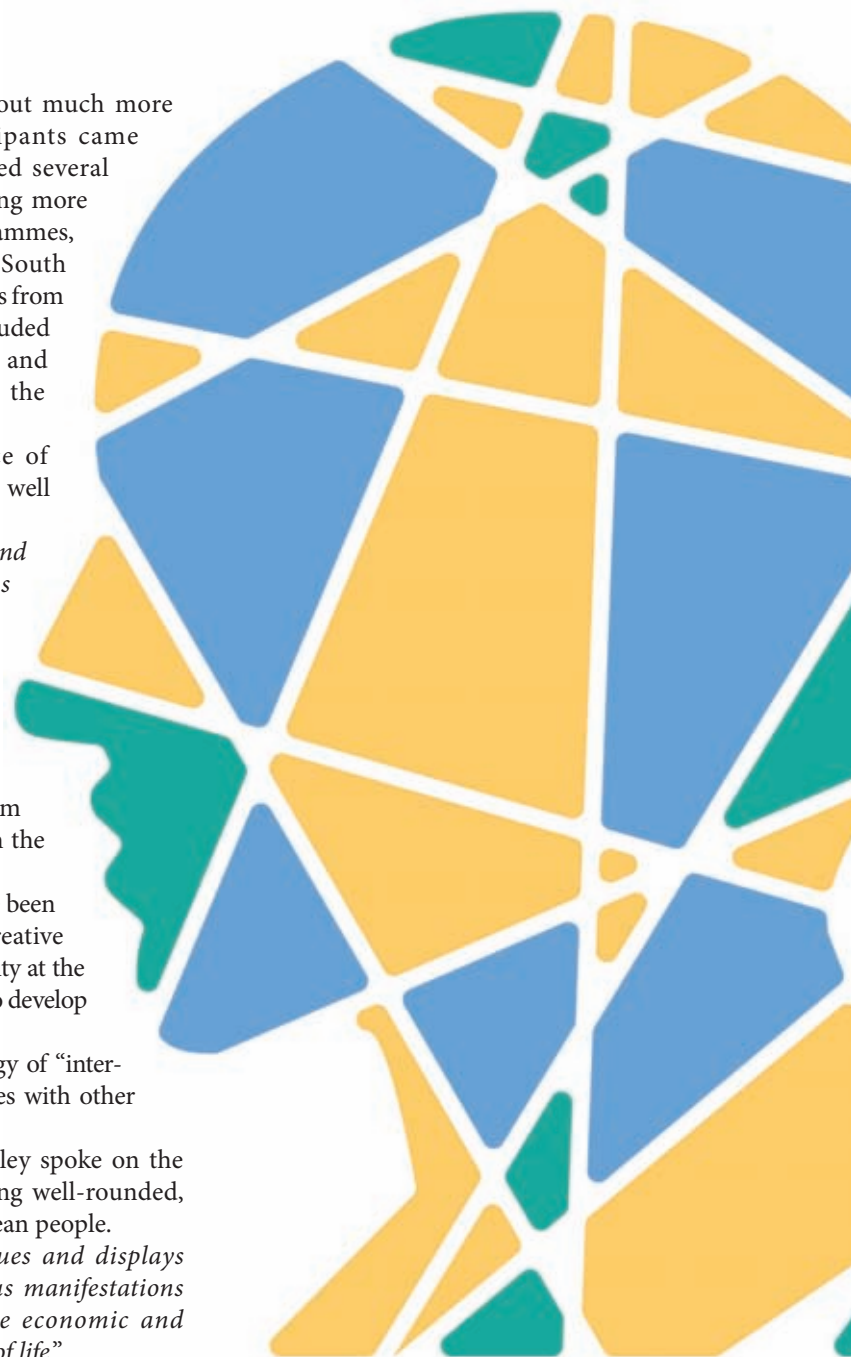
In his presentation, Professor Cobley spoke on the humanities and their role in developing well-rounded, emotionally healthy, and moral Caribbean people.

*“An ideal Caribbean person values and displays the creative imagination in its various manifestations and nurtures its development in the economic and entrepreneurial spheres and in all areas of life.”*

That is how you get an Einstein who, not only was trained in music from childhood, but once said that if he were not a scientist, he would have been a musician and that he *thought* in music.

Right now in secondary school or at The UWI, there may be a Caribbean Einstein, or Marie Curie (a gymnast in her younger years before becoming a Nobel Prize winning scientist), or even an actress like Hollywood film star Hedy Lamarr, an inventor who developed technology used in the US Navy.

The humanities can be an asset – once the tree is properly maintained.







# 10 Years OLD YARD

THE OLD YARD 10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

PHOTOS PAGES 11-14: ANEEL KARIM

They called it “*A Sense of Home*”. On February 24, 2019, the **Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA)** in the Faculty of Humanities and Education held a special celebration. The Old Yard, DCFA’s annual festival of traditional Carnival, folklore, art and culture, turned 10-years-old. For a decade now, patrons have entered a passageway through time to become part of a cultural experience that stretches all way back to 19<sup>th</sup> Century Trinidad.



Once you enter the Yard, “you in it”. It’s a magical experience, enjoyed by the many children, foreign visitors, culture lovers and lovers of Carnival that come out to the sprawling Open Campus Quadrangle at Gordon Street, and came out to the DCFA’s classic Agostini Street headquarters before that.

But while the patrons enjoy the show, the DCFA - and its students - do the work. Over its 10 years The Old Yard has become a teaching tool for young festival managers and performers. It has helped to build a community of culture professionals. It has helped to not only rescue but breathe new life into waning traditions. It has made an aspect of our history so vibrant that it has become our future.

That is The Old Yard’s greatest gift to Trinidad and Tobago. It has taken old mas’ and turned it into something fresh and new. What better way is there to keep the culture going strong?





## THE OLD YARD 10<sup>th</sup>

# A Sense

BY JOEL

**A Dame Lorraine bounces across the yard** in her colourful dress, flapping her fancy fan. The gorillas in their heavy fur suits are in the stands troubling people. The regal sailors, old gentlemen and gentle ladies of mas' are teaching their dance moves to the young people, adorned, encrusted and shiny. The Old Yard is underway. It's happened many times before but this time is different. This one is extra special.

"We are celebrating 10 years so naturally we see this edition of The Old Yard as something very special," says Dr Jo-anne Tull. Tull, Lecturer and Coordinator of DCFA's Carnival Studies Unit, has been the Project Director of The Old Yard since its beginning in 2009. She and her small team of people from on and off campus, and many students, have over the years created a unique legacy of performance, event management, education, historical preservation and culture, in a most entertaining package.

But to call The Old Yard a "beginning" is not completely accurate. There is an ancestor:

"Before The Old Yard was *Viey La Cou*," says Louis McWilliams, Director of the DCFA and Coordinator of the Theatre Arts Unit. "Viey La Cou came at a time when traditional mas' seemed to be dying. It was the brainchild of people like Rawle Gibbons (dramatist, educator and founder of the DCFA) and Val Rogers (mas' man and former chairman of Queen's Hall), who brought this event to Queen's Hall."

McWilliams, who describes himself as "the cog in the wheel between *Viey La Cou* and The Old Yard" has been the host/voice of both events from inception. *Viey La Cou* went on for many years, growing past the capacity of the Queen's Hall car park and moving to the Scout's Association of T&T grounds. The small team, about a handful of people, did incredible work with support from organisations such as the National Carnival Commission and the community of traditional masqueraders but eventually they decided it was time for fresh energy and institutional support. So they brought it to The UWI. And The Old Yard was born.

### SCHOOL YARD

"Old Yard is definitely one of a kind," says Shedrack Worrell, a 22-year-old student of the DCFA's Carnival Studies programme currently pursuing a communications degree at The UWI. In 2018, Shedrack worked at The Old Yard. If you were there most likely you never saw him. That means he was doing his job well.

As part of the course "Festival Management", Shedrack and his fellow students made up the majority of the team managing The Old Yard. They handled stage management, sanitation, accreditation, every function involved in running an event.

"I teach hands-on," says Tull. "We do a lot of learning by doing. I believe if you have to manage something well you have to know it from the bottom up."

The same goes for the student performers. Unlike the backstage team they were very visible. Many of the characters on display - jab *molassies*, bats, dragons, pierrots, jammette, woman looking for a husband, and others - are theatre arts students.

"I was Granny," says Seychelle Ross, age 21, of her 2017 Old Yard role. "She is just a big, round, fluffy granny that loves everybody. But don't get her vex or she will cut your tail in front of everyone."

"A lot of our cultural background comes from yards. First we go back to the barrack yard, where we used to live. Each yard had its *chantwell*. Pan came out of the yard. Calypso came out of the yard. Mas' came out of the yard. So the culture, dance, feasts used to happen in the yard. We come out of that yard culture."

### Louis McWilliams

Director of DCFA and the host of The Old Yard.



PHOTO: LOUIS MCWILLIAMS

**OLD MAN AND THE SEA:** A sailor speaks to children at *Viey La Cou* at the Scouts of T&T Grounds.



**BABY MAMA DRAMA:** Rawle Gibbons, one of the originators of both The Old Yard and the DCFA itself, in paternity talks.

"We go in with the mindset that this is a communal event. Once you step into the gate you are in the yard and you are sharing the same space with the performers. There is no set stage. I feel like once you come in you are a character yourself."

### Shedrack Worrell

Carnival Studies programme, festival manager at The Old Yard.



# ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

## of Home

H E N R Y

Seychelle, a third year student from San Fernando, is a young powerhouse. Last year she won the Miss UWVerse competition. She's also a literal fire breather. She is a lover of *jab molassie mas'* and is a member of the collective *Jab-a-Mien*.

One of the most impressive aspects of The Old Yard is the level of performance from the students. They give their total commitment and draw you into the world that has been created.

"I think that's my joy now, being in The Old Yard for so long, looking at the participation of the youths," says McWilliams.

And through these young people a cultural resource has been rebuilt. "There are students who have graduated and go on to continue to perform as traditional characters. Characters that we used to have to go outside and get now we can get them from within. Now people call me asking for a midnight robber for an event and there are graduates we can call. To me that is growth and development. It shows the real value of our programme," McWilliams says.

### WHAT WAS OLD IS NEW

2018 was The Old Yard's first edition at its new headquarters at Gordon Street. "It was a test run," says Tull. She sees 2019 as a new beginning.

"We saw a lot of new faces last year. When we were at Agostini Street our audience was predominately students, which I am happy for, but last year I also saw a return of a lot of the faces from the *Viey La Cou* days and I suspect it has a lot to do with the Gordon Street grounds."

Tull and the team, which includes McWilliams, artistic director Camille Harden, assistant project manager Tamara De Breo, DJ Wayne Rochard, members of the DCFA support staff and people from the event or hospitality industries, are ready for new expansion.

And The Old Yard also partly represents the growth of the DCFA itself, which has developed under the leadership of its previous directors – Rawle Gibbons, Satanand Sharma, Dr Danielle Lyndersay and Jessel Murray.

She wants to work more closely with The UWI, increasing synergies for student recruitment. The Old Yard has already become recognised as a training ground for festival management professionals and performers, helping them find employment opportunities as well as create their own. That's a major selling point for young people considering a career in the creative industries.

Tull also wants to strengthen ties with the NCC, the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and the Arts, and the many performers who take part in The Old Yard:

"They have been on board with us for many years, providing resources, giving of their time and talent."

The DCFA is also interested in corporate partnerships. Despite the high quality of The Old Yard funding is a major challenge. If they want to grow it will become even more a challenge.

But looking back at its first ten years, they are happy with what they have done and are looking forward to the next chapter in this new celebration of old mas'.

As Tull says, "I don't think as much about legacy as I think of the future."



"I am a jab to my heart. It is the adrenaline rush. Jab molassie receives money as a token of respect from the oppressor. So with that in my head I will perform and perform and perform until people give me hundreds and hundreds of dollars. It is like I get positive energy from my ancestors. When that adrenaline takes over, nothing could save you. If a car is coming to a stop it will stop for me, because the car is afraid of me. They feel my spirit. They feel my energy."

### Seychelle Ross

Theatre Arts student and performer at The Old Yard.



"Trinidad and Tobago has a lot to offer the world in regards to culture. There is something about the way people uniquely engage in their culture every year at Carnival in a fresh way. It therefore lends favourably to export because one of the key things to a cultural export is authenticity. People who are not local are coming to The Old Yard. That is also export because they are spending foreign exchange. I believe that is where we will have room for growth in the first instance."

### Dr Jo-anne Tull

Coordinator of the Carnival Studies Unit and Project Director of The Old Yard.







## THE OLD YARD 10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

“The Old Yard is truly us at our best. This is what the humanities is all about – creativity and innovation at its finest. It is also a lesson in cultural history which could not be more enjoyable.”

**Dr Heather Cateau**  
Dean of the Faculty of  
Humanities and Education.





■ ART, CULTURE, CARNIVAL



PHOTO: ANEEL KARIM

# A CREATIVE PLACEKEEPER *finds a place on campus*

BY SABRINA VAILLOO

In the spirit of Carnival 2019 celebrations, The University of the West Indies, St Augustine Campus recently welcomed with gratitude Donald 'Jackie' Hinkson's oil on canvas mural "Masquerade", along with many of his sketchbooks. The historic occasion was marked with three notable events over the week of February 4-8, 2019.

Through Hinkson's art, the Alma Jordan Library (AJL), which hosted the events in conjunction with the Department of Creative and Festival Arts' (DCFA) Visual Arts Unit, continues to fulfil its role as a preserver and supporter of T&T's arts and culture.

On February 4, the library hosted its landmark installation of "Masquerade" on the southern wall of the building. Senior West Indian Librarian Lorraine Nero was there when the idea for the mural installation hit. In 2017, she and Hinkson were walking away from the building when its façade caught his eye. It struck him that the space along the walkway was the ideal locale to accommodate his 110-foot-wide mural, to be installed in a linear series of 22 eight-foot-high rectangular panels.

The inaugural mural event gave way to two other significant events on February 6 (the official sketchpad handover) and February 8 ("Masquerade: A Conversation with Jackie Hinkson"). On February 6, Hinkson handed over 60 sketchpads (that took years to fill) to their new permanent home – the West Indian and Special Collections Division of the library.

The donated artwork accounts for some 3,000 sketches done in a variety of mediums including pencil, pen and ink, ink and brush, charcoal, charcoal pencil, crayon, coloured pencils, ballpoint pen, and, occasionally, conté. Hinkson estimates that this represents only 50 percent of his entire sketch collection, which amounts to a prolific

12,000 sketches, and whose monetary value has not yet been mentioned on record.

Nero affirmed that Hinkson's donation was "very significant" because The UWI was not in a position to compete on global markets for art collections, and that its budgets remained outmatched by more prominent educational institutions. She noted that overseas universities with Caribbean Studies programmes were especially on the lookout for original collections out of the Caribbean. "It's people like Mr Hinkson who really believe in the Caribbean and the potential of this region who donate without asking much."

Hinkson explained why he rejected the profitable lure of selling his art abroad: "...in a way, everything that has motivated and inspired my work comes from Trinidad, so, I want to keep...the work here...my bond with this country, my exposure to this landscape, the seascape, its urban scenes, and how those subjects...have inspired me is so strong that I want to maintain that respect for that kind of inspiration."

At the February 6 handover event, Dr Marsha Pearce, Visual Arts Unit Coordinator and Lecturer at the DCFA described Hinkson as "a creative placekeeper" through his art. She explained that "Placekeeping involves preserving the memories of a community through art. It is sensitive to the history of a place...It involves paying attention to place; taking notice of, watching carefully. The idea of keeping a place also suggests nurturing, stimulating, fostering that place...All...embedded in Hinkson's art."

On a separate occasion, Lorraine Nero discussed her regret in acquiring Hinkson's oeuvre saying that West Indian "see(s) education and educational tools in all various formats and aspects... which we can use hundreds

of years from now, because we think in centuries, actually."

Dr Pearce ended her remarks on a note to echo Nero: "Our task at The University of the West Indies is to safeguard the spirit of the creative placekeeper and to facilitate its transmission – allowing it to possess generations to come."

Like a new girlfriend, the artwork enjoys the curiosity and attentiveness of a steady trail of student and visitor passers-by. Some are challenged on how to capture the mural's entirety in photograph. (It's two-thirds as long as l'Arc de Triomphe or about one-and-two-thirds times as long as a cricket pitch.) Others tune in thoughtfully to their peers' interpretations about it, and still some retrace the concrete steps to discover something more each time they pass.

There are so many characters to ponder in the mural: Hinkson's baby doll, bats, Dame Lorraine, robbers, Bookman, masqueraders, burrokeet; Queen Isabella, the Amerindian, Mickey Mouse, Spider-Man. These are all set against a Trinidadian architectural backdrop of prominent landmarks and buildings: KFC, the Catholic cathedral, the Guardian building, Express House and many more. Readers would be surprised to know that standing in The UWI's quadrangle Hinkson had his first complete view of the work.

While Hinkson's generously donated sketchbooks fulfil their role of "placekeeping" in the safe hands of West Indian, it's unknown how long the mural will remain in place, as the medium used is not conducive to outdoor exhibition and is subject to degradation by the elements. It stands to reason that The UWI community is wary that it must one day relinquish its custodianship over "Masquerade". The library will have a blank canvas to fill once more. When it meets that crossroads, where will the characters of "Masquerade" parade to next? And which place will it keep?



## ■ UWI FETE 2019



PHOTO: DARA JORDON-BROWN

# Majesty and Meaning

**On February 3, 2019, the St Augustine Campus** was showered in champagne and gold as Trinidad and Tobago came together for UWI Fete 2019. An event so beloved and revered that it has become institution of the Carnival season, UWI Fete was created in 1990, devised by then Campus Principal and former President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Professor Maxwell Richards. UWI Fete was the original all-inclusive, premium Carnival event, offering partygoers the best live music, cuisine and beverages, and hosted on the sprawling green campus at St Augustine. 2019 was no different. Themed “Champagne and Gold”, this year’s fete continued the trend of the hottest performers of the season, food from some of the islands’ top restaurants and eateries, and numerous, stocked to overflowing, bars. This year’s UWI Fete also included massage stations and other outlets to pamper patrons.

## MUCH MORE THAN A FETE

There is however, much more to UWI Fete. This event, which celebrated 29 years in 2019, exists to serve a crucial purpose for Trinidad and Tobago and the region. It creates educational opportunities.

“We have provided bursaries valued at TT\$17.7 million to over 3,400 students,” says Mr Nigel Romano, Chairman of The UWI Development and Endowment Fund (UWI DEF).

UWI DEF is the organiser of UWI Fete. It was launched in April 1989 to enable UWI St Augustine to provide scholarships and bursaries for undergraduate and postgraduate students to promote academic excellence, alleviate financial hardship for deserving students and facilitate student interchange between the UWI campuses.

Romano, who is also the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of JMMB Bank, says, “Today UWI DEF provides bursaries every year of TT\$5,000 each to 200 deserving students and 10 bursaries of TT\$15,000 each to exceptional students. We have also decided to create special scholarships dedicated to students who in addition to their academic performance excel in the area of sports and leadership.”

UWIDEF also funds research in selected areas, endows chairs and lectureships in key disciplines and funds capital

PHOTO: ATIBA CUDJOE



PHOTO: ANEEL KARIM



projects. The fund achieves its mission by investing its capital to earn enough to pay for its various projects. It also organises two events, UWI Fete as mentioned above, and the annual UWI DEF Golf Challenge tournament.

Romano however sees much greater untapped potential for UWI DEF:

“I really believe that the endowment fund can do a lot more. But we can’t do it alone. We have to do it in partnership with the (UWI) Alumni Association and the university. If we look at endowment funds for universities like Harvard and Yale they bring in billions of dollars. That’s because the people who went there recognise the value they received. The University has to do a better job of engaging with the alumni and getting the alumni to contribute.”

Romano says greater outreach should also be made to wealthy individuals and profitable organisations to seek out philanthropic support. The UWI, he says, is well worth the contribution:

“The investment made in my education at The UWI, a BSc in industrial management and an MSc in accounting, has returned thousands of per cent. It is the best investment I ever made and is still paying. I know that I am not alone and hope that many more alumni would recognise this and choose to give back. Their children will also benefit.”

PHOTO: ANEEL KARIM





PHOTO: ATIBA CUDJOE



PHOTO: ANEEL KARIM



PHOTO: ATIBA CUDJOE

PHOTO: ANEEL KARIM



PHOTO: ANEEL KARIM



PHOTO: ATIBA CUDJOE



## ■ ART, CULTURE, CARNIVAL

**You wake up sweating and realise there's a painful blue bruise on your arm.**

Leeanna Boyce wants you to know, if you're in T&T, you weren't bitten by a vampire. That was a *soucouyant*!

Boyce, a dancer, UWI student and Theatre Arts teacher at Moruga Secondary School, has a passion for preserving the folklore of Trinidad and Tobago.

"We have our own unique characters people should know about," she says.

She was taken aback when she discovered her students "didn't have the slightest idea" about phantoms and *lagahoos*, and were more familiar with "American" ghosts and goblins. So she embarked on a cultural mission that's taking her all the way to the Carifesta stage this August, with jumbies in tow.

Working with her students (whom she calls her "minions") Boyce put together a scary "haunted house", so members of the public could be spooked and educated at the same time.

The idea was first incarnated as the final presentation for her Festival Arts course at the Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA). The presentation, staged last November, was a hit. It was held at the National Cocoa and Chocolate Museum of Trinidad and Tobago in Moruga, a perfect setting with its old structures and ghostly artifacts from the early 1900s.

The mood was set with lights and a fog machine. Students in full costume and makeup hid in the bush and under the plantation house, depicting characters like the cloven-hoofed *La Diabliesse*, forest protector *Papa Bois*, haggish Gang Gang Sarah and of course the unbaptised spirit children, *douens*. Her minions got fully into character and enjoyed bringing a scary thrill to patrons, while reminding them of local lore. The presentation received glowing reviews on social media.

#### ARTIST ON A MISSION

Leeanna has made her life in culture over the last two decades. Growing up in Ste Madeleine, she attended Best Village classes in drumming, singing, drama and dance at the nearby community centre with the Ste Madeleine Folk Performers.

"Is fassness that get me in the centre," she recalls with a laugh.

Her curiosity, coupled with a natural flair, has led her to explore all aspects of performance. She learned mas' design and wire bending at the feet of late master mas' man from San Fernando Roland St George; making mas' for his band D'Krewe. From the late fashion designer Dexter Jennings she learned costume construction and special effects makeup.

She earned her Certificate in Dance at The University of the West Indies in 2010 and is poised to graduate from the University with a BA in the discipline next year. With this wealth of training she inspires her students to find their own wellspring of creativity.

"I give them dolls and tell them to create their own (versions and interpretations). They come up with some nice ideas," she says. "It makes them more expressive."

In the dance classroom, which students call "the happy room", she often supplies craft materials herself and enjoys helping her students find self-discipline and self-expression through the arts.

Leeanna feels the legacy of T&T's culture must be cherished and should be more fully explored: "There is so much that people don't know about, and so much we can market.... We should appreciate what is ours – not somebody else's thing."

And she is creating a legacy of her own. Leeanna founded the Artistic Dance Theatre in Princes Town and the Moruga School for the Performing Arts. For San Fernando Carnival 2019 she is presenting a *Jouvert* band of sexy jab *molassies* named "Rouge Masquerade". Their presentation is called "Jab Nation". It is her ultimate ambition to become this country's Culture Minister, and she sees many untapped opportunities for culture to bloom.

The present Minister of Community Development, Culture and the Arts, Dr Nyan Gadsby-Dolly, invited Leeanna to mount her haunted house at Carifesta XIV, from August 16 - 25. She will construct a maze at the Village at Queen's Park Savannah, so her "willing victims" can be surprised around any turn.

"I wasn't expecting this project to reach so far," she says.

"My goal is to frighten someone real bad!" she declares with a wicked smirk. Come Carifesta, she will have her chance.

# 'Fassness', flair and a deep deep love of culture

BY GILLIAN MOORE



*Leeanna feels the legacy of T&T's culture must be cherished and should be more fully explored: "There is so much that people don't know about, and so much we can market.... We should appreciate what is ours – not somebody else's thing."*



Dancer, UWI Dance student and Theatre Arts teacher Leeanna Boyce. PHOTO: GILLIAN MOORE




 ■ OUR STUDENTS

# Beautiful Minds

*Kheston Walkins brings innovation to mental healing, for others and himself*

BY JOEL HENRY

When he enters the UWI Today office for his interview Kheston Walkins says a strange thing. I ask him how he's doing today. He responds, "I'm happy."

It's jarring to hear. There's an appropriate answer to such a question - not too enthusiastic, not too open and not too honest. But Walkins is far more concerned about what is right than what is appropriate. It's one of the secrets to his astounding success. At just 30-years-old, this post residency medical student from The UWI's Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS) is an internationally celebrated researcher, innovator and entrepreneur.

Born and raised in Chaguanas. He is a PhD candidate in molecular genetics and has been working on cancer detection technology under the supervision of Senior Lecturer at FMS Dr Melford John. Kheston has developed and brought to market several innovative products and services.

But perhaps most fascinating of all is where he has directed his enormous creative energies - mental health.

"It's neuro-innovation," he explains. Kheston and his partner Yohance Ayodike created a company in 2018 called Allegori that fuses neuroscience (the study of the brain and nervous system) with therapeutic counselling. Among the services they offer is "MindArt" an almost supernatural blending of technology and therapy to create abstract art. Participants are asked to tell an emotionally potent story while a headset generates electroencephalogram (EEG) patterns from their brain patterns. The patterns are printed on canvas, creating surreal works spawned from human experience. Thousands of pieces have been created through MindArt.

Kheston says MindArt sessions "became events" and "strange kinds of group therapies". "They would talk about experiences that made them cry in front of people and they were fine with it," he says. "Afterwards they tell us that MindArt is one of the best experiences they have had in their lives."

Kheston knows well the importance of the kind healing that therapeutic intervention can provide. He was on campus for Internationalisation Week or *iWeek*, an event hosted by The UWI St Augustine's International

"It is important for young entrepreneurs to know that you will fail but you are failing forward. Living with fear, guilt and shame is paralysis. You will never be able to move forward if you don't have that self-management."



Kheston speaking at the Global Citizenship Dialogue for *iWeek* 2019. PHOTO: COURTESY INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

Office. Allegori demonstrated MindArt at the *iWeek* Technology Display and he was the featured guest at their Global Citizenship Dialogue. His topics include innovative and entrepreneurial thinking, internationalism, and technology.

"I love the idea of encouraging students or just people in general so that they can do the things that they want to do," he says.

But what was unexpected was how open he was about his own emotional struggles and the importance of dealing with them to lead a successful life. In fact it was his experience with depression that led to the creation of Allegori.

He had been riding high, having developed an app and cloud-based database in 2016 called "Communicare" that was receiving major international recognition. That same year he attended the Young Leaders of the America's Initiative hosted by the US State Department and was one of only 14 people invited to participate in the Demand Solutions entrepreneurship expo in Argentina, an Inter-American Development Bank funded event. But he hit a roadblock.

"We got lots of money to develop (Communicare) and sell it, but it just wasn't sticking," he said. "The even harder part was that all the money that I had was dwindling. I went into a depressive phase and sought therapy."

The therapist, in fact, was Ayodike, who would eventually partner with him to form Allegori.

"I would say to students, 'get help'. Get qualified help once you can afford it. I don't think we take our mental wellbeing seriously."

In fact, Kheston sees mental health as an asset for innovation and entrepreneurship:

"Fear, guilt and shame - we need to throw them away. That is the vice grip of Trinidad culture. It starts at home," he says, adding that it is important for young entrepreneurs to "know that you will fail but you are failing forward. Living with fear, guilt and shame is paralysis. You will never be able to move forward if you don't have that self-management."

He has moved forward with a vengeance. Since creating Allegori, Ayodike and Walkins have made considerable strides in establishing a neuro-innovation business, one he calls the first of its kind in the Caribbean. Apart from MindArt, Allegori use their blend of therapy and EEG technology to treat clients with mental health issues. Most recently they have branched over to "neuro training" in areas such as focus through their Focus Clinic.

The business is doing very well:

"We were profitable in two months and doubled our revenue every month after that," he says. And more importantly, their neuro-innovation is working. "One client was getting panic attacks for 11 years, 7 panic attacks a day. Within three sessions she was getting one panic attack every three days. By the end of the programme (six sessions) she had zero panic attacks. To this day she has no panic attacks."

Apart from creativity and self-expression, healing is a surprisingly consistent theme in Kheston's words and ideas. Like neuroscience and psychology, creative dynamism and compassion make a good combination.

"I don't really do things for the accolades but the accolades feel good," he says. "I like creating something that doesn't exist and doing it well. My focus is on making people's lives easier or more enjoyable."





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## INTERNATIONALISATION

**“If I had my wish every student on campus would experience an exchange,”** says Evelyn Ferreira, Manager of the International Office at UWI St Augustine.

She means “student exchange”, a programme through which students get to travel abroad and spend a semester or year at a foreign university. It’s an incredible opportunity for young people to experience new cultures, meet new people, learn in a fresh environment and experience the personal development that comes from leaving your homeland and entering the wider world.

For many students such an opportunity would be a dream come true. You’d think it would be rare. The truth however, is that there are many untapped opportunities for UWI students to take part in exchanges. IO is on a mission to get more members of the campus community to make use of them - enter *iWeek 2019*.

International Week or *iWeek* is an event hosted by IO to “raise awareness among our staff and students about the concept of internationalisation and highlight ways in which this concept can and has been embraced across the campus”, a statement from the office says.

2019 is *iWeek*’s fourth year. Titled “Technology, Art and Culture: The Caribbean Potential” it consisted of several events and activities running from late January to early February.

“It’s one of our ways of reaching out to the (campus) community,” says Ferreira.

The publication *International Higher Education*, describes internationalisation as “the process of integrating an international, intercultural, or global dimension into the purpose, functions or delivery of post-secondary education”. At UWI St Augustine IO is the office responsible for internationalisation. “We promote internationalisation on the campus. We make students and staff aware of the various internationalisation opportunities,” says Ferreira.

For *iWeek 2019* such promotional activities included the “Study Abroad Fair”, giving students and staff information on opportunities to study or work at foreign universities; the “Global Citizenship Dialogue”, a question and answer session with student entrepreneur and innovator Kheston Walkins; a “Technology Display”, an exhibition of technologies from various faculties and companies such as Nerds International, Allegori - MindArt, and Huawei T&T; and a “Student Art Competition”.

The student artists had to depict “UWI 2050”. The winner received a return ticket to New York or Miami from American Airlines.

“I think of the International Office as a ministry of foreign affairs for the campus,” Ferreira says. IO has partnerships with over 60 universities around the world: at least one on every continent, she explains. These agreements allow students to take part in exchanges. Once their school fees are paid at The UWI they are not required to pay tuition at the university abroad (other costs such as travel and lodging still apply).

For universities that UWI doesn’t have exchange agreements with, IO offers study abroad support, helping to create links with the foreign institution, assisting with visas and expediting passports. The office also arranges short (a week or two) study tours for both UWI staff and students travelling abroad as well as persons from foreign institutions coming to St Augustine.

Staff and students from The UWI can also get information for international scholarships from IO, such as the Canada-CARICOM Leadership Scholarships and the Emerging Leaders in the Americas Programme. Offered by the Canadian government, these scholarships give recipients the opportunity for study, research and (in the case of staff) professional development at Canadian universities. The application deadline is March 21, 2019.

The IO manager would like to see more UWI members of the campus community take these opportunities:

“People who have taken part in exchanges or study abroad have matured. They always say it was a very good experience. What I’ve noticed in North American



International students at the Quadrangle of the St Augustine Campus. PHOTO: ATIBA CUDJOE



A remote control robot at the National Institute of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (NIHERST) booth. PHOTO: COURTESY INTERNATIONAL OFFICE



UWI and secondary school students at the Faculty of Science and Technology booth. PHOTO: COURTESY INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

universities is that international travel is part of their curriculum. We will probably look at that. There may be a paradigm shift at The UWI when it comes to students studying abroad.”

Until that time, the IO continues to offer opportunities for both students and staff of The UWI to study and work abroad, and benefit from international scholarship opportunities. Why not take advantage of this chance to experience the world?

For more information on travel and international scholarship opportunities available through the International Office, visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/UWIInternationalOffice>.



## ENVIRONMENT

# Palm Trees: A Green Investment

BY LINTON ARNEAUD

In today's fast paced world, only commodities with high monetary value are deemed important by society. To some, trees may be considered the only sustainable building product that can be found anywhere in the world, while to others, they are often viewed as one of many raw-materials used to manufacture "important" products. But have you ever wondered how much an individual tree costs? Much to the surprise of many, an average tree surviving approximately 50 years is worth an estimated TT\$1.2 million dollars (*Das. 1979; Treecycling. 2018*).

Trinidad and Tobago has a range of habitats for a family of plants that are an outstanding green investment – palms. Palms are flowering monocotyledon evergreen trees, shrubs and climbers that only grow in the tropics. They are the most cultivated plant group in the world, next to the cereals (rice, wheat and corn). The palm is considered the "prince of the plant kingdom" since they have some of the largest seeds of any plant group in the world, most of which are edible. Trinidad and Tobago is treasured by many botanists for its range of habitats that support interesting palm species.

## TREES MITIGATE AIR QUALITY AND STORM WATER RISK

Trinidad and Tobago, being one of the few industrialised Caribbean economies, should be very cautious about managing urban storm water and municipal air quality, and should follow other developed countries that spend millions of dollars mitigating air quality and urban storm water risk in cities. For example, according to RAND Corporation, heavy smog and fog blankets in most cities in China cost

the Chinese economy trillions of dollars annually, not to mention kills approximately 1.5 million people yearly (CNBC 2016). In the Caribbean, millions of dollars are lost due to raging urban storm waters as a result of passing tropical waves (particularly in Haiti, Cuba, Dominica, the Bahamas, and in recent times Trinidad).

The island of Trinidad represents the northernmost distribution of moriche palms (*Mauritia flexuosa*), while both islands represent the southernmost distribution of the *Coccothrinax* genus. Palm ecosystems in Trinidad and Tobago play an integral part in air purification, carbon sequestration, flood water retention, water purification and aquifer replenishment, which benefit local communities immensely. Healthy palms such as the moriche palm and royal palm (*Roystonea oleracea*) can grow for well over 150 years; hence one can only imagine the value of these palms given the many ecological services they provide throughout their lifespan.

## PLANT PALMS ALONG HIGHWAYS

With the establishment of the Trinidad and Tobago Green Council Building (TTGBC) in 2010 and the support of private recycling companies such as, Recycling in Motion (RIM) and Caribbean Battery Recycling Limited (CBRL), we have already taken steps toward "sustainable development", however there is much more to be done since commercial and residential buildings are increasing by the day; clogging underground water systems and reducing air quality within our cities and on our highways. I propose that we focus more heavily on sustaining our "green assets" throughout urban areas while we are in the "green". This would save future

governments millions.

Additionally, native palm trees should be favored over exotic trees as they are slender and tall, ideal for growing in urban environments where space may be a limiting factor. Planting indigenous palm species is better for several reasons. Often, exotic trees do not live as long as local palms and require much more maintenance work (such as consumables, equipment and manpower to irrigate, fertilise, apply pesticides, prune, trim and dispose of branches).

I propose planting local palms along highways. On the medium strip, solitary high fire-tolerance, medium single-stem palms should be planted—for example *Gru-gru boeuf* (*Acrocomia aculeata*). Along the side strips, high fire-tolerance larger palms capable of surviving in degraded lands should be planted—for example the cocorite palm (*Attalea maripa*). The decision as to what palm species should be planted along what highway needs to be carefully considered by the people and governments; factors such as wildfire hazard, undesirable wildlife and insect establishment should be considered during the decision making process, amongst other constraints.

But despite these relatively minor constraints, planting palms is a more than worthwhile investment. Imagine a world, years from now, when the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago can drive along the highways and enjoy not only the majestic beauty of our palm trees, but also the benefits of cleaner air and less risks of flood. That's the kind of world we should leave for succeeding generations. And we can. The time is now.

*Planting indigenous palms along the nation's highways will not only save future governments millions of dollars, but enhance the health and well-being of its citizens. For example, a tree 10 meters tall with a diameter at breast height (DBH) of 20 cm living over 50 years is worth just under TT\$1,000,000.*



Figures modified from: Nancy Beckham, "Trees: Finding their True Value", *Australian Horticulture*, August 1991; and *The Agricultural Extension Services – University of Tennessee*. "What Are Those Plants Worth?" 2001. Values here were based on other countries and the value of a tree in Trinidad and Tobago will vary according to several factors. These values are meant to sensitise individuals on the monetary importance of a tree.



# Graduate students celebrated at SECOND SCHOLARSHIP BREAKFAST

BY PROFESSOR PATRICIA MOHAMMED AND CHELSEA SEETAHAL



Thirty graduate scholarship recipients and their supervisors at the Scholarship Breakfast. Professor Patricia Mohammed is seated at the front.

“No other institution lends the support that UWI does,” said graduate student Riyadh Mohammed.

An MPhil candidate in livestock science, Mohammed was speaking as a valedictorian at The School for Graduate Studies and Research’s (SGSR) second Scholarship Breakfast. He continued:

“My colleagues and I often chat among ourselves and the topic is usually how life is tough but we thank UWI for this scholarship to get us through these times. As young researchers and scientists, our duty must be to make this world a better place than we found it.”

SGSR hosted its second Scholarship Breakfast on November 30, 2018 to celebrate The UWI’s 2018/2019 scholarship recipients. The University Inn and Conference Centre was filled with elated students, supervisors, industry partners and several of our senior management staff. The first Scholarship Breakfast was held in March 2018 for students who gained scholarships from 2015 to 2017. The event is now anticipated annually, with the support of Graduate Studies and Research at the St Augustine Campus and the Pro Vice-Chancellor (PVC) of Graduate Studies and Research.

The breakfast was chaired by Professor Patricia Mohammed, Director of the SGSR. Mr David Moses, Campus Registrar, welcomed the audience with opening remarks on behalf of the Principal, Deputy Principal and himself. Professor Stephan Gift, PVC of Graduate Studies and Research, addressed the audience on the importance of research to innovation and entrepreneurship.

Apart from sharing a delicious Trinidadian breakfast and activities that included quizzes and event prizes donated by the Alma Jordan Library (AJL) and the Faculty of Engineering, the aim of the scholarship breakfast is to focus attention on students given funding by the University.

“When we invest in students who have shown promise, we are harnessing excellence, and recognising those who have proven themselves worthy,” says Professor Mohammed.

The Scholarship Breakfast recognises students’ achievements, shows appreciation to supervisors, increases interdisciplinary networking among students, spreads knowledge of student research, and encourages research opportunities with industry and the community.

*Angélica Rodríguez Bencosme, PhD student:  
‘what I have experienced at The UWI has been a before and after. It has changed my life forever, for the better. I look forward to completing this degree successfully and giving back to the UWI and to the Caribbean as it has given so much to me.’*

Everyone at the breakfast was encouraged to interact through mixed seating arrangements and pay recognition to the importance of their supervisors. The formal programme was designed to demonstrate the calibre of The UWI’s students to funding partners and the wider campus community.

Two valedictorians from different faculties were invited to represent their fellow students, Riyadh Mohammed and Ms Angélica Rodríguez Bencosme, a PhD candidate at the Institute for Gender and Development Studies.

Bencosme, a citizen of the Dominican Republic, said, “luckily, what I have experienced at The UWI has been a before and after. It has changed my life forever, for the better. I look forward to completing this degree successfully and giving back to the UWI and to the Caribbean as it has given so much to me. I hope you understand that by committing to our current scholarships, we’ve begun to give back!”

To further expand the opportunities for students to have a more fulfilling graduate experience the SGSR; partnering with the Office of Research, Development and

Knowledge Transfer; the AJL and Faculties, announced a graduate student innovation challenge. Ms Tennille Fanovich, Administrative Officer of the SGSR outlined the scope and objectives of the competition. The competition was scheduled to be rolled out in 2019 and aims to give graduate students an opportunity to participate in a creative extra-curricular activity toward solving a problem that affects the campus community. Students are encouraged to work in multi-disciplinary groups. The innovation challenge is designed to give students an opportunity to apply their training in real-world situations.

“The UWI is a microcosm of environmental, social, economic and cultural aspects of the country and even the region,” said Fanovich. “By allowing students access to information and facilities on the campus to fully investigate the proposed problem and test solutions, we hope to help them see how they can impact their society.”

As an example of the innovation that can emerge from any discipline, Professor Mohammed displayed the conference outcomes of the Research and Development Impact (RDI) funded “Work Life Balance and Ageing in Trinidad” project. Launched in May 2015, the project led to several initiatives with industry.

Following the Scholarship Breakfast, SGSR thanked all students, supervisors, industry partners, senior management and other specially invited guests. A special thank you was given to PVC Gift for his support of the breakfast. The graduate students themselves gave extremely positive feedback on the event. Several students indicated that the breakfast did not just celebrate their successes, but motivated them tremendously to continue to strive for the best.

Professor Patricia Mohammed is Professor of Gender and Cultural Studies and the Director of the School for Graduate Studies and Research. She has been at the forefront of academic teaching, research and administration for decades, and has made an important contribution to Caribbean feminist activism and scholarship.

Chelsea Seetahal is a research assistant at the School for Graduate Studies and Research. She has completed her undergraduate degree in business management and is currently pursuing her MBA in human resource management.



# UWI Calendar of Events

## MARCH 2019



SIR ARTHUR LEWIS  
INSTITUTE OF  
SOCIAL AND  
ECONOMIC  
STUDIES

### 40 years after the Grenadian Revolution March 13 The UWI St Augustine

The Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) hosts a Symposium on the 40th Anniversary of the Grenada Revolution. Be there from 9am to 5pm at the SALISES Conference Room. This event is free and open to the public. Listen to academic analysis and interrogation of the aftermath of the only Marxist-Leninist overthrow of a government in the Commonwealth Caribbean and its repercussions and impact after 40 years.

For more information, please visit the Campus Events Calendar at <https://sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar>

### FHE Open Day March 22 to 23 DCFA Grounds

The Faculty of Humanities and Education (FHE) hosts their Career Open Day at Cheeseman Avenue, Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA) Building.

Speak to FHE representatives about all the programmes offered by the Faculty and any other additional questions you might have.

For more information, please visit the Campus Events Calendar at <https://sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar>

### Postgraduate Research Conference March 15 The UWI St Augustine

The St Augustine Association of Postgraduate Students (STAAPS) and The Office of The Director of Graduate Studies host the Postgraduate Research Conference under the theme, Advancing Regional Development. The conference aims to share, investigate and analyse experiences on key emerging issues pertaining to crime, society, gender, sports, education, culture, agriculture, business and sustainable development from different disciplinary perspectives.

For more information, please visit the Campus Events Calendar at <https://sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar>

### Qualitative meets Quantitative March 26 to 28 Arthur Lok Jack Global School of Business (ALGSB)

The Mixed Methods International Research Association-Caribbean Chapter (MMIRA-CC) hosts the regional Mixed Methods Conference under the theme, Integrating Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches: Tensions, Challenges and Possibilities.

Look out for workshops on topics such as Steps to Conducting a Mixed Methods Study, Culturally Relevant Mixed Methods Research, A Step-by-Step Guide to Publishing Mixed Methods Articles in Journals and Strategies for Securing Impactful Publications, among others.

For more information and to register, please visit <http://conferences.sta.uwi.edu/mmiracc/>

### Campus Council March 19 The UWI St Augustine

Our Campus hosts its annual meeting of Campus Council under the theme, Bold Strokes at 10am at the Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC).

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal Professor Brian Copeland will present his report on all activities undertaken over the last academic year to the Council Membership at the meeting. Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles will also deliver remarks.

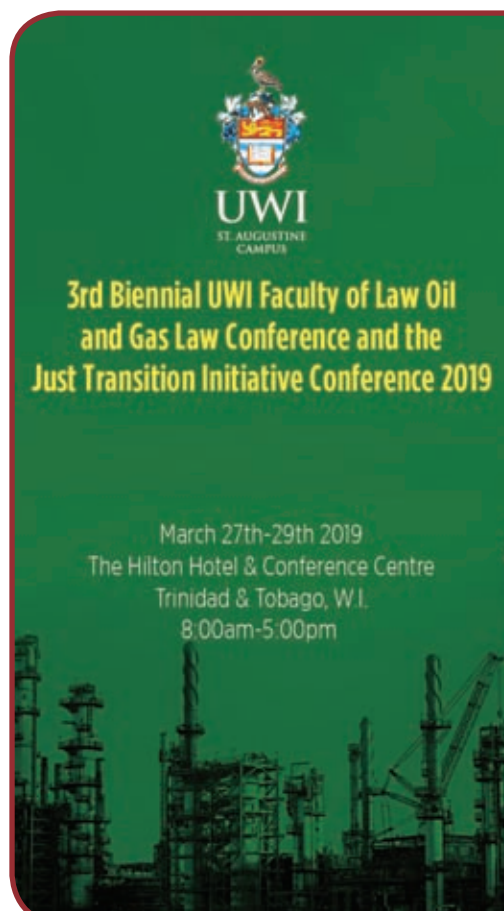
For more information, please visit the Campus Events Calendar at <https://sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar>

### Women and Girls in Science March 22 The UWI St Augustine

The Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS) presents the Women and Girls in Science Symposium: Towards the 17 SDGs under the theme, Sustainability through Cooperation – We have a Dream, happening at the School of Education.

Raise awareness and spark interest in STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) education. All young girls are welcome! Look out for more details.

For more information, please visit the Campus Events Calendar at <https://sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar>



### Oil & Gas Law Conference + more March 27 to 29 Hilton Trinidad and Conference Centre

The UWI St Augustine's Faculty of Law hosts their 3rd Biennial Oil and Gas Law Conference and the Just Transition Initiative Conference under the theme, The Relevance of Renewable Energy in the Caribbean.

Keynote speakers include: Prof Raphael Heffron, Centre for Energy, Petroleum, Mineral Law and Policy, University of Dundee, UK; and Mr Kevin Ramnarine, Strategic Energy Adviser, Former Minister of Energy, Trinidad and Tobago, among others.

For more information, please visit the conference website: <https://www.thejusttransition.com/>

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