



UWI TODAY

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES · ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS



SUNDAY 29TH MAY, 2011



West Indian or What?

UWI leaders outline the role of the university as a regional institution

At midnight on May 29, 1962 – 49 years ago to the day – the West Indies Federation ceased to exist after running for four years (from 1958) with ten participating territories. It was primarily a political union involving Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Trinidad and Tobago.

A few months later, a Common Services Conference was convened to work out areas of continued cooperation and The University of the West Indies (in April 1962,

the University College of the West Indies was converted from a college to a university), along with the Caribbean Meteorological Service and the Regional Shipping Service became the only three major entities to continue providing service to the region.

The ensuing years have seen independent nations formed, and the birth of community organizations like CARIFTA and CARICOM. Later would come movements to establish the CSME and the CCJ, still works in progress as far as implementation and acceptance go.

Nearly fifty years since the failed Federation, it is still unclear to many whether there should be an entity that could be identified as a West Indian nation. In today's special issue of UWI Today, we asked the leadership of the institution most qualified to bear the regional mantle, for their views on regionalism in the 21st century and their thoughts on where The University of the West Indies should locate itself in that context.

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Institutionally Accredited

■ Another benefit to student mobility



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Cave Hill Arena

■ Inter campus rivalry at its finest

CAMPUS NEWS

ST. AUGUSTINE GETS ACCREDITATION



Dr. Michael Dowlath, Chairman of the ACTT presents PVC and St. Augustine Campus Principal, Prof Clement Sankat with the letter of Accreditation.

The St. Augustine Campus of The UWI was awarded institutional accreditation by the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT) on Tuesday 3rd May, 2011.

Members of the Campus administration, including Professor Rhoda Reddock, Deputy Principal; Mr. Jeremy Callaghan, Campus Registrar; and the Deans and Heads of the various faculties and departments, gathered at the Campus Principal's Office to witness Dr. Michael Dowlath, Chairman of the ACTT, handing over the letter of accreditation to St. Augustine Campus Principal Professor Clement Sankat.

Those attending the ceremony were informed that, not only has the Campus been accredited, but The UWI St. Augustine Campus was granted institutional accreditation for a period of seven years, the maximum length of time possible.

"The evaluation team did find The UWI St. Augustine Campus to be a model university among similar types of universities which they had evaluated in the Caribbean, in Asia and in the UK and US," said Mr. Michael Bradshaw, Ag. Executive Director of the ACTT.

Two years ago, on Friday 15th May, 2009, The UWI St. Augustine Campus launched its accreditation candidacy with the ACTT. The Campus then embarked upon a rigorous process of self-examination and reflection driven by Mr. Jeremy Callaghan, who was also the Chair of the Self-Study Steering Committee; Dr. Sandra Gift, the Institutional Accreditation Co-ordinator; and

Mrs. Deborah Souza-Okpofabri, the Campus' Self-Study Co-ordinator. The findings were documented in the "UWI St. Augustine Campus' Institutional Accreditation Self-Study Report, 2010" which was submitted to the ACTT.

In February 2011, following the submission of this report, a team of evaluators appointed by the ACTT made a comprehensive site visit to the Campus. The results of this visit were documented in the "External Evaluator Report on the Application for Institutional Accreditation for The University of the West Indies – St. Augustine Campus." This report highlights the strengths of the Campus as well as gives recommendations for needed transitions, critical to attaining and sustaining excellence in all areas of institutional life. Thus, "developing an action plan for realizing these transitions is a priority," said Professor Sankat.

At the end of the seven-year accreditation period, in 2018, the Campus will seek reaccreditation and in preparation, it will be expected to submit to a "focused site visit" in 2015. This visit will be carried out by another evaluation team appointed by the ACTT, and is aimed at supporting the Campus in further preparations for its reaccreditation exercise.

The purpose of accreditation is to assure the public of the quality of an institution and its dedication to high standards, as well as its commitment to continuous improvement.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

A New Kind of Federation



During my inaugural address as Principal of the St. Augustine Campus in 2008, I thought it was important to set out what I saw as a necessary role for The University of the West Indies in a rapidly changing higher education landscape. The role I envisioned was one of leadership in what could be called a federation of tertiary institutions. I felt that it had become a vital position given legitimate national aspirations

and the increasing number of tertiary institutions in the region which have created a competitive environment, unlike anything the founders of The UWI could possibly have imagined sixty odd years ago.

There is no question that the rise of state-funded, national tertiary institutions and the concurrent growth of the regional UWI have demanded significantly more of Caribbean Governments in one form or the other. UWI has had to grow to respond to the needs of its national constituents. UWI has had to replicate programmes in its various campus countries, for example in Law and Medicine. The recent decision to offer degrees in Law at Mona and St. Augustine, for instance, despite recognizing the excellence of the Cave Hill programme, was because of the great demand in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. We had to respond but will do so in a manner which ensures the regional element remains intact: one programme across Campuses.

Given the geographical spread of the Caribbean community and the economic limitations, UWI campuses have always had to balance regional responsibilities with national priorities – especially when funding comes almost totally from national budgets.

Yet we have to be mindful of overlaps, duplications, wastages and inefficiencies in an environment where so many institutions are competing for the same market and the same resources.

But The UWI alone cannot meet the wide tertiary education expectations of our countries. There must be space for others. It seems to me that the issue is how The UWI can use its strengths and experience in relation to governance, quality and academic programming to benefit these institutions. UWI can act as the centre of a federation, the fulcrum for complementarity rather than competition of tertiary institutions, establishing policy and standards, and setting relevant outputs and research agendas. This is not to sacrifice their autonomy, but to build coherence and sustainability, collaboration and cooperation – establishing a framework of specific roles and responsibilities for higher education institutions which can be held together in the same way that UWI has held its campuses together for several decades.

CLEMENT K. SANKAT

Pro Vice Chancellor & Principal

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■ CAMPUS NEWS

REPORTING TO THE CAMPUS COUNCIL

A fundamental aspect of the accountability of The University of the West Indies is the annual meeting of the Campus Council, where Annual and Faculty Reports are presented. For the St. Augustine Campus, this meeting took place on March 29, and there, Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal, Prof Clement Sankat gave an account of the previous year's activities.

The 2009/2010 academic year marked the 50th anniversary of the St. Augustine Campus as a part of The UWI. Among the areas highlighted by Prof Sankat to the Campus Council, were the following.

■ ACCREDITATION

In mid-2009 the Campus started its institutional accreditation process. The Campus had registered with the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT) in 2008, becoming one of the first tertiary institutions of its size and reach to bid for institutional accreditation. The process was completed by the end of 2010 and was used as an opportunity to conduct a self study assessment of its entire operations within the framework of the UWI Strategic Plan, 2007-2012 and against the background of the specific accreditation criteria and standards. The Accreditation was received in May 2011 for a seven-year period.

■ STUDENTS

Total enrolment on the Campus climbed to 17,656, an increase of more than 8%. The largest rate of increase was in the Faculty of Law which doubled in size from 80 students in the previous year to 166 in 2009/2010. The Faculty of Medical Sciences grew by 11% while the Faculty of Science & Agriculture and the Faculty of Social Sciences both grew by 9%.

The Campus participated in institution-wide instruments such as the Speak Your Mind student experience survey, and an Employer Survey to acquire employer feedback on the graduate skills and attributes that the employers considered the most important and the extent to which UWI graduates demonstrated

them. For the first time a survey on the Prevalence of Alcohol Use Disorders was done on the Campus. The information from this survey will inform future policies on the availability of alcoholic substances on the Campus and the further development of health services.

■ STAFF

Wage negotiations with the two entities representing staff at various levels began for the period 2008/2010, and though difficult at times, by late 2010 a settlement was reached between the Administration and the West Indies Group of University Teachers (WIGUT), the body representing Academic and Senior Administrative and Professional (ASAP) staff. Negotiations with the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union (OWTU), representing Administrative, Technical and Service Staff (ATSS) continued throughout 2010 and are ongoing.

■ NEW PROGRAMMES

At the Undergraduate level the Campus introduced four new programmes, including two new BA degrees in Geography and Dance. At the Postgraduate level however, there were 16 new programmes including new Diploma and MSc programmes in Sports Management, which are the result of partnerships with the world football governing body, FIFA and the International Centre for Sports Studies (CIES) based in Switzerland.

■ RESEARCH & INNOVATION

The Campus continued to share the research output through public lectures and scholarly publications. In the review year there were six professorial lectures and five Distinguished Open Lectures including one by Nobel Prize winner in Economics, Joseph Stiglitz. One other important criterion applied by the University in assessing the level of research output is the number of works published in peer-reviewed journals or presented at conferences. During the 2009/2010 academic year the campus produced 274 peer-reviewed journal publications, 16 books, 27 chapters in books, and 258 conference presentations.

■ THE FUTURE

In the midst of the 50th anniversary celebrations however, the Campus community is aware of the new realities facing higher education institutions around the world and here in the Caribbean. There is always a need to explore new initiatives to meet ever increasing demands. It is with this in mind that the Campus looks forward to developments that would see an expansion of our offering with regard to the full establishment of an arm of the Faculty of Law, and a physical expansion that would satisfy the particular needs of future students in South Trinidad and on the island of Tobago.

No need to be Blue about Green Issues

BY PROFESSOR ANDREW LAWRENCE



The International Day for Biological Diversity was celebrated on May 22, on the theme Forest Biodiversity, in recognition of the UN's designation of 2011 as the International Year of Forests.

On the website of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is a video clip of Edward Norton (of *Incredible Hulk* fame and therefore, I guess, in keeping with the "green" theme) who is the UN Goodwill Ambassador for Biodiversity. In this clip Edward asks viewers if

they would prefer to give up a lung or take away all clean water from our children, rather than pay a little more for a shrimp cocktail or a cheeseburger? He says that with respect to our choices about nature as a global community, even though the choice seems obvious, we consistently make the wrong decision: destroying millions of acres of forest each year for non-essential industries such as cheap beef and shrimp. His point is that forests provide essential services to us, including clean air and water and that without forests these fundamental needs would be lost.

This is a good point and, I felt, rather well made. However, it highlights for me something that is becoming an increasing frustration. Over the 20 plus years of my professional life, I have delivered and listened to a continual stream of negative "doom and gloom" messages delivered by well-intentioned and committed individuals and groups. Unfortunately, there comes a point where people become so disheartened by these messages and feel too small or incapable of making any real difference, that they just give up listening.

As a consequence I would like to make some positive observations about Trinidad and Tobago, with respect to forest biodiversity. As an Englishman coming from an island which has removed all but 2-3% of its ancient forests, the first thing that I noticed when I arrived in Trinidad was how



beautiful, green and forested the country appeared. The view of the Northern Range from the airport is one that stays with me. In addition, the number of national conferences, meetings and other events recently held on environmental conservation issues, demonstrate that there is an increasing groundswell among the people for positive environmental and green initiatives.

I have met a wide range of highly committed men and women who give their time voluntarily for local NGOs and CBOs. I have also seen the increasing environmental education of Trinidad's young people and school children, which embeds a real sympathy for the environment. I have been impressed by how groups and families appear to enjoy their natural environment, be it walking in forests or playing in rivers, and this again indicates a fundamental empathy with nature. Finally, the Government will shortly be introducing a new policy for the protection of Trinidad and Tobago's forests and for the establishment of a national park system for the country.

All of this bodes well for the future. However, I also hope that the current leaders, managers and users of Trinidad and Tobago's forests recognize this groundswell of opinion and act now to learn the lessons of countries like the UK, which destroyed their forests before their fundamental value to its people was appreciated. Unfortunately Trinidad's forests and biodiversity are still under pressure from a variety of sources. For example, a paper, shortly to be published, indicates that the density of agouti in the Central Range is much lower than densities in other countries, possibly indicating over-hunting of this important game animal. Agouti are a keystone species in Trinidad and Tobago's forests because they distribute a variety of tree seeds and help to ensure their regeneration.

In truth, we do not have sufficient data to know for sure whether or not agouti are being over-hunted. But do we have to wait until they are gone for confirmation of this? Before the hunting community gets upset, I would like to suggest that we come together to resolve the situation. Why not agree on a voluntary ban on hunting agouti for a year or two? Continue to hunt, but shoot them with cameras rather than guns and help to improve the baseline information available on the populations of this species. This form of photo-hunting is becoming increasingly popular in other parts of the world and we, as scientists, could certainly benefit from the additional, voluntary manpower that the hunting community could provide for this type of survey work.

Professor Andrew Lawrence holds a Chair in Environmental Biology at the Department of Life Sciences, and is a member of the Environmental Committee St. Augustine Campus, UWI.

Towards a Borderless Region

BY DR LESTER HENRY



The 4th Biennial Business, Banking and Finance Conference will feature an array of regional academics and policy makers. It is useful, therefore, to reflect on the key issue of the state of regional integration. For the past four decades, economic and regional integration has been a central goal of the Caribbean region. The drive for unity in the region has moved from the British West Indies Federation, to the Caribbean Free

Trade Association (CARIFTA), to CARICOM and now the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) and the Single Development Vision. The main goal of CARICOM was to have a common market; for the region to act as 'one entity'. The objective was to coordinate the economic, industrial and foreign policies and to have convergence between the 'less developed countries' (LDCs) with the 'more developed countries' (MDCs). Trade would continue to expand along with the intention to improve individuals' standard of living, increase productivity and enhance international competitiveness. By 1989, the CARICOM model was extended to CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME). The CSME was expected to act as a large market for member countries with free movement of labour, capital and goods and services. Other elements included the harmonization of legislation (e.g. company, intellectual property and other laws), coordinated external trade, monetary and macroeconomic policies and a Common External Tariff (CET).

The latest quest by the Community for integration is the *Single Development Vision by Member States* and the *Strategic Plan for Regional Development (SPRD)*. Various discussions have been undertaken with the Heads of Government and regional stakeholders to set targets for achieving the integral goal. In 2007, a report entitled "*Towards a Single Development Vision and the Role of the Single Economy*" was adopted by the CARICOM Heads of Government. This was a broad framework for addressing the development needs of CARICOM and identified many drivers of regional economic growth. In fact it is a CSME roadmap which foresaw implementation of the Single Economy by 2015. In November 2010, the regional stakeholders in CARICOM held a conference on *The Strategic Plan for Regional Development* in which the main highlight was the provision of Regional Public Goods (RPGs). RPGs are services or resources whose benefits are shared by the member countries, are used freely or at subsidized prices and whose use result in accelerated regional development. According to the Strategic Plan, examples of RPGs include, "(i) non-country specific investments in knowledge, research, training, negotiation to promote international competitiveness; (ii) inter-country mechanisms for managing adverse cross-border externalities or creating beneficial ones (i.e. policies, legislation, institutions/organisations); (iii) investments in cross-border infrastructure to enhance the preconditions for growth/development through trade and integration among countries and external competitiveness of commodities/sectors; (iv) creation or re-organisation of regional institutions to facilitate solutions in a range of areas (finance and banking stability, environmental stability,



“The reality is that after 40+ years, the region is far from operating as one collective body.”

etc)”. Generally, RPGs are policies, institutions, legislation, regulation and infrastructure.

The *Caribbean Trade and Investment Report 2010* was also launched at the conference. The publication, in its third edition, focused on *Strategies for Recovery,*

Renewal and Reform and covered regional issues such as intra-regional trade, conglomerates and cross border investments, reducing disparities in the region, tourism and the indebtedness of CARICOM Governments. The influx of Ponzi schemes in Jamaica and Grenada and the debacle of the CL Financial Group magnified the regulatory issues concerning the non-bank financial sector which is of increasing significance in the region. Therefore, there has been a keen focus on firm weaknesses – the concept of “too big to fail” and regulatory reform of the non-bank financial sector highlighted this issue. Also emphasized was the vulnerability of the region to external shocks. The recent financial and economic crisis caused a decline in remittances, government revenue, investment, employment activity and the overall growth rate. In addition, the crisis strained the process of reducing the disparities between the LDCs and the MDCs. The decline in economic activity is dampening efforts to harmonize policies as countries have to implement their own stabilization methods to shield and restore their own economy.

A devastating earthquake in January 2010 deeply affected the latest of the 15-member Community, Haiti. With a population of 9.7 million, it accounts for more than half of the total population of CARICOM. CARICOM is committed to assisting and announced in February that a Haiti-CARICOM Development Fund would be launched.

The reality is that after 40+ years, the region is far from operating as one collective body. The regional stock exchange proposed in 1989 is still not realized. Moreover, compliance by all member states to the targeted schemes is still an issue. A study by Norman Girvan on *Caribbean Community: The Elusive Quest for Economic Integration*, showed that of some of the existing targets, the introduction of the CET was met by 11 of 13 participating member states. With respect to the removal of legal restrictions on services, there is a 'legislative compliance gap' of 56 per cent. Abolition of exchange controls is required to facilitate the free movement of capital but, with a fixed exchange rate still implemented in some countries, this objective is yet to be achieved. Moreover, there is little headway in policy coordination (macro-economic, fiscal and financial policy, to name a few). For the CSME to be successful a commitment must be made by each of the Heads of Government to harmonize and comply with the agreed targets. The mentality must change to one of coordination and teamwork. A collective effort has to be made by all involved as each country must make a borderless region its foremost goal.

The 4th Biennial International Business, Banking & Finance Conference themed “Restoring Business Confidence and Investments in the Caribbean” will include a discussion on “CARICOM at cross-roads and future prospects”. The issues mentioned previously, among others pertaining to the implementation of policies and the progress towards the Single Development Vision will be discussed.



DIASPORA BONDS AND THE CARIBBEAN

Tapping into Innovative Financing Mechanisms

This is a synopsis of a paper to be presented at the International Conference on the Global South Asian Diaspora 2011, by Jwala Rambarran, Chairman, National Institute for Higher Education, Research Science and Technology (NIHERST) and Prakash Ramlakhan, Lecturer in Banking and Finance, UWI, St. Augustine.

Although Caribbean countries are now starting to show some signs of recovery from the global economic crisis that began in the summer of 2007, many continue to encounter difficulties in obtaining external financing, a situation which jeopardizes their prospects for long-term growth and employment generation. Some Caribbean governments have reluctantly turned to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for financial support. Others have relied mainly on fiscal stimulus accompanied by borrowing on the regional capital markets, which further increases the risk of public debt distress. Inevitably, the Caribbean will need to consider and adopt more innovative and more stable forms of financing that target previously untapped investors.

Using data from the World Bank's *Migration and Remittances Factbook 2011*, the stock of the Caribbean diaspora is estimated at around 3.5 million people or more than one-fifth of the region's population. This is not surprising since the Caribbean has one of the highest emigration rates in the world. Preliminary estimates place the annual savings of the Caribbean diaspora at about US\$10.3 billion or more than 15 percent of the region's GDP. These estimates are based on assumptions that members of the Caribbean diaspora with tertiary education earn the average income of their top three host countries, that migrants without tertiary education earn a third of the average household incomes of the top three host countries, and that both skilled and unskilled migrants have the same personal savings rates as in their home countries.

As expected, savings are higher for countries such as Haiti, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago that have more migrants in the advanced economies. Most of these savings are invested in the host countries of the diaspora, especially the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom. Indeed, if Caribbean countries were to design proper financial instruments and incentives, it is quite possible that a fraction of these US\$10 billion in annual savings could be mobilised as investment in the Caribbean.

Diaspora bonds are one such mechanism for tapping diaspora wealth. The governments of India and Israel have issued diaspora bonds, raising about US\$40 billion, often in times of financial crisis. Lebanon and Sri Lanka have also issued diaspora bonds. Even Jamaica was at one time considering the issue of a diaspora bond. A diaspora bond is a retail savings instrument marketed only to members of a diaspora. Beyond patriotic reasons and the desire to contribute to economic development of their origin country, a diaspora investor may be willing to buy diaspora bonds at a lower interest rate than the rate demanded by foreign

investors. This is a "patriotic" discount. Migrants are usually more loyal to their origin country than the average foreign investor in times of distress. By making available a reliable source of funding that can be tapped in both good and bad times, a diaspora bond market improves a country's sovereign credit rating.

Diaspora bonds also provide the opportunity for risk management. Migrants typically have better knowledge of their origin country and are less likely to worry about the risk of currency devaluation since they can often find other ways to send money back home. They are also less likely than purely dollar-based investors to be unduly concerned about the issuing country's ability to make debt service payments in hard currency.

In summary, the potential for diaspora bonds in the Caribbean is enormous. In the wake of the devastating January 2010 earthquake, Haiti requires substantial sums to fund its reconstruction effort. International donors generously pledged aid to help build a better Haiti, but actual disbursements have been slow, stymieing the economic recovery process. If the million-plus Haitian diaspora were to simply invest US\$500 each in diaspora bonds, the resulting sum of US\$500 million would go a long way in helping to finance spending on relocation of families, education, energy and transport infrastructure. Part of the incentive for such investments by the Haitian diaspora would come from patriotism and part from higher returns. A five percent tax-free US dollar interest rate, for example, is far more attractive to Haitian investors who are getting close to zero interest rate on their deposits. Apart from the Haitian diaspora, the pool of potential investors could even be expanded to include foreign individuals and charitable institutions interested in helping Haiti.

Despite their obvious potential as a financing vehicle, the actual issuance of diaspora bonds, however, remains limited to a few countries for a number of reasons. First, there is limited awareness about diaspora bonds and many governments are usually deterred by the complexities of bond instruments. Second, many countries still have little data on the capabilities and resources of their respective diaspora. Finally, countries with political insecurity and weak institutional capacity would find it hard to market diaspora bonds unless credit enhancements are provided by more creditworthy institutions. In the end, while patriotism would motivate the Caribbean diaspora to provide funding at discounted rates, they must be confident that the funds would be used prudently.

UWI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GLOBAL SOUTH ASIAN DIASPORA

1 – 4 June, 2011
UWI St. Augustine

WEDNESDAY 1ST JUNE

Conference Launch

Feature Address: Dr. Leela Sarup
Divali Nagar, Chaguanas

THURSDAY 2ND JUNE

Learning Resource Centre, UWI

8.00am – 9.00am

Conference Registration

9.00am – 10.30am

PANEL 1: The Civilizational Heritage

PANEL 2: The Historical Context

10.45am – 12.15pm

PANEL 3: Cultural reconstruction in diasporic communities: resistance, accommodation and survival

PANEL 4: Embodied Rhythms and Poetics

1.15 – 3.00pm

PANEL 5: Family/Institutional Histories and Biographies

PANEL 6: Leadership and Power relations in the South Asian Diaspora

FRIDAY 3RD JUNE

8.00am – 9.00am

Conference Registration

9.00am – 10.30am

PANEL 7: Gender issues in the South Asian diaspora: Critical challenges of feminism and masculinity

PANEL 8: Voices from the South Asian Diaspora: On V.S. Naipaul

10.45am – 12.15pm

PANEL 9: Voices from the South Asian Diaspora

PANEL 10: South Asians in Popular Culture, Media and Material Culture

1.15am – 3.00pm

PANEL 11: South Asian Religions in the Diaspora

PANEL 12: Diaspora Influences on South Asia Across Time

SATURDAY 4TH JUNE

9.00am – 10.30am

PANEL 13: Economic Enterprise & Technology in the South Asian diaspora

PANEL 14: The Abolition of Indenture

1.00pm – 6.00pm

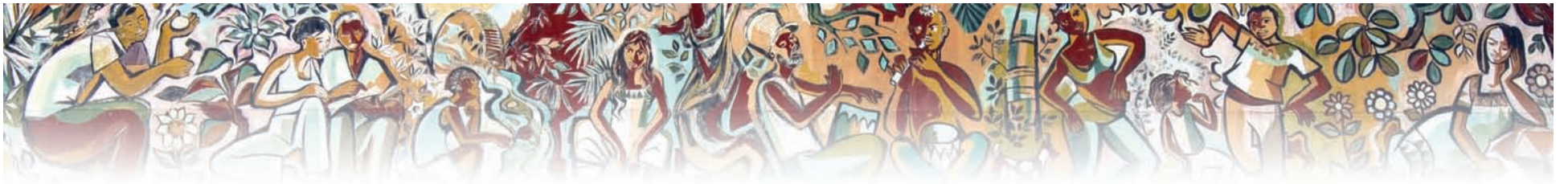
FILM: Features from Canada, the Caribbean, USA, and South Africa

VENUE: National Academy for the Performing Arts, Port of Spain

REGISTRATION FEE: TT\$600

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Dr. Amar Wahab (Conference Secretary)
Tel: 662-2002 ext. 4422; E-mail: 2011gsad@gmail.com; Conference website: <http://sta.uwi.edu/conferences/11/gsad/>



If not West Indian, then what?

BY VANEISA BAKSH

Editor, UWI Today

“Before we can have Caribbean literature, we need a Caribbean,” said BC Pires, throwing out a line that could easily hook any regional endeavour. BC, the writer, was winding up a discussion on the subject at the recent Bocas Lit Festival in Port of Spain, but his poignant jest fingers a gnawing sensation that Caribbean threads are broken, and not just in a literary sense.

A few months ago, UWI Vice Chancellor, Prof Nigel Harris, circulated to members of the university community the text of an enormous lecture given by a former Chancellor of this University, Sir Shridath Ramphal.

I was intrigued by its title: “Is the West Indies West Indian?” and the question he asked in its wake: “Worse still, are we less so than we once were?” The lecture never let up as Sir Shridath addressed the issue without euphemism or equivocation and with that authoritative candour that eventually alights on public figures in their gloaming.

I was similarly intrigued by the Vice Chancellor’s decision to circulate it, given his reticent veneer. Was it a rallying call?

I thought it was.

The Caribbean air has been full of noises that, as cacophonous as they are, tell us that neighbours are still shouting across their fences at one another. On the ground, people recognise blood relations and business partners, lovers and limers, and they intuitively feel commonalities. But political megaphones have been designed to drown out that orchestra of daily life. And so, from 1956 when active steps towards a federated West Indies began, to its official end on May 29, 1962 (49 years ago today), the union of our spirits has been obstructed by inscrutable political agendas.

Many groups, political and otherwise, have been formed; few have survived with their purposes intact. True, it is evolution’s mandate that survival is wrought by the capacity to adapt; but it is also true that few of these organisations established to represent West Indians have done what they have been set up to do.

So CARIFTA (the Caribbean Free Trade Association), segued into CARICOM after the Georgetown Accord of 1973 and in between came the Commonwealth Caribbean Regional Secretariat in 1968 and the Caribbean Development Bank the following year. The state of CARICOM, operating now with an interim Secretary General, has distressed the West Indian desire to see movement rather than stasis in Caribbean affairs. To the average person, the CSME (CARICOM Single Market and Economy) is a recent addition to the package of integrating instruments. Yet, though it was born in 1989 it really began coming to life when the former Prime Minister of Barbados, Owen Arthur, took it to be his legacy.

Global considerations make its implementation increasingly urgent, but who is driving it? In 2008, the late David Thompson had predicted a single economy by 2015, and announced that its watchword was harmonisation, which would depend on deeper social partnerships.

“As our people move throughout the region, there is legitimate concern about the access of CARICOM Nationals

to social services in the host territory,” said Prime Minister Thompson. It is not only access to services that causes concern, but the very access to countries. In an April 3 editorial, the Jamaica Observer, commenting that “Caricom is in an advanced state of fragmentation,” complained that, “Nowhere is the lack of community spirit more evident than in the treatment meted out to Caribbean people as they try to move around the region. The immigration officials are among the most destructive elements undermining the goodwill for integration.”

They could not be acting in isolation, as a most unseemly discourse between government officials from Barbados and Jamaica about whether someone’s hand was legitimately probing someone’s privates demonstrated.

The reluctance to make the Caribbean Court of Justice, inaugurated in 2005 and located in a country which has not even accepted it as its final appellate court, baffles by its narrow-minded dismissal of integration.

Dispassionately, we must assess how far political drivers have taken us. For those with a sense of the fullness of time, this post colonial collective is still young, grappling as many blocs (and couples) have done before us to find ways to live together harmoniously and respectfully, even on the days

when it seems easier to chuck it all in, leaving nought. To allow this journey to be defined in purely political terms denies our rich heritage and our deep intellectual waters.

The circulation of Sir Shridath’s lecture created an opportune moment to solicit the views on regionalism of the leadership of The University of the West Indies – one of the first to be still considered a necessary regional institution at the end of the Federation of the West Indies. In the context of the challenges to higher education in a changed global circumstance that is more competitive and where the economic downturn in the region has had a powerful impact on tertiary level institutions, it seemed important to know the thinking of its leaders.

In recent times, many questions have been raised about the institution’s feasibility as a regional creature. Has each campus become so autonomous in terms of their offerings that they no longer need each other? Are campuses competing with each other? Has the cost for students, despite subsidies, made it too difficult to consider studying away from home? What strategies are there to meet the challenges of the times?

And so, to the Chancellor, Sir George Alleyne, the Vice Chancellor, Prof Nigel Harris, and the four Pro Vice Chancellors who are also Campus Principals: Prof Hazel Simmons McDonald (Open), Prof Clement Sankat (St. Augustine), Prof Gordon Shirley (Mona) and Professor Sir Hilary Beckles (Cave Hill), I asked the following questions.

1. *It is nearly fifty years since the Federation project; independent nations have passed their infancy, but perhaps have not reached full maturity, the needs of then are not the ones of today. The federation was of a political nature, how would you define regionalism in this 21st century?*
2. *The UWI has proclaimed itself a regional institution, often declaring itself as the only one that still is. Is that still applicable?*
3. *What is your ideal regional UWI?*
4. *Should it still be a regional institution?*

The Chancellor’s contribution comes from his recent inaugural Rex Nettleford Memorial Lecture, “Cultivating Caribbean Cultural Regionalism” in Jamaica.

This special issue of UWI Today, then, is a gathering of their individual ideas – not as a collective – on a subject that is concerned not only with how we see ourselves, but where we want to go and how we can get there.

Hopefully, it will be the start of a continuous dialogue that must intrigue us all, because no matter where we locate ourselves, the question remains: if we are not West Indian, then what are we?



THE WEST INDIES FEDERAL ARCHIVES CENTRE COAT-OF-ARMS

The heraldic description of the Coat-of-Arms of The West Indies Federation as given to the Court of St. James on 1st August 1957 read,

“For Arms: Or a Pile Gules thereon another Argent Bordure Barrywavy of the last and Azure and Berzanty on a Chief also Gules a Lion passant guardant gold: And upon a representation of Our Royal Helmet mantled Gules doubled Argent, for the Crest: On a Wreath Argent Sable Azure or Vert and Gules Adexter Cubit Arm sunburnt proper holding erect a Torch or enflamed Gules: And for the Supporters: On either side a Brown Pelican wings elevated and addorsed Gold: together with the motto ‘To dwell together in unity’...”

Courtesy: The W.I. Federal Archives Centre/ Cave Hill Campus Archives and the Office of Public Information, Cave Hill Campus.





If not West Indian, then what?

Cultivating Caribbean Cultural REGIONALISM

BY SIR GEORGE ALLEYNE

Chancellor, The University of the West Indies

I referred briefly to my concern for regionalism in my graduation addresses of 2010 when I expressed sympathy with the sentiments in a paper that the Guild of Students presented to the Finance and General Purposes Committee in which they emphasized the importance of a Caribbean unity and bond.

“The Inter Campus Guild Council believes that the true essence of the UWI – its history of developing regional strength, Caribbean oneness and a vibrant exchange of West Indian cultures, which should be at the pinnacle of our student mandate – has been dormant to our operations,” they said.

Their excellent paper also asserted that, “As the leaders of this University, we believe that an effort should be made to restore the West Indies back to The University of the West Indies.”

I was moved and impressed by this call from the students to have the University become a more vocal and persuasive advocate for the Caribbean regionalism, which was one of the main reasons for its establishment and indeed watered the roots of its very beginnings. I am taking their call seriously and can find no better occasion than a lecture in honour of Rex Nettleford to explore the nature of what regionalism should mean to us and how it can be promoted. I do this with some nostalgia, as in those days when Rex and I were undergraduates at Mona, the nature of Caribbean regionalism and the aspirations of the Caribbean people to establish their particular identity and claim their place, if not pride of place in the company of the world’s nations as an identifiable region, was the stuff of vigorous debate. There was no doubt that we had to be exploring – in sport, the arts and education – the ties that should bind us together. With the passage of time I have become perhaps less starry-eyed about many of the things I debated when I was young, but I am even more convinced now of the notion of a Caribbean regionalism and the benefits it confers.

There is an undisputed nexus between regionalism and Caribbean health that runs in both directions and the importance of critical institutions in protecting the latter has never been clearer. I will cite some examples of collective Caribbean action in health because they are in some way an expression of the Caribbean cultural identity factors and values such as sharing, kinship and reciprocity, and cultural identity is one of the foundations of regionalism. I am conscious of and comforted by Rex’s concern that there needed to be “a greater appreciation of the centrality of cultural variables in the development equation.” He would include matters related to health as proper dwellers beneath his umbrella of cultural studies. But I focus not on health itself, but on cooperation in health matters as such cooperation is another one of the prisms through which we



see the light of our cultural Caribbean selves.

The Caribbean has a long history of regional cooperation in health, perhaps longer than in any other area. Initially most of the cooperation was in the field of control of communicable diseases. The fear of contagion is a powerful stimulus to cooperation. The achievements of this region in the control of childhood infectious diseases such as poliomyelitis and measles and more recently, German measles, have been nothing short of spectacular. The plans and strategies in this area have been codified as a formal programme of Caribbean Cooperation in Health.

But more recently attention has been turned to the non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular disease, which includes heart disease and strokes; diabetes; cancer and chronic respiratory disease, which share a set of common risk factors, such as tobacco use, alcohol abuse, unhealthy diets and physical inactivity. The burden of these diseases weighs heavily on the Caribbean – the leading seven countries for prevalence of diabetes in the Americas are in the Caribbean. It is estimated that about one in every seven Barbadian adults is diabetic. The region has recognised that control of this new plague cannot be achieved by pious and not-so-pious admonitions to individuals to change their naughty behaviours. There has to be action by governments so that the healthy choice is the easy choice. The governments have to alter the environment to facilitate the decrease in the prevalence of the risk factors. For example the increase in taxes on tobacco must be employed as the most effective method of reducing tobacco use and inhibiting the young from beginning to smoke.

So seized were they of the importance of regional collective action that the Heads of Government met in a Summit in Port of Spain in 2007 to discuss these diseases and the approach to their control. That summit was a global first of its kind. But the collective action went further. Aled by the Prime Ministers of St. Kitts/Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago, the Commonwealth Heads of Government when they met in Port of Spain in 2009 adopted a major declaration [the Port of Spain Declaration: Uniting to Stop the Epidemic of Chronic Diseases] on the approach to prevention and control of these diseases. But collective action has gone even further and Caribbean governments have spearheaded the adoption of a Resolution at the United Nations calling for a United Nations high level meeting with the participation of Heads of State and Government to address this scourge. This is historic as an achievement. It is only the second occasion in the history of the UN that there has been a meeting at this high level to address a health issue – and it was initiated and promoted by collective Caribbean regional initiative.

“Attention will no doubt be given to facilitating the interaction of students from the region to create that sense of that identity which is essential to regionalism.”

The collective action in health is not only in advocacy, but there is good evidence of action in the region. One of the more recent developments is the formation of a Caribbean Public Health Agency that will be a major advance in providing a Caribbean response to the shared Caribbean health problems in such areas as disease surveillance and control, nutrition and environmental health.

I will cite one final example of a successful, collective Caribbean health enterprise. Everyone knows that the Caribbean has suffered and continues to suffer grievously from the plague of HIV and the consequent AIDS. But the Caribbean approach is less well known. Ten years ago, five of us affixed our signatures in Barbados to a formal document creating the Pan Caribbean Partnership against HIV/AIDS (PANCAP). That Partnership has survived and thrived and has been recognised globally as a best practice. It has mobilised approximately US\$80 million in support of the programmes in the Caribbean Regional Strategic Framework and has supported the training of over 200 professionals in HIV related areas. Of course, there is a lot more to be done, but they have been 10 years of solid achievement.

I have spoken mainly about health, partly because I believe that things cultural go beyond attention to the visual and performing arts and also because it is the field I know best. It is a source of a little pride that no other region in the world can claim the number of successful collective and cooperative health initiatives as we have seen in the Caribbean.

Lest I be accused of disciplinary jingoism let me hasten to say that there are other areas such as education, in which many of the same arguments could be made and examples of regionalism drawn. Most of this would not have been possible without the competent support of the CARICOM Secretariat. When brickbats are thrown at CARICOM and there is lamentation over inaction or slowness of action in political or economic issues, it is well that we also note those areas in which there has been effective action and strategic support for regionalism.

I have contended that it is in this area of the cultural regionalism that the functional cooperation that underlies the work of the Caribbean Community is best seen; although there is no doubt that there is functional cooperation in other aspects of the Community's work. It is functional cooperation in this area that can touch the lives and hearts of the Caribbean citizens and have them accept that they have a stake in this Caribbean enterprise. There may be skepticism over the possibility of economic regionalism and discussion over whether the instruments necessary for it, such as the CCJ should be adopted, but there is no opposition to the premise that collective regional action in health as an aspect of cultural regionalism is beneficial to every state and bears fruit for every one of its citizens.

What is the role of The University of the West Indies in stimulating regionalism and the search for the answers to the solution of those problems which prevent us from going further and faster? The Vice Chancellor has established



a Task Force to examine the barriers that inhibit the University strengthening its regional character, and as the students phrased it, “putting the West Indies back in UWI.” No doubt there will be a menu of suggestions as to how the work done here and the organisation of scholarship can contribute to a better appreciation of its West Indian origin. Attention will no doubt be given to facilitating the interaction of students from the region to create that sense of that identity which is essential to regionalism. Given the vertiginous growth of the technology of communication which has fed the interconnectedness that is the essence of globalisation, it cannot be beyond us to reduce the capacity of physical distance to inhibit the creation of a common West Indian purpose and identity. I do know that our paradigms of connectivity will change for the better to facilitate the capacity to interact. The young of today have become adept at navigating the digital cosmos in such a way that they will make obsolete our formal networks and licenses and utilise an information architecture that allows them to defy distance and tether time, coupling it with social software that allows a fluidity of intercourse at which persons of my generation can only marvel.

But there are other dimensions to restoring the West Indies in UWI besides creating the opportunities for reducing the physical separateness that is an inescapable consequence of our spread all over the Caribbean. Creating knowledge in our University about our own reality and our products is essential for several reasons. First, the application of local evidence to local problems gives more assurance of the relevance of the solutions proposed. But in addition, the University can burnish its brand and strengthen the feeling of institutional and regional identity through promoting and disseminating knowledge about its products – specifically its heroes. I know I am not alone in feeling a certain pride in and identification with the Caribbeanness of Rex Nettleford and Derek Walcott and Eddie Baugh and Ken Standard and many others like them. Good institutions create indigenous pride by having the young identify with great men and women who once walked where they now walk and played where they now play.

It must be obvious that I have a deep and abiding faith in this regional enterprise of ours and hold that we can foster the many aspects of cultural regionalism that strengthen it. I am confident that our University will find ways to address the concern of putting the West Indies back in UWI. This is not beyond the capacity of that Caribbean creative spirit which Rex espoused so well and the virtue of which he articulated in so many ways. We continue to be indebted to him for his creativity and compassion, and especially for his commitment to cultivating Caribbean cultural regionalism.

This is an abridged version of the inaugural Rex Nettleford Memorial Lecture, “Cultivating Caribbean cultural regionalism” which was delivered by Sir George Alleyne, Chancellor of The University of the West Indies on February 17, 2011, in Kingston, Jamaica.

“Good institutions create indigenous pride by having the young identify with great men and women who once walked where they now walk and played where they now play.”



If not West Indian, then what?

University to drive INTEGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

BY PROFESSOR E. NIGEL HARRIS

Vice Chancellor, The University of the West Indies

Sir Shridath Ramphal's comprehensive discourse on the uncertain state of the regional integration movement in a talk entitled "Is the West Indies West Indian?" [*see full text <http://sta.uwi.edu/uwitoday/default.asp>*] is certainly one of the most powerful, informed, moving and elegantly assembled presentations on this subject. It is true that a number of West Indian statesmen, scholars, newspaper commentators and prominent citizens have written or expressed similar sentiments, but there are few who can match Sir Shridath's authoritative account of the travails and frustrations of the integration movement over several decades. His dissertation is not a cry of helplessness but a call to arms to all those who understand the value and importance of a united and productive CARICOM.

While there is ample reason for alarm about the regional movement on the political front, one must reflect on other regional sectors within the Anglophone Caribbean that have withstood the test of time and brought value in ways that would not have been possible separately. These are usually assembled under the banner of *functional cooperation* and include education and training, health, sports, meteorological services, disaster and emergency management, shipping and air transport, among others. It is true that the achievements of some of these areas are questionable (West Indian cricket remains the most notable example) but the value that many of these collective groupings bring cannot be disputed. In my association with three regional organisations as Vice Chancellor of The University of the West Indies, and Chairman of the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) and the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC), I have had the opportunity to see both the triumphs and challenges of these entities.

The University of the West Indies began as a fledgling College of the University of London in 1948 and in the course of its 62 years, has grown into an enterprise with 46,000 students (having doubled in size in the last decade), and an academic and administrative staff of a few thousand drawn from all parts of the Caribbean. There are in excess of 100,000 alumni who comprise a significant portion of the leadership and educated workforce of all sectors of Caribbean society and among this "bounty" are 60 Rhodes scholars, 18 prime ministers and a Nobel Prize winner. The institution accounts for an overwhelming proportion of research and scholarly publications emanating from the Caribbean and many of its academics serve on various



"In my view The UWI can only be regional if its constituents are truly imbued with a culture of regionalism so that they automatically seek alliances with counterparts on sister campuses to address problems, whether these are regional or national."

statutory and corporate boards in the countries where they reside. In one ranking system of 12,000 of the world's universities, The UWI ranks within the top 10%. Of course, this recitation of accomplishments does not detract from some of the same concerns voiced by Sir Shridath.

The UWI is in many ways a collection of campuses in Jamaica (Mona), Barbados (Cave Hill) and Trinidad and Tobago (St. Augustine) – each with an overwhelming number of students from the countries in which the campuses are located, each funded largely by their host Governments and each with varying degrees of development depending on the fortunes of their host Governments. This three "national" campus circumstance resulted over the years in the marginalisation of the 12 countries without campuses and raised legitimate questions about the "regionality" of The UWI. It was to address this tremendous challenge that a fourth campus, the Open Campus, was established to address the educational and development needs of the 12 "non-campus" (now referred to as the UWI-12 because the term "non-campus" may have come to mean "none-campus") countries. Despite the challenges mentioned, most of the constituents of The UWI if questioned, would subscribe to the tenets of regionalism. Unquestionably, there has been progress in terms of cross-campus collaboration in the context of our 2007-2012 Strategic Plan, but fragmentation along national lines has been so considerable that our student leaders joined in a call to re-examine the "regionalism" of the University. This has led to the formation of a Task Force to address this question and to suggest ways to redress the "perceived drift" apart. In my view the UWI can only be regional if its constituents are truly imbued with a culture of regionalism so that they automatically seek alliances with counterparts on sister campuses to address problems whether these are regional or national.

While I have not addressed the question frontally, the rise of national universities is increasingly challenging the value of a regional university and it is in this context that we have argued that there should be a regional and even national tertiary education policies that recognise differences between tertiary institutions and rationalises them according to their varying missions – teaching at undergraduate levels; provision of postgraduate education in broad areas; research and outreach.

The Caribbean Examinations Council is certainly another success of the Caribbean integration movement.

First formed in 1972, it is now the major examining body for high school students at the 10th and 12th grade levels throughout most of the Caribbean. In 2010, CXC administered 34 CSEC subjects to 208,313 students and 24 subjects at CAPE to 25,766 students. By establishing syllabi for the various subjects, CXC has a profound influence on what West Indian students learn and this has resulted in an infusion of Caribbean material into the content of nearly all its offered courses. An unrecognised benefit is that the preparation of syllabi and marking of exams brings together university and high school teachers from across the West Indies, thus building a regional collective, a university without walls that strengthens and enriches that sense of “West Indian-ness.” The CXC has benefited from exceptional leaders at the helm, the current Registrar, Dr. Didacus Jules, preceded by Dr. Lucy Steward, who in turn was preceded by Ms. Irene Walter, all distinguished educators and thinkers who have overseen the progressive growth of this remarkable body. Despite its achievements, CXC has not escaped the pull of nationalism and it is not uncommon that one or other of our “family of nations” threatens to pull out of CXC, choosing to return to the UK for one or other of their exams – this reminiscent of the conundrum of the CCJ alluded to in Sir Shridath’s talk.

Perhaps one of the triumphs of recent years has been in the area of collaboration in health, and it is in this context that the “invisible hand” of another Caribbean “giant” Sir George Alleyne, former Director of the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) and current Chancellor of The UWI, has been most influential. In a recent address entitled “Cultivating Caribbean Cultural Regionalism,” [see Page 10] Sir George points out that “the Caribbean has a long history of cooperation in health, perhaps longer than in any other area. It has achieved globally recognised success in the elimination of childhood infectious diseases such as poliomyelitis, measles and German measles.” More recently, Caribbean government leaders mobilised themselves to address non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, cancer and chronic respiratory diseases. In an unprecedented move, the Heads of Government of CARICOM held a Summit in Port of Spain in 2007 to discuss approaches to the control of non-communicable diseases and in 2009, issued a declaration on approaches they would take. That these have not been only declarations are manifest by enactment of heavy tobacco taxes in several countries to reduce tobacco use, a major contributor to cardiovascular disease. Sir Shridath alluded to a time when the Caribbean as a collective assumed global leadership roles in struggles to assert the rights of third world peoples and perhaps this is manifest today in the success of the CARICOM Heads of Government in influencing the United Nations to have a high-level meeting on non-communicable diseases.

However, even in the field of health there have been challenges, manifest particularly by the diminution of CAREC, which plays a major role in disease surveillance and

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epidemiology in CARICOM, but which had been withering over the past decade because of lack of resources. These circumstances have changed in the last three years because of a major initiative led by the CARICOM Ministers of Health to merge CAREC with other regional health agencies (CFNI, CHRC, CEHI, CRDTL) to form a Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA). Initial resources have been obtained to launch this enterprise and to provide appropriate facilities. This initiative promises to rebuild regional public health and to expand research and knowledge development in unprecedented ways in the Caribbean – one hopes that this magnificent undertaking will be assured sustainable support from regional governments.

In viewing the state of the regional enterprise, it is important to reflect both on the successes and the shortcomings. The distress felt by Sir Shridath and other thought leaders in the Caribbean is well placed because without political and economic collaboration, our chances of fashioning a more thriving economy and social growth will be stymied. Whatever the gains of functional cooperation, if these sectors are not posited on a platform of economic and social growth, they will surely wither on the vine. Prospects for substantial economic growth in the Caribbean remain elusive, the productive base to foster that growth remains narrow and we are beset by the dark horsemen of social deprivation, insufficient educational attainment, crime and gun violence, and susceptibility to natural hazards. These are not problems that can be solved by tiny “nations and principalities” acting individually in their scattered place in the Caribbean Sea. That there can be successes gained when we act regionally are manifest in the examples alluded to above in the areas of health and education – *we should not give up on cricket*. If we are to prevail, there is an absolute need for recommitment by our leaders and by ourselves to a more unified regional enterprise.

The UWI has begun to prepare for its 2012-2017 Strategic Plan. In fashioning that Plan, our leaders have started meeting and discussing how we might forge a path that will better position the University to drive regional integration and regional development – it is a vision in which we shall strive for a community of students, academics and staff committed to a more competitive, sustainable and integrated Caribbean. The creation of a Competitiveness and Innovation Center, funded by the IDB and launched a few weeks ago, will be one of several initiatives to achieve that vision. The initiation two years ago of an Open Campus that can provide access and intellectual growth to students in countries where campuses do not exist, and in rural areas of countries where campuses exist, is another step taken to forge regional identity and social and economic growth. The future of Caribbean integration can only be successful when regional institutions like UWI, CARICOM, CXC and even cricket become robust, meaningful instruments that reaffirm our oneness, even as they provide the ingredients for our societies to flourish.





If not West Indian, then what?

Is Regionalism HISTORY?

BY PROFESSOR HAZEL SIMMONS - MCDONALD

PVC and Principal, Open Campus, The University of the West Indies

In a recent conversation about regionalism a colleague observed that, “History teaches that history does not teach.” Another colleague, interpreting the statement literally, thought it paradoxical and untrue because in his view the business of History is to teach and he could think of no circumstance in which History does not teach. He was right in the sense that the business of History, the subject, is to teach by presenting a record of the events related to human and public affairs across time. Yet the statement can also be understood to acknowledge that we do not always learn from the events and circumstances of the past (the history) and use our understanding of those events to avoid making the same or similar mistakes in the present; or even, that we do not use the very rich analysis of the events presented to us formally in History to shape a different circumstance in the present. In this sense it would be true to say that History does teach that history does not teach, or, that we do not (always) learn from history.

The aphorism takes on particular significance when we review the circumstances that led to the demise of the Federation and our staggered efforts to create unity of Caribbean states through CARICOM and a “Single Market Economy.” In this context we may well ask whether inertia has become so inbred in our modus vivendi (and operandi) that we cannot generate the political will necessary to drive us towards a union that is manifested in ways more tangible than periodic meetings of heads of government where the same subjects are rehashed and decisions postponed to subsequent meetings in a cycle of deferrals and indecisive action.

The point has been made that it took European countries several decades to forge an economic and political union in which a system for free trade and common external tariffs is negotiated. The implication is that we probably expect too much from a relatively young CARICOM.

But have we wisely used the lessons from our history to capitalise on opportunities to design the architecture for a political and economic framework of a regional bloc that would have the strength of voice and vote in the global marketplace to negotiate better terms for each and all?

History teaches that we may not have done so, and history demonstrates that we have actually lost ground by pursuing policies formulated within the scope of narrow national perspectives that inhibit gains to the collective and



individual states within it. In the *Eleventh Sir Archibald Nedd Memorial Lecture*, [see full text <http://sta.uwi.edu/uwitoday/default.asp>] Sir Shridath Ramphal cites several examples from history that illustrate how and where we have fallen short and why political decisions continue to hinder our economic development. However, even as he delineates the pitfalls that have resulted from the lack of a robust political and economic cohesion, he acknowledges, as we all do, the existence of a regional identity ingrained in the collective psyche, and which leads us to celebrate or lament the successes or failures respectively of the West Indian cricket team. It is also that sense of a West Indian identity that cautions against the further erosion of The University of the West Indies (UWI) as a regional institution.

West Indies cricket and The UWI continue to be regarded by many as regional establishments. The waning fortunes of WI cricket have resulted in some disaffection among our publics if not ardent fans. Likewise, the duplication of professional Faculties has created the perception that The UWI is now less of a regional institution than it once was; that it has become fragmented and approximates three national universities in countries with established campuses; that it created an Open Campus intended to be primarily virtual and to serve countries without established campuses, but which is held at arm's length and regarded with a large dose of scepticism in certain quarters in the University.

The duplication of certain professional Faculties and programmes on the three established campuses has been undertaken in the climate of a world recession and it has become increasingly difficult for some students to travel to a campus outside their home country. The result of this is the population at a given campus tends to comprise mainly students from that country and the rich cultural blend when students from different parts of the Caribbean gathered at one campus to study has been diluted.

The incursion of foreign institutions into the educational landscape as well as very aggressive marketing and promotion strategies by foreign universities to attract students to study abroad have also affected the UWI student population overall. Many students who may have selected one of the UWI campuses now study in the United States and elsewhere if they can afford to do so or if they get scholarships. The education landscape is now very competitive and UWI has to make certain adjustments if it

“The education landscape is now very competitive and UWI has to make certain adjustments if it is to attract a fair market share across the region.”

“Recent trends also indicate that when The UWI is considered as a regional institution, its ranking among world and regional universities is higher than if ranking was based separately on the performance of individual campuses.”

is to attract a fair market share across the region.

We learn from history that the evolution of The UWI has been positive and one might say meteoric, if one considers that a mere 62 years ago the institution started as a college at Mona with just a handful of students enrolled to study medicine, and today over 40,000 students are enrolled at its various campuses.

Recent trends also indicate that when The UWI is considered as a regional institution, its ranking among world and regional universities is higher than if ranking was based separately on the performance of individual campuses. This is a positive indicator for the institution to preserve a regional identity. Unfortunately, changes in the governance structure have tended to erode the regional framework. For example, year-end cross-faculty meetings were discontinued, resulting in increased variation in courses with identical codes and titles. The effect on students has been negative if credit is denied for some of these courses when students seek transfers from one campus to another.

UWI has taken some steps to foster regionalism, such as the establishment of centres that draw on the expertise of staff across the campuses. It has also created a Millennium Fund to facilitate student exchanges across campuses and the proposal for one virtual space promises to create a cohesive framework for the institution. Yet, much more needs to be done if The UWI is to reshape itself into a harmonised and collaborative entity. As examples, I will mention four points in summary from among several that merit consideration.

First, the governance structure of the University has to be reviewed to allow for a collaborative and not a competitive co-existence among the four campuses. As Sir Shridath has pointed out, our history should teach that the lack of a common foreign policy or lack of adherence to an existing one can lead to the perception of the region as being scattered and uncoordinated. Similarly, if The UWI has created policies to guide delivery of programmes by its campuses, then it is counterproductive if different campuses ignore the policy and negotiate with various entities to offer the same or similar courses at the same location. When this happens, The UWI is perceived as an institution in which its entities compete against each other, and in fact it is UWI competing with UWI.

Second, in its marketing thrust The UWI needs to present itself to the world as unified, organised and cohesive. A distorted view of The UWI is presented when advertisements speak to the benefits of attending one specific campus. The UWI might consider forming a unit that will consider promotion of all its campuses from a unified perspective that highlights the particular strengths of the several parts and the benefits to be derived from them.



Third, the entire region would benefit if The UWI formed productive and mutually supportive partnerships with national colleges and help to build a network for higher education that would make for (i) capacity building; (ii) a shared platform for delivery of courses virtually based on an appropriate model for cost and revenue sharing and with the application of approved quality standards; (iii) facilitating 2+2 arrangements that allow students with the required qualifications to transition seamlessly from college to university; (iv) partnerships with the public and private sector to provide lifelong learning opportunities for workers and to ensure their continued employability; (iv) making available, through the Open Campus, a wider slate of courses and programmes that address the needs of the communities UWI serves.

Fourth, in creating an Open Campus, The UWI sought to respond more effectively to the needs of countries in the UWI-12 and underserved communities. It was also considered that the OC by virtue of its scope and reach would bring University services to people in communities across the region without access to a university education. In so doing, the OC would itself provide internal cohesion through ongoing collaboration with the established

campuses to provide a slate of quality UWI courses to the world. To realise this, an attitude of acceptance of The UWI Open Campus would be more productive than one of rejection and ostracism.

Considering the current economic climate as well as the several changes in The UWI over the last few years, it is impractical to expect that the experience of regionalism is going to be exactly as it was some decades ago and about which alumni speak with nostalgia. While this may be so, it is important to ask whether regionalism must be accepted as history – a thing of the past – or whether The UWI can draw on its considerable resource of gifted and creative intellectuals to fashion a model of regionalism that is sustainable and that will make it much stronger.

Perhaps recent histories of institutions similar in some respects to UWI (e.g. Global Campus, Urbana Illinois) might teach us how a more inclusive posture and harmonious environment would strengthen the institution as it transforms itself to utilise technologies that position it to continue to be relevant in a rapidly changing educational environment and to respond more effectively to regional needs.





UWI
ST. AUGUSTINE
CAMPUS



THE CARIBBEAN'S LEADING HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION

Some of our proud achievements...



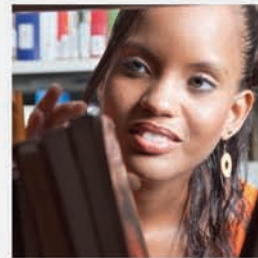
60+

year-old tradition
of excellence in
teaching
and research



1

of only two
regional
universities
in the world



16

Caribbean
Islands

4

Campuses



43K

Students



800+

Programmes



60

Rhodes
Scholars



18

Prime
Ministers



1

Nobel Prize
Winner



Our latest achievement...

**INSTITUTIONAL
ACCREDITATION**

awarded to the St Augustine Campus

As UWI continues to be recognized both regionally and internationally for its academic and research excellence, we take pride in our most recent achievement – the accreditation of the St. Augustine Campus by The Accreditation Council of Trinidad & Tobago.



If not West Indian, then what?

An Enduring Symbol of CARIBBEAN IDENTITY

BY PROFESSOR CLEMENT SANKAT

PVC and Principal, St. Augustine Campus, The University of the West Indies

Although it can be said that Caribbean nations have passed the infancy stage, I would agree that they have not yet reached full maturity as nations or as it relates to the integration experience. While the developed world has had the benefit of over a century of economic conditioning to prepare for viable existence in today's globalized economy, Caribbean economies have had to carry out the equivalent adjustment to their systems in hardly more than a couple of decades. I would say the Caribbean has had to contend with more challenges in considerably less time (such as the erosion of preferential treatment and the liberalization of world trade) than the developed world. Caribbean countries have been vulnerable to these trends and many are still uncertain of the future, for instance, in agriculture and meeting the demands of increasingly competitive markets and economies of scale.

The need for integration then (50 years ago) is certainly not the need for integration now. The factors driving the need for integration in the region have changed significantly. While the predominant motivating factor for integration then was the goal of attaining self-government or formal independence, the motivating factor for integration now, not only is the realization by states that further cooperation can potentially enhance the region's capacity to attain development, but also the realization that the region can better respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by globalization in the 21st century. Integration of our economies is therefore now seen as an opportunity to overcome the harsh realities and challenges of smallness and vulnerability.

One must also note that regionalism in the 21st century is remarkably different from that which existed in the 20th century. Traditionally, countries dealt with specific narrow cross-border objectives, primarily people, security and trade oriented issues. However, regionalism in the 21st century has to be considered as a more comprehensive and multidimensional process. The concept of regionalism today must encompass other important facets such as ecological, environmental and natural resource management, cultural, gender, energy and societal elements like education, in addition to the traditional political, economic and security dimensions.

Also to consider, while the process of the past particularly focused on the relations between governments, the requirement of today is much more encompassing and brings into play a host of non-state actors (including but not limited to non-governmental organizations, non-profit organizations, civil communities and other institutions, etc.) which operate at various levels of the global system.

In short, regionalism of today goes far beyond the goal of creating region-based free trade regimes like CARIFTA or



CARICOM. Instead, the political ambition of establishing regional solidarity, coherence, mobility and identity, especially as small states, seems to be of primary importance in a rapidly changing world order but this regionality must also be built upon respect and trust, recognizing the diversity of the Caribbean people.

While The University of the West Indies may not be the only regional entity which has stood the test of time (there are others such as the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) and the West Indies cricket team), I would argue that The UWI is the most visible and solid sign of "West Indian-ness" in the world and unmistakably a major driver of Caribbean development, shaping Caribbean identity. No other institution in the region can boast of producing thousands of graduates who are now respected leaders in a range of disciplines across the Caribbean – prime ministers and members of parliament, leaders in a wide range of disciplines, academics and scholars, etc. We are indeed the pre-eminent institution which serves diverse communities across all territories of the entire Caribbean region, whether through our three physical Campuses or through our Open Campus. Further, while some regional institutions may be considered to have a temporal nature in forging Caribbean identity, such as the West Indies cricket team – and in recent years even this may be questioned – The University of the

West Indies is an institution that has forged Caribbean unity and identity for 63 years, day in, day out and will continue to do so in the future with the continued support of the Caribbean people. That we have done this should be a matter of pride for all West Indians.

My ideal regional UWI is an institution that is able to adequately respond to the contemporary challenges of the region; impacting on our individual Caribbean States with one standard, one quality and in the broader context of West Indian development; an institution that is globally acknowledged and recognized as a key engine of Caribbean development in all spheres of society; an institution which is able to demonstrate knowledge and excellence in all things Caribbean – our rich history, heritage, culture and diverse people – and promote it to the world.

An institution, where both our students and faculty are engaged in creative thinking, problem solving and research so as to develop sustainable regional responses to the peculiar needs of our Caribbean countries – the challenges of sustainable development, sea level rise and the environment, disaster-preparedness, wealth creation, crime, male under-achievement, alternative energy development, food security and an efficient transport network are just some of the main areas that loom high on the Caribbean agenda. Therefore our premier regional institution, The UWI, must be able to respond constantly to the changing dynamic environment with the main intention to contribute to a better way of life for Caribbean people.

While we all have national aspirations, it is important to remember that Caribbean States were forged by a common history of colonization and we are all surrounded by the common waves that lap our shores. We may be separate nation states but we are inextricably linked. It still goes without saying that The University of the West Indies, undoubtedly to my mind, must remain a regional entity. It is by our very distinct regional character that we are defined by the world. But we may wish to expand the concept of The UWI with respect to higher education – possibly into a new federal structure. This can combine both national and regional aspirations.

I must also say that The University of the West Indies is an enduring and proud symbol of Caribbean identity and unity. And in this context, for our institution to continue to advance the greater goal of regional solidarity, common understanding and Caribbean integration, we must remain a relevant regional institution.

The UWI through its Campuses and other organizations will continue to impact on our national communities and hence serve the region in a comprehensive way bringing its unique aspirations of West Indian-ness, independence and standards of quality as benchmarks for all. We cannot fail!



If not West Indian, then what?

Finding Balance on a SHIFTED AXIS

BY PROFESSOR GORDON SHIRLEY

PVC and Principal, Mona Campus, The University of the West Indies

While many offer geographic and economic space as the essence of and justification for the brand of regionalism we experience in the Caribbean, I am of the view that it is more than that. West Indian regionalism refers to the intuitive recognition of the fact that there is value to be gained by a group of countries, small in land mass and/or population and bound together by a common geography in the Caribbean Sea, acting collectively in response to evolving challenges and emerging opportunities. This collective action is particularly valuable in a global environment dominated by the actions and interests of much larger and more powerful nation states and by multinational firms commanding financial and other resources much greater than those of the region.

The capacity to act collectively is enhanced by the West Indian sense of oneness of purpose derived from a common heritage, history and experiences of the citizens of the Caribbean states. It is underpinned by a shared value system which informs a sense of civic and personal responsibilities, a sense of right and wrong and a sense of equity.

West Indian regionalism is reflected in the common belief in the region's human capital and the ability to harness it in an effective and efficient manner for the good of its citizenry. This excellent management of our human resources is demonstrated by the ability of the region's people to perform outstandingly on the global stage regardless of the domain of endeavour. It is also demonstrated in the capacity of West Indian law makers to rise above the circumstances of the region and provide leadership to much larger groupings of developing countries in their negotiations with stronger groups of developed nations; this continues to occur in multiple forums.

West Indian regionalism is embodied in the common dream of an individual and collective future which is better than the present and the past which derives from the ability to think creatively and act collectively.

The essential resource of the West Indies is its people. The University of the West Indies has played an important role in the development of the human capital of the region. Established to educate leaders of government, civil service and the private sector, it was founded at a time when the accepted view was that it was sufficient to educate 3-5% of the population at the tertiary level for these leadership roles. Given the targeted number of students, a regional enterprise was recognized to be a more cost-effective and efficient approach than establishing individual national institutions. It was also accepted that it would allow for the consolidation of the best cadre of faculty members and for improved management of the quality of graduates, of research output and of policy advice and public service from the institution.

The UWI 'experiment' has been largely successful with



respect to its initial mandate. It has emerged as an institution of high international repute for the quality of scholarship of its faculty and researchers. Its graduates are highly regarded and have emerged as leaders in every sector of the islands' economies.

Since the time of establishment, however, there have been substantial changes in the higher education sector. This accelerating pace of change has been influenced by rapidly evolving technologies, rapid globalization and the highly liberalized trading arrangements in many of the West Indian nations for goods and services including higher education. Today, many developed and some rapidly developing countries routinely educate over 50% of each age cohort at the tertiary level. Several governments of the region have embraced similar objectives in an effort to accelerate the pace of development. To be effective, the expanded provision of tertiary education must be economical and in the areas of high demand.

In response, The UWI has expanded its enrolment in all three land-based campuses and introduced an open campus to better respond to the needs of underserved communities. The objective of cost-effectiveness has meant that the University has had to provide candidates with the opportunity to pursue the degrees of choice close to home. In turn, it has meant that the land-based campuses have had to broaden the range of programmes offered at each location to allow nationals to pursue the full range of degree offerings.

In this new and evolving dispensation, the regional

character of the enterprise has been maintained by continuing to ensure that more than 10% of the student population at each campus is made up of candidates from other countries of the region. It has been reinforced by the continued effort to maintain faculty membership from across the region at each campus and by employing modern communication technologies to facilitate cross-campus lectures. It is reinforced by the quality control systems implemented by the Boards of Undergraduate and Graduate Studies, which have regional representation and which ensure regionally relevant content delivered at uniformly high standards across the campuses. The regional character continues to be evident in the research objectives and public service endeavours of the faculty at all of the campuses.

The UWI is committed to the preservation of its regional character through the strengthening of its core values, important considerations in the formulation of its University-wide strategic plans. The extensive involvement throughout the region of all stakeholders in the planning process is a cogent testament of this commitment.

In the context described above, the ideal regional institution is one which provides equal opportunity for West Indian students to pursue a world-class education at an affordable cost in the areas of specialization of relevance to their communities. It continues to ensure that all strata of West Indian society are able to avail themselves of the opportunities for growth and mobility through education and in particular that members of the community from lower income groups participate.

The ideal regional institution produces graduates who are critical thinkers, innovators and leaders, effective communicators who are knowledgeable and fully exposed to global and regional developments. It takes advantage of the most modern technologies in the delivery of its programmes while ensuring that its students are technologically competent. Lifelong learners, the students are socially and culturally responsive, ethical in behaviour and entrepreneurial in orientation. The institution produces research in a wide range of areas which is of the highest international standards but which is of particular relevance to the nations of the region. Its faculty are engaged in policy analysis and in formulating advice relevant to the regional leaders of the public and private sector and which can contribute to the continued growth and development of the region.

UWI should remain clearly focused on its regional mandate adjusted for the realities of the current environment described above. It must emerge as an agile institution, embodying the aspirations of the West Indian people and societies, but capable of refocusing and restructuring itself in response to challenges and opportunities which are rapidly evolving.



If not West Indian, then what?

A SITE OF RESISTANCE FOR THE REGION

BY PROFESSOR HILARY BECKLES

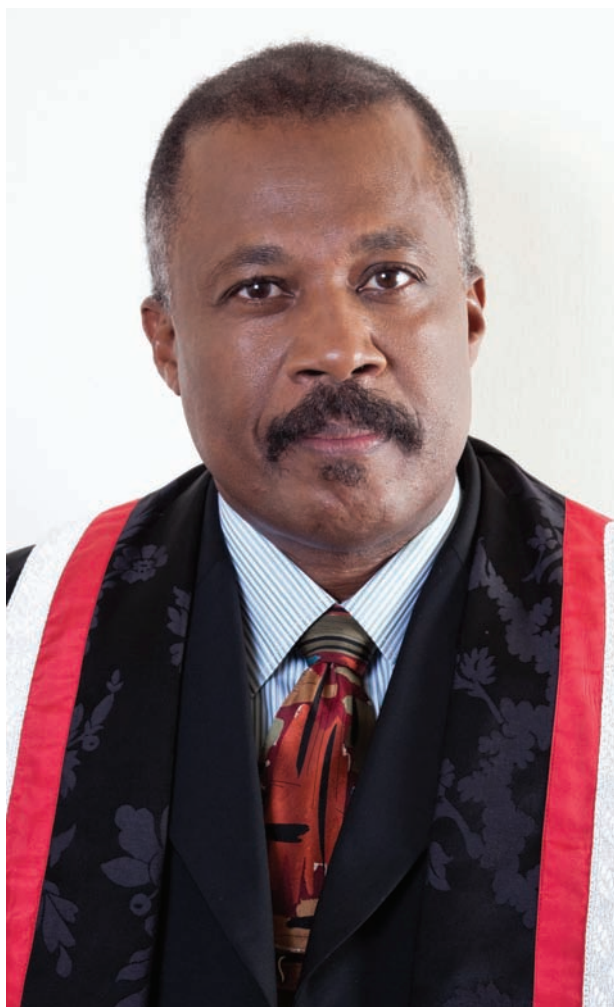
PVC and Principal, Cave Hill Campus, The University of the West Indies

Universities everywhere are established to serve nations. They are not expected to focus on a narrow self-perspective, or to commit to hegemonic sectional interests. Their mandate is to drive agreed processes of nation-building such as social tolerance and upliftment, economic development, cultural sophistication and political freedom. These objectives are critical to the enhancement of humanity and implemented within the imagined construct referred to as ‘nation.’

The mandate of The University of the West Indies is consistent with this pedagogical understanding. It was established in 1948 to serve a very specific process: the emergence of a post colonial consciousness within Caribbean civilization. It was agreed by its founding thinkers, that despite the political balkanization of the region, caused by multiple imperial trajectories, a unifying historical process had created coherent cultural experiences that expressed themselves as an undeniable civilization. All agreed, furthermore, that a university, regional in scope and ideology, would best enhance this erupting empire of the mind that was countering the dominant vision of communities as home to servile labouring hands.

In addition, the historians among the founders emphasized that this common, cultural legacy was crafted upon an indigenous cosmology that had long imagined the region as a common survival space – a sea warmly embracing a settled sense of self, despite its dramatic turbulence and turmoil. Eric Williams especially, was insistent: a regional university should be created embedded within a nativist Caribbean epistemology. Nothing else would suffice!

It was not simply Williams’ persuasiveness that won the day. After all, he was speaking to a gathering of believers long converted to the philosophy of a singularity of sea and



society. To this end the proclamation that called into being the regional university was not prophetic, but an expression of a common sense. The Caribbean was forged against a background of native genocide, African enslavement, Asian indenture, and is determined to rise from this colonial rubble as a unified force of familiarity and, hopefully, family. UWI, then, was launched as a missile into a self-possessed future with a distinct mission: to conquer colonialism, transcend imperialism, and liberate the Caribbean imagination.

This mission is far from complete. Caribbean unity remains the vision of most inhabitants despite the persistence of a parading parochialism. Citizens increasingly are insisting upon the right to live in the Caribbean as their home though divisive governance has institutionalized the celebration of segregation that has no historical integrity and discernible future. The region’s politics, as a result, is best characterized as crippled by the unhappy circumstance of State versus Society that problematizes the journey to singularity.

At no moment in the conception of The UWI was it imagined that the roots of five hundred years of European imperialism would wither and die within less time, or that the emerging mentalities of postcolonialism would possess abundant and persistent passion to drive the project. It was understood that ebb and flow, advance and retreat – the dynamics of historical change and continuity – would be a continuing feature of transformation. The lessons of the legacy of Caribbean liberation had shown this much, and The UWI would be subject to these laws.

Men and women of commitment to the ancestral vision would come and go, while The UWI navigated this turbulent sea. This much I understood on becoming a part of the

“Caribbean unity remains the vision of most inhabitants despite the persistence of a parading parochialism.”

“Spawning a new generation of national universities and colleges should be a top agenda priority for UWI, whose parenting role will be a vital resource in the years ahead.”

University’s senior management over 15 years ago. There I ‘roots’ with such unwavering men and women – Alister McIntyre, Rex Nettleford, Elsa Goveia, Keith Hunte, Sonny Ramphal, Bunny Lalor, Compton Bourne, Max Richards, Woodville Marshall, Roy Augier, Marlene Hamilton – a powerful intellectual force harnessed by an activism of regionalism. And it was all very personal. These were citizens who loved their Caribbean – all of it – and were giving their lives in its service. Their passion was devoid of parochialism, and enhanced by their desire for things Caribbean which they claimed as their very own.

The work of The UWI as imagined by these stalwarts is still in its formative stages. In some ways it has only just begun. Preparations for another thrust are being laid. There have been a few setbacks, and some terrible errors, but the focus remains and the commitment no less certain.

The ideal of the regional university also remains as fresh as it was articulated in the ’40s. Rationales for regional governance have changed, so too have the structures of economic institutions, and frameworks for resource management. But these are not central to the evolution of Caribbean civilization – that powerful binding sense of history that pushes against gravity in order to forge new depths for the restless and rebellious.

Lloyd Best was in his richest vernacular vein when he insisted that The UWI should never succumb to the temptation of being a validating elite of academics. Rather, it should be a site of continuing resistance to the root causes of our impoverishment and marginalization. In this regard, he stands as a beacon along the way – as did Williams, Walter Rodney, McIntyre, Nettleford and others.

The UWI, then, a site of resistance for the region, holds direct relevance for the future imagined. When, for example, our economic industries are threatened by global capitalism, in which corner of the region should the loudest voices of resistance be heard? When petty, domestic politics threatens to rip our fragile peace apart with racial and ethnic recklessness, where should we find an arena of opposition? When our youth are ravaged by locally produced and imported narcotics that enrich a few and outrage many, whose hearts and minds should rally the outraged? A regional university that transcends insular agendas is best suited to mend or remove broken fences and serve Caribbean society at the level of the collective interests of multiple communities.

But there is more, of course, much more. Reading the time, and seizing the season, constitute the mandate of all high quality academic fraternities. As we examine this third, communications-driven phase of globalization, for example, we see that it is very much a contradictory process which we misread to our peril. On the one hand the global agenda speaks to openness and borderlessness. But on the other hand, we see that its fundamental building block remains the ‘nation-state.’

Powerful economies push for access to Caribbean markets while closing their political borders to our citizens.



The politics of globalization promotes a dialogue of strong nations versus weak nations. The Caribbean nation, weakened because of its political fragmentation, cries out for UWI’s activism as imagined by its founders. Arguably, then The UWI has a compelling moment to demonstrate its pertinence to the needs of the people. Many cases can be made in support of its continuing relevance, and in all circumstances they serve to validate the visionary quality of its founders.

A tertiary education revolution in the region is a prerequisite for sustained economic and social development. Currently, the English-speaking sub-region has the lowest enrolment rate in this hemisphere within the 18-30 age cohort. A shortage of relevant skills, more than capital, holds back the region on many fronts. The combined efforts of the regional university and national tertiary institutions represent the most efficient way to deal with this challenge. Spawning a new generation of national universities and colleges should be a top agenda priority for UWI, whose parenting role will be a vital resource in the years ahead.

There are many aspects of this expectation that will require the mobilization of the collective research capacity of UWI. This is where it has a special niche as the regional embodiment and repository of our best efforts in search for new and innovative ideas to remove obstacles to development. Our challenges are regional in scope and nature and require collective engagements. Indeed, if we consider five pressing issues facing each Caribbean society – HIV/Aids, economic decline, political fragmentation, social decay, cultural stasis – each requires a regional answer best prepared by the institutions of The UWI. The roles and functions of national universities as strategic partners should be enhanced within the context of a regional university system in which The UWI, given its wealth of experience in building regionalism, has a continuing overarching mandate.

Imaginative leadership within The UWI is a critical requirement. This is not a time in its journey for bureaucratic celebration and excessive administrative tinkering. It is a moment for a revitalization of intellectualism, and rededication to the activism of regionalism.

Building consensus among regional stakeholders on the way forward will require research-based leadership strategies from the premier research institution. In this context the fidelity of UWI’s voice, and the integrity of its utterances, are crucial to envisioning the 21st Century Caribbean.

Our region still wrestles with accepting institutions dedicated to its integrated identity. This suggests the need to aggressively assert the historical character of UWI. But such a legacy cannot be presented to the next generation as a right to be respected. Rather, UWI has to reinvent itself as a moral and cultural force within an ancestral stream that has brought us thus far safely, and remains forceful and fertile.

“Our region still wrestles with accepting institutions dedicated to its integrated identity.”

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES and REPUBLIC BANK



CONGRATULATIONS!

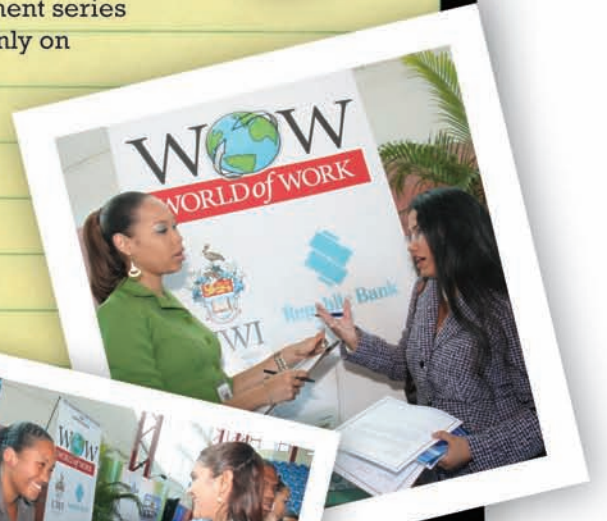
UWI Final Year Students you have successfully completed all 5 steps of the WOW 2011 Programme and now you are ready for the World of Work!

Over 50 local and regional corporate entities together with more than 1,200 students, participated in the highly anticipated **World of Work (WOW)** program from **3rd February to 18th March 2011**. From this, they received invaluable experience and feedback, which they will now use as they enter the job market.

The University is deeply grateful to **Republic Bank Limited**, the title sponsor this year and main supporter for the past 10 years. Republic Bank's contribution to **WOW 2011** is a major part of the Bank's ongoing social investment initiative – **The Power to make a Difference** – which has embraced an overarching vision of youth empowerment through education.

The University would also like to thank our supporters – **The UWI Alumni Association (TT Chapter)**, **Ms. Catherine Gordon of Catherine Gordon & Associates**, **Mrs. Giselle La Ronde-West**, **Ms. Karel Mc Intosh**, **Mr. Derek Chin of Movietowne**, **Mr. Kama Maharaj of Sacha Cosmetics**, **Ms. Krista Thompson of Anise Resort and Spa** and **JCD & Associates**.

The **World of Work (WOW)** Programme is an annual professional development series offered to all students of The University of the West Indies and focused mainly on providing career guidance to final year students.



CAMPUS NEWS

Congratulations to Dr Tewarie

The UWI congratulates **Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie** on his appointment as Minister of Planning, Economic and Social Restructuring and Gender Affairs. Dr. Tewarie has served the University for over two decades in a number of leadership roles including Executive Director of the Institute of Business, St. Augustine Campus from 1992 to 2001, Principal of the St. Augustine Campus from 2001 to 2007 and Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Planning and Development from 2007 to May 2011. The UWI wishes him all the very best in his new role as Cabinet Minister.

Professor Andrew Downes has been named Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Planning and Development to replace Dr Tewarie. In his role as Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Downes will oversee the final year of implementation of the University's 2007-2012 Strategic Plan and will coordinate the construction of the 2012-2017 Plan.



Best Wishes to Dr Gloudon

Dr. Iva Camille Gloudon, former Director of Sport and Physical Education at The UWI, was presented with her Instruments of Appointment on February 24, 2011, making her the High Commissioner of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to Jamaica and Ambassador to Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Dr. Gloudon has worked for decades in several capacities in the area of sport and physical education and was instrumental in having the first cohort of physical education teachers to complete the Bachelor of Education Physical Education – Secondary degree at a local institution.

Her accomplishments have been many, and her service to The UWI outstanding, and the University community wishes her continued success in her new diplomatic position.



Victory in Palo Seco

Members of the **UWI Cheerleading team** pose after winning the Palo Seco Cheerleading Dance Competition 2011 held by the Palo Seco Village Council on Easter Monday. This is the second year of the competition and the UWI Cheerleaders have won the title on both occasions. This year they also won the Best Uniformed Team category.

The cheerleading team was actually formed for the last UWI Games, which was hosted by the St. Augustine Campus in 2009 (The biennial games were hosted by the Cave Hill Campus this year.), but has continued as a competitive sports team. Their training routine includes dance, gymnastics and fitness training.



PHOTO: ALLAN BALFOUR

SPORT

TWO FOR THE ROAD UWI Games on at Cave Hill

A large team, comprising 135 athletes and 23 cheerleaders represented the St. Augustine Campus at the 2011 UWI Games held at the Cave Hill Campus, Barbados from May 18-27.

This major sporting event provides an opportunity for hundreds of students from across the three campuses to come together as one university. This year, the St. Augustine contingent competed in basketball, cricket, football, hockey, lawn tennis, netball, swimming, table tennis, track and field, and volleyball.

Two of the St. Augustine representatives, Shervon Penco and Mauricia Nicholson, both Master's students at the Campus, are no strangers to competition.

Though this is his second year representing St. Augustine in the UWI Games, Shervon was just as excited as he was for the first. "It's fun for me because the games give me an opportunity to compete against the guys I usually play alongside. I like the shake up!"



Shervon currently plays for the Combined Campuses and Colleges cricket team that plays in the regional West Indies First Class Tournament, so he was familiar with some of his opponents.

At the Games, Mauricia represented St. Augustine in hockey, netball and football. It is her first time competing in the UWI Games, but Mauricia has represented Trinidad & Tobago in football at the Under 19 and Senior Team levels and at the most recent Commonwealth Games held in Delhi, India.

Mauricia and Shervon are just two examples of the talented people who represented the St. Augustine Campus at the 2011 Games, some other familiar names include Brent King (tennis), Kjorn Ottley (cricket), Niveeta Ramcharan (table tennis) and Keon Francis (shot put/discus).

For more on the just concluded UWI Games 2011, please visit <http://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/sport/inter-campus-games.aspx>

UWI CALENDAR of EVENTS

JUNE – OCTOBER 2011

30TH ANNUAL WEST INDIAN LITERATURE CONFERENCE

13-15 October, 2011
St. Augustine, UWI

The UWI Department of Liberal Arts hosts the 30th Annual West Indian Literature Conference, themed “I Dream to Change the World”: Literature and Social Transformation. This conference will take place from the 13th-15th October, 2011.

For further information, please contact Dr. Geraldine Skeete at Geraldine.Skeete@sta.uwi.edu, or Dr. Giselle Rampaul at Giselle.Rampaul@sta.uwi.edu.



GLOBAL SOUTH ASIAN DIASPORA

1-4 June, 2011
Learning Resource Centre
UWI St. Augustine

The University of the West Indies, The University of Trinidad and Tobago and the National Council of Indian Culture will host a four day conference: The Global South Asian Diaspora, which highlights current debates and discussions on the South Asian Diaspora. Papers will be presented by local, regional and international scholars and community activist organizations. The conference finale features a film documentary component to be held at the NAPA Building, Port of Spain.

For further information, please contact Dr. Amar Wahab (Conference Secretary) Tel: 662-2002 ext. 4422; E-mail: amar.wahab@sta.uwi.edu Conference website: <http://sta.uwi.edu/conferences/11/gsad/>

4TH BIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS, BANKING & FINANCE CONFERENCE

22-24 June, 2011
Hilton Trinidad & Conference Centre,
Lady Young Road, Port of Spain

The Department of Management Studies, Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies and the Caribbean Centre for Money and Finance collaborate to host the 4th Biennial International Business, Banking & Finance Conference. Themed “Restoring Business Confidence and Investments in the Caribbean,” this conference is a forum for exchange of ideas on critical business, banking and financial issues facing the Caribbean region at this time. It will serve to bring together leaders of the local and regional business communities, governmental policy makers and international scholars and researchers.

For further information, please contact the Conference Secretariat, SALISES, at 662-2002 Ext 2306, or via e-mail at bbf4@sta.uwi.edu.

DEVELOPMENT OF COASTAL COMMUNITIES

1-3 June, 2011
Port of Spain, T&T

The Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social & Economic Studies (SALISES) joins the Turtle Village Trust of Trinidad & Tobago to host an International Conference, themed “The Sustainable Development of Coastal Communities: Challenges and Solutions.” This conference will provide a forum for the exchange of ideas on critical issues related to climate change and coastal communities, biodiversity, turtle conservation, ecotourism, sustainable community development, the environment and related issues. Participation is open to scholars, policy makers, graduate students, professionals, NGOs, civil society and community-based organizations.

For further information, please contact SALISES at 662-2002 ext. 2037, 2391, or via e-mail at salises@sta.uwi.edu.



UWI TODAY WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU

UWI TODAY welcomes submissions by staff and students for publication in the paper. Please send your suggestions, comments, or articles for consideration to: uwitoday@sta.uwi.edu

CTLPA 14TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

30 June-2 July, 2011
Learning Resource Centre
UWI St. Augustine

The Caribbean Tertiary Level Personnel Association (CTLPA) hosts its 14th Annual Conference from June 30th-July 2nd, 2011, at the Learning Resource Centre, UWI St. Augustine Campus. This conference is themed, “CTLPA: Bringing More to Student Learning and Professional Development in Higher Education.”

For further information, please contact Mr Chandar Gupta Supersad at Chandar.supersad@sta.uwi.edu, or at 662-2002, ext 2360



ROAD TRAFFIC CRASHES IN T&T

16 June, 2011
Ballroom, Hilton Hotel & Conference Centre,
Lady Young Road, Port of Spain

The Occupational Environmental Safety and Health (OESH) programme of the Department of Chemistry, hosts an OESH Seminar: Road Traffic Crashes in Trinidad and Tobago, on 16th June, 2011, from 8:30 am-1 pm, at the Hilton Hotel. This seminar aims to contribute to the improvement of the nation's roads by providing a historical account of road accidents in Trinidad and Tobago and a deep analysis of this phenomenon.

For further information, please contact Ms. Wendy Lawrence at 662-2002 ext. 3269, or via e-mail at Wendy.Lawrence@sta.uwi.edu.