



UWI TODAY

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES · ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

SUNDAY 27TH OCTOBER, 2013



The Dream of Regionalism



Has it all come to Nought?

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FOUNDERS DAY

"THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF
THE WEST INDIAN PEOPLE, INHERITORS
OF A TRADITION OF GREATNESS,
WILL CREATE A GREAT UNIVERSITY."

– Excerpt from 'The University of the West Indies: A Caribbean response to the challenge of change' by Sir Philip Sherlock & the Hon. Rex Nettleford



UWI
ST. AUGUSTINE
CAMPUS

On Saturday October 12, 2013, The UWI, St. Augustine, celebrates its **53rd Founders Day** - the day in 1960 that foretold the official establishment of our Campus two years later.

The establishment of the St. Augustine Campus of The UWI two years prior to Independence was an important step toward achieving the vision of an educated and productive citizenry who would take the country forward on a path to economic growth and prosperity.

The Campus first emerged as the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture (ICTA) - internationally renowned for high quality research conducted by top tropical agriculture scientists. Today, we are the region's premier institute for higher education and research in the fields of Engineering, Food and Agriculture, Humanities and Education, Law, Medical Sciences, Science and Technology and Social Sciences. To date, St. Augustine can proudly boast that as the University's largest campus, it has produced over 60,000 graduates who are leaders of society in every sphere and field.

On this auspicious day, we recall our humble beginnings as we forge ahead along a path of continuous transformation, expansion and development.

IN ALL ITS SAMAAAN GLORY: An aerial shot of the ICTA, now The UWI St. Augustine Campus' Main Administration Building

OUR CAMPUS



A commemorative plaque was unveiled at the ceremony when the Confucius Institute was formally launched at Daaga Auditorium. From left: President of the China Agricultural University, Professor KE Bingsheng; Chinese Ambassador, His Excellency Huang Xingyuan; Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Winston Dookeran; UWI Chancellor, Sir George Alleyne, and Campus Principal and Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor Clement Sankat. PHOTO: ANEEL KARIM

Confucius Institute LAUNCHED

At the beginning of June, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed in Trinidad and Tobago's Parliament for the establishment of a Confucius Institute (CI) at the St Augustine campus of The UWI. This had been one of the outcomes of the State visit by President Xi Jinping, of the People's Republic of China in 2010 when a three-year MOA had been signed between the campus and the CI where the Government of China provided a lecturer in the Mandarin language and Chinese culture to The UWI Centre for Language Learning from January 2011.

On October 23, at a ceremony filled with stirring performances at the Daaga Auditorium on the St Augustine campus, the Confucius Institute was formally launched in the presence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Winston Dookeran; Chinese Ambassador, His Excellency Huang Xingyuan; UWI Chancellor, Sir George Alleyne; Campus Principal and Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor Clement Sankat, Campus Council Chair, Mr Ewart Williams and President of the China Agricultural University, Professor KE Bingsheng.

Guests were welcomed by Professor Sankat, who said that through the CI, The UWI will strengthen its relations with China. "This will be done by making available the teaching of Chinese to corporate and private citizens; deepening our understanding of Chinese culture in general and more specifically Chinese culture in business. Additionally, research will be conducted on contemporary China in areas such as science and technology, trade and the economy, the arts, international relations and global higher

education," he said.

Professor Bingsheng, whose university (CAU) will partner with The UWI on this initiative, said that although there are already more than 300 CIs in over 100 countries in the world, the one being launched was one of the "most important results" of the Chinese President's visit.

"It is my strong belief that the establishment of the CI will not only provide a good platform for facilitating mutual exchanges and understanding in the field of languages and cultures, and thus play a big role in promoting economic cooperation and people's friendship between our two countries, but also offer good opportunities to explore potentials for educational and research collaboration between the two universities," he said.

China Agricultural University is one of China's key research universities, and accredited as one of the "elite universities" for a special support programme in China.

Guests were also addressed by Ambassador Huang Xingyuan and Minister Dookeran before the ceremonial unveiling of a plaque of commemoration.

There were performances by the Chinese Arts and Culture Studies Society, the Chinese Steel Ensemble of Trinidad and Tobago, Ms Anya Reyes, and students from the Centre for Language Learning, before the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education, Professor Funso Aiyejina, brought the ceremony to a close.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Fostering Regional Discourse



The UWI stands out as one of the strongest symbols of West Indies integration and it must continue to find ways to promote the interests of West Indian societies through the interaction of our staff, students, alumni and key stakeholders. This is what many of us, through discussion and sometimes fierce debates, have been doing over the years and The UWI has provided a forum to facilitate this.

Times have changed and we have witnessed the growth of national institutions as well as the penetration of foreign institutions, all responding to market demands for tertiary education. While this may be a positive sign, is it sustainable in the long term? And is this helping to build our indigenous knowledge base and to strengthen West Indian capacity in a manner that will ensure robustness and quality? CARICOM has a key role here. Higher education funding, quality, accreditation, articulation and mobility, together with research and innovation, must be high on CARICOM's agenda and our region must support this much more than it is doing!

I think it is time for The UWI, with CARICOM's support, to establish itself as the leader in driving the transformation of the entire higher education sector of the region. Our institution has the experience, the regional machinery and the human capacity to take the lead in creating the framework for a federal university system that encompasses all publicly funded Caribbean tertiary education institutions. I have spoken of this before as a means of building sustainability and "West Indianness" as we go forward.

We need to create a new generation of West Indians committed to such a cause, and our schools and universities are great starting points. And as we look to CARICOM to deepen the integration movement, CARICOM countries can also look to UWI, as a model on how we have brought 16 sovereign territories together to create a unique regional institution that has continued to grow and thrive over 65 years.

With this in mind, we have initiated a regional discourse, first by inviting the Secretary-General of CARICOM, Ambassador Irwin LaRocque to share his vision on its future, and by having Sir Shridath Ramphal further the conversation with his insights. We will continue to foster this type of regional discourse at the Campus and hope that this commitment to regionalism will continue to spread across our individual national territories as we seek to address challenges that are common to all West Indian societies and to strengthen our position as a region in international affairs.

CLEMENT K. SANKAT
Pro Vice-Chancellor & Principal

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Invest in Your Homeland

BY PRESIDENT ANTHONY CARMONA



Guests at the Matriculation Ceremony were entertained by UWI's Arts Chorale, conducted here by Kendra Flores. PHOTOS: ROBERT TAYLOR

Personally, it is an incredible feeling that forty years ago, in 1973, I was, like most of you here today, a new student, beginning my university life at The University of the West Indies, but at the Mona Campus in Jamaica.

I am proud to be a graduate of The UWI, this premier academic institution which, since the opening of its first campus in Jamaica in 1948, has produced thousands of alumni who have gone on to impact the region and the world in all spheres of endeavour.

Today, I join in welcoming this year's incoming class and I congratulate you all on making it to this next level of your academic career. Usually, on such occasions the focus is understandably on you, matriculating students, however, I challenge you to consider that you are not here solely by dint of your own hard work and commitment. Reflect on those who helped make today possible. Perhaps it was a parent or guardian, a teacher, a study partner, a friend, a mentor. Perhaps it was someone with whom you may never even have spoken but who provided the necessary inspiration for you to pursue excellence. Perhaps it was that classmate whom you made it a point would never beat you in exams, or maybe it was someone who callously or unwittingly told you that you would never amount to anything. Perhaps poverty or other difficult life circumstances helped firm your resolve to achieve. Encouragement comes in all forms and perhaps, without that push or that support, we would never scratch the surface of our potential.

Successive governments and by extension, the taxpayers of Trinidad and Tobago have also invested in you by providing free tertiary education for our citizens. This

privilege must not be taken lightly for there are some who do not enjoy this privilege. By investing in you, the nation is demonstrating not only its commitment to your future but also its belief in your potential. Always remember, even as you focus on your own individual dreams and pursuits, that you are the nation's investment.

Permit me to share with you a few of my thoughts as you embark upon your university career:

■ THE IMPORTANCE OF DISCIPLINE

With an average of some twelve hours per week of scheduled classes, time management is critical to your academic success and total development. At university, procrastination is your worst enemy as it is easy to lose focus on why you are here in the first place.

■ THE IMPORTANCE OF TEAMWORK

There are persons of varying ability and it is a sad truth that students are often content to watch others stumble and not offer assistance. This is unfortunate and ironic since, in the working world, success is often defined by how well one can work with others. Why not begin changing that mindset while you are here?

■ THE IMPORTANCE OF PERSISTENCE

It is often said that education is the key to success. While this may be so, experience has taught me that persistence is sometimes an even greater key. History shows that many of the world's most successful men and women were not the brightest and most educated, but were the most innovative and most persistent.

■ THE IMPORTANCE OF CHARACTER/PERSONAL INTEGRITY

The world is replete with examples of highly accomplished men and women whose lack of integrity has been exposed and whose reputations have been permanently tainted. Fame, wealth, brilliance and talent will all be skewed without integrity. Integrity is not for national and international leaders alone. It equally applies to each of you here today.

■ THE IMPORTANCE OF SERVICE

Selfishness has become a cancer in our society. The gifted and talented among us must not exempt themselves from service and from engaging themselves in the issues of the wider society. I have observed that, by virtue of their exceptional gifts, skills and talents, we have placed them on pedestals and in glass boxes, only to be admired and emulated. In so doing we rob them and ourselves of that humility that is born of service, to their and to our ultimate detriment. I encourage you to seek out opportunities to serve. I also ask you to consider investing in your homeland. Even if you go abroad to pursue further studies and to gain invaluable experience, why not return home and invest in those who have invested in you? Our nation needs its best and brightest if it is to continue to move forward.

As university students, you are not isolated from the real world. You are a part of it. The university is not the proverbial ivory tower that most make it out to be. Real life and its attendant issues do not retreat while you study. These are the years in which you begin making important

and potentially stressful decisions about the future. While you are here, you may face family conflict, divorce of parents, breakdown of relationships, serious illness, death of a loved one, pregnancy, academic pressure, bullying and even sexual abuse. Any of these issues can force you into a place where you may feel powerless, severely affecting your ability to cope and to focus on your studies.

I have heard far too many accounts where students have found themselves unable to cope with various types of stress, leading to depression and ultimately suicide. According to the World Health Organisation, among 15- to 19-year-olds, suicide is the second leading cause of death worldwide after accidents. The Global School Health Report for Trinidad and Tobago (2007) indicated approximately 18% of students within the 13-15 year age group who were interviewed considered attempting suicide.

You are a group more acquainted with success than with failure. What happens when you fail? What happens when you do the wrong thing? What happens when life doesn't go as you planned? I want to raise the importance of genuine community and friendship. You may think you have friends because you have liming and study partners but do you really look out for one another? Can you tell when something is really affecting your partner?

It is important that you have people who you can confide in, people you can share the difficult issues with, whether they are friends, family, religious leaders, counsellors, professors. There is nothing noble in suffering silently, especially if that suffering will lead to hurting yourself and those who love you.

I have noted the emergence of the disturbing new trend of "cyber-bullying." Technology is a tool of great benefit, providing convenience and utility, and helping to make the university experience both pleasant and productive. But like any other tool, technology is only as good as the person using it. Using the Internet, especially websites such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, people have become cowards, resorting to lurking in cyberspace, using fake social media accounts and harassing and degrading others with whom they have a dispute. Where has your manliness gone? Why not come out of the shadows, look the other person in the eyes and discuss your beef, as it were? Don't add to this generation of cowards.

I congratulate you, once more, and look forward to the lasting contribution which you will make to the further development of our beautiful nation of Trinidad and Tobago, to the Caribbean region and to the world.



UWI student, Jehue Gordon, who is also a national award winner, was presented with a token of recognition for his outstanding performances in track and field from St. Augustine Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat at the Matriculation Ceremony.

Graduation Time!



The graduation ceremonies at the St. Augustine campus of The UWI (Oct 24-26) have just ended, closing a chapter in the lives of many new graduates as they set off on new journeys. The six valedictorians—**Wainella Isaacs, Grace Bhagwandeem, Martrecia Alleyne, Shenelle Ramjewan, Samantha Jackson** and **Cherisse Ratiram**—spoke on behalf of their graduating classes, while each ceremony was addressed by one of six honorary graduands.

This campus conferred honorary degrees on the **Rt Rev Clive Abdulah** and **Mr Ian Randle (LLD)**, **Dr Lakshmi Persaud**, and **Ms Marina Salandy-Brown (DLitt)**, and **Dr Theodosius Poon-King** and **Dr Elisha Tikasingh (DSc)**.

Best wishes to all the students and honorees. In our next issue we will feature more on our graduation ceremonies. Look out for it!





UWI SPEC INTERNATIONAL HALF-MARATHON

10th ANNIVERSARY



On Sunday October 27, 2013, UWI SPEC celebrates the **10th** Anniversary of the International Half-Marathon.

This year's special race kicks off at **10** minutes to 6a.m. and features **10** specially-invited participants dubbed "The 10".

"The 10" are depending on **YOU** to text and contribute \$**10** or more, in support of one of **10** chosen charities.

"THE 10" & THEIR CHARITIES

Text these codes to support your charity of choice!

Golda Lee Bruce	<i>GUARDIAN NEEDIEST CASES FUND</i>	11210
James Saunders	<i>IS THERE NOT A CAUSE</i>	11310
Jason Williams	<i>BREAK THE SILENCE</i>	11110
Jeremy Bellamy	<i>STUDENT BURSARY</i>	11710
John Donaldson	<i>RAPE CRISIS SOCIETY</i>	11410
Kerrie-Kim Kirton	<i>KEITH STANFORD SOBION FOUNDATION</i>	11610
Renata Sankar	<i>THE T&T COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE</i>	11810
Stephen Sheppard	<i>HABITAT FOR HUMANITY (UWI CHAPTER)</i>	11910
Sterle Timothy	<i>SYLPHIL'S HOME IN LOVE</i>	11510
Will Iton	<i>ARTS INSIGHT</i>	11010

Text to support from your Digicel handset **TODAY!**



A Little Volcano about to Erupt

BY VANEISA BAKSH

Yawl see the same blue sky as we do?

That was just one of the questions that came her way in her first days on what's supposed to be one of the more sophisticated islands in the Caribbean. It didn't surprise her too much though. Coming to UWI's St Augustine campus on a partial scholarship called Rebuild Montserrat, Denecia West has had a load of odd questions.

She's been asked things that would make regionalists cringe over the lack of West Indian knowledge; but she's also found that Caribbean friendliness has the same warmth no matter what twang it's packaged in.

"They don't know anywhere in the Caribbean; if it's not Trinidad, Barbados or Jamaica, they don't know. A lot of people, I've told them I'm from Montserrat, and they say, oh, you speak French, don't you? No, that is Martinique. They just don't know," she says with a wry smile.

But she made friends quickly, and they have acted as guides, showing her the ropes, explaining jargon, introducing her to Trini cuisine, and making sure she understands the need to be vigilant about her security.

Denecia has just begun her first semester in the Faculty of Social Sciences, reading for a BSc in Public Sector Management, an area she has always been interested in, mainly because of her disgust at poor service.

"What grinds my gears is walking into an organisation and seeing people not doing their work, obviously wasting time; inefficiencies. Now, back home, there are some incidents of people in the public service not doing any work. I believe that I can make a change especially when you have mistakes—like million-dollar mistakes—just because one person did not do their job. I think there needs to be an iron fist (laughs) in the public sector. And for people to take their work seriously because a lot of people just go to work for 8 o'clock, 8.30, and leave 4 o'clock, at 3:55. Nothing gets done."

"There is that, plus there is also what I believe is corruption, not only Montserrat, but in governments. Many people go into politics saying that they will fix corruption from the political side, but I believe that you can fix it from the administrative side. Say for instance a politician makes a decision; they say 'we're going to grant five people scholarships.' That sounds very good, doesn't it? But then, the administrators are responsible for choosing those people, and that is where, I think, the corruption is. Not all the time it is the politicians. Sometimes it is the administrators who need a slap on the wrist to understand that you can't be biased, and nepotism and all of that doesn't work all the time."

Denecia may sound like a fire-breathing dragon, but she's really a cheery, spirited, gutsy 21-year-old with a strong



"I admire nature and the outdoors so I absolutely love hiking," says Denecia, so every weekend in Montserrat a group of like-minded people would go hiking through various trails. "On this particular day [in March] we went into the unsafe zone and walked to the top of St. Georges Hill where we had a panoramic view of the volcano," she said, as she shared the photo she took (below). Above, Denecia West on the green St. Augustine campus. PHOTO: SAFIYA ALFONSO

sense of purpose, and one of them is to improve the quality of life for people generally.

She grew up in post-volcano Montserrat, being just three when Soufrière erupted in 1995. The island, which once had a population of around 12,000, is really a massive re-building project, with almost everything either still under construction, newly-built, or about to begin.

Nearly two-thirds of the island has been uninhabitable since then, and more than half the people have packed up and moved out of the British dependency. The population now stands at just under 6,000, a little less than students graduating from this campus every year, or just around half of the Queen's Park Oval's capacity.

The eruption took away half of the country in more than one way, slashing a line right through its belly, disgoring countless families, many of whom had to be separated for long periods, ruining the economy (once a musician's recording paradise), and virtually rendering the 16km x 11km island invisible to even its nearest neighbour to the north, Antigua.

Living in an environment where services were always strained and limited, Denecia developed a fierce revulsion for inefficiency and corruption, and a desire for adventure, for stepping out of the confines of this space. So when she heard of the scholarship, she jumped at it, quickly applying to the St. Augustine campus and barely making the deadline.

She'd heard Trinidad was a "big bacchanal city," a giant ongoing party, and when she landed at Piarco International Airport, the first shock was the highways—the number of lanes, the volume of traffic—it was unlike the simple, uncluttered roads back home. Then, the taxi driver warned her about crime.

Crime! The murder figures astound and scandalize her. In Montserrat, we may have a murder once every three or four years, she says. The biggest crimes are petty theft.

"I lived by myself for two years. For the first two months I didn't realise that my sliding door couldn't close. I'd been sleeping in my bed, I'd been walking around my house, I left my house and came back, and the sliding doors never closed. Never locked. And nothing has happened to me. Nothing has ever happened to me. You know how many people fall asleep and leave their doors open? And here's another thing. I know this one is going to catch you off. You're leaving your car, and you want to leave the windows down, you leave the key inside; because if rain falls, somebody is going to come and close up the window for you."

Nobody would drive off with it?

"And go where?" she asks.

That's when the enormity of this young woman's leap from Montserrat to St Augustine really hits you and you want to cheer her on through the remarkable journey she has just begun.





When Eric Williams inscribed *From Columbus to Castro* to me in 1970, the seed of CARIFTA had sprouted; the Caribbean Community and Common Market was on its way to being agreed. Work on the Treaty to formalise and fill it out was in hand under the guidance of William Demas at the Secretariat as he toiled in the vineyard of regional economic integration and inspired a generation of West Indian regionalists: economists and others. The Treaty was signed at Chaguaramas on July 4, 1973—the original Treaty of Chaguaramas—signed initially by Prime Ministers Errol Barrow, Forbes Burnham, Michael Manley and Eric Williams. The signing of the Treaty has been described as “a landmark in the history of West Indian people;” and so it was.

But we had flattered to deceive. We gloried in the parchment, but ignored what it required. Within years, we had relapsed into inertia and worse. For seven years, from 1975 to 1982, the Heads of Government Conference—with the Common Market Council, CARICOM’s ‘principal organ’—did not meet.

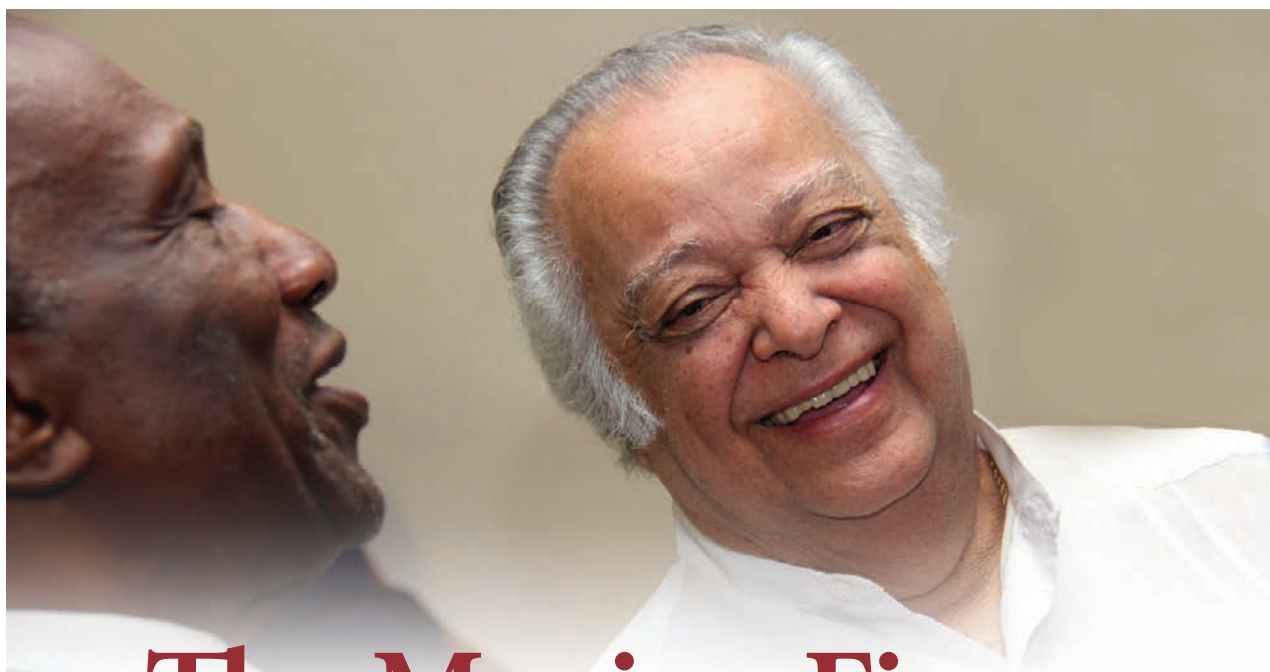
No wonder that CARICOM languished during the 1980s as well. But towards the end of the decade fortunes changed. Michael Manley replaced Seaga in Jamaica and in Trinidad and Tobago A.N.R. Robinson entered the vineyard lamenting CARICOM’s lack of “*not only political but philosophical underpinnings.*” Manley brought Jamaica back to its Caribbean roots; but it was Robinson who helped CARICOM return to its intellectual moorings. His Paper addressed to the 1989 Heads of Government Conference at Grand Anse, Grenada, which he entitled ‘*The West Indies Beyond 1992*’ was a wake-up call to the region. 1992 was 500 years since Columbus’ mis-named voyage of “discovery.”

Though I was in London at the time his paper was being prepared, the Prime Minister consulted with me on it. I was enthused that a new leadership was emerging. The response of his colleagues at Grand Anse was equally encouraging, and among the conclusions embodied in the “*Grand Anse Declaration and Work Programme for the Advancement of the Integration Movement*” was:

“We are determined to work towards the establishment in the shortest possible time of a single market and economy for the Caribbean Community.”

It is now more than 25 years since that assertion. West Indian technicians took their leaders to the brink of implementation with the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas. But there was no action—no political action, no political will to act. In all the years, over two decades, nothing decisive has happened to fulfil the integration dream of Grand Anse.

Twenty years ago, in 1993, following the rejection of the West Indian Commission’s proposal for an executive authority for the Caribbean Community, I expressed concern that the emphasis of the political and bureaucratic establishment thereafter would be on “sovereignty” and national turf in general—a cloistered immaturity; because now, in the era of globalisation, sovereignty has so little content. How, for example, has the individual sovereignty of Caribbean countries insulated them from the power of external forces? The World Bank has graduated them from concessional financing; the OECD has imposed criteria for financial services that are enforced by the IMF; the WTO has refused to accord special and differential treatment to the small and vulnerable economies of the region; the 27-



The Moving Finger OF HISTORY

nation EU demanded reciprocity with each of the Caribbean countries individually under an Economic Partnership Agreement; and several of the region’s governments have individually entered economic and financing arrangements with China which lack any real negotiation.

Powerlessness, not power, is the political reality at every national level. Sovereignty, still touted, has lost much of its meaning. Yet West Indian governments, unable to assert it in the wider world, seek fulfilment in asserting it against each other.

Have West Indian leaders been advised that all is well? No, of course not. In the face of the storm, they have sought shelter in the old refuge of “local control,” not the new haven of regional integration. CARICOM’s leaders appear to have settled for nominal unity—the lowest level of regionalism consistent with identity. So, it seems that where vision is vital, there is stagnation; where leadership is essential, there is inertia. But, to pause in a rapidly moving world is really to stop; and to pause in mid-flight is to plummet.

It is not as if the region’s political leaders are not able and enlightened West Indians. Each of them possesses these qualities and more. So why, when acting collectively, does a vision of Caribbean integration elude them and leadership to drive the process lapse? It is because both vision and leadership point to the necessity for them to share control—and sharing requires a commitment to mature regionalism.

If in 300 years the Caribbean has not reached there, will it ever? I know that the region must; and I believe that it can. But, in doing so it must recapture the spirit of its earlier efforts that, after the federal project failed, brought the region from CARIFTA to CARICOM and saw it deal with the fledgling European Community with a unity then that was stronger than theirs. It is important to retain the vision of “*Time for Action*” and fulfil the hopes of West Indians for West Indian lives.

It is instructive that, while last year Caribbean leaders were “pausing” integration, there appeared in the Barbados

Nation newspaper an account of a verbatim conversation with a local food vendor. I value the vendor’s sentiments, expressed in her own words, for their honest reflection of how West Indian people feel:

“From Jamaica to Guyana is one West Indian nation. What’s the reason for a CARICOM passport if we can’t have a Caribbean nation? I can’t tell you what a Bajan is, because what you find in a Barbadian, you find in a Trinidadian, in a Vincentian, in a Jamaican. Because people are just people; and West Indian people, we are a gem. I don’t see Grenadians, Guyanese, St. Lucians. I see people. The only thing that separates us is us.”

I meant to stop there. But no conversation with you tonight can now exclude the cornerstone decision of the Caribbean Court of Justice in the Myrie case given last Friday. My West Indian vendor should feel good. The CCJ confirmed her assertion that “from Jamaica to Guyana is one West Indian nation.”

Its finding on the facts about Ms Myrie’s mistreatment is timely and, I feel, incontrovertible. But its greatest contribution is the regional jurisprudence it affirmed. The ruling has established the paramountcy of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas over national law—in regional matters. It has confirmed the status of the Treaty as the Constitution of the CARICOM Caribbean—a founding document which no claim to national sovereignty can transgress. It has taken great learning and courage for the CCJ to pronounce it in so erudite and authoritative a manner. To shun the Court in its wider jurisdiction is now a reflection on the country opting out.

Now, let us converse.

In 2011, Professor Norman Girvan, myself, and a team of researchers from the UWI Institute of International Relations (IIR) undertook a wide-ranging study which sought to assess the state of the regional integration process in general, and CARICOM in particular. We interviewed over 100 key stakeholders from across the region, and our study came to two main conclusions. First, we discovered that there is huge attachment to integration and a strong desire from people across the Caribbean to see it succeed. However, second, there appears to be an almost similarly large degree of pessimism regarding the likelihood of this happening, and a generalised perception that the integration process, as it is presently conceived, is in steep decline.

So how can these two apparently competing tendencies be reconciled? In our study, we suggested 20 recommendations which would require vision, ambition and a complete restructuring of, not just CARICOM, but both the rationale and apparatuses for Caribbean regionalism more broadly. Very few of these ideas have gained traction, but we did nonetheless set out an expansive and optimistic vision for what regional integration might become.

More recently, the CARICOM Secretariat itself commissioned a report by the Landell Mills development consultancy. This was markedly narrower, more technical and constrained in its scope. It focused specifically on the operation of the Secretariat itself, and suggested a slimming of the institution's focus to simply deal with a number of priority areas in which policy could be implemented. Beyond this, CARICOM's ambition and responsibility would be drastically curtailed.

What we have, then, are essentially two competing visions of the future of integration. There is the view encapsulated in the IIR report which can be considered an optimistic, yet perhaps less realistic and excessively hopeful view, which sees both CARICOM and the wider integration process that it underpins in a considerably more expansive light. Then there is the second view, which is notably more austere, but perhaps more pragmatic regarding the likely capacity of CARICOM to effect meaningful transformation, and which effectively sees the institution shrinking to take on a necessarily more narrow, but arguably more focused, portfolio of responsibilities.

It is very much within the contours of this second view that Secretary-General Ambassador Irwin LaRocque's own vision for CARICOM—which was the subject of his Distinguished Lecture at the St Augustine campus of The UWI on October 3—can be understood.

In many respects, LaRocque's lecture was deeply impressive. He made a convincing case for the defence of the institution, highlighting a number of areas of successful policy development about which the public are often poorly informed. He quite rightly noted that CARICOM is the longest surviving integration movement in the developing world, and globally is second only to the European Union (EU). He also emphasised that the test of CARICOM's success is not simply about what happens in the Secretariat, but should rather be ascertained by reflecting on the myriad institutions—of which there are more than 20—which orbit it.

Moreover, the Secretary-General's analysis of the problems afflicting the regional integration process was candid, lucid and sobering. He displayed a shrewd awareness of the changing regional, hemispheric and global context in which CARICOM is operating. A number of processes, such as the inability of Caribbean countries—which are relatively better off in GDP per capita terms than those in other developing regions—to access concessional financing,

A Vision for CARICOM?

BY MATTHEW L. BISHOP



and the huge debt burdens that many are carrying, all militate against a commitment to the implementation of regional edicts which are often perceived as being expensive. LaRocque was also quite right, in my view, to stress that integration has to be about much more than trade, something which has dominated the process since the establishment of the CSME and the broader dominance of neoliberal ideas since the 1980s.

Where I am perhaps less in agreement was in his assertion that, too often, “we set ourselves over-ambitious targets which doom us to failure.” My disagreement with this notion stems from the fact that it reflects the fundamental—and perhaps unbridgeable—divide between the two positions encompassed within the IIR and Landell Mills reports respectively.

On the reading advanced by Ambassador LaRocque—which, given his role and the very difficult job that he has to do to balance a range of competing tendencies—the contours of the possible are necessarily perceived as being heavily constrained. This is further reflected in the solutions which he advanced during his lecture: focusing on the kinds of priority areas identified in the Landell

Mills report, engaging in a three-year restructuring of the CARICOM Secretariat, undertaking consultations relating to economic recovery, strengthening governance, improving infrastructure and so on.

Moreover, he ended by posing a number of salient questions:

- *Should we deepen or widen?*
- *Can we do both at the same time?*
- *Should sanctions be introduced to ensure compliance?*
- *What are the most appropriate governance arrangements?*

The problem, as I see it, is that we know the answers to these questions. Many reports have been written by the region's finest minds—from Sir Shridath Ramphal's 1992 report of the West Indian Commission, *Time for Action*, to Professor Norman Girvan's *Single Development Vision* of 2006, and Professor Vaughan Lewis's 2007 report on creating new institutions of CARICOM governance—which offer wide-ranging prospectuses for infusing the integration process with energy and direction.

However, the kinds of answers that all of them proposed do unfortunately exist well outside the constraints within which Ambassador LaRocque himself, and our regional technocrats, are operating. Moreover, they all involve deeply *political*, rather than simply *technical* solutions.

And this brings us full circle: LaRocque's proposed solutions are, within these perceived constraints, about the best that we can hope for. There is, for example, little doubt that the Secretariat itself requires a significant degree of institutional transformation.

However the travails in which the CARICOM Secretariat finds itself are of a second order nature, and they only exist as a reflection of a series of much deeper problems. Consequently, the proposed technical solutions are largely palliatives, aimed at treating symptoms, not the first order problem of the core sickness itself.

The central aspect of this is the enduring unwillingness of the regional political elite to cede power to regional institutions with the prerogative to enforce compliance and implement regional policy. This is something the EU—a regional grouping of countries with far less in common than those in the Caribbean—managed 20 years ago. Even the OECS, as Ambassador LaRocque himself noted, has managed it too (with the signing of the Revised Treaty of Basseterre in 2011).

When viewed in this light, CARICOM's performance unfortunately appears distinctly less impressive. Simply because it has survived for 40 years, does not mean that it will remain relevant for another 40. My sense is that, without a rediscovery of the political purpose of integration, and a conscious widening of the boundaries of the possible by those in power in the region, a period of decline could well become terminal. It barely needs saying that such an eventuality would be an absolute tragedy.

“LaRocque was also quite right, in my view, to stress that integration has to be about much more than trade, something which has dominated the process since the establishment of the CSME and the broader dominance of neoliberal ideas since the 1980s.”



OUR CAMPUS



Methanex trainees look on with ASTT Programme Coordinator, Amoy Boodoo (centre), as an Autism Place volunteer bakes some goodies using the new stove donated through the Methanex-led project. The Autistic Society of Trinidad and Tobago was founded in 1990 to support persons with autism and their families through a parent support group. The executive and staff comprise parents of persons with autism and operate on a voluntary basis. They help these persons achieve their full potential through education, training and advocacy.

Students Help at Autism Place

In August, seven graduate trainees and vacation interns from The UWI took time off from their assignments at the Point Lisas-based methanol producer, Methanex Trinidad Limited, with nine other trainees to install equipment and appliances at the Autism Place in D'Abadie.

In this programme, students are chosen from different fields of study and the internship merges dimensions of exposure including practical work experience, mentorship and facilitating a meaningful contribution to society. UWI graduates also have an opportunity to apply for the Graduate-In-Training programme with the prospect of working at Methanex Trinidad Limited.

Charles Percy, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Methanex Trinidad, outlined the significance of the project: "As part of our holistic development training, we challenge our trainees to plan and implement a project that has positive social impact. Through the project at Autism Place, they have improved the facilities, and consequently, the level of care that the dedicated volunteers are able to provide."

Faheema Baksh, a Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering student, related her transformative experience.

"At first I was just excited by the opportunity to gain work experience at a world-leading company like Methanex.

That perspective changed quickly, because I realised how much deeper this was than just a 'vacation job'. They guided us with professional experience, but it was the inculcation of the Methanex value systems that made this experience fulfilling. Working with my peers from UWI in giving back to the kids at Autism Place has changed my life. No matter where I end up working eventually, I will always seek to make a difference and give back to society as Methanex has shown us that we can."

The Methanex projects ties in perfectly with the concept of service learning and community engagement that is being stressed at The UWI St Augustine campus. Deputy Principal, Professor Rhoda Reddock, under whose office this initiative falls, supports the idea that it works at many levels: not only for the recipients, but because it is an important pillar in the development of students. It enriches everyone.

"Over our 23 years of existence, we've depended on the goodwill of people and organizations to operate this facility. We have 450 families accessing the services and each week, we cater to approximately 60 persons with a range of disabilities. These tools which the Methanex team has given us, will enhance the autism-friendly environment we offer to the persons who access our facilities," said Teresina Sieunarine, President of the Autistic Society of Trinidad and Tobago (ASTT).

Disability Studies at the Faculty of Medical Services

The Unit of Public Health and Primary Care at the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex, Mt. Hope has integrated Social Disability Studies into the teaching programme of fourth-year medical students at the Faculty of Medical Sciences. Via an "Introduction to Social Disability Studies," lecturer Maria Thomas, assisted by Teresina Sieunarine led students through a process of sensitization that included building awareness of the experiences of persons living with disabilities. Ms. Stacy Parris, a member of the Disabled People's International, Trinidad and Tobago Chapter, delivered a stirring rendition of one of her poems, entitled, "I have a question—What do you see when you look at me?" The process continued with information on the different models of disabilities, appropriate language for referring to persons with disabilities, and the importance of advocacy to ensure the application of human rights for this population.

Social Disability Studies at UWI began in Behavioural Sciences as an effort to support the integration of persons with disabilities into society. This social policy initiative from the Social Work Unit is designed to assist the social functioning of the community of persons with special needs by changing attitudes in the wider population. Students of Behavioural Sciences have benefited from this course and some have gone on to promote the rights of persons with disabilities in their various fields. The introduction of this course to medical students extends Social Disability Studies beyond the social sciences to professionals who would interact and treat with persons with disabilities during their own work experience. The two-hour lecture will be repeated every eight weeks to reach the six groups of clinical students.



Open Campus Valedictorian

A Trinidadian, Nikishia Greenidge was the 2013 Valedictorian at the Graduation ceremony of The UWI Open Campus on October 12.

A former student of Vessigny Secondary School in Trinidad,

where she now teaches, 33-year-old Nikishia was honoured for excellence in Additional Mathematics and Mathematics, the subjects she loves most, and which she has taught for 12 years. She also offers free extra classes and volunteers at the National Centre for Persons with Disabilities. As a paraplegic, Nikishia has faced several challenges, but she prefers that those who see her disability in the context of what she should not be able to do, instead seek to understand better the social and physical limitations and boundaries that exist, and design methods to circumvent these difficulties.

She had acquired a BSc degree in Information Systems and Management in 2004 as an external student of the University of London, and then, to further her interest in Mathematics Education, she enrolled in 2009 with the UWI Open Campus to read for the online BEd Degree in Secondary Mathematics Education, which she completed this year with First Class Honours. She has already begun a MSc degree programme in Mathematics at the St. Augustine Campus, and plans to read for the postgraduate diploma in Instructional Design with the UWI Open Campus.

OUR FILM



The Shattered Bug

Film student fights her fear of flying high

Maryam Mohamed says she struggles with her shyness. PHOTO: SAFIYA ALFONSO

BY VANEISA BAKSH

When she was 12, she got her first camcorder and discovered a world waiting to be recorded. Soon, everyone in the family expected her to be the one taking pictures, recording their gatherings. She edited her first home film then too, and has even done music videos with her cousins.

For Maryam Mohamed, filming has been a passion for exactly half her life—she's 24—so when she finished her BSc in Sociology with a minor in Psychology, she was thrilled to begin a double major in the Faculty of Humanities at The UWI; a BA in Film Studies and Film Production.

For her dedication and application to her studies—she sounds like a model student—she was given the bpTT Student Award at the just concluded Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival, a prize she is careful to point out is not for her short film, "If I could Fly," but for her "studentship."

"A group of students from UWI film programme was nominated for the award (based on our GPA) then we had to write an essay stating why they should select us to go to the International Rotterdam Film festival and how will this benefit us personally and professionally. The award is sponsored by bpTT and it's an all-expense paid trip to Holland for the film festival," she explains.

For Maryam, this award is thrilling, because while she loves the film world, she hardly has plans to enter it. She's shy, she says, and just the thought of attending the award ceremony, or the film sessions where she had to talk about her work, terrified her.

But it's clear the bug has bitten her bad, because

when it was time to go, she went, and when it was time to talk, she talked, and now she says it was a "great experience."

Yet curiously, she does not harbour any desire to make the film world her career—at least not in a big, full-fledged way.

Hijabs are her customary wear, and her father is an Imam. Is it because it might go against her religious beliefs?

"A lot of people think I can't do a lot because of restrictions," she says. "I believe I can work around it. There aren't many Islamic films..."

She says she feels her own beliefs have shaped what she wants to do. She wants to do films that send a message to people because she believes moral standards have dropped and vices have risen.

She feels that her psychology and sociology training has brought an additional dimension to her script writing and perhaps this might bring some transformative, persuasive element to her film making.

In any case, she says she doesn't want to leave Trinidad to "go to Hollywood," for example. She grew up in Caroni Village with her parents, her three siblings, her grandmother, an aunt—a really extended family setting—and she feels strongly about these family ties.

"I believe in family and that kind of vibes," she says, noting that on campus, for instance, she's found that for students, friends mostly take precedence.

"My family are my friends," she says with a big smile. And theirs is the world she wants to capture on film.

trinidad
+tobago
film / 13
festival

FILM FESTIVAL RESULTS

A total of 142 films were screened as part of the 2013 trinidad+tobago film festival (ttff), which officially closed on October 1, right after its awards ceremony on September 29.

Of the 50 feature films screened at ttff, 23 were Caribbean and diaspora films, which represented 14 countries. Five of the films were world premieres, while nine enjoyed their Caribbean premiere, and one its international premiere. In addition to the feature films, the Festival screened 56 Caribbean and diaspora shorts, as well as 36 experimental works from the Caribbean and the diaspora in its New Media section.

ttff 2013 Competition Winners

JURY PRIZE: BEST FEATURE

MELAZA, directed by CARLOS LECHUGA (Cuba)

*The jury awarded a special mention in this category to GOD LOVES THE FIGHTER directed by Damian Marcano (Trinidad and Tobago / USA)

JURY PRIZE: BEST DOCUMENTARY

There was a joint first prize: FATAL ASSISTANCE – directed by Raoul Peck (Haiti) / SONGS OF REDEMPTION, directed by Miquel Galofre and Amanda Sans (Jamaica / Spain)

JURY PRIZE: BEST LOCAL FEATURE FILM

GOD LOVES THE FIGHTER, directed by Damian Marcano (T&T / USA)

JURY PRIZE: BEST SHORT

There was a joint first prize: PASSAGE - directed by Kareem Mortimer (Bahamas) / PREVIOUS SCENES – directed by Aleksandra Maciuszek (Cuba / Poland)

JURY PRIZE: BEST LOCAL SHORT

AFTER MAS, directed by Karen Martinez (Trinidad and Tobago)

BEST CARIBBEAN FILM BY AN INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR

3 KIDS, directed by Jonas D'Adesky (Haiti)

*The jury awarded two special mentions in this category: TULA: THE REVOLT, directed by Joeren Linders (Curacao / The Netherlands) and THE STUART HALL PROJECT, directed by John Akomfrah (UK)

NEW MEDIA PRIZE

Olivia McGilChrist

PEOPLE'S CHOICE – FEATURE

GOD LOVES THE FIGHTER, directed by Damian Marcano

PEOPLE'S CHOICE – DOCUMENTARY

SONGS OF REDEMPTION, directed by Miquel Galofre and Amanda Sans

PEOPLE'S CHOICE – SHORT

JAB IN THE DARK, directed by Robert McFarlane

RBC FOCUS PITCH PRIZE

Shakira Bourne

BPTT STUDENT AWARD

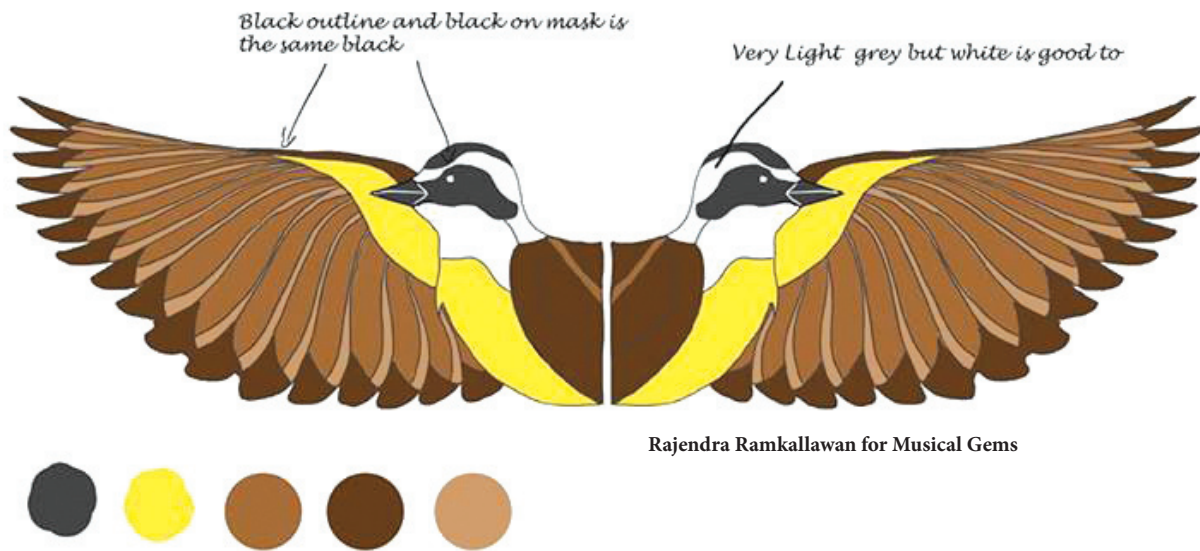
Maryam Mohamed

BPTT FILM IN DEVELOPMENT AWARD

Kevin Adams

OUR ARTS

Color Palette



Rajendra Ramkallawan for Musical Gems

Visual Arts Students Design for Pan



Curepe Scherzando by Nelshan Phillips



Curepe Polyphonics by Leann Marie Gill

Four Visual Arts students at the Department for Creative and Festival Arts were recognized at a Pan Trinbago Award Ceremony on October 9 for their designs in the recent SteelFesTT 2013 parade.

The students recognized for Best Student Design are **Nelshan Phillips** for Curepe Scherzando, and **Leann Marie Gill** for Curepe Polyphonics. Honourable mentions were made of **Marsha Trepte** for the design for Hummingbird Pan Groove, and **Rajendra Ramkallawan** for Musical Gems.

Twenty-five students participated in the project, led by lecturers **Lesley-Ann Noel**, **Jade Achoy** and **Gerrel Saunders** and with the support of recent graduates **Rishma Hansil** and **Christel Mohammed**. The SteelfesTT project provided an excellent opportunity for the students and staff to test their design and project management skills.

Starry Scholarship



Students of the theatre arts at The UWI stand to benefit from a scholarship that offers training in any aspect of theatre, with an emphasis on acting. Profits from the local staging of "O Starry Starry Night," Nobel Laureate **Derek Walcott's** latest play, will fund this scholarship.

The play, which premiered to sold-out audiences and enthusiastic reviews at the Lakeside Theatre, Essex University, England, premieres in Trinidad and Tobago at the Central Bank Auditorium, Port of Spain with a Gala on Thursday, November 7 from 7.30pm (tickets: \$500) followed by three more performances on Friday 8, Saturday 9 and a matinee on Sunday 10.

Any profits will be allocated to the **Derek Walcott Scholarship for Outstanding Students** in the Theatre Arts at The UWI, St Augustine campus. An Actor's Workshop for UWI and University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) students will also be held in November.

The play is a highly poetic recording of one of the most significant and notorious moments in the history of painting: Paul Gauguin's visit to a troubled Vincent van Gogh in Arles, France 1888. The lead roles feature Trinidad and Tobago artists **Wendell Manwarren** and **Nigel Scott**, as well as European-based compatriots, **Brian Green** and St Lucian actress, **Nathalie La Porte**; playing alongside British actors **David Tarkenter** and **Michael Prokopiou**. The musical score, which was composed by long-time friend and collaborator of Walcott's, the award-winning composer **Galt Mc Dermott** (*Hair*) will be performed by musician **Gene Lawrence**. The production is directed by **Walcott** and **Barbara Pierson**. The play will be published in 2014 by Faber and Faber (UK) and Farrar, Strauss and Giroux (USA).

■ **General/Reserved Tickets (\$200/\$250)** are available at Paper Based, Normandie Hotel, St Ann's 625-3197, or at the Alliance Française, St Clair, or email starrynighttrinidad@gmail.com or call 681-3358 for delivery.

Home of My Heart

How a PhD art student found her calling

BY PAT GANASE

When someone says they've been to Haiti, spent time in Haiti, found a place in that country's landscape, been accepted by a warm and friendly people, an unsaid question forms on the faces. *Why?* This may be followed by a shift of light—like a passing cloud—a revision of the regard for the one who went.

"Haiti does not exist really in our minds, our geography," says Kwynn Johnson. "If someone has to think about Haiti, they might think voodoo, or collapsed economy. Dr Matthew Smith of Jamaica says, 'People are just curious about Haiti, not interested?'"

Johnson went to Haiti for the first time in December 2010. The earthquake had occurred on Tuesday, January 12 at 16.53—the epicentre was Leogane, and the destruction was terrible in Port-au-Prince and the coastal town of Jacmel, some 20 miles or so outward from the centre. It is estimated that over three million were directly affected in a population of 12 million. Hundreds of thousands died. It may take up to 12 years to clear the rubble, many more to rebuild some of the structures. Today, the presidential palace has been demolished; who knows if it will be re-built. "Not unique to Haiti," she clarifies, "after the 1985 Mexico City quake, the last tent city was removed 15 years later."

In 2010, Kwynn simply felt drawn to Haiti. She had spent seven years at the Carnival Institute with Pat Bishop, building the first and only costume archive. Perhaps, she thought, she might undertake a PhD study; something about the "vulgar" way the international media covered the dead and dying. The UWI Cultural Studies PhD gave ample latitude to an artist who had been practising and exhibiting for almost ten years, working in an eclectic range of media from oils and watercolours to embroidery. The PhD prospectus is liberal and encouraging: *Research by practice can be considered an active engagement with theory, arguments, thoughts and ideas not only through the written word but also through the critical process of developing/creating paintings, drawings, photographs, sculptures, films and videos, performance events (dance, theatrical works), musical compositions, installations and other manifestations of practice.*

Most of 2010 went in planning to travel to a devastated country during its months of crisis. "There was cholera too," she said. "I didn't know how to get there, how to get around, or what I would do." She arrived in Port-au-Prince just after Christmas, for a two-week field trip, her first time in Haiti. She was walking around Port-au-Prince, and in one photograph caught the light through a rose window in the roofless Notre Dame de l'Assomption. It was light that would not have been there had the cathedral not been decapitated.

On that same field trip, a chance excursion led to another revelation. "I wanted to find a particular papier-mâché Carnival mask and I was told that I should go to Jacmel. So I went." Serendipity lives in her recollection of that first visit. "Jacmel chose me," she says.



Manoir Alexandra, Jacmel Haiti, 2010

She found a city of artists living in the coastal town after which the port in New Orleans had been patterned. "Journalists, writers, musicians, artists have always chosen Haiti. I am inspired by the fount of Haitian history and culture through Walcott, Rudder, CLR James, Lloyd Best and so many others."

Those who had been living and working there when the earthquake struck had re-composed themselves to continue. It was a lesson in continuity and creativity in what she calls a ruinscape. Kwynn found accommodation in Jacmel with two filmmakers and has been there on seven field trips so far.

"It's so comfortable being in Haiti. Everything feels like home—the people, language, seafood, art galleries, carnival, artisan studios, Cine Institute, Haitian rum, fried plantains, simplicity ... life."

"One day, I used the words, *vie-ki-vie, dreevay*, and everyone laughed and told me those were Haitian. When I am in Haiti, I imagine this is what Trinidad was like a hundred years ago," she says.

An earthquake alters life—like the Indian Ocean quake and tsunami at Christmas 2004; the tsunami in Japan in 2010; or the San Francisco earthquake of 1906. But the ruined landscape—the dislocation—she believes, might be necessary to create cracks in our perception, and let light in.

Jan limye a rantré (how the light enters; comment pénétrer la lumière)—as the body of work that makes up this Haiti exhibition is called—captures the ruinscape of Port-au-Prince and Jacmel. These drawings were made on location during her field trips. Many are composites of fractured details, views and human figures weighted down with loads on their heads casting heavy shadows. Her choice of graphite on vellum is for an ephemeral ghostly effect: ruinscapes that have lost solidity and become as translucent as the spirits that traverse them.

Introducing the exhibition, Kwynn wrote, "My drawings represent places and spaces that continue to be meaningful to those who lived through the 2010 earthquake."

"This practice-based PhD is a study of the visual languages used to describe both loss as well as continuity." Twenty graphite drawings on vellum were selected for the just ended exhibition in Trinidad.

Next, she travels to Jacmel to open on November 15. "I hope I have done justice to this town that allowed me to work there for three years. I hope I have produced an honest view of the way life continues." She is hoping that *Jan limye a rantré* has a part in the collective memory, in the way that the rubble art of Haitian artist Anderson Ambroise does. (Ambroise has taken hand-sized fragments of tile and wall from the rubble of broken buildings and paints on them.)

These drawings are not art therapy, she says. "The artist creates works of art to re-inject meaning"—to ruined architecture, to shattered lives. She refers to the poem *A City's Death by Fire* by the young Derek Walcott after the town of Castries was burnt.

Three years later, Haiti is the home of her heart. After the presentation of her dissertation, she intends to "continue this body of work for the next ten years. Haiti is my life's work, I know that now." She will go to the Citadelle up north; and then west to Jeremie the town of poets; to be the Trini artist travelling in Haiti "as long as I can do it."

She calls her Jacmel *City of Light*, a place where life is lived in the here and now, in friendships, in work, in simple acts of sharing a meal, a conversation, laughter, tears, light. "I felt the best way to write about my three years in Jacmel was to do so in a poem, and to speak about people and places dear to me." The poem reads in part:

*Launder your day in the basin bleu
Stop at Florita for wi-fi and coffee
Pickup a baguette at Cadet's boulangerie
Send me a vetiver bundle from Paskal
The power comes back at three.
Give Danticat a tourist mask
It will scare off the spirits at last.*

*Blan! Stop hovering over me,
You are blocking my light.*



The Exhibition mounted at Soft Box Studios

A Race to The Future

BY RAYMOND CHIN ASANG



Looking back, 2012 was always going to be the calm before the storm—with the big 10th anniversary looming. And so it was. The 2013 race brings together a stellar cast of runners from no fewer than nine countries that would make any regional road race proud, and affirms the UWI SPEC International Half-Marathon as an annual feature on our nation's sporting calendar.

Heading the list on the men's side are two proven Kenyan athletes: our 2011 and 2012 champion, Texas-based George Towett, and Michigan-based Philip Lagat. Towett is fresh from clocking 2:17:16 at the Akron Marathon in Ohio. Lagat was the Most Outstanding Foreign Athlete at the 2008 Southern Games, who moved up to the marathon last year and won the Quad Cities Marathon in 2:19:41.

For the very first time we will see a top Cuban road runner in our midst, Norbert Curbeco, who boasts a PB (personal best) of 1:04:21 in the Half. Jamaican marathon champion Rupert Green, four-time winner of the Reggae Marathon, who was the top Caribbean runner at last December's Run Barbados Half, will make his eagerly-anticipated bow to road running in Trinidad.

Pamenos Ballantyne needs no introduction to the Trinidad public, having been the dominant distance runner in the English-speaking Caribbean for the better part of 20 years. T&T's Richard Jones who finished in second place last year, 1 minute 19 seconds adrift of Towett, will lead the local challenge with the up-and-coming Matthew Hagley and the durable veteran Curtis Cox. Trinidad-based Kelvin Johnson will ensure that Guyana is represented at this forum.

There will be an intriguing three-way battle among the women. Our 2012 Champion and Caribbean distance-running queen, Tonya Nero of T&T, will be up against our 2009 Champion Nigerian-born Mary Akor and the exciting 27-year-old Karla Urbina Rojas of Venezuela for the top honours.

Mary Akor is the most well-known of our elite runners, having represented the USA at two IAAF World Championships marathons. She has run over 50 marathons. In her own words, she uses some marathons as long runs



and she just happens to win some. Amazingly, at the age of 36 last year, she clocked a PB of 1:14:19 in winning her hometown race, the Los Angeles Rock 'n Roll Half-Marathon. Incidentally, with both races on the same day she chose to run UWI SPEC this year. In May this year, she picked up US\$9,000 as the winner of the Pittsburgh Marathon in 2:37:35. Need we say more? Spectators are in for a treat.

In our 2004 inaugural race, Tonya Nero was barely 15 years old when she placed third among the women. She has now developed into the champion female distance runner we have been desperately seeking all these years, and for her, this 10th anniversary race may just be another step on the road to world class level. Like Mary, last year she did

a PB and set a new national record of 1:15:13 at the IAAF World Half-Marathon Championships in Bulgaria. Karla Rojas clocked 1:16:48 at the Samsung Half-Marathon in Caracas last year. That time would have been good enough to secure victory in each of the previous nine years except in 2006 when the classy Jemima Sumgong blitzed the course in 1:12:07. To be sure, we didn't expect 2013 to be an ordinary year.

I must thank my good friend, Raffique Shah, who acted with Dr Iva Gloudon as midwives to deliver this UWI SPEC Half-Marathon. I don't know how runners react to this thing that gets them out of bed at four or five in the morning to train to run 13.1 miles. Organising this race has not been easy. It is the largest mixed race (male and female) in Trinidad, and it was limited to 1,010 entries this year.

I would like to see a gradual increase in the number of participants, and for it to develop into an unofficial Caribbean half-marathon championship. I think we have taken a big step in that direction this year. However, in future it would help if our sister races in the Caribbean recognise that this one is held on the last Sunday of October, as it has been since 2010. This year the South-American 10K in Guyana is on the same day as ours. That effectively rules Cleveland Forde out of our race as he understandably will want to run his home race. Tonya Nero is the female defending champion of both events and the clash of dates put her in an awkward position. We hope such a situation could be avoided in future in the interest of the sport.

Looking further ahead, we hope to partner with NAAA/NACAC to host the NACAC Half-Marathon Championships one year which would bring to our shores the top distance runners of the USA, Mexico, Canada and the other NACAC countries.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks go to the many people who have contributed selflessly to get this race on the road today.

Raymond Chin Asang is Technical Director of the UWI SPEC International Half-Marathon.

10Q with Jason Williams



Jason “JW” Williams is a Trinidadian television and radio personality. He is one of the voices behind the **Red Hot Morning Show** on radio station **Red 96.7 FM**, and hosts the popular local primetime television programme **“Synergy Nights.”** He is also a soca artiste, most famously known for the 2010 hit **“Palance,”** with **Ancil ‘Blaze’ Isaac Jr.** JW’s chosen charity is **Break the Silence**, whose role and tireless cause he considers a crucial element in today’s society. His personal credo is “once you can believe it you can achieve it,” a testimony to the success he has achieved in his career. The **Break the Silence** Initiative seeks to raise awareness of child sexual abuse and incest, break the stigma and shame surrounding the issue, and to promote the revision of related child protection policies and programmes in T&T. Funds from the Half-Marathon would support the spread of the awareness-raising campaign (wall billboards during the UN’s International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence, Nov 25 to Dec 10, 2013) as well as to put related audio material (a seven-episode soap opera) on the radio.

1

As a child, what did you want to be as an adult?

I wanted to be in entertainment. I was quite a chatterbox and I love to entertain my family, once mum, sis and cousins were laughing I felt happy.

2

Now that you are an adult, how far away are you from that childhood vision?

I’m living my childhood ambition and it’s all good

3

How would you describe what you do professionally?

I describe it as a specialized field that one must have a natural knack for. It’s one that you could study for, but I think one must have a passion for it to bring quality entertainment to the table.

4

How has life changed for you since the runaway success of Palance in 2010?

It made me more visible and put me on the radar of a wider cross-section of locals, especially mature folks and extremely young children, so I’ve made it my business to conduct my business in a respectful and cordial manner since more people are looking on, especially the children.

5

What would you say made the video for it such a huge hit?

Its creativity, authenticity and innocence.

6

At very short notice, you agreed to be one of The 10 supporting the half-marathon. What made you say yes so quickly?

Because I’ve built a beautiful relationship with UWI over the years, the staff and Campus Principal really make me feel at home so I’ll always support any venture the campus is bringing to its students and supporters.

7

Your charity of choice is Break the Silence, how come?

I wanted to support a charity that’s helping young people cope with sexual abuse. It’s sometimes swept under the carpet and I would like to lend my voice and platform in the media to bring awareness and let young people who are in this predicament know there is help.

8

Would you say you are an athlete?

Not no big star athlete but I’m okay, always been very athletic. Tried everything in school twice.

9

You’ve been a great supporter of UWI events, and students love it when you host them on campus. What do you think makes them so hyped?

Just being natural and talking on a level that they understand. It also helps that I make them laugh with my antics and most times the Marketing team gives me lots of free stuff to distribute. Hmmm, now thinking about it, the UWI crew hype is over all the free-thing, not me... (sob, sad face).

10

Running 13.1 miles in a half-marathon is not easy at all, what’s your plan should you run out of steam?

\$5 Bus Route maxi... Who say ‘gustine!!!!

This year, as part of the special commemoration of this tenth year, a number of symbolic changes have been made. Registration will be open to the first 1010 runners; and the race gets going a bit earlier, starting at 10 minutes to six. The focus in this tenth year is giving; giving to charitable organisations, and 10 people were invited to champion 10 charities and to encourage the public, as well as staff and students to contribute \$10 towards one of these people and the money would go towards their chosen charity. Anyone can donate, even as groups, organizations, faculties; because the aim is to support the marathon and its related charities. Contributions can be made until November 15.

UWI CALENDAR of EVENTS

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2013

UWIAA DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

November 24

25 special UWI Alumni Awards will be presented on November 24, 2013, to celebrate The University of the West Indies Alumni Association's 25th anniversary year. All alumni of The UWI (degrees, diplomas, certificates) graduating between the 1960s and the present are eligible, EXCEPT current or retired full-time members of staff, and members of the current executive of the Alumni Association Chapter. Posthumous awards will not be made.

For more information, please contact: UWI Alumni Association, Trinidad & Tobago Chapter trinidad.tobago@alumni.uwi.edu



The University of the West Indies
Alumni Association
(Trinidad and Tobago Chapter)

TODAY

HALF-MARATHON DAY!

5.50am
SPEC, St. Augustine

This year, as part of the special commemoration of this tenth year of the UWI SPEC INTERNATIONAL HALF-MARATHON, the focus is on giving; giving to charitable organisations, and 10 people were invited to champion 10 charities and to encourage the public, as well as staff and students to contribute \$10 towards one of these people and the money would go towards their chosen charity.

Anyone can donate, even as groups, organizations, faculties; because the aim is to support the marathon and its related charities. Contributions can be made until November 15.

For further information on how you can donate, please contact Ms Renata Sankar, Marketing and Communications Office, UWI, St Augustine at Tel: 662-2002, ext 84245, or email at Renata.sankar-jaimungal@sta.uwi.edu



HOW NATIONS SUCCEED

November 7
Daaga Auditorium
St Augustine

The Open Lectures Committee of The UWI St Augustine, in collaboration with CARISCIENCE, the University of the Southern Caribbean (USC) and the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) hosts a Distinguished Open Lecture featuring Professor Calestous Juma of Harvard University, titled How Nations Succeed: Higher Education, Research and Technological Leapfrogging in Emerging Economies.

For more information, please visit <http://sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar/event.asp?id=2018>

GENDER TRANSFORMATIONS

November 6-8
UWI, St Augustine
Learning Resource Centre Auditorium
St Augustine

Under the auspices of the Institute for Gender and Development Studies (IGDS), Regional Coordinating Unit, Mona, the St Augustine Campus hosts the 20th Anniversary Conference on Gender Transformations in the Caribbean. The aim of the three-day regional conference is to map the legacy of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary discourses in the areas of Caribbean and diasporic research on gender.

For more information contact: IGDS at 662 2002 ext. 83573/83577, or igdsau2013@sta.uwi.edu



THE GREATEST PROFESSION

November 29, 2013
Daaga Auditorium,
UWI, St. Augustine

The UWI partners yet again with Guardian Group (Guardian Life of the Caribbean), to host their biennial Premium Open

Lecture. This year, the guest speaker is Dr Todd Zakrajsek of the Department of Family Medicine at University of North Carolina. Dr Zakrajsek will be presenting on the topic "TEACHING: Joys and Challenges of the Greatest Profession."

For more information, please contact: Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning at 662-2002 ext. 83591 or Marketing and Communications Office at ext. 83635.



Guardian Group
Guardian Life of The Caribbean Limited

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



SEISMIC RESEARCH CENTRE OPEN HOUSE LAST CHANCE!

Final Date:
November 21

The UWI Seismic Research Centre is celebrating 60 years and has been inviting the public to a free Open House on the last Thursday of every month at the Centre on Gordon Street, St Augustine. Each 90-minute session includes a tour of the Centre, demonstrations on earthquake and volcano monitoring techniques, safety and preparedness tips and information material. Time slots: 2pm, 3pm and 4.30 pm. 13 years and over. Space is limited.

For reservations and details call 662-4659 or email info@uwiseismic.com