



UWI TODAY

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES • ST AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

SUNDAY 12 JANUARY 2020



NEW SEMESTER, NEW YEAR, NEW DECADE

The sun sets behind the towering samaan tree next to the Faculty of Agriculture's Dudley Huggins Building at the UWI St Augustine Campus. The year 2019 is over and the 2020s have begun. At the time of this writing the campus is still quiet, waiting for the arrival of students for the second semester. Soon enough it will be bustling with students, staff and visitors, re-energised and ready for a new beginning. PHOTO: BRIAN COPELAND

ENVIRONMENT - 04

Human Impact

Global report reveals our toll on nature



ALTERNATIVE ENERGY - 06

Electric Power

Campus launches vehicle charging station



ARTS AND CULTURE - 08

On Stage, in Studio

DCFA's Season of the Arts



SPORTS RESEARCH - 12

Coding the Cricket

Engineers use tech to analyse the game



GAME CHANGER

Whatever your career aspirations, the UWI St. Augustine Campus is where tomorrow's game changers begin their journey. With fully accredited undergraduate and postgraduate programmes across eight diverse faculties, we produce distinctive graduates who innovate regionally and impact globally.

See what it's like to #BeUWI



THE ONLY CARIBBEAN
UNIVERSITY TO BE RANKED AMONG
Best in the World

Join the next cohort
of game changers in 2020!

APPLICATIONS OPEN
<https://sta.uwi.edu/apply>

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Decade of Community

Many of us, I hope all of us, have at least one story of a good neighbour. Over the Christmas holiday I heard one such story, recounted by a man who was born to a very young mother. The trauma of his birth left him with a misshapen head. However, there was a nurse in the neighborhood. And dutifully, for months, free of charge, she would come and mold and shape his infant head in her hands. That man is in his 40s now. The nurse has long passed. His head is quite normal. But the experience is so vivid to him that he still shares it with others. By all accounts he is a conscientious citizen, striving to return the gift that was given to him in his infancy.

I recount this story now at the beginning of the new year and the new decade because it has become increasingly clear that as a society we are dealing with struggles that material prosperity alone cannot repair. Towards the end of 2019 I was greatly impressed by the words of Reverend Dr Burchell Taylor, the outstanding Jamaican master of theology and citizen, at the UWI Mona Graduation Ceremony. He spoke forcefully and with moral clarity about the need for a “culture of neighbourliness”.

He called for the graduating students to find “a common cause that will make a difference to the common good”. He spoke of our region’s growing problems of “social disconnectedness”, “threatening incivility” and the “cruel inequities that push so many of our people to the walls of a marginal existence”. Dr Taylor’s message was powerful and necessary.

Here at UWI St Augustine and the wider University itself, we have placed great emphasis on improving our efficiency and unlocking the business potential within our campuses. I would argue that in this time of near unparalleled economic uncertainty in the Caribbean, productivity and efficiency are moral imperatives. We have the capability to unlock society’s economic potential. Therefore we must do it. We must lead by example. We must be enthusiastic advocates for entrepreneurship.

But there are other moral imperatives. Many of the stories we read in our news media clearly show that our people are suffering from more than a lack of financial resources. In the kinds of wrongdoing we see, in the ugly partisanship and



“Let us see if individually and collectively we could participate in establishing a common way of life that honours, emphasises and cherishes simply what it means to be a true human person.”

the sometimes inhumane discourse, it is clear that there are emotional and spiritual deficits as well. Money in itself cannot solve these issues.

This is why the humanities are so crucial to our well-being. In the final months of 2019 our Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA) within the Faculty of Humanities and Education hosted several student-led events under their Season of the Arts. Words cannot describe the enrichment, the positive impact on the soul that receiving the gifts of these talented young performers provides. In song, in dance, in dramatic performances and artistic works, I would recommend attending at least one DCFA event to everyone.

Art, ideas and spiritual systems help ground and guide us. They help us think collectively and compassionately. Hopefully they help us

recognise our own shortcomings. Hopefully they help us to think past material gain to emotional and spiritual fulfillment. As Dr Taylor so wonderfully put it:

“Let us see if individually and collectively we could participate in establishing a common way of life that honours, emphasises and cherishes simply what it means to be a true human person.”

In 2019, UWI St Augustine had incredible successes. Some of them were depicted in an outstanding end of year video that I invite everyone to watch on our UWI St Augustine Facebook page. But these are only some of the numerous achievements of our campus community in the final year of the last decade. I am pleased and proud of every success and impact we have made, whether big or small.

As Campus Principal, I want not only for our students to achieve their professional goals and make their big impacts on society. I want them to live for the small impact as well. I want them to be good neighbours. I want that one day—20, 30, 40 years from now—a single individual can still remember and still recount their neighbourly acts of kindness.

A healthy, peaceful, yet enriching 2020 to all!

Brian Copeland

PROFESSOR BRIAN COPELAND

Campus Principal

EDITORIAL TEAM

CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

Professor Brian Copeland

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Wynell Gregorio

AG. EDITOR

Joel Henry

email: joel.henry@sta.uwi.edu

CONTACT US

The UWI Marketing and Communications Office

Tel: (868) 662-2002, exts. 82013 / 83997
or email: uwitoday@sta.uwi.edu

■ ENVIRONMENT

LANDMARK GLOBAL ASSESSMENT

with UWT's Prof John Agard as co-author, published on human impact on nature

BY JOEL HENRY



At the time of this writing, a reported 32,400 square miles have burned in Australia, impacting more than estimated half a billion animals and potentially killing millions. A few months earlier (August 2019) massive wildfires engulfed the Amazon in Brazil. They were believed to be caused by farming and logging. In recent years, Trinidad and Tobago has experienced horrendous floods, destroying homes, businesses and national infrastructure. Apart from climate change-related causes such as heavy and prolonged rainfall, experts point to the effects of man on the environment.

Deforestation, unsustainable land practices, species depletion through hunting and fishing, and accidents that damage and kill animals, plants, the land and sea; all around us, for centuries now, we have seen man's impact on the earth and its life. Now a global collective of scholars have completed what has been called the "largest assessment of the state of nature".

Their findings were published in *Science*, one of the world's premier academic journals. Titled "Pervasive human-driven decline of life on Earth points to the need for transformative change", among the list of authors is The UWT's own Professor John Agard, an internationally-recognised expert on environmental and sustainability issues. Professor Agard is more than a co-author on the report. He is in fact one of the Coordinating Lead Authors of the global assessment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the body responsible for the report.

"The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change brought climate change to the fore. The next crisis is biodiversity loss," Agard, who is also Director of UWI St Augustine's Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and Professor of Tropical Island Ecology, explained. "So the model of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (of which he is also a review editor) was adopted to bring forth the issues surrounding nature and the ecosystem services nature provides to people."

The IPBES Global Assessment Report, released in *Science* on December, states that "Our comprehensive assessment of status, trends, and possible futures for nature and people suggests that action at the level of direct drivers of nature decline, although necessary, is not sufficient to prevent further deterioration of the fabric of life on Earth."

A reversal of recent declines and a sustainable global future, it says, "are only possible with urgent transformative change that tackles the root causes: the interconnected economic, sociocultural, demographic, political, institutional, and technological indirect drivers behind the direct drivers."

The Summary for Policy Makers (SPM) report, which was



approved by 132 governments including Trinidad and Tobago in May 2019, confirmed that a million species of plants and animals risk extinction within a matter of decades; almost three quarters of land and 66 per cent of marine environments have been significantly altered by humanity, and that more than 85 per cent of wetland areas have been lost. It states that many species that are large, slow-growing, habitat specialist or carnivores – such as large cats, large sharks, primates, reef-building corals and woody plants – are declining rapidly.

However, as Professor Agard points out, the report's purpose is to offer solutions to these critical biodiversity issues.

"The IPBES is taking a fresh approach. The starting point of the many governments taking part in this project is to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (set by the United Nations in 2015). So we are starting from there and working backwards to get there. What do we have to do? How do we have to change human behaviour to achieve these goals? It's called 'back-casting,'" Agard says.

The report emphasises five priority interventions ("levers") and eight leverage points for action to address the indirect drivers of social and economic systems (such as demographic, economic, political, and institutional arrangements) where they can make the greatest difference.

The five levers that emerged to bring about this transformative change are: (i) developing incentives and widespread capacity for environmental responsibility and eliminating perverse incentives; (ii) reforming sectoral and segmented decision-making to promote integration across sectors and jurisdictions; (iii) taking preemptive and precautionary actions in regulatory and management institutions and businesses to avoid, mitigate, and remedy the deterioration of nature, and monitoring their outcomes; (iv) managing for resilient social and ecological systems in the face of uncertainty and complexity to deliver decisions that are robust in a wide range of scenarios; and (v) strengthening environmental laws and policies and their implementation, and the rule of law more generally.

ENABLING TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE.

Another crucial aspect of the report is that it combines "hard climate science" with the social sciences in developing the levers and leverage points.

Professor Agard says, "half of the team assigned to me were social scientists. It was brilliant. I am accustomed to working only with natural scientists. It limits the thinking. This is new. This process changed my perspective. Sometimes I feel like I am in a time loop. People make the same decisions and we get the same result over and over again. But this new approach emphasises how you get transformative change. You do things differently. You make different decisions."

The report, he says is not about choosing either society or the natural world but rather finding "the right balance between protecting nature and the services nature provides to people."

Despite the fact that the data shows that unsustainable global trends in consumption and economic activity are compromising 80 per cent of the targets under the Sustainable Development Goals, the IPBES report points out that it is not yet too late to make a difference.

"Society has been responding but coordinated and robust international action is needed," a statement from IPBES says.

The statement revealed that parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) have decided that the IPBES Global Assessment Report will form the scientific and technical evidence base for the intergovernmental negotiations in 2020, to agree on a global biodiversity framework for the next decade and to replace the Aichi Biodiversity Targets that expire next year.

The report can be accessed in *Science* at
<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/366/6471/eaax3100>.

■ CAMPUS NEWS



Professor Eudine Barriteau, Cave Hill Campus Principal and Feminist Scholar, Awarded Barbados' Highest National Honour

Professor V Eudine Barriteau, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the Cave Hill Campus of The UWI, has been awarded Barbados' highest national honour – the Order of the Freedom of Barbados. She was among three who headed this year's list of national honourees to mark the 53rd anniversary of independence of Barbados.

Professor Barriteau has been conferred with the national honour for her outstanding contribution to tertiary education and pioneering leadership in

the development of gender studies and the promotion of gender equality. She is a Caribbean feminist, scholar and activist with considerable experience in executive administration and coordination of regional projects. She also has extensive research interests that encompass transformational educational leadership, feminist theory and investigations of the Caribbean political economy, and gender and public policy.

"I am simply overjoyed, humbled and deeply honoured to have been awarded the inaugural Order of Freedom of Barbados. It is an overwhelming feeling of appreciation to have my work and my commitment recognised in my lifetime," the Cave Hill Campus principal said, adding that "I am even more thrilled to make history as one of the first recipients of the Order of Freedom of Barbados. I have enjoyed the contributions I have made and have a deep sense of loyalty to Barbados which has embraced me and enabled my flourishing as a scholar and leader. Thank you, Barbados."

Professor Barriteau migrated from Grenada as a child in 1966. She earned a BSc honours degree from The UWI Cave Hill Campus in 1980 before going on to receive her masters and PhD at New York University and Howard University respectively. She has published 37 book chapters and peer-reviewed journal articles, including her first book, *The Political Economy of Gender in the Twentieth Century Caribbean*.

A recipient of numerous national, regional and international awards and recognitions, Professor Barriteau has also spearheaded a number of initiatives at The UWI. These include recommending the creation of a Faculty of Sport, launching the Smart Campus Initiative and proposing the establishment of a Faculty of Culture, Creative and Performing Arts, which comes into effect from August 1, 2020.



Seismologist Dr Joan Latchman Awarded for contribution to Regional Disaster Management

Dr Joan Latchman, Seismologist at The UWI Seismic Research Centre (UWI-SRC), has received a regional award for her contribution to disaster management in the Caribbean.

At a special ceremony on December 6, during the 11th Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management in Maho, Sint Maarten, Dr Latchman received the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) Council Award 2019 for her contribution to "knowledge management and learning for comprehensive disaster management."

The Council bestowed the honour on Dr Latchman after 47 years of service to geoscience knowledge and awareness in the region. She was the first of only two women to lead The UWI-SRC in its 66 years of operation.

Upon receiving her award from CDEMA, Dr. Latchman remarked "the opportunity and privilege have been mine to be involved in the monitoring, research and educational outreach of the SRC and to be one of its faces.... The SRC will continue to partner with regional and local preparedness agencies and land use planning authorities to promote safety, sustainability and resilience."

Dr Latchman's work on Tobago earthquakes and timely insights after regional earthquake events has made her "the earthquake lady" in Trinidad and Tobago and the face of earthquake research and knowledge Caribbean-wide. Beyond the region she spent two years at the International Seismological Centre, United Kingdom as a visiting seismologist and has articulated the Caribbean position at countless scientific conferences and meetings around the world.

Throughout her career Dr Latchman has been engaged in outreach, a critical aspect of comprehensive disaster management. This was evident during her tours of duty at the Montserrat Volcano Observatory in the early years of the Soufrière Hills Volcano eruption. Dr Latchman is an advocate for improving public understanding of the natural world and strengthening our ability to live safely in a hazard-prone region. A repository on Caribbean seismology, she is a mentor and supporter of many young researchers and has nurtured the next generation through her involvement in the Seismology in Schools programme.

For more information on earthquakes, volcanoes and the UWI-SRC, please visit www.uwiseismic.com, call 1-868-662-4659 or e-mail: uwiseismic@uwiseismic.com.



STICK FIGHTING: Players from Malvern Sports Club (left) and Queens Park Cricket Club (QPCC) collide during the UWI Sport and Physical Education Centre's (SPEC) Invitational Indoor Hockey Tournament. Held from January 3 to 5 at the UWI SPEC Indoor Court on the St Augustine Campus, the tournament brought together top women and men's teams. Eventually SIS took the women's trophy and QPCC the men's. PHOTO: KC MEDIA

■ ALTERNATIVE ENERGY



PHOTOS: ROMAIN DAVID

LIGHT BULB Moment

St Augustine Campus launches first level 2 electric vehicle charging station

BY OMEGA FRANCIS

“It’s time to be part of the transportation revolution,” says Dr Sanjay Bahadoorsingh, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (DECE), and Deputy Dean of Enterprise Development and Outreach for the Faculty of Engineering. Well, the transport revolution is finally here at the UWI St Augustine Campus. On Tuesday, December 10, 2019, the campus launched the first Level 2 (230 V) Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) charging station, inspected by the Government Electrical Inspectorate (GEI) at the Faculty of Engineering.

This project was a result of a collaborative effort between several stakeholders: The Faculty of Engineering; Massy Motors; BELEC Power and Energy Solutions Limited; the Government Electrical Inspectorate (GEI) in the Ministry of Public Utilities, and the Electric Vehicle Company of Trinidad and Tobago (EVCOTT).

However, this was not a project that began on a whim. It evolved from years of research by Dr Bahadoorsingh and many others at DECE and the Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering who saw the need to be prepared for the transition towards electric vehicles (EVs).

Internationally, there has been a transition from internal combustion engines (ICEs) towards EVs on a large scale. Norway is currently leading with the largest per capita fleet of electric vehicles in the world. China is also ahead with the largest electric bus deployment in the world. This adoption is not surprising as many car manufacturers (such as the Volkswagen Group and Daimler) have pledged to no longer be producing ICEs by 2025 as part of a projection towards a carbon-neutral world by 2050.

Transportation accounts for about 15 per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions globally. While Trinidad and Tobago’s emissions account for significantly less than 1 per cent of this, our country is at risk from many of the adverse effects of climate change (coastal erosion, powerful and more frequent hurricanes, and tropical storms are already evident). Making strides towards low carbon emissions is something that we have dedicated ourselves towards after signing on to the Paris Agreement on climate change to reduce greenhouse emissions in 2016 (ratified locally in 2018).

Earlier this year, the International Association of Universities (IAU) selected The UWI as its global leader in the mobilisation of research and advocacy for the achievement of a climate-smart world, and the St Augustine Campus is the E-mobility hub for the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.



At the charging station launch are Kevin Baboolal, Deputy Chief Electrical Inspector, Government Electrical Inspectorate; Jeremy Pagee, Assistant Vice President, Structural Changes, Massy Motors; Professor Chandrabhan Sharma, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (DECE) and Representative of the Electric Vehicle Company of Trinidad and Tobago; Winston Boodoo, Managing Director, BELEC Power and Energy Solutions Limited; Dr Sanjay Bahadoorsingh, Deputy Dean, Enterprise Development and Outreach and Senior Lecturer in the DECE; Dhanraj Samlal, Property and Projects Manager at Massy Motors; Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal of The UWI St Augustine Professor Brian Copeland; and Tabitha Gopaul, General Manager of BELEC.

At The UWI, the Faculty of Engineering began its journey towards their own investment into the global transition towards EVs in 2016, with an alignment between the Faculty, the GEI and T&TEC towards a public advisory with regards to the installation of charging infrastructure.

“We decided to tackle it from the perspective of what would ensure safe adoption and also allow the technology to be embraced and grow,” Dr Bahadoorsingh says about the project.

International best practices were investigated and considered; as safety in the adoption of this technology was paramount to the local application. The intention is to have a model that others can follow; to demonstrate how it can be done safely.

The EVSE will also allow the Engineering departments to participate in data collection and research towards improvement in the infrastructure, as well as to mitigate any potential challenges in Small Island Developing States. The launch of the EVSE has also been a fantastic opportunity to push the Faculty forward towards the creation of a green

space (an area adjacent to the charging station has already been earmarked for rejuvenation and transformation). The future of this space will include sustainable power from renewable energy sources including solar photovoltaics and wind turbines to make this project and others carbon free. (At this time the charging station is electric grid powered).

A look towards the future can see Trinidad and Tobago converting ICEs to EVs, as well as storage from renewable energy to ensure we are no longer heavily dependent on fossil fuels, in an effort to reduce our carbon footprint and improve our environmental consciousness with health benefits. Gone would be the days of needing to line up at a gas station as our cars would be powered from our homes, and in turn, power our homes when required. The transition towards EVs offers endless possibilities, and adoption of these locally would be an absolute game changer.

Currently, the EVSE Level 2 Charging Station is open to the campus community. It is located at the parking spot bordering the Faculty of Engineering Building on the southern side of campus, close to the southern gate.

■ OUR CAMPUS

To Dance and Sing in the Heavens

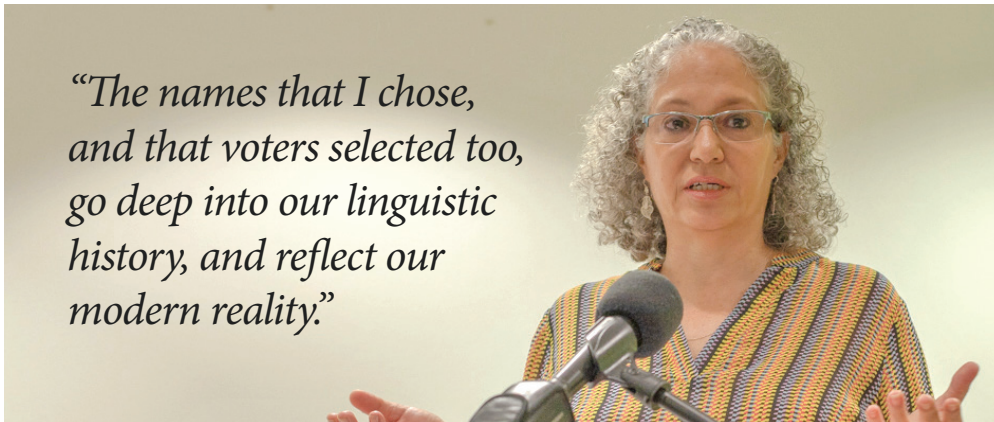
UWI Linguistics Lecturer Dr Jo-Anne Ferreira wins ExoWorlds competition with Dingolay and Ramajay

BY OMEGA FRANCIS



Dr Ferreira (centre) with UWI astronomer Dr Shirin Haque to her left and members of the IAU National Outreach Committee “dingolaying” with her ExoWorld prize, an Orion SkyQuest XT6 PLUS Dobsonian Reflector telescope. PHOTOS: ARNALDO JAMES

“The names that I chose, and that voters selected too, go deep into our linguistic history, and reflect our modern reality.”



“The significance and power of names and naming have been recognised since Adam and Eve. Words are like the surface of the sea – there is far more to them than meets the naked eye. Take nothing for granted and let’s dig deep.”

This is what Dr Jo-Anne Ferreira, Senior Lecturer in Linguistics at The UWI St Augustine, had to say about her winning the “Name ExoWorlds” competition that offered the opportunity to name a host star, and its exoplanet for Trinidad and Tobago. The competition was a global project that celebrated 100 years of the International Astronomical Union (IAU). Dr Ferreira’s winning entry, Dingolay (star) and Ramajay (exoplanet), was announced at 6am local time on December 17 at the IAU’s headquarters in France, in a global press release.

Both *dingolay* and *ramajay* are well-known Patois (French-lexicon Creole) words often used in calypso, soca and steelpan music, perhaps most notably in the late Winston Bailey’s (the Mighty Shadow) 1988 hit song and album “Dingolay”. *Ramajay* means “to sing and make music” (originally referring to birds) and *dingolay* can be interpreted to mean “to dance”.

Originally, *Dingolay* and *Ramajay* were identified as star HD 96063 and exoplanet HD 96063B respectively. While the star cannot be seen with the naked eye, it is easily visible with small telescopes and binoculars. HD96063’s mass is similar to our sun. Its radius is almost four times greater and it has an effective temperature of 5308 Kelvin (5034.85 degrees Celsius). The star has been calculated to be twice as old as our sun at 9 billion years. HD9063B was discovered in 2011 orbiting around its star at almost the same distance the Earth orbits around the sun and takes 362.5 Earth days to complete one orbit around the star.

Senior Lecturer in Astronomy and Astronomer Dr Shirin Haque chaired the national committee, alongside members from local astronomy groups, to champion this competition. The Name ExoWorlds competition called on all to get creative and come up with the best name pairings that would immortalise Trinidad and Tobago’s culture amongst the stars.

For Dr Ferreira, the significance of names and their alignment with culture did not go unrecognised. “The names that I chose, and that voters selected too, go deep into our linguistic history, and reflect our modern reality. This is a true win for downtrodden Caribbean and Creole languages and their speakers/users, who cross every ethnic line. Knowing etymologies, and knowing about our personal names, our place names (past and present), our words, our language and languages should be a most basic part of our national education. According to (artist and activist) Rubadiri Victor, it’s Cosmic Creole now!”

She received her prize, an Orion SkyQuest XT6 PLUS Dobsonian Reflector telescope, at a ceremony to commemorate her victory and the other finalists on December 21 at UWI St Augustine’s Faculty of Science and Technology.

For Dr Haque, the experience was a significant one, “This is truly a Christmas gift to the nation, and an historic moment for Trinidad and Tobago, as this is the first time ever a celestial object has been named locally. We are proud to have our culture and lingo immortalised among the stars.”

**Information taken from www.nameexoworldstt.com*

Intimate Labours: Returning Migrants and Caregiving for Ageing Relatives in Trinidad and Tobago

BY ANTONIA MUNGAL, MARIA GOMES AND SHELENE GOMES

On October 25, 2019, UWI St Augustine’s Faculty of Social Sciences Lounge was alive with a gathering geared towards understanding the experiences of migrants who have returned to care for ageing relatives.

The workshop “Intimate Labours: Returning Migrants and Caregiving for Ageing Relatives in Trinidad and Tobago” brought together caregivers, social workers, sociologists, staff, students and working people in the field of gerontology, healthcare and national security. Participants joined in conversations of shared trans-local caregiving. These experiences were contextualised within the wider socio-economic system, acknowledging the complex relationship to society’s cultural values and structural inequalities.

Intimate Labours is an ongoing CRP-funded project with a team of Dr Shelene Gomes and Dr Maria Gomes (both lecturers in the Department of Behavioural Sciences) and Antonia Mungal, MPhil candidate in Communication Studies.

The precarity so characteristic of the 21st Century has resulted in greater instability as well as a greater demand which is experienced differently by different persons. The re-migration of family members to care for their ageing relatives represents another meaningful change which draws our attention to representations of ageing, social support systems, the institutions to which they are inextricably connected and the ideologies which seep through them.

Panellist Cynthia Carrington shared her reasons for returning home and her motivations behind opening her own seniors



Participants at the workshop in a therapeutic pottery session where damaged clay bowls were painted, mended and embellished. The session allowed attendees to reflect on self-care while simultaneously unwinding.

centre, J&C Recreational Centre. “Seniors are not given the care and respect they need although they have contributed a lot to society,” she said.

Dr Maria Gomes, Lecturer in Social Work, also spoke on caregiving and the experience of role reversal with her mother, “a role that I did not necessarily want but you transition into it.” She also drew participants’ attention to issues such as “compassion fatigue” and the economic cost for women who give up their jobs to engage in care work.

During the workshop, participants embraced the commitment to enhancing the well-being and empowerment of both their relatives and themselves with specific focus on following best practices, building relationships with respective local governing bodies and prioritising self-care.

This workshop was a step closer towards achieving the main goals of the project of engaging in the dialogue surrounding the privatisation of care work and the various experiences of inequality relating to care work, as well as the establishment of a support group for caregivers in Trinidad and Tobago.

If you are interested in this project and would like to share your experiences of caregiving, whether you are a returnee or not, you are welcome to contact the project team at: mariatdg43@gmail.com, shelene.gomes@sta.uwi.edu or antoniamungal@gmail.com

■ ARTS AND CULTURE

Every year, throughout the year, UWI St Augustine's Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA) unleashes the creative power of its students on the society. Dancers soar. Voices and instruments rise like the hearts and flesh of their audiences. Young actors embody the humor and sorrow and rage and love of the characters they assume. Visual artists use their eyes, hands and hearts to bring forth their imagination into the material world. And the students of the masquerade preserve and transform one of the dearest parts of our cultural legacy.

They call it "Season of the Arts".

"Season of the Arts is an entire expose of all five of the units of the DCFA - Music, Dance, Theatre, Visual Arts, and Carnival Studies," says Jessel Murray, Senior Lecturer at the DCFA and Deputy Dean for Distance and Outreach. "It was created to bring together the disparate elements of the units and truly brand ourselves collectively."

Since its creation in 2016-2017, Season of the Arts has expanded incredibly, growing to over 40 events for the entire academic year. Events this past holiday season showcased both traditional Christmas song vocals as well as instrumentals in a range of genres. Dance choreography over the past year portrayed the expressive, the indigenous and the culturally affirming.

Murray, who is also the director of the UWI Arts Chorale, says, "We now have quite a reach showing the intellectual and creative gifts housed at the DCFA."

Season of the Arts has another critical purpose – giving DCFA students real-world experience and assessment:

"Because we are a teaching unit, one of our ways of assessing our students is in productions," says Mr Louis Mc Williams, Head of the DCFA. "Rather than giving them exams that are internal we encourage students to perform for the public. This is a dynamic way to showcase the work that we do."

Mc Williams noted that DCFA events were multidisciplinary and also included presentations and colloquiums.

At the time of this writing, (visual) artwork by students is on display in the Alma Jordan Library at the St Augustine Campus. The Dance unit had its major concert last semester – UWI Arts Dance: "Festival of Movement" – which took place in November 2019. Last year marked the first that Festival of Movement took place at the DCFA, moving from its original performance space at the Little Carib Theatre.

"It was a tremendous success," the Deputy Dean says.

The Theatre unit hosted six student-directed plays in late November, the UWI Arts Theatre: New Directors' Forum "Festival of Plays", held on the main campus at the Learning Resource Centre (LRC). Historically, these have been so well-received that many theatre-goers purchase season passes for access to all shows.

There are also numerous events that showcase the musical talent at The UWI from some of the eight music ensembles of the DCFA. Choral offerings and instrumentals, including jazz, featuring the steelpan, guitar, wind instruments and percussion were performed in Arima, San Fernando, and Port of Spain.

In the January to May 2020 semester, there are many more events to come. These include The Old Yard, the signature event of the Carnival Studies unit, featuring traditional mas' characters, extempo, old time calypso, crafts and drumming. Visual Arts will also have their major exhibition.

Besides branding the DCFA and training its students, Season of the Arts has another major purpose. It's a gift to society. These young and talented performers, visual artists and festival managers in training, under the tutelage of their teachers at the DCFA, provide audiences with entertainment and enrichment matched by few events.

Mr Murray says, "it is an excellent vehicle to showcase to the public the value of DCFA, the Faculty of Humanities and Education and even the University itself."

And if you are a student of the DCFA, a young performer seeking to establish yourself in your chosen art form, Season of the Arts is a gift as well.

"When you practise a craft you want to have an avenue to share it," says Mr Mc Williams, adding that, "we look forward to the public continuing to support the DCFA and our students."

For more information on Season of the Arts and the DCFA visit their website at <https://sta.uwi.edu/fhe/dcfa/> and events page at <https://sta.uwi.edu/fhe/dcfa/events.asp>.

PHOTOS: VIBERT MEDFORD



"Season of the Arts is an entire expose of all five of the units of the DCFA - Music, Dance, Theatre, Visual Arts, and Carnival Studies," says Jessel Murray, Senior Lecturer at the DCFA and Deputy Dean for Distance and Outreach. "It was created to bring together the disparate elements of the units and truly brand ourselves collectively."





This Lagie Season

In the January to May 2020 semester, there are many more events to come. These include *The Old Yard*, the signature event of the Carnival Studies unit, featuring traditional mas' characters, extempo, old time calypso, crafts and drumming. Visual Arts will also have their major exhibition.

■ OUR PEOPLE

‘A True Maestro of Our Culture’

Remembering Dr Louis Regis (1952-2018)

BY DR FERNE LOUANNE REGIS AND DR MAARIT FORDE

Dr Louis Regis, who passed away in December 2018, is fondly remembered as an inspiring teacher and leading expert on calypso. He was the author of numerous academic articles and several books. His three major titles are: *Race, Ethnicity and Nationalism in the Trinidad and Tobago Calypso 1970-1998* (2017); *Black Stalin: Kaisarian* (2007); and *The Political Calypso: True Opposition in Trinidad and Tobago* (1998).

Dr Regis served as Senior Lecturer in Literatures in English and as the first Head of the Department of Literary, Cultural and Communication Studies in the Faculty of Humanities and Education (FHE).

According to the Dean of FHE, Dr Heather Cateau, “Louis will be remembered for his deep and genuine love for our culture, especially calypso music. This love of our culture led to a mastery of his subject matter, which pervaded all aspects of his teaching and research. He helped change the ways in which our culture is integrated into our education system and his reach was keenly felt at the secondary and tertiary levels. We have lost a true maestro of our culture.”

Dr Louis Regis is missed deeply by his wife, Dr Ferne Louanne Regis, their children Kosi and Kaya, other family members, colleagues, friends, and students.

Every year somebody dear
Give us cause to shed a tear
And mourn for *he* is gone
Now all that's left is a faint memory
Based on the theme of a strange melody
Still we must think of *him*
And recall *his* image with pride
Telling people from deep inside
This is dedicated to *Louis* who died

Adaptation of Sparrow's *Memories*

He helped change the ways in which our culture is integrated into our education system and his reach was keenly felt at the secondary and tertiary levels. We have lost a true maestro of our culture.

UWI Today has included an excerpt from Dr Regis' short story *The Readiness Is All*. The story is available in its entirety in our online edition at <https://sta.uwi.edu/uwitoday/>.

Louis Regis

The Readiness Is All

James liked to believe that he was a philosopher. Standing outside the church where a funeral service was taking place he indulged in his private reflections. “A funeral has at least three centres,” he thought, “a church where the bereaved, the conventional and the curious congregate to sing ‘Blessed Assurance’; a churchyard lime where the idle, the irreverent and the irreligious assemble to ole talk; and lastly a grave, a yawning hole waiting to swallow up its unconscious tenant.”

Funerals always fascinated James. He marvelled at the fact that beneath superficial differences they all served the same function; they helped people deal with irrevocable loss. He didn't think himself morbid but he had spent much time reflecting upon this aspect of life and yet each funeral made him revisit his theories, revise his notions of the nature of life and of the after-life something no amount of belief or disbelief had been able to sort out in his mind.

James often wondered if this preoccupation with funerals originated in his past. One lasting memory of his childhood was attending the funeral of YoYo, the family housekeeper. Too small to walk in procession to the cemetery, he had been driven there in the hearse conveying YoYo's remains. After the hole was filled, James was handed over the grave several times. Later in

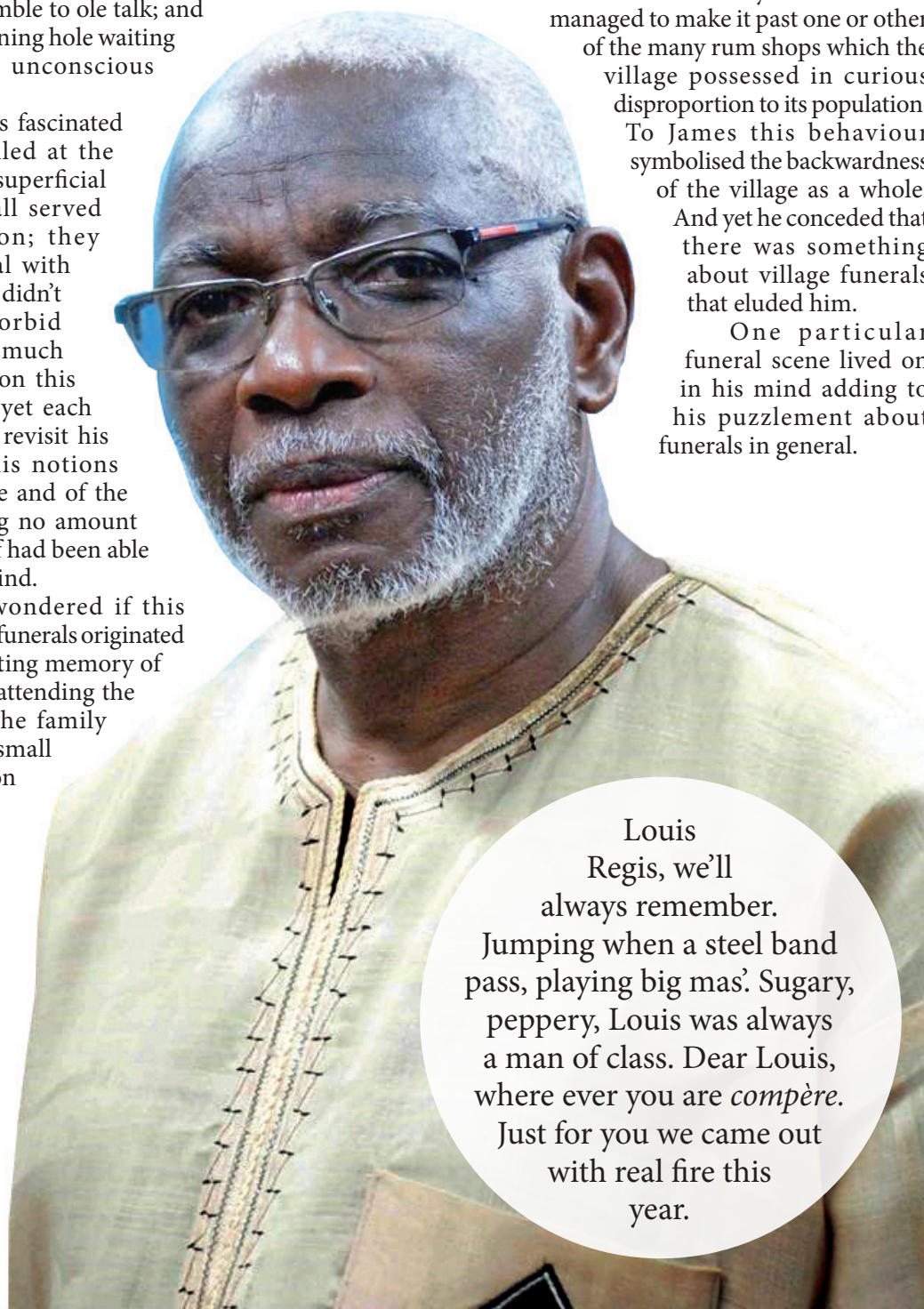
life when he brought it up with his mother, a devout Roman Catholic, she never said anything leaving him to question if what he remembered was true in the first place.

Life in his home village gave him a peculiar two-dimensional vision of funerals. His childhood delight had long been replaced by an adolescent intolerance and he had grown to despise the long dusty processions of mourners, profusely powdered in cheap talc, stifling in cheap scent, sweltering in their black outfits. He found their dreary prayers and droning hymns too morbid for his young mind. He couldn't bear the despairing wails and the hollow thud of the first handful of dirt on the coffin. What irked him most of all was the antics of those inveterate funeral goers who seemed to think that a funeral was entertainment;

more often than not many of them never managed to make it past one or other of the many rum shops which the village possessed in curious disproportion to its population.

To James this behaviour symbolised the backwardness of the village as a whole. And yet he conceded that there was something about village funerals that eluded him.

One particular funeral scene lived on in his mind adding to his puzzlement about funerals in general.



Louis
Regis, we'll
always remember.
Jumping when a steel band
pass, playing big mas'. Sugary,
peppery, Louis was always
a man of class. Dear Louis,
where ever you are *compère*.
Just for you we came out
with real fire this
year.

Dr Ferne Louanne Regis is an adjunct lecturer in the Faculty of Medical Sciences, School of Nursing at UWI St Augustine.

Dr Maarit Forde is Senior Lecturer in Cultural Studies and Head of the Department of Literary, Cultural and Communication Studies at UWI St Augustine.

■ OUR PEOPLE

OUT OF THIS WORLD

UWI Astronomer Dr Shirin Haque wins Sabga Award for Excellence

BY AMY LI BAKSH

UWI St Augustine's own Dr Shirin Haque – astronomer, senior lecturer, former deputy dean and former Head of the Department of Physics – has been named as one of the **four Anthony N Sabga Caribbean Awards for Excellence Laureates in 2020**. Along with **Dr Olivene Burke**, Executive Director of UWI Mona Social Service in Jamaica, she represents the University's success in academics, outreach and development.

The Anthony N Sabga Caribbean Awards seeks out and rewards outstanding nominees in Arts and Letters, Public and Civic Contributions, Science and Technology, and Entrepreneurship. From the 43 award recipients since its inception in 2005, just under half are from The UWI.

Dr Haque has pushed the boundaries of science not only with her work in physics and as an inspiring teacher, but also in the new and evolving field of astrobiology. In 2018, she was the first woman to be awarded the CARICOM Science Award, and now she is blazing new trails in physics, astronomy, and astrobiology. She's also studying Psychology!

UWI Today had an opportunity to speak with Dr Haque on her recent achievements and the most exciting places her journey has taken her.

UT: You've studied and worked on a wide range of projects. Could you tell me a little bit about astrobiology and how you got into it?

SH: John Lennon said it best, "Life is what happens to you while you are busy making other plans!"

I was meant to do theoretical astronomy and data analysis (what my MPhil and PhD projects were about). But after returning from the University of Virginia, where I was doing my PhD split site, I got involved in a project with the University of Turku in Finland and set up one of the first research observatories in the English-speaking Caribbean involved in the monitoring of the quasar OJ 287 – a binary black hole system. Several years later, astrobiology became a hot topic in the world of astronomy – the search to understand the origin and proliferation of life in the Universe. The key is the detection of methane, which is typically a biosignature, meaning if methane can be detected on a planet, there could be microbial life there.

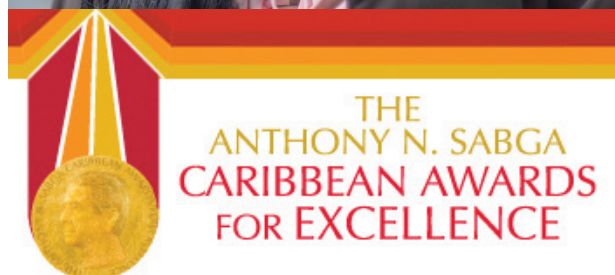
There are two natural geophysical resources in Trinidad which emit methane – mud volcanoes and the pitch lake. While methane was detected in the atmosphere of Mars and on Titan (Saturn's largest moon), humans could not get samples from these distant locations. So, we use sites on planet earth and study them as analogues for the presence of extremophiles (microbial life existing in extreme environments). The mud volcanoes became an analogue for Mars, which has similar features, and the pitch lake for Titan, which has huge hydrocarbon lakes on its surface like our pitch hydrocarbon lake in La Brea. These projects found a home in Trinidad for astrobiology and gained international attention with some of the findings, in top international journals like *Science* (we are co-authors on). We have international collaboration with Germany, Finland and the USA on these projects.

UT: What would you say your most rewarding experience as a teacher has been?

SH: I start my "Introduction to Astronomy" course, with "Warning: This course can be addictive." Students are suspicious of my claim, but towards the end, many report to me that astronomy became the course which helped them deal with pressure from other courses! When I see curiosity piqued and eyes full of wonder while teaching, it's what energises me in turn.

Some of the most rewarding experiences have been to see students, many of them young women, with serious challenges complete their programme and graduate when provided a little extra support, assistance and mentorship. Those moments make it all worth it.

It's an amazing Universe that is ours for discovering! This is why it is very humbling to spend your life doing what you love and be the recipient of an award like the Anthony Sabga Caribbean Awards for Excellence.



UT: What is one weird fact about astronomy or physics that people might not think about?

SH: How many great discoveries happened accidentally! For example, the discovery of the cosmic microwave background radiation was made by two engineers, Penzias and Wilson, working on a horn antenna at the Bell laboratories and there was this constant noise in their equipment they could not account for or get rid of. It turned out to be a predicted leftover radiation from the Big Bang, which was such a huge discovery that they received the Nobel Prize in Physics for it. Unexpected things can lead to great things at times!

UT: You have helped to make incredible leaps for women in scientific fields. What is the next frontier that we still have to work towards when it comes to women in science in the Caribbean?

SH: The Caribbean enjoys an excellent representation of women in the field of science when compared with most of the developed world! In my personal experience as a woman in science I was never treated any differently because of my gender. There is equal opportunity for progression and growth. I was expected to tote heavy equipment in the field right alongside men. I have fallen headlong into a mud volcano and been ravaged by thousands of killer-sized mosquitos in the forests while sampling! However, we would like to see more women in science at higher echelons and continuing to shatter the glass ceiling.

UT: You said in an interview that you try to support and nurture the crazy dreams of your students. What was your craziest dream during your career?

SH: When I was young, everyone thought wanting to be an astronomer in the Caribbean was crazy and irrelevant. So that's certainly one dream I was lucky to fulfil. That inspired my TedX talk "On the importance of being irrelevant." Later in my career, it would be the dream to go into psychology having been fully established in astronomy. Again, it seemed irrelevant and was very challenging as I served as Head of Department during that period as well. But it was my escape from the vagaries of life! I am currently seriously toying with the idea of a degree in neuroscience, but am satisfied with online certification in neuroscience courses... for now!

I also wanted to be a science journalist and do documentaries as well growing up, and I have been lucky to produce science magazines, documentaries and series on television. It's an amazing Universe that is ours for discovering! This is why it is very humbling to spend your life doing what you love and be the recipient of an award like the Anthony Sabga Caribbean Awards for Excellence.

RESEARCH

Many sports fans consider themselves experts on the technical prowess of local sports heroes like Keshorn Walcott and Brian Lara. However, few can be as deeply invested in studying local athletes as the Sports Engineering (SportENG) group at UWI's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (DECE). While fans follow sports for entertainment, the engineering team is working on developing breakthroughs in the industry.

The group was formed by Dr Akash Pooransingh and Dr Sean Rocke to stimulate research. Dr Pooransingh emphasises that they want to use “the core competencies in engineering, applied science, signal processing, biotechnology, ICT and data analytics to meet the needs of elite athletes within the Caribbean region.” They have been delving into motion capture and broadcast analytics. This area encapsulates enormous potential. “Our research aims to utilise state-of-the-art machine learning and classification algorithms to provide automated solutions.”

One of the group's projects involves improving live, online sport coding. Sports performance analysis, or sports coding, is a technique used to record events that happen during a match. Years ago sport coding was a tedious process that involved analysts spending hours reviewing footage. Current technology makes the process more efficient, but it still needs human engagement. A sports analyst is still required to click a button to record a moment in game play and then click again at the end of the recording for retrieval. The engineering team hopes to reduce this.

To aid in research, the group requires advanced equipment to collect data. This is where the cooperation of the company Novel Sports comes in. The equipment was unavailable in Trinidad and Tobago until the company brought in the system, Pitch Vision. According to Novel Sports director Duane Lall, they were eager to partner with UWI in piloting its use in local sports.

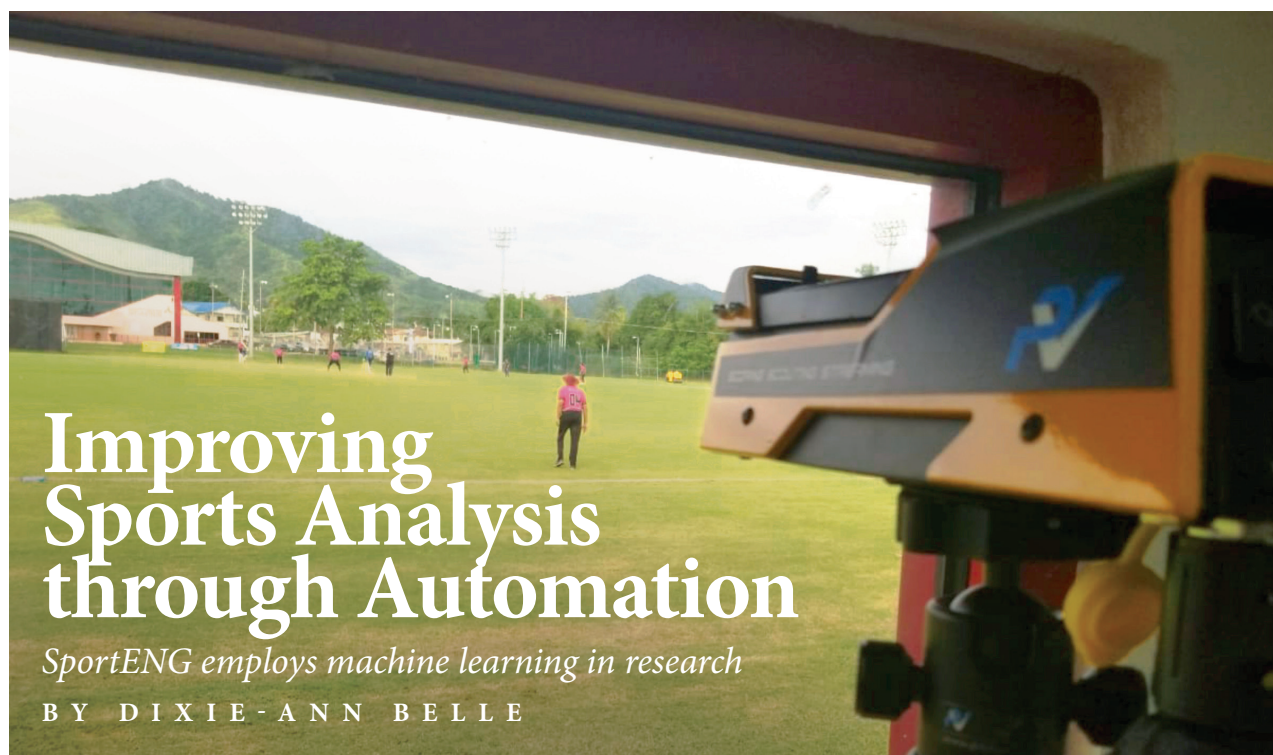
Lall says the company supports initiatives that promote development and education in the industry. He laments that Trinidad and Tobago is behind other countries in this use of analytics. He believes that this deficiency contributes to inconsistent performance in various sports.

To collect the vital data, researcher and development engineer in the Associate Professional programme Sahil Ramlogan was trained in using Pitch Vision. He used the equipment at cricket matches at the Ramps Logistics Super Series held recently at UWI SPEC and the Courts Women's T20 Grand Slam tournament.

Ramlogan developed the algorithms for automating the process for his BSc in 2017. “It takes a full video of a game and starts extracting each delivery, so let's say as soon as the bowler is about to jump... a video starts recording and then it will end ten seconds later.” He adds, “It could be as simple as a bowler running in, so you have an image of the bowler mid-jump... we feed the algorithm that part of it and say ‘ok this is what it looks like for a bowler running in and bowling the ball.’ Whenever the algorithm detects the sequence again, it will recognise the action.

“This is what we're going to try to do in terms of research,” says Dr Pooransingh. “To automatically find the highlights and go deeper into the analytics.”

Sahil has also developed an algorithm that helps with stats. “That goes onto a cricket website and is able to extract the commentary information.... It then matches the information to the extracted video for each delivery and stores it into a searchable database.” Being able to collate these statistics and view the correlating videos is a valuable tool for coaches.



‘It takes a full video of a game and starts extracting each delivery, so let's say as soon as the bowler is about to jump... a video starts recording and then it will end ten seconds later.’

DEVELOPMENT ENGINEER SAHIL RAMLOGAN



Development engineer Sahil Ramlogan (left) scoring, streaming and data capturing with Pitch Vision next to Trinidad and Tobago's premier scorer Rudy Ramesar, officially live scoring one of the matches at the Ramps Logistics Super Series using the CricHQ app at UWI SPEC.

The SportENG group is excited to push deeper and to explore the potential of this project. Dr Pooransingh says, “This will provide a more meaningful use for currently available analytics. It also provides an opportunity to dive further into image-based analytics such as player movement and reactions during active play.”

Duane Lall points out the opportunities to prevent injuries. “With a glance you can get a whole new view of your players,” he states, outlining how coaches could then adjust training programmes to prevent problems.

Dr Pooransingh envisions opportunities to develop the performance of national athletes. Competitors can improve their form by studying the data, for example. Athletes could also study their opponents.

The engineering group believes these developments could also contribute to medical/rehabilitation applications, animation and game creation, limb extraction and tracking, angle calculation, highlight detection and higher level image understanding for action recognition.

They hope to continue working closely with Novel Sports and entities that have a stake in this technology, as well as to increase awareness. “The university has a critical role to play in terms of educating people,” observes Duane Lall. “The university would give a sense of credibility and quality to the information.”

The engineering group is clearly determined to achieve their goals of evolving the world of Caribbean sport. Their passion for the task suggests that our national athletes will one day be winning gold based on their natural talent, hard work and the latest technological advancements.

■ OUR PEOPLE

If you hold a seashell up to your ear, the story goes, you can hear the sound of the ocean. It's just a myth, but there is one shell that fits this myth perfectly—the *Voluta musica*, or music volute. It is laboratory technician Jennalee Ramnarine's favourite specimen in The UWI Zoology Museum's (UWIZM) collection; a small, delicate snail shell with a pattern that looks just like music notes.

With 70,000 biological specimens housed in the two compact rooms in the Department of Life Sciences (DLS), this is one of the many fascinating finds that have been brought back by collectors from across Trinidad and Tobago, the Caribbean, and some far reaches of the world, to be preserved, maintained and catalogued by the museum staff. Right now that means Jennalee.

"Since the departure of our curator, I've been given additional responsibilities in caring for the museum," she says.

In the last decade, the UWIZM has acquired four other collections, including thousands of insects from CABI (Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International) and most recently, in 2019, fossilised bone material collected in 1983 and 2001 that is possibly up to 1 million years old.

Dr Judith Gobin, Head of the Department of Life Sciences, says, "The UWIZM is not only a UWI treasure, it is a national treasure. The DLS is actively looking for financial support to make some much needed improvements to the museum. This is necessary as we have recognised the importance of preserving these exhibits, some of which are invaluable."

The collections that fall into the UWIZM's hands are sometimes perfectly preserved, sometimes not. When I briefly worked with the museum a few years back, I marvelled at the seemingly magical process that allowed Jennalee to take a dry, desiccated fish and rehydrate it into an almost immaculate specimen. This process of maintaining and rehabilitating specimens is continuous in the museum, but it is only a small section of what fills her day since she started working at the museum 12 years ago.

"Seeing where the museum was 10 years ago, being a part of the process, and helping it evolve into what you see today, gives me a great sense of accomplishment," she says.

Jennalee also prepares specimen material for teaching purposes, painstakingly catalogues specimens into the museum's database, and conducts educational tours to the visiting public; especially school children of all education levels, from 5-year-olds and up.

She says, "the diversity of the work that I do ensures that no day is like any other. I appreciate that. Every day is an opportunity to learn something new. And to know that

Music at the Museum

BY AMY LI BAKSH

PHOTOS: ATIBA CUDJOE

when it's all said and done, people can learn and benefit from it makes it all worth it."

The museum is an invaluable record of the life here in T&T and beyond, and not everyone knows that it is completely free to the public to visit and learn all about the creatures that share the planet with us. But over time, that's been changing. "Over the past 10 years there has been

an exponential increase in the popularity of the UWIZM, especially with the introduction of campus tours, summer camps and outreach initiatives," says Jennalee.

From its famed two-headed shark to the archaeological treasure the Banwari Burial (the oldest indigenous remains found in the Caribbean), there are many wonders to be found on the shelves of the UWIZM.



Amy Li Baksh is a Trinidadian writer, artist and activist who makes art to uplift and amplify the unheard voices in our society.

Educational Excellence Award for Professor Winston Lewis



Winston G Lewis, Professor of Industrial Systems Engineering in the Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering (DMME), has received the Educational Excellence Award from the Society for Maintenance and Reliability Professionals (SMRP) Trinidad Chapter. He was given the award on December 5, 2019.

Professor Lewis has been involved in the education and development of the creative, innovative and entrepreneurial skills of young people for more than four decades. He has lectured in the areas of manufacturing, ergonomics and facilities design to both undergraduate and graduate students in the DMME at UWI St Augustine's Faculty of Engineering.

In recognition of his many contributions to the advancement of teaching and learning, he was awarded the UWI/Guardian Life of the Caribbean Premium Teaching Award in 2004. His research and development work is in the areas of metallurgical and industrial engineering, sheet metal forming, manufacture of the steelpan, applied ergonomics and workplace design, engineering quality management and nano-technology.

Professor Lewis has served the Faculty of Engineering as Deputy Dean of Undergraduate Student Affairs and Outreach, Deputy Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, and Deputy Dean of Outreach and Enterprise Development. He is a former Head of the DMME.

Founded in 1992, the SMRP is an international association for maintenance, reliability and physical assessment management. With a membership of over 7,000, they operate in more than 60 countries across six continents.

■ OUR STUDENTS

Caribbean Writers – Opportunities and Obstacles

Pelican Book Club hosts first Caribbean Literature Roundtable Discussion

BY VISHALA CHRISTOPHER

“To be a writer you have to read. To be a writer you have to write well. To be a writer you have to be disciplined and write every day, and you have to respect your craft,” says Professor Elizabeth Walcott-Hackshaw, Lecturer and Coordinator of French Literature in the Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics.

The professor was speaking at a discussion hosted by the Pelican Book Club at The UWI St Augustine. Titled the “Caribbean Literature Roundtable Discussion,” the November 2019 event focused on the importance of local and regional literature that represents Caribbean culture. It was held at the Institute of Critical Thinking.

Moderated by Dr J Vijay Maharaj, lecturer with more than 20 years of experience in the Department of Literary, Cultural and Communication Studies, the discussion featured two distinguished writers, Professor Walcott-Hackshaw and Dr Muli Amaye, Lecturer and Coordinator of the MFA in Creative Writing Programme. They spoke on (but were not limited to) three main topics: raising literary consciousness, reaching for critical acclaim and facilitating new writing.

Dr Maharaj opened the discussion by asking the guest speakers to share the catalyst for their personal journeys in writing, which launched the conversation into the different experiences of both authors. Dr Amaye shared her journey as a writer coming out of Manchester, England while Prof Walcott-Hackshaw expressed the realities of being a writer from the Caribbean.

The conversation transitioned to the fact that there are few recognised publication houses in the Caribbean, a point Dr Maharaj introduced by referencing a panel discussion that featured authors Marlon James and Kei Miller, who reacted with laughter when asked about not having their work published in the region.

Walcott-Hackshaw noted that the literary climate has changed since the beginning of her career as an author. However, she shared the names of various publishers known for accepting works by Caribbean writers, saying that good writing is publishable in any location. Dr Amaye highlighted the struggles that writers from a minority group within the United Kingdom face when attempting to find publishers. She suggested publication through journals as a means of beginning the journey.

Continuing her previous note regarding reading as the means to produce good writing, Prof Walcott-Hackshaw expressed the importance of engaging with material from outside the Caribbean and the English language. Dr Amaye furthered this by saying that she encourages her students in the creative writing programme to read everything. She noted, “When we are reading any kind of book, we are learning about structure and we don’t even know that we are learning that. But once we start to read and we start to absorb what we’re reading... we start to feel that structure as a part of us...”



The Pelican Book Club is a student-led group established in 2018 with the main purpose of promoting literature affiliated with the Caribbean region, people of colour and social justice narratives. You can reach them through their social media platforms for example via the handle [@thepelicanbookclub](#).



Executive of the Pelican Book Club – committee member Marissa Badree (second left), public relations officer Karishma Coobal (third from left), editor Vishala Christopher (centre), former president Neelam Ramkaran (third from right) and secretary Vyala Motilal (right) – in a photo with Dr Maharaj, Dr Amaye and Professor Walcott-Hackshaw.



From left, Dr Maharaj, Professor Walcott-Hackshaw and Dr Amaye at the Caribbean Literature Roundtable Discussion.

Vishala Christopher is Editor of The Pelican Book Club at UWI St Augustine (2019-2020), and a Literatures in English major with dreams of becoming a journalist and published author.

UWI INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' COMMITTEE COMMEMORATE UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY AT ST AUGUSTINE PRIMARY SCHOOL

UWI St Augustine students from Jamaica all the way to Venezuela celebrated Universal Children's Day by bringing games, music, writing and even outdoor activities to the St Augustine South Government Primary School. The seven students, members of the Student Guild's International Affairs Committee (IAC), hosted a career day for all standard 4 and 5 students under the theme: “Every child has the right to dream.”

“There’s something special about creating an opportunity for children,” says Jody Robinson, public relations officer of the IAC, “and this opportunity was not in the form of money or scholarship, but exposing them to possibilities that may be beyond their geographical and financial circumstances. This also gave us the opportunity just to listen to a younger generation speak about their experiences and give a peep hole into their perspectives on life. That transfer and transaction between those gone before and those coming along – priceless!”

IAC members from Guyana, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela, took part in the initiative. They were joined as well by poet, musician and activist Muhammad Muwakil. The activities took place on November 20, the internationally recognised date for Universal Children's Day.

Robinson says, “this initiative was geared towards exposing each child to different career and professional paths, making each child aware of the possible avenues to achieving their dreams, and exposing each child to wider perspectives by introducing them to different countries within and outside of the region.”

The initiative, she says, was a huge success. The primary school students were “excited and very participatory” and the school administration sent the IAC positive feedback on “the resonating impact on the students and teachers.” They even suggested the UWI Guild members return monthly for their reading club.

Representing and serving the international students at the St Augustine Campus, the IAC aims to encourage regional integration and assimilation to Trinidad and Tobago. In January 2020 they will take part in Caribbean Integration Week (CIW) on the campus.



At the St Augustine South Primary School are (from back left) Joshua Morton, IAC Deputy Chairperson; Felicia Collins, President of Guyana Students' Association in Trinidad and Tobago; artist and activist Muhammad Muwakil; Kareem Charles, IAC Chairperson; Elias Toro Young, President of International Students' Association in Trinidad and Tobago; and Jody Robinson, IAC Public Relations Officer. In the front row are Kem Emmanuel, President of the St Lucia Students' Association in Trinidad and Tobago and Azaria Rickson, IAC Events Coordinator.

■ OUR STUDENTS

A Young and Compelling Voice

Omari Joseph's winning essay from the Eric Williams "School Bags" Competition

Omari Obaseki Joseph, a final year undergraduate student in the International Tourism Management programme within the Department of Management Studies, is a young achiever. Most recently he was highlighted in the pages of **UWI Today** for winning the Caribbean component of the CAF – Development Bank of Latin America's #IdeasForTheFuture Essay Contest (<https://sta.uwi.edu/uwitoday/article6.asp>). However, he's been covered before.

Omari, born in St Lucia and raised in Guyana, is also the winner of the Eric Williams "School Bags" Essay Competition 2018 (https://sta.uwi.edu/uwitoday/archive/september_2018/article5.asp).

The biennial competition is an initiative of the Eric Williams Memorial Collection, which is in the custody of the Alma Jordan Library at the St Augustine Campus. Regional students are invited to submit their essays on a chosen subject.

Omari wrote his essay on the topic "The migration challenge is one of the hinges on which the future of Caribbean integration rests", while a 17-year-old secondary school student at Queen's College in Georgetown, Guyana.

Recollecting his win, Omari says, "In summary, the competition brought the best out of me at the time, driving me to attempt to produce a compelling, interesting and informative piece for the general reader/listener. The victory is also significant to me because it provided an excellent foundation for me to later compete and win in more international competitions."

UWI Today is pleased to include an excerpt of the winning piece. The entire essay is available online at <https://sta.uwi.edu/uwiToday/>.

"the competition brought the best out of me at the time, driving me to attempt to produce a compelling, interesting and informative piece for the general reader/listener."



Flashback to when Omari Joseph (centre) won the Eric Williams "School Bags" Essay competition. Beside him are Erica Williams-Connell, Director of the Eric Williams Memorial Collection Research Library, Archives and Museum; and Maxie Cuffie, MP for La Horquetta/Talparo, in his role as Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Public Administration.

"THE MIGRATION CHALLENGE IS ONE OF THE HINGES ON WHICH THE FUTURE OF CARIBBEAN INTEGRATION RESTS"

By Omari Obaseki Joseph

*Honourable Heads of Government,
Ladies and gentlemen,*

It is with great passion and love for the Caribbean that I deliver my presentation today. Before I develop the topic, permit me to begin in medias res with a thought that came to me while researching it:

The beautiful Caribbean region is home to a treasure that has endured colonialism and the wobbly first steps of infant independent countries. That treasure is the multifarious and infinite potential of the human resource. It is materialized in the hands and minds that drive production and the blood and energy that flows throughout the region. The future of the Caribbean region and Caribbean integration rests in those very hands and minds. Hence, tapping into its boundless potential is key to the main goal of regional integration, fostering economic development and progress.

Uncertainty surrounding the usefulness of integration has come to the fore in the wake of the events that led up to "Brexit." Tapping into the potential of the human resource, particularly through policies that allow for the free flow of citizens within the Caribbean community, presents a pressing issue... "The migration challenge". How do we find a balance between the unquestionable economic benefits surrounding free movement, particularly free movement of labour, and the equally undeniable negative social and economic effects of migration?

Before we progress to the greater part of this discourse, take some time to consider that thought.

"When the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) conceived and agreed on the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), it was in recognition of the challenges posed by the increasingly globalised economy, and the need to increase competitiveness of the goods and services of the region for regional and international markets" (Field-Ridley, Pollard, Forde, & Blenman). It was a move to facilitate economic development on a wider scale. However, when a prominent regional scholar says that 'progress has slowed to a virtual standstill... momentum has been lost... interest has waned' (Girvan, 2013) when referring to the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), one can do naught but take notice. Other integration movements have enjoyed some measure of success, for example the European Union (EU) has brought 'stability, peace and economic prosperity to Europe' (Grenade, 2011). Why does the Caribbean fall short of that success? Does the EU have a secret formula that we do not?

UWI Calendar of Events

JANUARY – MARCH 2020



UWI-UNICOM T20 Cricket January 17 to 19 • UWI St Augustine

The UWI-UNICOM International T20 Tournament continues at the Sir Frank Worrell Cricket Ground, UWI Sport and Physical Education Centre (SPEC) as follows:

- **Quarter-Finals** – January 14 and 15
General: \$30; UWI staff and students with ID: \$20
 - **Semi-Finals** – January 17 and 18
General: \$50; UWI staff and students with ID: \$30
 - **Final** – January 19
General: \$50; UWI staff and students with ID: \$30
- You can pay at the gates. Look out for door prizes and many giveaways!

For more information, please visit the Campus Notices and Announcements page at <https://sta.uwi.edu/news/notices/>.

Certificate in Sign Language UWI St Augustine

The School of Education Continuing Professional Development and Outreach Unit offers Certificate in Sign Language Level 1 and Level 2 courses which include training in Trinidad and Tobago Sign Language (TTSL).

Courses take place at the School of Education as follows:

- **Level 1** – January 27 to April 13 (Saturdays) | 1 to 4pm | Learn how to introduce yourself, exchange personal information, talk about family and more.
- **Level 2** – January 15 to April 11 (Mondays) | 5 to 8pm | Learn how to describe people and things, places, storytelling and fables, and other topics.

The cost is \$1,200 and the early-bird registration deadline is January 22. Classes take place at the School of Education.

For more information, please visit the Campus Notices and Announcements page at <https://sta.uwi.edu/news/notices/>, email soeprofdev@sta.uwi.edu or call 662-2002 ext 84518.

Caribbean Planetary Health Conference January 19 • UWI St Augustine

Find out more about planetary health and how it impacts our Caribbean health sector at the Entrepreneurship and Business Transformation Office, Faculty of Medical Sciences' (FMS) Caribbean Planetary Health Conference under the theme, Building Resilient Health Systems for Climate Change in the Caribbean. Keynote speakers include: Prof Jonathan Patz, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Prof Christopher Oura, UWI St. Augustine; Dr Maida Galvez, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai; Prof Samuel Myers, Harvard University; and Dr Carlos Faerron, Co-founder and Director of the Inter-American Centre for Global Health (CISG). There will also be a speaker from the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), Sustainable Development and Environmental Health (SDE), Dr Jonathan Drewry. The conference takes place at the Learning Resource Centre (LRC).

For more information, please visit the Campus Notices and Announcements page at <https://sta.uwi.edu/news/notices/>.

Celebrate the Life and Work of Sir Arthur Lewis January 23 and 24

Join the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) in commemorating the life and work of Sir Arthur Lewis at the following events:

- **January 23** | 10am to 1pm | SALISES 2020 Symposium – This one-day symposium takes place at the SALISES Conference Room. Admission is free and open to the public.
- **January 24** | 7pm | Sir Arthur Lewis Distinguished Lecture – The featured presenter is Professor Gordon Houlden, Professor of Political Science and Adjunct Professor of the Alberta School of Business at the University of Alberta.

To register or for more information on the events contact: Ms Sharon Hodge at 662-2002 ext 83179 or email salises@sta.uwi.edu or visit <https://sta.uwi.edu/salises/>.



Academic Advising and Mentoring in Higher Ed – A Caribbean Context March 16 and 17 UWI St Augustine

Look out for the Academic Advising and Mentoring in Higher Education: A Caribbean Context symposium happening at the School of Education Auditorium. The symposium aims to:

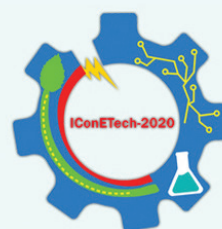
- Situate the scholarly imperative of academic advising and mentoring in the Caribbean
- Explore different models and practices of academic advising and mentoring in the Caribbean
- Explore strategies for improving academic advising and mentoring within Caribbean institutions of higher education among other goals.

For pricing information and other details, please visit: <http://conferences.sta.uwi.edu/aam2020/index.php>.

Emerging Trends in Engineering and Technology Conference March 13 to 15 UWI St Augustine

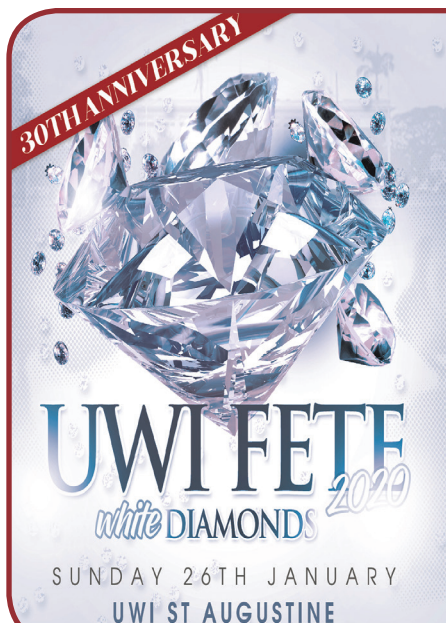
The Faculty of Engineering hosts International Conference on Emerging Trends in Engineering and Technology (IConETech-2020). The conference aims to bring together leading research scientists, innovative engineers, and environmental policy experts to share their experiences, research results and entrepreneurial methodologies on fundamental developments in science and engineering concepts and their contemporary applications in technological advancements in the 21st Century. The conference takes place at the Faculty of Engineering. Early-bird registration is available until January 30.

For more information, please visit the IConETech-2020 website: <http://conferences.sta.uwi.edu/iconetech2020/> or email IConETech-2020@sta.uwi.edu.



International Conference on Emerging Trends in Engineering & Technology (IConETech-2020)

March 13th-15th 2020
Faculty of Engineering, The UWI St. Augustine



30 years of UWI FETE January 26 UWI St Augustine

The UWI Fete is the cornerstone of The UWI Development and Endowment Fund (UWIDEF) which to date has granted over 3000 bursaries to deserving students. Help provide more scholarships to deserving students by purchasing a ticket for the historic 30th annual UWI Fete 2020 – White Diamonds, which takes place from 2 to 8pm. Tickets are available at the UWIDEF Secretariat in the Division of Student Services and Development (DSSD), 1st Floor Lloyd Braithwaite Student Administration Building; as well as these Republic Bank branches: UWI, Trincity Mall, Valpark, Long Circular Mall and Gulf View.

For updates, please visit The UWI Fete Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/UWIFete/>.

**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

