

“...he spent as much time speaking about life and living in personal interaction as he spent in discussing cricket. Such was the rapport and respect that there was ready compliance with his instructions on and off the field, because one did not wish to disappoint the skipper. He removed much of the almost natural island jealousies born of ignorance by having players from different islands room together. Apparently he was not a great fan of large team meetings. He clearly did not know only cricket and therefore genuinely knew cricket.

“But perhaps the characteristic which for me identifies and epitomizes the essence of Worrell’s claim to iconic status as a leader is demonstration of the classical Pygmalion effect. If I expect you to do well and let you know it, then that brings out some special reserve of resolve and talent.” *UWI Chancellor, Sir George Alleyne defines leadership and proffers the late Sir Frank Worrell as a model.*

REGIONAL – 04

Movement of Our People

■ Dr Ralph
Gonsalves



HEALTH – 08

Tipping the Scales

■ The Obese Trini



HEALTH – 12

A Different Kind of Nursing

■ Palliative Care



LEADERSHIP – 13

What Makes Us Follow?

■ Sir George Alleyne



■ OUR CAMPUS

Best New Team at MOOT COURT COMPETITION



The four team members and the coach at the Orientation Ceremony; from left are Shane Pantin, André Cole, Arlene Chochan, David Edmund and Alicia Elias-Roberts.

A team from the Faculty of Law of The UWI St. Augustine campus won the 'Best New Team' prize at the 55th Phillip C. Jessup International Law Moot Competition held in Washington DC in April 2014. This award is given to a team who joined the competition within the past three years and obtained the highest marks in the oral and memorial writing sections combined. This year there were 126 teams at the international rounds and about 20 'new teams' overall. This is the second year that a team from the Faculty participated in the Jessup competition.

The team comprised four law students: André Cole, Arlene Lillian Chochan, David Prince Richi Edmund and Shane Justin Pantin, coached by Alicia Elias-Roberts, Lecturer in the Faculty of Law and International Law Moot Course Coordinator. The White

and Case International Rounds of the competition were held in Washington and the St. Augustine team competed against four other teams from Uganda (Law Development Centre), Argentina (Universidad de Buenos Aires), Romania (University of Bucharest) and Hong Kong (City University of Hong Kong).

The Jessup competition is the world's largest moot court competition, with participants from over 550 law schools in more than 80 countries. The competition is a simulation of a fictional dispute between countries before the International Court of Justice, the judicial organ of the United Nations. One team is allowed to participate from every eligible school. Teams prepare oral and written pleadings arguing both the applicant and respondent positions of the case.

The Jessup competition is the world's largest moot court competition, with participants from over 550 law schools in more than 80 countries.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The Mark of Leadership



"The value of legends and leaders is that they can imprint upon and mark the present," said our Chancellor, Sir George Alleyne, as he gave the Sir Frank Worrell Memorial Lecture recently. Those words have special resonance for me, as they underlie many of the choices I have made in seeking to guide the development of this St. Augustine Campus.

The Chancellor also said, "But leaders need followers and we must not forget that in that period Worrell had at his disposal remarkable cricketing talent." Fortunately, I have also had the benefit of a remarkable team of persons who have been tireless in finding creative ways to take our Campus forward with innovative ideas and programmes.

It is not surprising that the Chancellor also took the opportunity to favourably remark on the work being done by our Centre for Leadership and Governance which provides training for Caribbean leaders. It is perhaps one of the reasons why the UWI stands at the forefront of tertiary education in the Caribbean region.

We have consistently contributed to shaping regional discussions on issues surrounding education. At the second Caribbean Conference on Higher Education in Jamaica not long ago, our Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nigel Harris, noted that with larger numbers of young people unable to find jobs, there is a pressing need for greater relevance in university programmes.

Here at St. Augustine, we have continued to maintain our focus on ensuring curriculum renewal and quality across all of our seven Faculties. Students from the first graduating class of our new MSc in Palliative Care Medicine, for example, are now ready to take up the challenge of offering this new service to the regional community, at a time when countries and governments are called upon to be creative in addressing the needs of their aging populations.

The St. Augustine Campus also recently received very positive feedback from the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT) following its focused site visit and mid-term review. This is truly a testament to the calibre of our teaching and research. In fact, this review affirmed that this campus is well on its way to setting and achieving world-class standards.

As Principal, I am truly proud of our efforts and extend sincere thanks to our hard-working staff and students. However, we must not become complacent as there is still much more to be accomplished as we build a world-class university—the pillar of regional development.

CLEMENT K. SANKAT
Pro Vice Chancellor & Principal

EDITORIAL TEAM

CAMPUS PRINCIPAL
Professor Clement Sankat

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS
Mrs. Dawn-Marie De Four-Gill

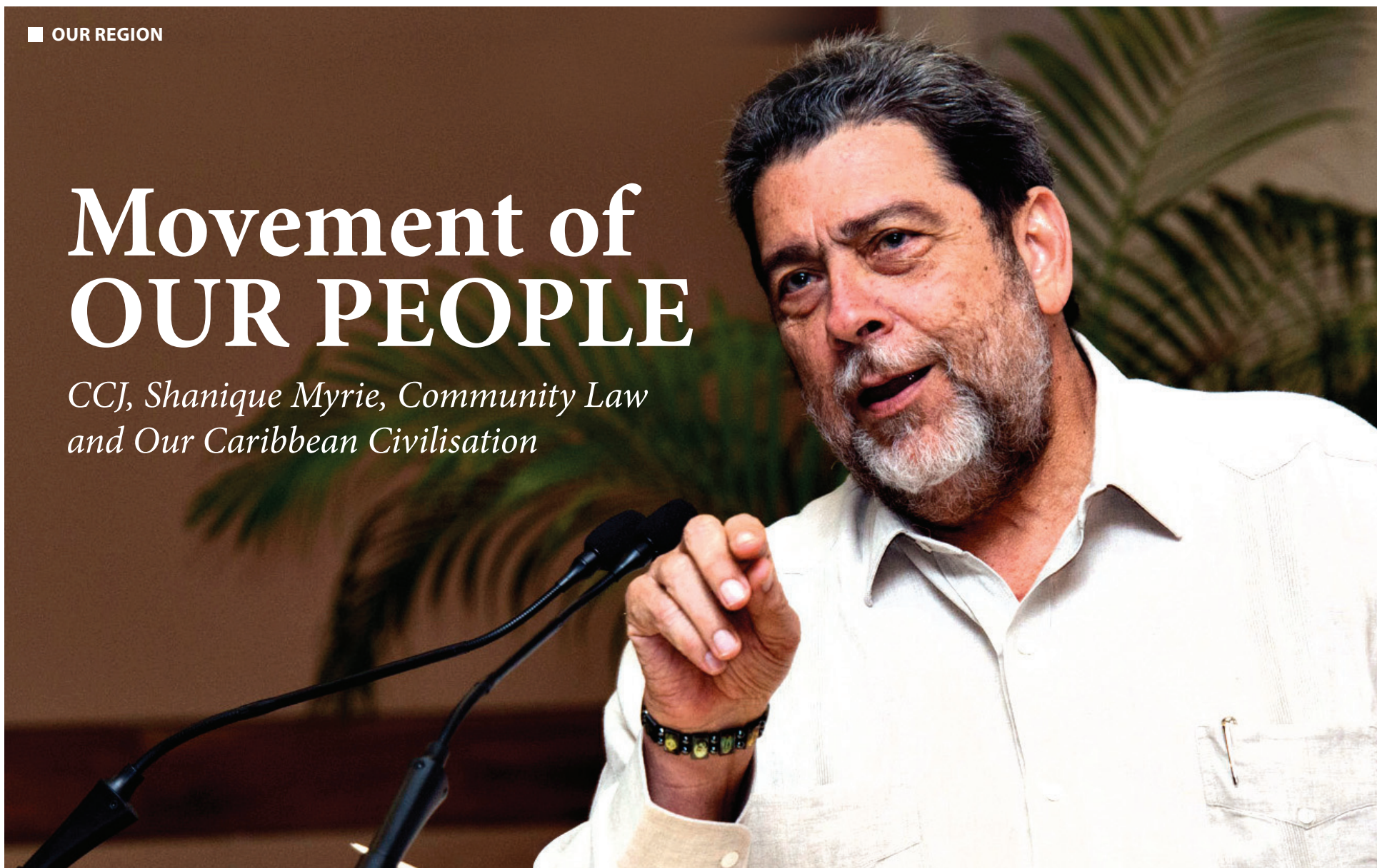
EDITOR
Ms. Vaneisa Baksh

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

■ OUR REGION

Movement of OUR PEOPLE

*CCJ, Shanique Myrie, Community Law
and Our Caribbean Civilisation*



BY DR. THE HON. RALPH E. GONSALVES
Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

THE FALL-OUT OF THE MYRIE JUDGMENT

My reflections lead me to conclude that many Governments, individual Ministers of Governments, and Immigration Officials across the CARICOM region do not as yet appreciate the significance of the Myrie judgment to the freedom of movement of Community nationals and the CSME.

I so conclude given certain public statements from some Ministers of Government and public officials at the time of the judgment in October 2013 and subsequently.

At the Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of CARICOM in St. Vincent and the Grenadines in March 2013, there was a specific item on the agenda of the implications of the Myrie judgment. First, since decisions of Conference are now explicitly accorded the status of being a vital part of Community law, great care has to be exercised in the formulating of Conference decisions particularly those which touch and concern the rights of Community nationals.

Secondly, CARICOM governments have an obligation to ensure that domestic law be put in conformity with Community law since to the extent of any inconsistency on any relevant matter, Community law would prevail.

Thirdly, immigration and other border control officials must incorporate the Myrie guidelines provided by the

CCJ at the points of entry to Member States of CARICOM. Immense education of these officials and alterations of pre-existing domestic regulations and procedures to confirm with Community law, are urgently required.

Fourthly, the implication of the Myrie judgment for Haitians seeking entry into other Member States is yet to be satisfactorily addressed by the Governments. After all, Haiti, is now as “bona fide” signatory to the CSME, as distinct from, for example, the Bahamas. Haitians are thus entitled to all the rights which appertain under Community law to “the freedom of movement” of Community nationals. Haiti, however, has a population of ten million persons, most of whom do not speak English. What is the likely impact of these facts on St. Kitts and Nevis with a population of 50,000 or on St. Vincent and the Grenadines with a population of 110,000, or indeed on Trinidad and Tobago with a population of 1.2 million?

Fifthly, the Myrie judgment opens up the CARICOM’s Member States to all Community nationals, thus giving life and meaning to regional integration. It is this fact which has excited many who had hitherto considered CARICOM a jaundiced entity in which only especial categories of persons are privileged.

Sixthly, there is a controversial and problematic legal issue of the machinery for the enforcement of the decisions of the CCJ, although I am of the view that the solution already exists in our legal systems.

The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) through its Revised Treaty of Basseterre establishing the OECS Economic Union of June 2010, and its decisions thereunder, have gone much further than CARICOM on the matter of freedom of movement of persons. Article 3 (c) of the Protocol of Eastern Caribbean Economic Union states emphatically:

“3. To achieve the objectives set out in Article 2, the activities of the Protocol Member States shall include under the conditions and timing set out in this Protocol

The abolition, as between Protocol Member States, of the obstacles to the free movement of persons, services, and capital.”

[The seven Protocol Member States are Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The other two members of the broad OECS entity, namely Anguilla, and the British Virgin Islands are not Protocol Member States of the OECS]

This is an excerpt from the third Distinguished Open Lecture hosted by The UWI on June 17 as part of its ongoing series focusing on CARICOM.

For the full text, please visit our website at <http://sta.uwi.edu/uwiToday/default.asp>

RESEARCH

The Engine of Regional Development

The UWI was one of only two Caribbean tertiary level institutions represented at a higher education conference staged by the British Council in Miami in April.

The UWI team, led by Vice-Chancellor Professor Nigel Harris, sought to strengthen its positioning in the global landscape as an authority on small-island state development and as an ideal international partner.

This was done by targeting potential partners, based on The UWI's pre-identified strategic projects, and highlighting its uniqueness and major strengths, notable programmes and accomplishments. The UWI's location through its three physical campuses and accessibility via its virtual campus were important selling points.

The UWI exhibition at the conference, "An Engine of Regional Development," was well located in the centre of the exhibition hall and attracted many visitors. University representatives from Colombia, Mexico and Brazil, were very keen to explore English language mobility opportunities. A recent major thrust within The UWI is the strengthening of links with HEIs in Latin America.

Vice-Chancellor Harris was a lead presenter in three well-attended sessions. The first was a workshop organised by the International Association of Universities to define the meaning of "Inclusive Internationalisation" as a means of ensuring a common approach by universities.

His second presentation, "Beyond the Rhetoric of Partnerships," attracted a considerable crowd. He discussed the criteria used by The UWI in determining its engagement with significant partners. The UWI, he said, served the Commonwealth Caribbean particularly through research, training and public service, and it



was an important source of technical expertise for the public and private sectors, that it provided a gateway to the wider Caribbean region in terms of the impact of its work and that it engaged in the marketing of its expertise. His third presentation derived from the workshop, "Inclusive Internationalisation," and elicited much debate.

The UWI's participation at Going Global 2014 was facilitated by the support of the Caribbean Export Development Agency. This collaboration, Vice-Chancellor Harris said, was an excellent case study of how the private sector could support institutions such as The UWI.

Some 1,000 delegates, presenters and exhibitors from 70 countries, including 500 heads of organisations and 16 education ministers, met to share best practices,

network and strategize about the future of higher education.

In addition to universities from Europe, the United States, Asia, Latin America, Africa and Australia, there were representatives of international development agencies, associations of higher education administrators, companies in the fields of higher education marketing, recruitment, and research rankings. More than 3,400 people watched the proceedings online. Nine pieces of research were launched at the meeting, ranging from the role that higher education can play in creating jobs in Africa to trends in South East Asia. The conference proceedings will be published in a book to be edited by Mary Stiasny and Tim Gore of the University of London.

A Historian's Historian

Professor Emeritus K.O. Laurence passed away on Monday June 9, 2014, and was buried at the campus cemetery on June 12, next to his late wife Dr Kemlin Laurence. This is the eulogy delivered by Professor Emerita Bridget Brereton.

Keith was educated at QRC—where else?—won the Modern Studies Island Scholarship, and went to Cambridge, where he took his BA and PhD degrees. Soon after he was awarded his PhD, a pioneering study of post-emancipation immigration to Trinidad and Guyana, he came to teach at what was then the UCWI, at Mona, Jamaica. He joined the first group of West Indian historians teaching there, notably Elsa Goveia, Douglas Hall and Roy Augier. Carl Campbell, then an undergraduate, remembers him at Mona driving a low, red, open-top Triumph sports car, looking “quite the dashing bachelor” (Carl’s words). Keith stayed at Mona from 1959 to 1972, and it was here that he met, courted and married Kemlin Ching who taught Spanish literature. In 1972 he returned to his homeland as Professor of History at St Augustine, a post he held to his retirement in 1995.

Keith was very much a scholar, a meticulous, careful researcher in the archives, and a writer of precise and measured prose—a historian’s historian. His major research field was post-emancipation immigration into the West Indies, and his first book, *Immigration into the WI in the 19th Century*, is still widely read, especially by students. Carl remembers that sentences from that short book have been endlessly quoted (and misquoted) in numberless essays by A-Level and undergraduate students over the 40-plus years since it first appeared. He is best known for his magisterial book *A Question of Labour*, an authoritative study of indentured Indian immigration to Trinidad and Guyana. But he also wrote an important book on Tobago between 1793 and 1815, and, of course, many articles and book chapters. Later in his life he took on the editorship of a volume of the UNECO History of the Caribbean series—a difficult assignment, as I know from personal experience, which he brought successfully to completion.

As a teacher, Keith was always exceptionally well prepared, and interested in his subject; he was a knowledgeable, meticulous lecturer, tutor and examiner. I’m told he made such an impression on students at QRC, where he taught briefly before going to Mona, that more than one went as far as adopting his unmistakable, perfectly formed handwriting style. I first knew him as a teacher at Mona in 1964/65—there are several others here who were his students at Mona—and I remember how well structured his lectures and tutorials were, how carefully he marked your essays—if you got an A from Laurence you were a certified genius with bragging rights forever.



Keith upheld the highest standards, not only in academic work but also in university administration and management.

Here at St Augustine, Keith taught generations of students our core Year 2 courses on West Indian history, compulsory for History Majors. They found him formidable, outwardly severe, even stern; but if they got to know him they soon found how approachable he was, how interested in their work; and they all appreciated how meticulous he was in his class preparation and his marking of essays and exam scripts.

Much more than a teacher of undergraduates and postgraduates, Keith was a genuine mentor to younger colleagues and research students—something we don’t always do well at UWI. He was most definitely a wonderful, life-long mentor to me—I joined the Department the same year that he came here from Mona. Howard Johnson, who recently retired from the University of Delaware, told me that Keith had been a huge influence on his life and career path. Swithin Wilmot, current Faculty Dean at Mona, called him a warmly supportive colleague over many decades. Glenroy Taitt has told me that when he was a temporary lecturer filling in for someone on leave,

Keith was the one who advised and encouraged him in his first foray into university teaching. I’ve no doubt many others here and elsewhere regarded him as a mentor and supporter. He didn’t suffer fools gladly but if he thought you were worthwhile, he was generous with his time, expertise and experience. He was a genuine role model in the academy. And he was always a genial host to Mona and Cave Hill colleagues visiting for University meetings. Indeed, Eddie Baugh wrote a charming poem celebrating evenings on the Santa Margarita verandah with Roy Augier and others.

Keith was devoted to UWI and served it well. He was cross-campus Dean of the then Faculty of Arts & General Studies (1975-78), a long-serving Chair of the cross-campus Board for Examinations, and Campus Co-coordinator for Graduate Studies. (He handed over that last portfolio to Clem Sankat, who has said how much he valued Keith’s work on behalf of the graduate students). Woodville Marshall, his close friend and often sparring partner, who spoke eloquently about his life-long relationship with Keith at his 80th birthday party last year, asked me to say:

“The University will always be grateful to him for the work that he did on the Board for Examinations, because he became an expert on all the rules and regulations, and was therefore the obvious port of call whenever an intricate rules/regulation issue had to be deciphered. I remember attending a meeting of the Board and looking on with awe and some amusement at how deftly he and Martin Aub, the other expert, despatched all the trifling interventions. These exchanges left Bill Mailer, whom K.O. succeeded as the Chair, bobbing his head from side to side, as though he was watching a tennis match.”

In everything he did, Keith upheld the highest standards, not only in academic work but also in university administration and management. He didn’t always agree with what the University did, and successive VCs, Principals and Registrars were the recipients of robustly written letters expressing his dismay at the latest decision he disapproved of. But his loyalty to the University could never be questioned.

I remember that at a function for his retirement, then VC Alister McIntyre said that as long as Keith was chair of the Board for Examinations, he knew that all UWI’s examination related matters were in safe hands. Indeed, his chosen academic discipline, history, and his University to which he dedicated all his working life, were in safe hands with him. I hope that he too is now in a place of safety and peace.



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

science & tech prog

GO

FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

APPLY

NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS 2014/2015

MSc in Biotechnology

The science of life applied from energy to agriculture.

Be part of the revolution in Science ... discover your path in Biotechnology
– one of the most promising and fastest growing fields of our time.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: July 25, 2014

MSc Computer Science & Technology

with Specializations in Mobile Computing or Cloud Technologies

Imagination fosters innovation

The world is wireless and we all live in the cloud. What's next?
That's up to you!

APPLICATION DEADLINE: July 25, 2014



BSc General Major in Environmental Science

Don't wait for the well to run dry!

Develop green technologies to deal with issues like climate change,
renewable energy sources and pollution.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: July 18, 2014

BSc in Mathematics

You + UWI = SUCCESS. It all adds up!

Career prospects in a multitude of fields including finance,
natural sciences, computer technology and business await.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: July 18, 2014

BSc in Biomedical Technology

Want to preserve human life?

Get the skills to understand medical instruments and operate, repair,
maintain and interpret resulting signals of complex medical instruments.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: July 18, 2014

BSc General Major in Electronics

Programme your future

Training in electronics brings you opportunities to contribute in the
local telecommunication, petroleum, power generation and
distribution, mass communication and automation industries.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: July 18, 2014



Connect with us

Visit www.sta.uwi.edu/ads for further information.

■ HEALTH

One of our local doctors returned from the CARPHA conference in Aruba in April, nonplussed by the low level of concern over the rise of childhood obesity in the Caribbean.

Isn't anyone freaking out? He was discernibly disturbed by the figures.

He was not the first medic I had heard complain about complacent responses to the numerous studies showing that obesity has plonked itself down as a Caribbean characteristic and is playing havoc with our lives.

At a function celebrating Sir Frank Worrell recently, another doctor was venting about the media's preference for sensationalism and unwillingness to give prominence to medical issues that were of public importance. He was talking about the range of chronic non-communicable diseases—hypertension, diabetes, asthma, cancer, obesity, cardiovascular ailments leading to heart attacks—licking up the region in numbers higher than anywhere else in the world.

We're doing the research, we're putting the results out there, he said, gesturing impatiently into the night sky, but nobody is taking it on. What do we have to do to make people realize this is a very real crisis?

I'd seen the headlines announcing the news, the study findings, the Ministry of Health's responses; they were not gripping, and not one had made the front page or topped the television news headline acts. Figures alone are just too bland, and every other day a new study contradicts the last.

Yet this story is a dramatic one, with massive dire implications for the future of the region—as massive as the crime bonanza that still runs neck and neck with politics for first place—and at best it can only warrant an also-mentioned space in the news line-ups. Make no mistake, the crime situation, as bad as it is, has become the most topical news because of the public space it is unwisely afforded.

What would it take to raise the public profile of the real serial killers among us?

**“Cost of treating
noncommunicable
diseases in developing
countries –
USD 7 trillion”**

World Health Organisation
(WHO)



Well, for one thing, there was a distinct buzz when Minister of Health, Dr Fuad Khan, took it upon himself to lead the way in promoting healthier lifestyles among the populace. Taking up office in June 2011, by November he was launching his Fight the Fat campaign as he tried to persuade the public that our obesity figures would be the death of us all.

Still, no matter how he preached, citing figures from the National Risk Factor Survey in 2011 that locally, more than 60% of all deaths are due to four major CNCDs: cardiovascular diseases,

cancer, diabetes and strokes and that T&T tops the region for CNCD deaths, nobody seemed to be taking it to heart.

Undaunted, he pledged to start a project to dissuade people from over-eating MSG, salt and sugar.

In March 2012, a report in the *Trinidad Guardian* referred to the Ministry of Health's fight against obesity and said it would “involve working with fast-food companies to have more vegetables on their menu and to decrease salt in the foods they sell.” Minister Khan was quoted as saying

“14 million people die before age 70 from NCDs (in particular cardiovascular & chronic resp diseases, diabetes and cancers)”

World Health Organisation
(WHO)

that “Burger King has worked with us along these lines,” as he described how “they now have more salads and water on their menu,” and that they had been identifying the calorie count for each item. “The Ministry is developing cartoons and videos where healthy foods are heroes and bad foods are the villains. Freddy French Fries will be the villains,” the Minister said.

But there has been little done by way of State intervention to impose controls in the food and beverage industry. Who regulates the amount of sugar in those insidious soft drinks? Who is to staunch the torrent of highly processed meats and snacks? What can be done to shift the culture away from the refined carbohydrates such as white flour and white rice? What about controlling the fare in schools—eliminating the junk, expanding the school feeding programme, putting in lunchroom facilities—instilling a different culinary culture?

It is true that culture shifts are slow and face much resistance. More than 50 years ago, Dr Theo Poon-King and a research team conducted a year-long survey that ended in July 1962, screening 23,900 people and finding 448 diabetics in T&T. He noted then that diabetes was more common in Trinidad than in North America and Great Britain. Today, the mortality rates from diabetes and cardiovascular disease are higher than in North America (the US and Canada).

Dr Poon-King had gone further; past the theory that it was simply a diet high in fats that contributed to the large number of diabetics. He found that it was refined carbohydrates that were the real culprit. *(Continued on Page 10)*

SCREENING FOR DIABETES IN SCHOOLCHILDREN



This is an edited extract from a published paper on the screening process done by UWI researchers:

**Yvonne Ann Batson, Professor Surujpal Teelucksingh,
Dr Rohan Maharaj, Dr Brian Cockburn, Dr Virendra Singh and Sasha Balkaran.**

To read more of the paper, please visit our website at <http://sta.uwi.edu/uwiToday/default.asp>

Diabetes mellitus is a group of metabolic diseases characterised by hyperglycaemia which result from defects in insulin secretion, insulin action or both. Currently there are more than 150 million people with diabetes worldwide and it is estimated that this number will double by 2025. More than 90% of diabetics have type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM). Most of this increasing burden of diabetes and its complications will be borne by developing countries. In Trinidad and Tobago 60 years ago, acute infectious disease was the main cause of morbidity and mortality. By the 1960s, the island was already experiencing one of the highest prevalence rates of T2DM in the Western Hemisphere. The prevalence now is estimated to be approximately 15-20%, which means that about 160,000 of the population are afflicted with diabetes. A study in 1968 by Poon-King et al showed that T2DM was rare in those aged <20 years but within the last decade a striking increase in the number of children with obesity and T2DM has been observed, reflecting a trend seen in North America, Europe and Asia. Pilot data from the Paediatric Endocrine Clinic, Mount Hope, Trinidad support our clinical impression that there are many cases of undiagnosed T2DM in the young.

Given its prevalence within the snowballing obesity epidemic, earlier diagnosis and appropriate management is likely to be more cost-effective than treating complications that accrue from undiagnosed or under-treated disease, potentially adding many years of improved quality of life.

The objectives of this study spearheaded by Professor Surujpal Teelucksingh were to assess the prevalence of diabetes mellitus in schoolchildren in Trinidad using mass urinary screening for persistent glycosuria and the cost-effectiveness of this exercise. Children from the island of Tobago were not screened in this study. As such it is an eye opener not just for Trinidad but also for the Caribbean region where obesity is getting to be epidemic, highlights the ‘diabetes’ problem encountered in adult life and fosters the metabolic syndrome.

A cross-section of primary and secondary schoolchildren at 415 schools in the seven school districts in Trinidad was surveyed during January to June 2009. Children were instructed to collect an early morning sample of urine at home (taken before breakfast) and bring it to

school for glucose testing using the UriScanH urine strip.

This convenient strategy was chosen for the following reasons: to ensure that students collected urine in a safe and comfortable environment (their homes) and to delay the time lag between collection and testing—a fresh sample collected at home and presented soon after arrival at school was a practicable solution.

Urine was tested at schools by trained personnel according to the manufacturer’s instructions. Children with a positive result for the first sample were asked to provide a second sample for testing by different trained personnel. Those with consecutively positive samples were invited to the hospital for an OGTT. The OGTT was performed in the morning after an 8-hour fast.

This cross-sectional survey of schoolchildren in Trinidad found the prevalence of T2DM to be 10.4/100,000, of pre-diabetes to be 7.5/100,000 and of T1DM to be 1.5/100,000. This exceeds our worst expectations. We anticipated finding one positive glucose test for every 10,000 children screened but obtained an overall prevalence of 3.2/10,000. In Japan, where a similar screening method has been employed, the annual incidence of T2DM was only 2.63/100,000 in 6-15 year-olds for the period 1974-2002.

The increase in T2DM in children is causally influenced by the alarming increase in childhood obesity which is now classified as an epidemic. This increase in obesity is also apparent in Trinidad and Tobago where there has been a significant increase in obesity over the last decade. A cross-sectional study by Batson et al in 2001 demonstrated a prevalence of 5% obesity in schoolchildren attending secondary schools in Trinidad and Tobago. By comparison, in an ongoing study one decade later, the observed prevalence of obesity was 15% (unpublished observations).

The rising prevalence of obesity, the increasing frequency of diagnosis of diabetes in children and the prospect of a more meaningful impact from early intervention make schoolchildren a prime target for screening. Recognition and awareness of the problem can halt adult diabetes and demote Trinidad’s ranking as the fifth ‘fattest’ nation globally.

HEALTH

“Roti is the root of all evil,” he’d said, stressing that white flour and white rice were the biggest contributors to type 2 diabetes. Identifying obesity and its root was a ground-breaking revelation then, but despite many public education initiatives, little has been done to dent the local desire for roti, bread, bakes, dumplings and all the other white flour treats.

There have been some Government initiatives, but they do not appear to have been linked to the health aspect; for example, the National Food Production Action Plan 2012-2015, put out by the Ministry of Food Production (under a previous Minister) has a list of “staples” selected under the food security programme. These were rice, dasheen, cassava, eddoes, sweet potatoes and breadfruit—a list that would have pleased Dr Poon-King—but they were selected on the basis of a goal to reduce imported staples.

The Government website in 2013 noted that with the “food import bill hovering at over US\$2b, the consumption of root and tuber crops is assuming greater importance in the diet of all Caribbean peoples, as imported carbohydrates, such as flour and rice continue to escalate.” And even that same year when the The Trinidad and Tobago Agribusiness Association (TTABA) gave out 38 contracts to farmers to give them 120,000 lbs of cassava to produce the TTABA Farmers Bread brand, all the talk was about boosting food security. Nothing was said about how consumers were going to be wooed to a new taste, or educated about why it would be a healthier choice. Has the cassava bread taken off?

In early June, the *Guardian* reported that, “Between 2005 to 2009, T&T’s imports of staples averaged 236,700 tonnes at a value of almost \$700 million annually.” These were the staples whose import cost was supposed to drop in ranges from 25% to 100% if all went according to the 2012-2015 Action Plan. Saying that this figure was 29% of the total food import bill, the Food Production Minister Devant Maharaj said it led to an unacceptable level of vulnerability. “Our food consumption patterns are

based on dishes that encourage high consumption of wheat and value added products such as bread, roti and pastry,” he said. Maharaj said his Ministry, through a Staples Commodity Team led by Nigel Grimes, is developing a Strategic Industry Development Plan for the cassava industry. The report did not quote anyone here, but explained the plan’s intent: “This plan will focus strategic promotion of cassava to increase markets and demand for that staple given its historically low consumption and the insignificant trade in cassava related products in T&T.”

The Ministry acknowledges the “historically low consumption” and “insignificant trade” in cassava related products, but nowhere have I seen any effort to raise public awareness about the value of these staples in health-related terms. Will people really get turned on to these staples in order to reduce the food import bill?

The problem is that nobody sees the big picture. It is one thing for the man in the street to be preoccupied with his little corner of hell. But our planners ought to be the ones grasping the full basketful of factors and making strategic plans that connect the dots.


No campaign aligns the two elements in marketing these staples. No one seems to be willing or able to grapple with the formidable task of shifting the mindset of a people already industrially steeped in oil and sugar. If there could be one massive project of public education, the piecemeal efforts would not fall so readily by the wayside.

In November 2012, the Health Minister was urging citizens to avoid food additives such as monosodium glutamate (MSG), commonly labeled as Ve-tsin or glutamic acid, and very present in fast foods, because of its link to childhood obesity. In November 2012, a *Newsday* report quoted him as saying, “It goes into the system, goes into the brain and stops what they call the satiety centre. The satiety centre tells you when to stop eating, okay. It (MSG) is an addictive type of compound that makes you eat more... “That is why we have a whole set of young children obese, want more of the junk food, with empty calories.”

While obesity is the most common factor in all of the lifestyle diseases, it doesn’t mean that a person of normal weight is not susceptible—a range of contributing factors exist, and regular exercise and sensible eating choices are the best preventative medicine.

The Health Minister has been vocal in the cause of better lifestyle choices in terms of exercise and diet. Yet, there is little evidence to show that the Ministry is exerting itself to follow through on these pronouncements.

Another consistent voice has been that of Dr David Bratt, the pediatrician who uses his column to dispense advice. His column of June 3, 2014, “Fast food the new cigarettes” makes a compelling case for State interventions in areas where industries are making a killing despite the ill-effects of their products. “Fast food is the new cigarettes, and sugar the new tobacco,”



“Fast food is the
NEW CIGARETTES,
and sugar the
NEW TOBACCO”

Dr David Bratt

HEALTH

“diabetes was more common in Trinidad than in North America and Great Britain. Today, the mortality rates from diabetes and cardiovascular disease are higher than in North America”



he writes, saying that the Chief Medical Officer of the UK has warned that sugar is an addictive substance, likely to be as addictive as heroin, cocaine, nicotine and alcohol. “The food industry knows this,” he ends grimly.

As a medical doctor, he brings a credible measure of first-hand knowledge when he describes the impacts, the symptoms and the costs of this large range of CNCDs.

Still, there is a surprising amount of ignorance about them and their relatives.

Take for instance, Metabolic Syndrome, the name given to cluster of factors that significantly increase the risk for CNCDs. People with Metabolic Syndrome are twice as likely to die from, and three times as likely to have a heart attack or stroke compared with others. It’s a bit like those Lotto and Play Whe cages with the balls inside. One ball might be a large waistline. Another, a high LDL level (what we call high bad

cholesterol), or it might be low HDL (the good one). Then there’s the high blood pressure ball bouncing dangerously close to the high fasting blood sugar ball. Throw in a smoking ball, a snoring ball, and if you put in your hand and pull out three of those balls then you might as well say No. 4 (Dead Man) call.

The growing figures for obesity, the growing numbers of sufferers, the growing cost of health care, all of it has not come overnight. The increase in childhood obesity is not confined to the Caribbean, it is global; we’ve just taken it to the extreme as usual.

What it means is that yet another generation is starting with yet another disadvantage.

We have failed them in education, damaging their minds; we’ve neglected and abused them, scarring their souls; and we’re failing them in health, mashing up their bodies.

Isn’t it time we do something right?

Obesity research exists

The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) held its 59th health research conference in Aruba at the beginning of May 2014.

On the eve of the conference, CARICOM Chief Medical Officers came together to discuss public health issues and concerns, such as Chikungunya. There were also updates on the status of childhood obesity prevention policies and programmes in the region.

According to CARPHA’s website, the conference was “a feast” of over 130 papers with four oral sessions covering NCDs (non-communicable diseases), as well as sessions on family health, infectious diseases, HIV, health systems strengthening, environmental health and nutrition. Participants came from 18 countries and included research scientists, policy makers, healthcare providers and students.

The website informs that, “Discourses were on cancer surveillance; the economic benefit of NCDs intervention; the Sick-kids Caribbean initiative, which provides treatment opportunities for Caribbean children with cancers; preventable maternal death in the Caribbean; and the development of innovative approaches to the management of mental disorders.”

Figures can really tell a story

It is something to note that this was the 59th research conference for CARPHA, and that in this one alone, 130 papers were presented. If that has happened on a similar scale for every gathering, then more than 7,500 research papers have been presented – at this one forum alone. It is a lot. But just as it says something about the volume of research that is being done, it says precious little about where that research goes and how it is being applied.

Professor Lexley Pinto Pereira (now Emerita Professor at The UWI) has been part of a team with Professors Surujpal Teelucksingh and Terence Seemungal doing all manner of research into medical conditions as diverse as metabolic disease and lung function with obesity as a cardinal finding, and uncovering associations. Following their earlier reports on the typical skin hyperpigmentation (acanthosis nigricans) as a herald of future diabetes, the team presented papers at the conference directly linked to obesity like these two: “Acanthosis nigricans is associated with higher waist circumference and body mass index in adolescent children in Trinidad” – researchers: S. Pooransingh, F. Lutchmansingh, L. Pinto Pereira, T. Seemungal, S. Nayak and S. Teelucksingh; and “Comparisons of body shape perceptions with measures of body mass among adolescents in Trinidad” – researchers: F. Lutchmansingh, S. Nayak, S. Pooransingh, L. Pinto Pereira, T. Seemungal, and S. Teelucksingh.

Researchers at The UWI have done several studies linked to the metabolic syndrome, diabetes, obesity, lung function—on my desk a small pile of papers from Prof Pinto Pereira had five papers each on the subjects, and this was just research she and her colleagues had been directly involved in.

The point is that, as with everything else, the research has to be applied for it to be meaningful, and often resources are lacking for proper implementation. On the subject of childhood obesity, proposals at the CARPHA conference included using school-feeding programmes to change eating habits; preparing new legislation, protecting children from “obesogenic” environments and including youth in programme design and development. But they had to concede that after reviewing Member State programmes they could not properly evaluate them because they were either too short to be effective or had no proper measuring devices.

“Roti is the root of all evil...little has been done to dent the local desire for roti, bread, bakes, dumplings and all the other white flour treats”

Dr Theo Poon-King

■ NEW PROGRAMME

When Every Moment Counts

Palliative care brings comfort to the last

BY RAVINDRA MAHARAJ

Palliative care is a relatively new area in medicine. It involves supporting the seriously ill and those who are terminally ill and close to the end of life. As this specialty is still gaining ground, the public may not be familiar with the services it can provide.

Palliative care is frequently confused with hospice care, which focuses more on end of life care. It should be noted that while hospice care follows the same philosophy, palliative care can be involved from the point of diagnosis of a serious or life-threatening illness.

Essentially, to palliate is to make something, such as the systems of a disease, less severe without removing the cause. This can involve a variety of approaches because managing serious illness or even the dying process is complex. Support may be required in the physical, psychological, functional and spiritual domains, and this is ideally provided by a team.

This team approach frequently includes nurses, pharmacists, chaplains, social workers, physical therapists and physicians to provide comprehensive care plans. It goes beyond the traditional scenario, where a doctor may recommend a series of medications and treatments without addressing these other needs of the patient and family.

Communication is a vital component of palliative care. Frequently, medical treatment plans can be difficult for many to understand. Palliative care teams ensure that the medical team, patients and families are on the same page. Quite often, emotions may run high and it takes a great deal of training to manage the situation in a sensitive but practical way.

Studies have shown that the majority of people who are near the end of their lives experience distressing symptoms, including pain and shortness of breath. Palliative care teams provide plans and support to mitigate these stressors so that the quality of life is kept in focus even if expectations of time remaining are short.

With an increasingly aging population, it is expected that the demand for health care practitioners familiar with caring for the elderly and more vulnerable will rise.

Prior to 2012, education in palliative care was limited to a few lectures in the undergraduate medical

programme at the Faculty of Medical Sciences. There were two charity-driven hospice centres and a few physicians in the community who comforted the dying, but there was no formalized service in the public setting. Through the efforts of The UWI and the Palliative Care Society of Trinidad and Tobago, a Master's degree programme was set up to train a variety of health care practitioners to improve the knowledge base and skillset locally.

Students were taught skills in communication, planning, symptom recognition and management which were complemented by lecturers from a palliative care background, as well as speakers from other fields, including leaders in nursing, social work, religion and medicine.

We congratulate the graduating class of the MSc in Palliative Care Medicine. This inaugural class has completed the two-year part-time programme where they learned about the principles of palliative care.

The class had a diverse background made up of health professionals, including nurses, a radiotherapist, social workers and doctors.

The class started in September 2012 with the assistance of the late Professor Larry Librach, Canadian pioneer of palliative care and his team from the Temmy Latner Centre of Palliative Care. I joined the programme as a lecturer in the first semester, keen to take up the baton from the Canadians to be a point of reference for these students.

Twelve students graduated in 2014, with two achieving distinctions. Three students produced research projects highlighting the burden of palliative care in Trinidad and nine had clinical exposure to palliative care delivery at homes, clinics, tertiary centres and hospices. There is now a Palliative Care clinic at the National Radiotherapy Centre in St. James as well as plans for a public service in-patient hospice facility.



Students from the first graduating class of the MSc in Palliative Care Medicine with course coordinator, Ravindra Maharaj. PHOTO: DEXTER SUPERVILLE

Ravindra Maharaj is course coordinator for the MSc in Palliative Care Medicine. He is a UWI graduate who returned to Trinidad as an American Board-Certified Internist, Geriatrician and Palliative Care physician. The UWI is reviewing applications for a new class to begin in September 2014. Interested candidates can contact the School for Graduate Studies and Research on the first floor of the Lloyd Braithwaite Student Administration Building, or E-mail: postgrad@sta.uwi.edu or visit the website at <http://sta.uwi.edu/postgrad/>

■ OUR LEADERSHIP

LEGEND *and* LEADER

“There has been an increasing cacophony about the lack or failure of leadership in the Caribbean generally, although it is bemoaned most in the political sphere. There is a feeling abroad that we as a people have escaped from Egypt, the waters have parted for us, but somehow the Promised Land is a mirage and there are no leaders, no Joshuas to guide us,” observed Chancellor of The UWI, Sir George Alleyne, as he addressed the gathering at the annual Sir Frank Worrell Memorial Lecture on May 27. Sir George, a cricket enthusiast himself, made it clear he was no player, but he played a very solid innings with his presentation, **“Frank Worrell: of Legends and Leaders.”** His delivery, peppered with anecdote, was a statesman’s analysis of the qualities of leadership needed right now in the Caribbean. Here is an excerpt from his lecture, which can be read in its entirety on our website at <http://sta.uwi.edu/uwiToday/default.asp>



By the time he was thirty, his place in West Indies cricket lore was firmly established and he was already a legend, but that is not what has established his credentials as a leader and a genuine icon of Caribbean sport. I could find nothing in his early life which gave an earnest view of this aspect of his career. Indeed he was a bit of a rebel and nonconformist as he himself confessed. I

do not believe that his differences with the Cricket Board represent leadership. To me they are a manifestation of his appreciation of what was just and fair and willingness to buck the established order. This was Rosa Parks rather than Martin Luther King. Of course there are always the savants who will claim that those were characteristics which stamped him for leadership.

The popular perception is that his claim to have a genius for leadership is based principally on his changing the face of West Indian cricket, beginning with the famous tour of Australia in 1960-1961. But there is evidence of players coming to him for guidance even before he was captain and therefore the de facto leader. His adult personality was such that men turned to him almost naturally for counsel and comfort. There were the qualities of technical judgment and expertise and the positive attitude that made him the formidable captain he was on and off the field. But there is more and one gets a flavour of some of it by speaking with some of his players.

Wes Hall and Cammie Smith describe some of these qualities. In his inimitable style, Wes describes Worrell as a man-manager—a style rooted in respect for oneself and for the dignity and personhood of the other. He never denigrated the person—he would identify the fault and address it in personal interaction—never in public. He spent time knowing his men. As Cammie would say, he spent as much time speaking about life and living in personal interaction as he spent in discussing cricket. Such was the rapport and respect that there was ready compliance with his instructions on and off the field, because one did not wish to disappoint the skipper. He removed much of the almost natural island jealousies born of ignorance by having players from different islands room together. Apparently he was not a great fan of large team meetings. He clearly did not know only cricket and therefore genuinely knew cricket.

But perhaps the characteristic which for me identifies and epitomizes the essence of Worrell’s claim to iconic status as a leader is demonstration of the classical Pygmalion effect. If I expect you to do well and let you know it, then



that brings out some special reserve of resolve and talent. Wes tells a story that exemplifies this. It was the occasion of the Fourth Test in July 1963 in England and the series was tied one apiece. Sobers had an abscess on one of his fingers which was lanced on the day before play was to start so he came to the ground in street clothes, still smarting from the wound and not expecting to play. Worrell called him aside and spoke to him explaining how much he and the team depended on him and how much it would mean to him if he played. Sobers dressed and sore finger and all made 102, put on 143 with Kanhai for the 4th wicket, made 52 in the second innings and in England’s second innings bowled 32 overs getting three wickets for 90 runs.

In the heyday of his captaincy Frank was of course older than the majority of his players and the paternal or avuncular role would have contributed. But clearly this was not the only factor and the bond of a West Indian team was also not the critical factor, because he had demonstrated his leadership skills in his captaincy of the Commonwealth teams to India.

I have speculated on the arguments in the campaign to have him made captain of the West Indies team to Australia in 1960-1961. My reading suggests that this campaign was built on at least four premises. First he was a cricketer’s

cricketer and had demonstrated his talents in every place where cricket was played and the cognoscenti were at one over his skill and knowledge of the game. The next would have been that of it being a social imperative. The social ferment, the bubbling nationalism, the kicking over the traces of the old colonial order, were undoubtedly factors in the argument. There was the underlying factor of race which cannot be divorced entirely from the former. James points out that he originally rejected Learie Constantine’s argument that it was time for a black man to captain the West Indies. In his letter to the Queen’s Park Club in early 1960, he wrote;

“I do not bring prejudice to any of the charges. In the campaign I am carrying on against Alexander instead of Worrell as captain, I shall exhaust every argument before I touch the racial aspect of it.”

James averred that he wished the best man to be captain but in not so subtle language he infers that in this case the best man was black. The fourth factor was that he had the leadership capacity that made him the logical choice at that particular time. These arguments constituted a powerful and heady brew that so intoxicated the West Indian public and created a vis a tergo so strong that the collected clamour for cricketing justice could not be denied.

■ OUR CAMPUS

Bring It Back, Bring It Back

For a while, it seemed the rains might dampen the Family Day on June 28, but the showers subsided and the sun came out to bless the grounds at UWI SPEC. So that by mid-afternoon, when about 2000 staff members and their families were deep into the wide range of games and competitions on, there was no chance of anything being a wash-out. Some of it was hilarious, some intense, like the tug o' war, and the dance off. The flag presentations caused quite a stir as the teams put out some stunning displays. And of course, there were lots for the creative ones with the tent décor and cook off competitions.

Nine teams competed: Admin 1: Oil Riggers; Admin 2: Sa Sa Ye; Engineering: Viej La Cou; Humanities & Education: Canboulay; Medical Sciences: Maca Fouchette; Science and Technology: Team Retro; Food and Agriculture: The League of Culinary Generals; Social Sciences & Law: An Vyé Vilaj Pêche; and the Alma Jordan Library: Cote Ci Cote La; and the Faculty of Engineering took the overall trophy.



EUPHORIA: UWI Staff members and their guests celebrate to the sounds of retro music at UWI's Sports and Family Day, themed "Ole Time Days".



The men had to play musical chairs on their own, given the roughness that sometimes breaks out!



There was face painting as well. PHOTOS: YOHANN GOVEIA

Tell me what you're up to

Thursday May 15 was a perfect day for new academics to meet, network and share an outdoor afternoon tea on the cool Greens at Trinity Hall. About 45 new and not so new UWI St. Augustine staff members, some of whom had never met each other were given an opportunity to meet colleagues from different faculties, hear about their research interests, discuss future possible collaborations, and as many of them said, finally put a face to a name.

After a fun session of chatting with someone unknown and introductions, Allison Dolland, Frank Soodeen and Lorraine Nero shared the services offered by the library and encouraged researchers to tap into the wealth of original Caribbean research material available at the West Indian and Special Collections Division. Dr. Surendra Surujdeo-Maharaj shared his enthusiasm for cocoa research and was able to impart upon the group the centrality of Trinidad's cocoa within the International arena. Dr. Erik Blair made comments on the role of the Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL), while Dr. Winston Elibox, an early researcher, shared his publication success story. Cheryl Carter and Indira Jagassar encouraged future networking sessions by early researchers for early researchers, and stressed the need for such interactions, particularly in the grant application process.

This forum was for emerging UWI researchers to meet, network, share experiences, and form collaborations with the potential for developing the Campus' interdisciplinary research landscape, more publications and research uptake capacity. The group of about 45 represented the Departments of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, Life Sciences, Mathematics and Statistics, Creative Arts, Trinity Hall, Health Economics Unit, Health Services Unit, Human Resources, Office of Research Development and Knowledge Transfer, The Alma Jordan Library, School of Education, Campus IT Services, the Cocoa Research Centre and the Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

Scholarship Exchanges with Brazil Universities

The much anticipated meeting with the Grupo Coimbra de Universidades Brasileiras (GCUB) and The UWI was conducted in Portuguese, much to the delight of the visitors, who came to the St Augustine Campus after meetings in Jamaica where they signed an agreement with The UWI to promote and strengthen academic, scientific and cultural cooperation through research, education, and project management.

Member universities of GCUB come from all regions of Brazil and have established relationships with universities in more than 50 countries to facilitate partnerships in research as well as staff and student mobility. GCUB is particularly interested in developing relations with the Caribbean, especially in the areas of research into agriculture, health and family medicine, language teaching, and energy. The delegation, led by President Dr Maria Lúcia Cavalli Neder,

stressed the need for Brazilian lecturers and students to improve their skills in English, especially with The UWI as a centre of excellence in this area.

The Group wishes to invest more heavily in teachers and to bring teachers to The UWI for professional development courses immersed in an English-language setting. Carla Rosane Zorio Chelotti, Cultural Attaché, Embassy of the Federative Republic of Brazil, noted that the Embassy of Brazil plans an outreach to educational institutions about Government of Brazil scholarship programmes for undergraduates and postgraduates and this would include information on the GCUB opportunities. In this regard, Dr Jo-Anne Ferreira, Senior Lecturer in Linguistics, Coordinator Portuguese and Brazilian Studies in UWI's Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics,

mentioned two former students who went on scholarship to Brazil after just one year at the St Augustine Campus.

Also present at the meeting were Dr Armando García de la Torre, Lecturer, Latin American History, Department of History, Eliete Sampaio Farneda, Leitora (Visiting Lecturer, Government of Brazil), Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics, Dr Lancelot Cowie, Director, Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean along with Dr Paulo Teixeira de Sousa Jr., Secretary for International Relations, and Dr Rossana V. de Souza e Silva (UnB), Executive Director of the Coimbra Group of Brazilian Universities.

Vice-Chancellor Harris has accepted an invitation to attend the annual meeting of the Coimbra Group of Universities in Recife, in October 2014.

■ OUR CAMPUS

How to fund it. How to lift its standards. How to keep research going. These were the major issues at the second Caribbean Conference on Higher Education (CCHE) held in Jamaica recently.

Following the first one four years ago in Suriname, it attracted more than 100 participants from English, Dutch, French and Spanish-speaking territories, including Anguilla, Barbados, Belize, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Spain, St. Maarten, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela and the USA.

UWI Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nigel Harris, drew the parallel between the University's regional reach and the geographic spread of conference participants. It emphasized, he said, the need to "leap across barriers of language and culture" to embrace a common history and allow for effective collaboration. The challenges in the Caribbean are also evident in the rest of the world, with larger numbers of young people unable to find jobs. "The educated unemployed," he said, "are often the foot soldiers of unrest."

Dr Franklin Johnston, Senior Adviser in Jamaica's Ministry of Education, applauded the conference for its timeliness, with special regard to one of the conference's main themes: financing. Access to higher education by a disadvantaged population is a key factor in moving out of indebtedness. He also noted that duplication existed among the campuses so that rationalization with intellectual integrity is an imperative. In tandem with that is the research and development necessary to transform entrepreneurial ventures into collateral jobs.

UNESCO/IESALC and the UNESCO Caribbean Cluster Office had partnered with the Latin American-Caribbean Centre of The UWI to stage the conference. Dr Pedro Henríquez, Director of UNESCO-IESALC in Caracas spoke about the unprecedented growth in higher education worldwide with global enrolments increasing five-fold. He expressed concern about the lack of fulfilment of agreements signed in Paramaribo during the First Caribbean Conference on Higher Education (CCHE1) by institutions and member states and recommended regular policy debates to follow up

101 Ideas on HIGHER EDUCATION



Francisco Marmolejo, Lead Tertiary Education Specialist at the World Bank, engaged his audience on the issues and trends in tertiary education and implications for the Caribbean: "Knowledge makes the difference between poverty and wealth."

"Knowledge, makes the difference between poverty and wealth." Yet, in the list of post millennium development goals, higher education is not mentioned at all."

on such agreements. Dr Henríquez urged Caribbean nations to agree on standards for quality assurance and recognition. IESALC, he said, is currently preparing a consultation at governmental level for a Latin America and Caribbean regional position on the 1974 UNESCO Agreement on Recognition of Studies, Titles and Diplomas.

Francisco Marmolejo, Lead Tertiary Education Specialist at the World Bank, engaged his audience on the issues and trends in tertiary education and implications for the Caribbean, setting the tone for conference discussions. Student protests in Chile and Greece about financing and lack of opportunities might have seemed far from Kingston, Jamaica but in this increasingly interdependent world, there are often implications at home.

"Knowledge," he pointed out, "makes the difference between poverty and wealth." Yet, in the list of post millennium development goals, higher education is not mentioned at all. Marmolejo identified the World Bank's top 10 Do's in tertiary education, including levelling the playing field, diversifying options, assurance of quality institutions, equitable and affordable education and training, programmes that yield high social returns and fostering openness and an evidence-based culture in tertiary education.

Organizers are currently deliberating on an action plan to emanate from conference discussions and recommendations in the three sub-theme areas. This would include a glossary to assist in arriving at consensus on a common language that can facilitate the mutual recognition of diplomas and titles and a harmonised regional system of higher education. Emphasis was also laid on the importance of research and development as a tool for development and building capacity to manage the research enterprise and transfer results for purposes of development. Underpinning these activities is the urgent need for the higher education sector to develop comprehensive, realistic strategies for revenue generation and resource mobilisation and the appointment of the appropriate teams to engage in such activities. The plan will substantiate the II CCHE Kingston Declaration on Higher Education.



(Left to right) Akash Pooransingh, UWI Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering; Ronald Hinds, CEO, Teleios Systems; Kevin Khelawan, COO Teleios Systems, and Dr. Kim Mallalieu, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, at the prizegiving ceremony for the March 2010 Teleios Code Jam.

Congrats to TELEIOS SOFTWARE PARTNERS!

The Teleios Code Jam, conceived in the Faculty of Engineering, UWI, several years ago by Cordell Lawrence and Kim Mallalieu, first delivered through our Caribbean Internet Forum, and supported each year by Teleios Systems, has won the Microsoft Global YouthSpark Citizenship Partner of the Year Award.

The winner of the YouthSpark Citizenship Partner of the Year Award is Teleios Systems from Trinidad and Tobago. They were recognized by their determination to change Trinidad and Tobago national culture around software development. The Teleios "Code Jam" has exposed university students to real-world, team-based, collaborative software development and sparked excitement around building solutions and innovation. It has also brought together students, academia, and the industry in a creative way to create real-world solutions. (Kim Mallalieu, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering)

UWI CALENDAR of EVENTS

JULY – AUGUST 2014

LOOKING IN, LOOKING OUT

9am-5pm
July 8, 2014
The UWI St. Augustine

The Institute for Gender and Development Studies is hosting a one-day media workshop designed to respond to the desire expressed by Caribbean journalists to hone their analytical and writing skills in such a way as to represent gender issues accurately and to avoid misrepresenting them through learned techniques which produce sensationalist texts which are biased and damaging.

For more information,
please contact the IGDS at 662-2002 ext.
83566/83572, or igds@sta.uwi.edu

THE UWI'S DISCOVER SERIES – BRAZIL

August 3-16, 2014

The UWI's DISCOVER series takes you on an exciting journey through the BRICS. The St. Augustine campus presents study tours that provide immersion in the culture, history, politics, architecture and people of promising economies and rich cultures, led by expert academic tour guides. From August 3-16, The UWI lets you discover Brazil.

For more information,
please visit www.sta.uwi.edu/discover



UWI LIFE SUPPORT

6pm-8pm
August 28, 2014
The UWI St. Augustine

UWI welcomes all new students to the Campus with its official annual orientation programme, UWI Life. The UWI Life Support Network targets the parents, guardians and spouses of all first-year students, to equip them to better assist the students as they make the transition into university life.

THE NEW URGENCY

July 10-12, 2014
The UWI, Cave Hill, Barbados

The 13th Annual Conference of the Association of Caribbean Higher Education Administrators (ACHEA) takes place from July 10-12, 2014, at the Roy Marshall Teaching Complex, UWI Cave Hill Campus, Barbados. Theme - Creating a Sustainable Lens for Higher Education: The New Urgency.

For more information, please visit
www.sta.uwi.edu/ACHEA/conference2014

MUSIC THERAPY CONFERENCE

9am-1pm
August 16, 2014
The UWI, St. Augustine

The UWI Musical Arts Unit in conjunction with the Music Therapy Association of Trinidad and Tobago hosts the Inaugural Music Therapy Conference: Healing through Rhythm and Sound, at the UWI Open Campus Auditorium. Registration deadline is Saturday July 26, 2014, at 4pm. Early registration: \$25 (students), \$50 (general public), \$75 (registration at the door).

For further information,
call 776-8756 (Mr. Satanand Sharma),
or 464-2870 (Ms. Martina Chow).

UWI LIFE STUDENT AND INFORMATION VILLAGE

9am-3pm
August 29, 2014
The UWI St. Augustine

The UWI Life Student and Information Village orientation session targets all first-time undergraduate, evening, part-time and postgraduate students. This event is meant to ease students' transition to campus life by providing them with relevant and timely information, as well as a relaxing and enjoyable atmosphere.

CONFERENCE ON THE ECONOMY

Call for Papers
Deadline: August 31, 2014

The UWI St. Augustine's Department of Economics Annual Conference on the Economy (COTE) 2014 is scheduled for October 9-10, 2014, at the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) Auditorium, UWI St. Augustine Campus. A call for papers has been issued and all interested persons are invited to submit abstracts by August 31 on any of the sub-themes.

For further information,
please visit www.sta.uwi.edu/conferences/14/cote/

AMAZONIAN WILDLIFE

August 17-22, 2014
The UWI St. Augustine

The 11th XICIMFAUNA Conference on Management of Amazonian Wildlife will take place for the first time in an English-speaking country. The themes include management for the Conservation of Utilized/Exploited species, Wildlife Conservation Laws and Policy, Health, Finance and Economics of Neo-tropical Animals, Tourism, and other areas that can be found via <http://xicimfauna.org>

For further information,
michele.singh@sta.uwi.edu 662-2002 ext. 83328

UWI LIFE PRIME

6pm-8pm
August 30, 2014
The UWI St. Augustine

UWI Life Prime is the final event of UWI Life and targets all first-year postgraduate students and first-year part-time evening and mature undergraduate students. This event aims to provide the more mature students with the necessary tools to balance work, family and academics and help them shift from the work arena to student life.

For more information,
please visit www.sta.uwi.edu/fye

**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

