



Into THE VOID

The BA in Visual Arts Student Exhibition, hosted by the Department for Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA), was held earlier this month. The body of work on display by the 2014 graduating students of the BA Visual Arts degree was as versatile as it was engaging. Following in this vein, students in the Certificate programme also held an exhibition of their work, from their two-year programme, which included a selection of drawings, paintings, fabric design, ceramics and outdoor sculptural forms. Our cover is a piece by **Aisha Provoteaux**, a life-sized paper sculpture that illustrates her “*experience mediating feelings of loss through self-awareness.*” Titled: **The Void – a Self Portrait**, the sculpture can be articulated at the joints and is able to stand without internal support.



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The Dawn of a Knight

The University of the West Indies St. Augustine campus joins the Sir Frank Worrell Memorial Committee in celebrating the life of Sir Frank Worrell on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his knighthood.

As our Chancellor, Sir George Alleyne, lifts his voice in tribute with his feature address, Frank Worrell: Of Legends and Leaders, we are also pleased to offer our congratulations to the recipients of the Frank Worrell Noble Spirit Award: Mr Tony Cozier and the Rev Sir Wes Hall.



Sir Frank Worrell greets Queen Elizabeth II at the St. Augustine Campus of The UWI in February 1966. Just a year later, he died at the age of 42. Looking on are her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh and the Campus Principal, Dudley Huggins (1963-1969)

He was the tenth person to have been awarded a knighthood for services to cricket, an honour he received in 1964, one year after he retired from first class cricket. Included in that illustrious ten were **Sir Pelham Warner** for his administration in 1937 and **Sir Learie Constantine** for his public service in 1962—two men also of West Indian heritage.

That the contributions of **Sir Frank Worrell** to world cricket were enormous was readily acknowledged, but this special award for service to cricket was meant to reflect the extraordinary nature of the man who

would use his position as captain of the West Indies cricket team to build more than a cricketing unit, but to preach the gospel of fair play, competitive games and racial equity.

Sir Frank was a committed regionalist, a ready and engaging diplomat and a leader so respected for his principled stands, that although he would never have been one to party with a posse, he was universally beloved and revered.

If, as a member of the legendary trio of **Sir Clyde Walcott** and **Sir Everton Weekes**, he strode tall and

imposingly on the cricket field, it was the dignified nature of his conduct off the field that set him apart. He changed the way the world viewed West Indians, and indeed, the spirit with which the game was played.

The measure of world regard for him can be found in the simple fact that when he died, tragically early at 42 years and 224 days in 1967, a memorial service was held for him at Westminster Abbey. It was the first time any sportsperson had been so honoured. Even then, it did not seem enough.

■ OUR CAMPUS

A Room with a View



This is a Jackie Hinkson sketch of the site of The UWI's Health Education Unit at Warner Street, which was once the residence of the DMO for the St. Augustine area. It was later converted into the first Law School building (run by the Council of Legal Education). It is one of four Hinkson pieces on display at the Museum Room.

One of the striking things about some of our neighbouring islands is how creatively they use small spaces. Tiny outdoor areas are fashioned into purposeful bowers: plants and cozy seating, tucked away invitingly in little more than what we would call a 4x4 space. Every nook and cranny is made to carry its weight. It comes from knowing how finite space is and how vital it is to make the most of it.

So when I first heard of the Museum Room located at the Office of Institutional Advancement and Internationalization (OIAI), I could only imagine that they had managed to find some creative ways to use what was a relatively small space.

The project, a collaboration between OIAI Director Sharan Singh and the National Museum, is meant to bring art into everyday spaces, and is a marvelous concept for broadening appreciation

and making artwork more widely accessible.

In this pilot project, launched on April 23, the works of six artists have been mounted strategically through the OIAI offices – Joseph Cromwell Assee, Peter Minshall, Carlisle Chang, Jackie Hinkson and a sculpted piece each from Wendy Nanan and Luise Kimme.

Curator and artist, Steve Ouditt, explained that this pilot project is part of a grand scheme to transform spaces—no matter how incongruous they may seem. A corridor, an alcove, even the conference room, such as at the OIAI, can become a museum; once the imagination transforms it.

Singh says they hope to rotate the works on display, which are on loan from the National Museum, every six months.

(Vaneisa Baksh)

“This pilot project is part of a grand scheme to transform spaces—no matter how incongruous they may seem.”

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The Region needs Agriculture and Science



Earlier this month a symbolic ceremony to launch the Faculty of Food and Agriculture and the Faculty of Science and Technology as two separate entities was held at the St. Augustine Campus. Rebuilding St. Augustine's focus and capacity in agriculture when food security and nutrition are so vital to the well-being of our country and region, was an imperative, as was the need to bring science, technology and its applications closer together to remain relevant

and competitive in today's world.

The launch was truly a special celebration, because when those Faculties came into being in 2012, together with the Faculty of Law, which was officially launched this April, it meant that this Campus now has all seven of the Faculties in the UWI family located right here.

We were very pleased to have the former President of Guyana, Dr Bharrat Jagdeo, agree to deliver the feature address, because he is considered a champion of both agricultural and scientific and technological issues. The Jagdeo Initiative preaches sustainable agricultural development, and he is also globally recognized for his leadership on environmental issues. His Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) and the Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation mechanism, commonly known as REDD, are now held up as a model for countries everywhere, of how the battle against deforestation can be waged and won. He is also passionate about the cause of alternative energy in Guyana – hydro power especially.

We are also keen on pursuing innovative ways to feed and sustain our region, and recently we had a technical team here from China Agricultural University (the most respected university in agriculture and nutritional sciences in China), and we are partnering with them to create an Agriculture Innovation Park, at Orange Grove which we are confident, will re-engineer the way our country and region grow and produce food. We intend to demonstrate through the maximization of the use of technology, how productivity and efficiency can be improved dramatically.

I firmly believe that agriculture, science and technology are at the crossroads and it is only with a clear focus and dedicated resources to support teaching, research and its application, can we steer them in the right direction, producing future leaders for our societies and knowledge to drive our innovation and ability to keep pace with a dramatically changing world.

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■ OUR CAMPUS

DIPLOMACY FOR THE 21st CENTURY

Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean formally opens

BY W. ANDY KNIGHT



There is a saying that “diplomacy is the art of letting others have your own way.” Diplomacy is certainly an ancient art that operated along that premise. In one sense, the essence of diplomatic practice has never really disappeared. But in another, the art of diplomacy has had to adapt to changing conditions.

This is what the new Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean is all about. Unlike other diplomatic academies, the Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean, launched on May 6, 2014 at the new Conference Centre of the St. Augustine campus of The UWI, was envisioned as a training facility for a new form of diplomacy that would be relevant to the changed condition of the 21st Century.

But the proposal for such a training facility had to take into consideration global changes as we entered this century. Clearly, in an era of globalization, complex interdependence, and momentous global change, diplomats have to constantly update their knowledge, skills and aptitudes to be effective in the practice of contemporary international relations and diplomacy. The traditional model of diplomacy, as an element of statecraft reserved for an elite group who develops a country’s foreign policy almost entirely in secret, is long over. Diplomacy is no longer the sole preserve of foreign ministries. It is being undertaken by many government ministries, as well as by private sector individuals and others within civil society. This has made the environment within which diplomats operate a lot more complex.

In addition, the advent of instant media, social media, Wikileaks, and various advancements in information technology has meant that the club model of diplomacy, which pretends to be hermetically sealed from exogenous and endogenous influences, is basically a dying breed. The new diplomat is a public diplomat. New diplomats must engage with domestic and external societies, in an intermestic environment, and they must learn the modern tools of communication that facilitate the multiplication of their government’s foreign policy message abroad.

Thus the modern diplomat must be as comfortable with texting, Twitter, Tumblr, Facebook, YouTube, Flickr, Linked-in, Blogs, RSS feeds, Internet crowd-sourcing, etc, as much as earlier counterparts might have been with the diplomatic pouch, cables and Telexes. Modern diplomacy is network diplomacy and this has replaced the old club diplomacy.

So when the Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean was being conceived by a steering committee consisting of officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and The UWI, we chose to establish a training facility that would begin from the premise of a changing, increasingly complex and turbulent environment within which diplomats have to operate. We also decided that the professional diplomatic training would be done via short, highly intensive, hands-on modules to accommodate individuals who are already in full-time positions and who may not be able to get an entire semester off to take courses.

We devised modules that would address the multiple issues which the modern diplomat has to face: protocol; public diplomacy; bilateral diplomacy; multilateral diplomacy; conference diplomacy; commission diplomacy; summit diplomacy; cultural diplomacy; digital diplomacy;

economic and trade negotiations; mediation, crisis and conflict management; humanitarian and human rights diplomacy; international law; security intelligence and defence diplomacy; health diplomacy; food security diplomacy; climate change diplomacy; disaster management and risk reduction; and dealing with rising powers like China, Brazil, India, and South Africa.

The Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean became a reality when it was launched as a joint effort between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Institute of International Relations, The UWI. The training modules began the very next day with a module on Contemporary Diplomacy led by the gurus of Public Diplomacy: Ambassador Jorge Heine and Professor Andrew Cooper. Certificates were awarded at a presentation ceremony on May 13. Participants will be coming from all across the Caribbean, and perhaps even outside; from non-sovereign territories like Martinique, Guadeloupe, Puerto Rico and Aruba; from several line ministries, such as foreign affairs, trade, tourism, planning, gender, defence, and the Attorney General’s office; and from private sector companies, educational institutions and Non-Governmental Organizations.

We are soliciting the help of all Caribbean governments, as well as regional and sub-regional organizations like CARICOM, the OECS, the ACS, CELAC, ECLAC, and the OAS, to help us spread the word about this new and innovative diplomatic academy. In addition, our Academy will form links with other similar and significant academies in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Chile, Germany, Malta, Spain, and South Korea. Our aim is to produce leaders in diplomacy who are able to help our small states punch above their weight in every arena.

“The Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean became a reality when it was launched as a joint effort between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Institute of International Relations, The UWI.”



The Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean was launched at The UWI’s new Conference Centre before a large gathering. PHOTOS: ANEEL KARIM



From left, UWI Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nigel Harris, with Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training, Senator Fazal Karim and Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat at the unveiling of the plaque commemorating the launch of the Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean on May 6.

■ OUR CAMPUS

USING SEISMOLOGY IN SCHOOLS

BY OMARI GRAHAM

Seismic Research Centre

On April 7, teachers from eight secondary schools across Trinidad and Tobago gathered at the School of Education, St. Augustine Campus to be trained as part of the launch the Seismology in Schools (SIS) Trinidad and Tobago programme. The SIS initiative, a collaborative effort among partners: NIHERST, UWI-SRC, the Ministry of Education, the British Geological Survey, University of Leicester, Imperial College London and Durham University, seeks to encourage the study of physics and math using seismology as the vehicle.

The Seismology in Schools programme grew out of an extra-curricular activity at the University of Leicester, UK that eventually spread across the country and was ultimately adopted by the British Geological Survey. In the UK, the programme now boasts over 500 school physics departments and claims



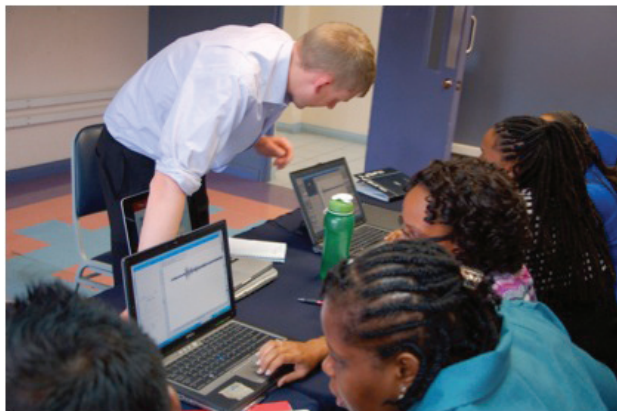
Prof. Aftab Khan delivers remarks at the launch of the Seismology in Schools (Trinidad and Tobago) programme.

responsibility for a marked increase in the number of students writing physics and math at Advanced Level since the programme's launch in 2006. Bringing the programme to Trinidad and Tobago was mainly the doing of Emeritus Professor of Geophysics and son of the soil Prof. Aftab Khan, under whose leadership the idea was initially allowed to flourish at the University of Leicester.

As part of the project, eight pilot schools received Science Enhancement Programme (SEP) seismometers capable of detecting regional earthquakes and larger events further afield. The Trinidad and Tobago network formed by these initial participants is registered with the BGS and joins a larger network that enables local students to share and compare their data with schools

in the UK, and similar school seismology networks around the world. Physics, math and geography teachers were trained in the use of software that allows students to record and locate significant earthquakes detected by their new seismometers.

Technical support for this foray into student seismology is provided by UWI-SRC via its Education and Outreach section. As the agency charged with monitoring earthquakes and volcanoes in the eastern Caribbean, the UWI-SRC welcomes this development and hopes that teaching students the rudiments of seismology will not only produce the next crop of Caribbean geoscientists, but also foster greater awareness of the earthquake hazard among youth. Increased awareness is vital if Trinidad and Tobago is to be adequately prepared should God relinquish his long-held Trinidad and Tobago citizenship.



Dr. Ian Bastow of Imperial College London teaches the basics of seismic data analysis.



SRC Research Assistant Alia Juman (right) guides local teachers through the set-up of an SEP seismometer.

PRE-BUDGET FORUM

Governance key to development

BY MALINI MAHARAJ

In circumstances where economic growth is not so much a challenge as is economic development, one can explore the role of good governance, not only as an element through which economic growth is achieved, but also through which the gap between economic growth and development can be bridged. This is especially applicable to resource-rich countries such as Trinidad and Tobago. It can be concluded that:

There is a link between Good Governance and Development;

The elements of Good Governance—accountability, transparency and participation—are mutually reinforcing; and

The national budget can enhance good governance by incorporating the elements/characteristics of accountability, transparency and participation.

If Trinidad and Tobago is to bridge the gap between our resource wealth and development, then governance has to be improved significantly. One way of doing this is through refinement of the budget process to ensure greater participation, transparency and accountability.

Recognizing that as a tool for good governance, budgeting best practices should incorporate to a large extent as possible, citizen participation—including civil society and non-governmental organizations playing a role in the governance and developmental process—the Department of Economics (UWI), Trinidad And Tobago Group of Professional Associations (TTGPA), Funding and Alumni Affairs (FAA) and UWI Alumni Association Trinidad And Tobago Charter (UWIATT) are hosting pre-budget forums which are intended

to account for the implementation of the first six months of the 2014 Budget, and propose strategies for addressing issues in the 2015 Budget.

The forum represents one of two pre-budget discussions which will be held on May 28 from 7-9pm at the Daaga Auditorium, UWI, St. Augustine. Speakers include: Hon. Larry Howai (Minister of Finance); Dr. Daren Conrad (Lecturer, Department of Economics); and Mrs. Donna De Costa Martinez, (Executive Director, Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago). The discussion will be moderated by Dr. Ronald Ramkissoon. The second instalment of the Pre-Budget forum is the "Annual Pre- Budget Forum Breakfast with Professionals" to be held on June 25 2014.

■ OUR CAMPUS

FACULTIES MOVE ON

It doesn't matter how amicable a parting is, nobody wants their ex to see them looking frowzy or down-at-heel. So although a good two years have passed since the new deans of the Faculty of Science and Technology and the Faculty of Food and Agriculture officially took up their duties in August 2012, there was a slight bristle in the air as the faculties were officially launched on May 12, 2014.

The Deans each charmingly engaged the audience at Daaga Auditorium as they outlined the accomplishments and plans of their respective faculties. In the end, it would have been difficult for anyone not to admit that both faculties have made tremendous strides since they parted ways.

Yet, they were urged to do more to raise their profiles—particularly in the agricultural sector—by feature speaker, former President of Guyana, Bharrat Jagdeo. Despite the achievements, he said, policy makers were still not moved to put agriculture higher on the list of priorities.

“If this sector is so important here at UWI, how is it that in reality it does not exist out there?” he asked.

Jagdeo, who has championed agricultural development and has been very vocal on the issue of climate change, used the opportunity to once again raise them and to stress the significance of food security and agricultural sustainability to regional survival.

He criticized leaders for not giving these issues top priority.

“There isn't a sense of urgency and that is what we need today, a sense of urgency among our policy makers,” he said, suggesting there should be term limits right through the Caribbean.

For his part, the Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat, asserted his belief that agriculture in the Caribbean is at a crossroad, where it faces several challenges.

“...we import large quantities of food (which I understand is in excess of US\$4 billion annually for the Caribbean); there is a declining interest in the profession of agriculture (particularly among our young people); we have an ageing population of farmers; decreasing production levels; lack of consistent policies geared towards agriculture;

low level of support for research, development, technology transfer and innovation; lack of land and finances for persons who would like to go into farming; and of course, poor rural infrastructure,” he said in his remarks.

He noted that the private sector did not seem particularly interested in investing in this area and it meant that sustainable solutions had to be found.

“Let us remember that agriculture is of enormous importance to the people of our region as it plays an essential food and nutrition provisioning role. We cannot escape this. Agriculture can also have a great integrative role to build sustainable economies, protect our natural resources and the environment and create new opportunities for the vulnerable in our societies,” he said.

The Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training, Senator Fazal Karim was full of ideas, even as he urged The UWI to “pursue relentlessly income generation strategies outside of Government subventions.”

Noting that his Ministry had established a Higher Education Research Fund, managed by the National Commission for Higher Education (and chaired by Principal Sankat) he said there was already \$6.5 million in it, which could be used for research.

“Can you imagine if we can invest in research to reduce emissions at Point Lisas? What about developing commercially viable ethanol fuel from sugar cane bagasse?” These are the obvious examples, he said. “What if we finance research that leads to agriculture or technology start-ups even while our students are in school? The sky is the limit,” he said.

And as Isaac Bekele, Dean of the Faculty of Food and Production made his presentation, it seemed that the sky was, indeed, the limit. While he outlined the serious challenges facing agriculture in the region, and the university, he pointed to several new programmes which are targeted to create more relevance for young people wishing to enter the field. He said FFA has identified a reservoir of local staple crops, mainly what we call ground provisions, and they are working on increasing their shelf life. He

talked about research in animal life, in soils, in agricultural technology, and the many publications coming out from resident scholars.

And he talked about the massive Orange Grove Farm project which will house the University Field Station, among other things on its 200 acres.

Six zones, he said have been earmarked for a technology service centre (20 acres), a leisure and recreation area (45 acres right at the heart), a crop area (45 acres), a horticultural area (60 acres) and an aquatic production area to use up the remaining 25 acres. As he flipped through the slides showing the state of the art facilities intended for this Field Station, it was evident that somebody was taking agriculture very seriously.

But Professor Indar Ramnarine, Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology, is himself a very serious man, with a decidedly succinct and scientific way of presenting his data, and when it was his turn, he did exactly that.

“During our first year of existence, we concentrated on curriculum reform. All our programmes were critically evaluated and some programmes were discontinued.

Existing programmes were revised and benchmarked against international standards,” he said.

He listed more than a dozen new programmes and their specializations: BSc's in Biology (specializing in plant biology, zoology, ecology and environmental biology and biotechnology) Chemistry, Environmental Science and Sustainable Technology, Biomedical Technology... a whole long list of these and Master programmes (which you can find on the website) and some new ones being planned, including post graduate programmes in areas such as Biomedical Physics, and industrial, medicinal and analytical chemistry.

It was all very impressive and quite heartening to see that despite the break-up of this long-wed couple, once known as the Faculty of Science and Agriculture, they have both moved on and are still able to keep their shine.

(Vaneisa Baksh)



From left: Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat, Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training, Senator Fazal Karim, former President of Guyana, Dr Bharrat Jagdeo and Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology, Professor Indar Ramnarine, with the commemorative plaque.



From left: Chair of the launch, Dr Brian Cockburn senior lecturer at the Faculty of Science and Technology with Dean Dr Isaac Bekele, former President of Guyana, Dr Bharrat Jagdeo and Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat with the newly unveiled plaque to mark the occasion.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Old Wine in New Bottles?

Exploring Massive Open Online Courses

BY ASHA KANWAR

There has been a substantial increase in tertiary enrolments in the Commonwealth countries of the Caribbean and this trend will continue especially in the context of the CARICOM target of 60% APRs for the region.

In spite of this huge expansion in Higher Education, the APRs in the developing world are far below those in the OECD countries. For example, in the Caribbean the APRs remain at about 26% while in South Asia and sub Saharan Africa the percentage drops to below 15.

Second, the costs of HE have risen exponentially. An article in *The Economist* asks whether higher education is still worth it. The costs of higher education have risen way above inflation rates in the past three decades, making HE increasingly unaffordable. This may be the American situation but quality HE is still beyond the reach of many in the developing world.

Government funding for HE has increased globally. In the US, federal funding for HE has grown from \$56 billion in 2000 to \$153 billion in 2010; a threefold increase when the number of students grew by only 33%. This is prompting policy makers to seek more accountability and value for money in the US.

Has this increased investment resulted in better quality higher education? A 2011 study found that 36% of college graduates in the US did not show any significant cognitive gains over four years and that half the employers surveyed said they had trouble finding suitable graduates to hire.

At the Time Summit on Higher Education last year, the US Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, called for more accountability through the development of a university ratings system—one factor of which would be the earning power of an institution's graduates. So we note that as both the demand and costs increase, there will be an increased need for quality and relevance in higher education. Do we know how much our graduates earn?

As governments and policy makers seek to expand the coverage of higher education, reduce costs and improve standards, it is clear that alternative approaches are needed. In the current economic climate, traditional brick and mortar solutions will not be possible. There will be a greater focus on the use of technologies.

Yet there is a digital divide between the different regions of the Commonwealth. Compare the Internet access of over 80% in Europe and North America with the 30% in the Caribbean, with even lower figures for Asia and Africa.

However, mobile devices are proving to be a game-changer. While broadband access remained stable in the Caribbean over the past decade, the number of Internet users has increased, thanks to the phenomenal growth of mobile telephony.

The unanticipated and rapid rise of cell telephony and affordable tablets, contributes towards turning the digital divide into a dividend. As of June 2013, more tablet computers and powerful and affordable smartphones were

bought than laptops and desktops.

The issues of demand, affordability and access to technology have all come together to generate a response in the form of MOOCs, something which was not possible during the days of the dotcom boom, just a decade ago.

But even when technologies were not so advanced, higher education has found the ways and means to reach out to newer constituencies. The University of London, or the People's University, opened up education to people who would otherwise never have had the opportunity. It introduced the notion of higher education without boundaries in 1858—not just geographical boundaries, but also boundaries of social class, aspiring to reach the 'shoemaker in his garret.'

Its first external exams in the Caribbean were held at Queen's Royal College, Port of Spain in the 1870s.

The External Degrees became an influential model for the foundations of many universities in the colonies and led to the establishment of the University College of the West Indies in 1948.

At the same time access to higher education was being opened up through correspondence course institutes. Until the second half of the 20th century, correspondence education brought great benefits to large numbers of people in the Caribbean. In this model the primary technologies were print and post.

The UWI is no stranger to open and distance learning and its various bodies from UWIDITE, which used audio-teleconferencing to UWIDEC and the Open Campus have evolved and grown with developments in technology.

Forty years ago, the Open University, UK was launched to open up education to large numbers of people. That was when the term 'open education' became popular and the model captured the imagination of policy makers around the world. The success of the British Open University led to a huge expansion in open universities, particularly in the developing world.

There are 28 open universities in the Commonwealth and the new wave of growth is emerging in Africa. Asia alone has over 70 open universities and the numbers continue to grow. Interactivity was a key aspect of open universities with a higher level of personalisation through the use of ICTs leading to more flexible and blended approaches.

Why are open universities so popular with policy makers? One reason is lower costs. The annual cost per student at the Korean National Open University is \$186 as compared to nearly \$3000 for a campus student. Similarly the costs for STOU students are one third compared to a campus university.

A study by the National Knowledge Commission, India, shows that mega-universities which achieve economies of scale, cost substantially less than campus institutions. Pakistan's AIOU costs 22%; China 40%; India's IGNOU 35% and the OUUK 50% as compared to campus universities.



"HE institutions are divided about offering credit to MOOC learners. A survey conducted by the Chronicle of Higher Education asked the professors running the MOOCs if they believed that students who succeed in their MOOCs deserve course credit from their institution, 72% said no. What does this say about the quality, rigour and perceptions of the MOOC offerings?"

■ OUR CAMPUS

Take it to the COURT of PUBLIC OPINION

*CCJ president says civil society
must make its voice heard*



*Following the launch of the Faculty of Law at the St. Augustine campus, the **President of the Caribbean Court of Justice, Sir Dennis Byron**, talks to **Joel Henry** about its significance to regional development.*

“**Integration to me** is not just an imperative for the survival of the region, it is also an imperative to consolidate our identity, a sense of our place in the world,” the late Norman Girvan, Professor Emeritus at the Institute of International Relations, UWI St. Augustine, said in an interview before his death.

One of our most respected and steadfast integrationists, I’d been fortunate enough to spend an hour with him as he recounted his dream of Caribbean unity, and the collective energy of his generation for an independent and unified community of islands. I listened as he described how that wave of certainty crashed with the collapse of the West Indian Federation in 1962. The will for integration, he’d learned, ebbed and flowed.

Many would argue that we are once again in a period of retreat. As Caricom reassesses its role and the Caricom Single Market Economy (CSME) faces competition from Latin and extra-regional economic communities, integration seems to have few proponents among the island governments. Its advocates share a platform in a public space that seems uninterested in the topic. In some cases they are drowned out by insular and tribal voices that are adversaries even to the idea of an identity that is national, let alone regional.

And then there is the law. If there is one area in which the Caribbean community has maintained its momentum, it is in the creation of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ). For the past nine years the CCJ has advanced—establishing its bench, building its reputation for sound judgments, dispensing justice and serving clients from across the region. Now the court has its eyes set on one of its most important goals: becoming the final court of appeal for the Caribbean.

“The time has come to move forward fully,” says Sir Charles Michael Dennis Byron, President of the CCJ.

Knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 2000, member of the Privy Council, Chief Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, Judge of the United Nations International Tribunal for Rwanda, legal ethicist and reformer—Sir Dennis is not only one of our most accomplished jurists, he is a mighty spokesman for regional integration and independence.

“This is 2014,” he says. “I think that after almost ten years people have had an opportunity to see the court in operation. We are no longer a hypothetical court of which you have to wonder who the judges are, how are they going to operate and what kind of judgments are they going to deliver. The teething phase has finished.”

The Caribbean Court of Justice

Based in Port of Spain Trinidad (although an itinerant court), the CCJ operates with remarkably low visibility for an institution of such importance.

This lack of awareness is a concern to the CCJ, especially if it is contributing to delaying the full embrace of the court by the public.

“We have been seeking avenues to provide information to the public about the work of the court,” Sir Dennis explained.

The CCJ President, apart from his court duties, takes opportunities to speak on behalf of the Court and the broader message of Caribbean justice. A few weeks ago he gave a highly praised speech at the launch of UWI St Augustine’s Faculty of Law that focused on the ethical and advocacy role of lawyers. The day after our interview he was flying to Barbados to speak at the Annual Memorial Lecture for Barbadian national hero Sarah Ann Gill. His presentation was titled “Spirituality and Justice.”

Including Sir Dennis, the CCJ bench is currently composed of six judges; leading jurists from St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, the Netherlands Antilles, the UK and Jamaica. They adjudicate matters relating to rights of movement (people,

“There are in the vicinity of 300 cases per year in Trinidad. I don’t know of any year that there are more than the best possible justice they can receive? Or does it mean that there is a sector of the community that is not being served?”

money and business) between Caricom countries. This is the court's original jurisdiction and is closely tied to the operationalisation of the CSME. The CCJ also can act as a court of appeal to countries who wish to use it as such.

The agreement establishing the CCJ was signed on February 14, 2001, by 12 Caricom countries, and the court began its operations in 2005. This was the culmination of ideas traced back over 100 years calling for the creation of a regionally-based court of final appeal to replace the Privy Council. The first calls came from the British themselves.

"When the talks about having the CCJ first started it was the judges and lawyers who had come from England and felt that people who were familiar with local conditions should have the final say on legal matters," Sir Dennis says. "The rationale hasn't changed. It's just that the people who are saying it now are different."

The regional imperative

The CCJ President speaks forcefully on the rationale for the Caribbean Court of Justice:

"I personally believe that people should be in control of the administration of justice for their own. Going back to biblical times community leaders were selected to be judges for their tribe. Being part of a group was a characteristic of providing justice within the group."

This speaks to the notion of an independent, self-determined region with the ultimate responsibility for its justice system. But the CCJ is also crucial for regional integration. The court is vital for the functioning of the CSME, which is central to Caricom's economic integration strategy.

"The CCJ is uniquely positioned to ensure that the promise offered by this single economic space (the CSME), this further extension of our dream for a cohesive and united Caribbean region, is translated from the text of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas (which established the CSME in 2001) into a sustainable commercial reality," Sir Dennis stated in a recent presentation.

Apart from these overarching goals, he believes the court can contribute to the institutional development of the Caribbean justice system through its sub-bodies: the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers (CAJO), the Caribbean Academy for Law and Court Administration (CALCA) and the Caribbean Association of Court Technology Users (CACTUS).

These organisations, he says, "ensure that our regional judiciaries exploit a variety of avenues for technological, institutional and educational advancement."

The CCJ can also contribute to the evolution of Caribbean jurisprudence, building principles of law based on the culture, history and lived experiences of homegrown jurists. It can create judicial precedents and clarify points of law from a Caribbean perspective for Caribbean societies.

One of the court's most practical benefits is making it much easier for Caribbean nationals to access a higher court of appeal.

"There are in the vicinity of 300 cases per year in Trinidad. I don't know of any year that there are more than 10 appeals to the Privy Council. Does that mean 290 losing litigators feel they have received the best possible justice they can receive? Or does it mean that there is a sector of the community who would like to have another appeal but cannot afford to go to the Privy Council?"

He adds, "We rather think there are people here who want to have another appeal and the CCJ will provide them that opportunity right here with quite a different

level of expense, complexity and requirements. There is an important need for Caribbean people to have a final justice opportunity."

A social, not a political movement

As it stands, all it would take to make the CCJ Trinidad and Tobago's highest court of appeal is a special majority in Parliament. That's easier said than done. And the story is the same throughout the region—integrationist measures stalled by political reality. But Sir Dennis doesn't believe in blaming the leadership.

"The regional governments have done a lot. All the instruments to legitimize the operations of the court have been signed. The CCJ has been funded in perpetuity. Trinidad and Tobago, for example, has already made its full contribution to the trust fund."

The time has come, he says, for civil society to make its voice heard.

"When civil society stays silent it is complicit in the failures of governments. Governments have the right and duty to lead but they also have an obligation to listen to their constituents. I feel that in the case of regional integration their constituencies should assist in identifying what is in the best interest of the society."

This is similar to the approach that intellectuals

like Professor Girvan and those at UWI's Institute of International Relations have either adopted or recognised as the way forward. Integration can and should be driven by the people themselves—whether through cultural exchange, a shared sense of social justice or an intellectual commitment to positive regional development.

It's an approach Sir Dennis shared with Professor Girvan because he came of age as well during the era of that surging quest for regional identity.

"We were in a colonial environment and we wanted to change it. That was something very important when we were growing up," he says. "I think that something the current generation doesn't have to face. They are not aware of what it meant to live under a colonial system."

This, the CCJ President says, was what attracted him to the advocacy side of law when he was a young practitioner, the urge to contribute to a better society, one that was more equitable, gave voice to the voiceless and reflected the aspirations of its people.

So what is his aspiration for the court?

He adds, "I expect that once we have a chance to operate fully that our reputation will become equal or better than the courts we admire today. When you look at the judgments we have given, we have already earned that reputation. We just need an opportunity."



Sir Dennis Byron, with Professor Patrick Watson at the 15th annual SALISES conference.

more than 10 appeals to the Privy Council. Does that mean 290 losing litigators feel they have received justice? Or does it mean that there is a sector of the community who would like to have another appeal but cannot afford to go to the Privy Council?"

■ OUR CAMPUS

Fishy Business

BY CARLA PHILLIPS

When Sheba, the 10-year-old family pet German Shepherd, is unusually sluggish, walks away from her bowl of dog chow and generally looks a bit under the weather, one of the first considerations is, “Hmmm, we should take her to the vet.”

When Peco, the pet orange-winged Amazon parrot starts looking a little puffy around the eyes and isn't quite as chatty as usual, we think we need to take him to the vet. Even Betsy, the top milking Holstein in a small dairy herd in Carlsen Field has an urgent check-up from the vet when her udder suddenly seems strangely warm and somewhat firmer to the touch.

But what about Talbert, the blue oranda goldfish?

When he starts swimming sideways or simply lies at the bottom of his tank, do we think we should take Talbert to the vet?

What about the tilapia producers or even fishermen who go to sea and return hauling in that big catch? Can the fish they produce or catch get sick?

Can vets intervene in such cases?

With widespread concern over whether or not it's safe to eat the fish being caught in the Gulf of Paria and the many issues and concerns regarding the health of these animals that so many of us depend on as a major protein source, it seems fitting to discuss fish health and fish health management.

So, yes, fish do get sick and yes, sick fish can be taken to or examined by a vet, provided that vet has been specifically trained in fish medicine—which can certainly be different to the dog, cat, horse, cow, sheep, goat, pig, and bird medicine, that many of us may be more familiar with. This was indeed the case when, over several weeks in March and April, hundreds of dead fish (primarily Mulletts, interestingly) started washing up on beaches in southwest Trinidad, some months after the December oil spill.

As a part of the investigation, fishes were examined by a number of agencies, including the Aquatic Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory at the Aquatic Animal Health (AAH) Unit at the UWI-School of Veterinary Medicine (UWI-SVM). Diagnostic samples from aquatic species, especially fish, are collected and handled a little differently compared with those for domestic species. As such, aquatic animal patients presented to the UWI Veterinary Hospital have their own laboratory where their samples are analysed.

The laboratory helped to clean oiled animals during the spill, and performed necropsies on aquatic species that washed ashore during and afterwards. In the March-April spate of fish mortalities in the same area, the laboratory performed necropsies daily and has worked to provide the various environmental authorities with answers to

parts of this puzzle. Testing is extensive, time-consuming, and of course, aims to be thorough. Analysis of immune system responses, evidence of parasitism, microbiological analyses, determination of changes in normal tissue cellular structure, body condition scoring, analysis of gut contents, and collection and preparation of samples for submission to independent laboratories for chemical residue analysis were all done.

Now, outside of deliberately catching fish and removing them from their natural environment or an animal simply reaching the end of its natural life span, why would fish die?

Fish become stressed and may show ill health or may die when just about anything causes a severe enough deterioration of water quality. These may more commonly include proliferation of harmful algae in the body of water or the introduction of toxic or poisonous pollutants. These agents may either be directly toxic to fish, or may be indirectly toxic by disturbing water chemistry, thereby disrupting the natural balance causing the availability of an important parameter to be minimised.

Fish are also susceptible to diseases caused by a host of bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites. Nutritional disorders, tumours, reproductive and even buoyancy disorders are all known to contribute to ill health and mortality as well. An important issue is that of some fish pathogens and diseases being passed on to humans, sometimes simply from contact and other times following consumption. Such diseases that can be transmitted from animals to humans are referred to as zoonoses. For example, have you ever heard of Fish Handler's Disease?

There are a couple of bacterial organisms (*Erysipelothrix* sp. and *Mycobacterium* sp.) that cause Fish Handler's disease and people who handle fish regularly, like our fishermen, should be especially aware of and be wary of these organisms. When handling fish that may be infected by either of these organisms, the bacteria may enter the body through small cuts and scrapes on the hands and result in sores that are not only unsightly, but more importantly, may be very painful and difficult to treat. Immuno-compromised persons are especially at risk. Depending on which bacterium is the offending organism, the appearance of the lesions, the diagnosis and treatment will vary. This is merely one of the many diseases that humans may be exposed to as a result of coming into contact with diseased fish. Although it does not treat or diagnose humans, the AAH Unit aids in the examination and diagnosis of these and many other fish diseases and advises owners and producers on how best to manage their stocks while ensuring that they too are not

ONE HEALTH IN THE WATER

The AAH Unit of the UWI-SVM is actively involved in spearheading aquatic environmental conservation efforts. One such effort is the hosting of an upcoming 'One Health' Workshop focused on Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems. The 'One Health' concept is a holistic approach to addressing health-related problems, ensuring that human, animal and environmental health are all considered, so that the interrelationship among the health of all three components can be identified and effectively targeted when seeking resolutions. The Workshop will be held on June 24 and 25, 2014 at the Faculty of Medical Sciences and is especially timely in the light of ongoing human health, animal health and environmental health issues and concerns related to the oil spill and its clean-up efforts.

■ To access some of the many services of the **Aquatic Animal Health Unit and Diagnostic Services** please contact either **Dr. Carla Phillips at 645-2640 x4343** or **Dr. Omar Khan at 645-2640 x4305**.

exposed to potentially harmful pathogens.

There are many contributors to deterioration of fish health. Considering our nation's recent fish mortality event for which testing is still ongoing by several agencies, and speculation continues as to why primarily one species of fish was washing ashore in large numbers, it behoves us to continue to exercise a measure of due caution, as would be the case when deciding upon any one of our meals. After all, there are many potential contaminants that continue to be in our waters, that continue to bio-accumulate in the aquatic food chain, and that we continue to be potentially exposed to. Good water quality is vital to the growth, development and harvesting of healthy fish, be they freshwater, brackish water or marine.



RESEARCH

Social assistance plays an important role in poverty reduction by mitigating the effects of poverty and other risks faced by vulnerable households (World Bank). It also provides longer-term relief through investments in human capital. Social assistance programmes are publicly funded, non-contributory transfers that help the poor, by increasing their available options and expanding their capabilities to cope with these risks. This study investigated the coverage of the poor in two Social Assistance Programmes in Trinidad and Tobago: the Government Assistance for Tuition Expense or the GATE and the Chronic Disease Assistance Programme or the CDAP. The GATE provides tuition funding for citizens enrolled in approved tertiary education programmes, and the CDAP is a free prescription drug service offered to all citizens with chronic diseases. These programmes attempt to break the cycle of chronic poverty by investing in the educational and health aspects of human capital. Both programmes are universal and are not targeted to any particular income group in the population. This study also identified those characteristics that determine and encourage participation in these social assistance programmes.

The data for the analysis undertaken in this study is drawn from the 2008/2009 Trinidad and Tobago Household Budget Survey (HBS), which provides detailed information on the expenditure patterns of private households. The realized sample was 7,090 households that covered all cities, boroughs and regions in Trinidad and Tobago. The participation of the poor in these programmes is evaluated using coverage rate by quintile and quintile distribution of programme benefits. Quintiles divide the population in five equal parts, with each quintile representing 20% of the population. A quintile distribution ranks the quintiles from the lowest to the highest so that the first quintile refers to the poorest 20% and the fifth quintile refers to the wealthiest 20%. In this study quintiles are ranked using adult equivalent expenditure data. Coverage rate by quintile reports the percentage of each quintile that participates in a particular programme, and the distribution of programme benefits reports the distribution of programme benefits received per quintile. Determinants of participation in each programme are estimated using probit models. Participation by an individual in a programme, is given a value of 1 if they participate and a value of 0 if otherwise.

The results displayed in Table 1 below, indicate that the poor are underrepresented in both the GATE and the CDAP programmes. GATE's coverage at every quintile was low, with the highest coverage being 6% in the wealthiest quintile, with less than 1% of those in the poorest quintile accessing this benefit. The CDAP fared much better with quintile coverage ranging from 38% to 47% from the lowest to highest quintile. However, these results on coverage are moderate at best, with more than half of all individuals with chronic diseases in each quintile being left without coverage. Further, the results on coverage of the GATE and the CDAP reveal that these programmes are regressive, where the poor are less likely to participate than their non-poor counterparts. The results of the

distribution by quintile reveal that the benefits of the universal programmes are poorly distributed. Individuals in the poorest quintile receive the smallest amount of benefits in both the GATE and the CDAP programmes and are the least likely to receive benefits, compared to the other quintiles. In regard to the GATE, the top three quintiles received 85% of the benefit and 38% of the CDAP benefit went to the bottom two quintiles. Based on these results, we conclude that the distribution of these universal social assistance benefits is not effectively or consistently reaching the poorest individuals.

The probit results indicate that age significantly influences an individual's likelihood of participating in each programme. The older a person gets, the more likely he or she is to participate

in the CDAP and conversely, the probability of participating in the GATE significantly decreases with age. Thus, as people get older a higher level of healthcare is needed and at a younger age more focus is placed on education as a driver for development. The average income area where an individual resides was another contributing factor in his/her decision to access government assistance. Individuals from low and middle-income areas were more likely to participate in the CDAP than those from high-income areas. The sex variable shows that females tend to have a higher probability of participation in the GATE and the CDAP. This can be attributed to the fact that females account for 66% of university enrolment in T&T and that women report more cases of chronic non-communicable diseases and make greater use of health services than males. An investigation into the type of worker variables indicates that working in the public sector or being an apprentice significantly and positively influences participation in the GATE programme than being self-employed. This points to a possible weakness in the system that seems to neglect self-employed or freelance individuals, which should be addressed by policy makers.

The results suggest that more effort is required in targeting Trinidad and Tobago's social assistance programmes, to increase the coverage of the poor. Apart from possibly expanding some of these programmes, it might be necessary to undertake the difficult task of reallocating spending, over time, away from programmes that primarily benefit upper-income groups. Finally, reallocating social spending to programmes that provides most benefit to the poor will also be important for forging a more equitable society.



GATE and CDAP uneven

Poor less likely to participate

BY RAYNATA WIGGINS AND SANDRA SOOKRAM

Quintile	Coverage Rate (%)		Benefits Distribution (%)	
	GATE	CDAP	GATE	CDAP
1	0.73	37.62	4.38	17.72
2	1.86	42.31	11.16	19.91
3	2.95	42.14	17.73	19.85
4	5.00	43.21	30.08	20.36
5	6.09	47.14	36.65	22.15

TABLE 1. Coverage Rate and Benefits Distribution by Quintile of adult equivalent consumption (%). **NOTES:** The value of 0.73 under the coverage rate column for GATE in the first quintile means that 0.73% of individuals in this quintile participate in this programme. The value of 4.36 under benefits distribution column for GATE in the first quintile means that individuals in this quintile received 4.36% of total benefits distributed in this programme. ** **GATE** – Government Assistance for Tuition Expense and **CDAP** – Chronic Disease Assistance Programme

■ OUR CAMPUS

The Inter-Campus Foreign Language Theatre Festival is hosted alternately by each of three of the four campuses of the UWI on an annual basis. It is designed to stimulate interest in foreign languages, engage students in language use and study outside of the classroom and help students put into practice what they have learnt.

It is also meant to encourage regional awareness. So, from March 23 to 27, 15 students and three lecturers left the Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics (DMLL) to represent The UWI, St. Augustine at the 14th festival, at Mona in Jamaica.

Dr Paulette Ramsay, Head of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at Mona took us under her wing for the duration of the trip and proved a most gracious host. We were treated to a delicious Jamaican-style breakfast at the Confucius Institute, including ackee, dasheen and festival (a savoury corn roll similar to fried bake).

Impressive theatrical productions were performed in French, Spanish and Portuguese at the Philip Sherlock Centre for the Creative Arts (PSCCA). Mona also presented a Chinese song and a Japanese dance, and the latter included audience participation.

Mona's French play was *La Conquête* ("The Conquest"), and Cave Hill's was *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme* ("The Bourgeois Gentleman"), while Mona's Spanish play was *Fugitivos* ("Fugitives") and Cave Hill's *El Delantal Blanco* ("The White Apron").

The St Augustine French play, *Une Leçon sèche* ("A Dry Lesson"), a 1998 satirical comedy in one act, written by Jean-Michel Besson and Jacques Thareau, was directed by Mathilde Dallier. The play had been performed at St

DRAMA AMONG CAMPUSES

The 14th Inter-Campus Foreign Language Theatre Festival

BY ANASTASIA TOMKIN



St. Augustine Drama coaches with their students of French, Portuguese and Spanish: Mathilde Dallier (French instructor), back row left, Eliete Sampaio (Visiting Lecturer in Portuguese), front centre, and Guillermo Molina Morales (Spanish instructor), front row, right.

Augustine during La Semaine de la Langue Française et de la Francophonie 2014. The Mona audience was fully engaged. In the play, a lifeguard is off to get married, so he asks Gaston, a lazy pool attendant, to give swimming lessons to three students. The problem is that Gaston himself has

no clue how to swim, but dedicated as he is to his job and colleagues, he agrees.

St Augustine's Portuguese play, *Um Conto de Fadas Moderno* ("A Modern Fairy Tale"), was based on Hans Christian Andersen's *Twelve Dancing Princesses*, and was adapted and directed by Eliete Sampaio Farneda. This was the only Portuguese presentation from any of the campuses, and was well received by the audience. The play featured the situation of four rebellious princesses who try to break away from the rigidity of their overprotective mother, a widowed Queen. The Queen's suspicions of something awry in the Royal Palace were aroused upon being presented with a huge monthly bill from the Royal Shoemaker. It turns out the princesses were out dancing every night, thereby wearing out their shoes.

The Spanish play from St Augustine, *Rastapunzel*, written and directed by Guillermo Molina Morales, was a modern repackaging of the classic fairy tale where, from the confines of her tower, Rapunzel must endure a series of suitors to eventually choose one.

The closing ceremony was a time of reflection, speeches, cheers, food, music and dancing. It was a celebration of our shared success in demonstrating the beauty and utility of our chosen field of study of foreign languages and literatures.

First Ophthalmic Ultrasonography Workshop

The first regional Ophthalmic Ultrasonography Workshop was held at the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex, on March 15 and 16, 2014. The project was a collaboration between The UWI (Dr. Desirée Murray, Lecturer in Ophthalmology) and the Cole Eye Institute, Cleveland Clinic (Dr. Arun Singh – Director, Ophthalmic Oncology, Mrs. Brandy Hayden-Lorek – Director, Diagnostic Imaging, and Dr. Annapurna Singh – Glaucoma specialist). Thirty nine participants including consultant ophthalmologists, consultant radiologists, ophthalmology and radiology trainees, ophthalmic assistants and technicians, radiographers and ultrasonographers from Barbados, Canada, Grenada, Guyana, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago attended.

The workshop was divided into didactic lectures and interesting case presentations on Saturday and practical "hands-on" stations on Sunday. Attendees were able to enquire from the company representatives about the various ultrasound machines available and also entered a competition to win a gift bag (POEN) and two IMAX tickets courtesy of Eye See You Ophthalmics. The course dinner at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Saturday evening facilitated further engagement with the faculty.

On Sunday, the participants were placed into three groups of twelve, rotating between stations every hour. Following demonstrations by Dr. Arun Singh (Figure 2), Dr. Brandy Hayden (Figure 3) and Ms. Nancy London (Figure 4), they were able to practise techniques of UBM, immersion biometry and B scan ultrasound on one another. The day concluded with a vote of thanks from Dr. Murray to all who volunteered their time and effort to make the workshop a success.



Lecturers, participants and sponsors at the Ophthalmic Ultrasonography Workshop



Dr. Arun Singh using the UBM probe to scan a "patient's" eye



Dr. Brandy Hayden demonstrating the correct technique for immersion A scan biometry

■ LITERATURE

Looking for the Irish

How a writer tracks down a character for her novel

BY PATRICIA MOHAMMED

A common error in describing migrants is to group them with a majority nationality or archetype. One such obvious mistake has been to assume that all Caribbean migrants in post war Britain were Jamaicans. Similarly in Trinidad, in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the English, Scots and Irish were taken to be a largely undifferentiated group. Yet Ireland and the Caribbean have been linked for over four hundred years since the early transportation of Irish indentured labourers to the British colonies such as Barbados, and later Jamaica and Montserrat in particular. As Nini Rodgers' research has shown, the Irish were also found in other Caribbean destinations, among them the French colonies of Guadeloupe, Martinique and Saint Domingue, where they shared the Catholic faith. Migration of the Irish to Trinidad occurred much later, primarily from the nineteenth century onwards, when the Crown Colony system of government included migrants from Ireland, whom, as we shall see, came largely as managerial or professional classes, rather than as poor or destitute servants to this colony.

My contemporary familiarity with English and Irish cultures and peoples has perhaps made me a little more perceptive of distinctions between closely associated nationalities. Over the last two decades I travelled extensively to what is now known as Northern Ireland and to the Republic of Ireland. My husband, English-born artist, Rex Dixon, had worked in Belfast as a lecturer in Fine Art at the College of Art & Design, part of the Ulster Polytechnic, now the University of Ulster, during the "troubles" from the early 1980s, and survived life in this city in turmoil, despite his Englishness.

During this time he established a close friendship with one of Northern Ireland's most famous artists, Graham Gingles, and they have remained lifelong friends and colleagues. Graham lives on the Antrim Coast in a small village named Ballygally, whose most outstanding landmark is a seventeenth century castle, now housing the Ballygally Castle Hotel. The pastoral rolling hills and seaside villages, like Cairncastle and Glenarm, and the spectacular views of the Antrim coast, together with the peaceful ambience



Front exterior of the Church of Saint Paul and St Patrick on Maraval Road, Port of Spain with Statue of St Patrick prominently displayed high above. Interestingly, searching for the Irish overseer also led to the church, another character-building exercise! PHOTO: PATRICIA MOHAMMED – 2013

of the village, has lured us back for two decades now: the tranquility makes for a most productive writing space.

These visits provided me with an increasing interest in and growing familiarity with the history of Ireland. When I began my current novel, a component of which is set in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century on a sugar cane estate in Trinidad, I wanted to make one of my characters an Irishman who had migrated from Northern Ireland to take up a position as an overseer on a sugar estate in Trinidad. What better place to derive his origins than the people and sites I had come to know well through the churchyards and gravestones I had scoured which told the histories of many who had migrated and some who had even returned?

In locating this character in the late nineteenth century, I needed to ensure what were in fact credible occupations for Irishmen in Trinidad at this time. One of the images I came across that supported the historical presence of an Irish overseer was a photograph in *The Art of Garnet Ifill: Glimpses of the Sugar Industry*.

Searching for an appropriate caption for this photograph

which was taken by the Trinidadian artist and photographer Garnet Ifill in 1954 (Figure 1), Brinsley Samaroo, a Trinidadian historian, made reference to a poem entitled *The Sugar Cane* by Dr. James Grainger published in 1764.

Grainger, a Scottish doctor, poet and translator wrote this poem in flowery eighteenth century prose as a lengthy ode to the sugar cane industry, producing one of the best descriptions of life on a West Indian plantation at this time. So taken was Grainger by the beauty of the crop and the culture of plantation life that he was moved to wonder why the sons of local planters left the West Indies to spend their time in Europe. "While such fair scenes adorn these blissful isles, why will their sons, ungrateful, roam abroad? Why spend their opulence on other climes?"

In selecting Grainger's poem as a point of departure for crafting his caption, Samaroo writes "Whether it was 1764 or 1954, the sugar cane plantations of the Caribbean had always attracted young English, Scottish and Irishmen. Here the young overseers and managers, attended by their local grooms, gather for the Picton Estate gymkhana." In doing so, Samaroo acknowledges the established image of power, status and leadership of a generic white British male presence in the sugar industry and on the estates, from the early nineteenth into the twentieth centuries in Trinidad. The colonial control of sugar production dominated until 1975 when the British company Tate and Lyle sold the now floundering industry to the Trinidad government. Thus the scene in Figure 1 is a fairly accurate depiction of the hierarchy of ownership and management on the estates and the industry, as it operated well into the twentieth century.

In my reading of ephemera including the Trinidad Guardian, Port of Spain Gazette and The Mirror newspapers between 1914 and 1920, I had come across interesting information that confirmed the presence of these youngish men who would occupy relatively high rank in the sugar cane industry. By a leap of imagination that one is allowed in constructing a character for a novel, I imagined that this group could very well include an Irish overseer among them.

English, Scottish and Irish Overseers at Gymkhana, Picton Estate, Trinidad, PHOTO: GARNET IFILL – 1954



This is an excerpt from a chapter in a book on deconstructing and using different cultural texts that Professor Patricia Mohammed is currently working on. The chapter can be found at our website at <http://sta.uwi.edu/uwiToday/default.asp>

It dread inna Inglan

LKJ and Caryl Phillips talk about life in the mother country

BY VANEISA BAKSH

Two men of the Caribbean; born here, but suckled in an England that offered a bitter teat for them to cut their teeth. The six years that separate them is not a lot, but it simply evaporates as they recount their early lives.

Listening first to Linton Kwesi Johnson, then Caryl Phillips at their respective one-on-one sessions at the April NGC Bocas Lit Fest was illuminating for what they revealed about the conditions that shaped them.

LKJ, born in Jamaica in 1952, went to live in England with his mother in 1963. Phillips, born in St Kitts in 1958, went to live in England with his parents when he was just four months old.

LKJ studied Sociology at Goldsmiths College at the University of London. Now a renowned dub poet, at 18, he had joined the Black Panther movement, working with Rasta Love, a collection of poets and percussionists. He has performed and lectured all over the world.

Phillips, an extraordinarily prolific author—fiction, non-fiction, drama, essays, columns, screenplays—practically every form, studied English Literature at Oxford University, and has taught all over the world.

On a day named Friday, they were brought together by the forces of literature; their stories of diaspora consciousness

riveting, but full of the echoes that must be a dread beat in every migrant's chest.

LKJ landed up in a London where the expectations of migrant families did not run particularly high. It was a place where they hoped to earn enough of a living to eventually return to their Caribbean homes.

“Our parents’ generation went to England with this kind of attitude that we’re gonna work for a few years then go back to the Caribbean. For the second generation it was clear to us that we were here to stay,” he said.

He soon discovered that the British expectation was also the same—that they would leave, and that they could eke out an income if they could, but should not aspire to moving up the ranks.

At the end of his one-on-one with Anthony Joseph, a questioner relates how a career advisor had told her she should aspire to being a manager at Marks & Spencer rather than a doctor. It ignites a memory.

“I was the generation before yours, but I had the same experience. I remember—I went to a comprehensive school and you had a streaming system—three tiers. And all, nearly all the black boys from the Caribbean were in the bottom stream. One or two were in the middle stream and very

rarely you might find one in the top stream. You had to work your way up and I worked my way up from the bottom to the middle. And I remember when I was about 14, going to the careers master, and he said, What would you like to do Johnson, when you leave school? I said, Well sir, I’d like to become an accountant. He said, accountant? A big, strong lad like you... an accountant? He said, We need lads like you in the force.”

It was the kind of thing that was a common feature in what Phillips described as “an upbringing of daily marginalization.” So by the time LKJ hit 18, and encountered the work of W.E.B. Du Bois, he was ripe for revolution.

“I discovered black literature as a member of the Black Panther movement, because going to school in England, there was nothing in the school curriculum that gave you the slightest indication that black people wrote books—so it was like a revelation to me.”

It made him want to articulate how his generation felt growing up in England in a racially hostile environment, and poetry gave him a voice—a voice he said it took him 20 years to find.

In the meantime, Phillips was hearing Linton’s revolutionary beat. He had been two thirds through his English degree before he read a book by a black writer. He was in the US in 1978 when he realized “people who looked like me could write books.”

“When I was leaving university at the end of the seventies, it was a very contentious time to be black in Britain. It was the emergence of a second generation, whose concerns and frustrations and anxieties with Britain were being powerfully articulated by Linton, and a generation of writers was emerging who were the children of West Indian migrants and because I went to university—certain things were expected of me. ... I hesitate to use the word, but I think it is applicable, I was expected to be compliant, to be grateful in a sense, for having been touched on the forehead by the establishment.”

“And I blame Linton! I wasn’t grateful. I was anything but grateful. I was angry and frustrated and as annoyed as any of the rest of my generation.” He was now, “beginning to step out of the ivory tower, which is universities everywhere that were enclosed, protected spaces, into the world to try to find out who I was in a society that was not seeing me for who I thought I was. I thought I was much more complicated and I had a richer history than that which was offered to me as a mirror by the British society.”

Growing up in white, working class Yorkshire, Phillips felt an instinctive kinship with other diasporan groups and their shared “fight for visibility.” The concept of home was troubling.

He went to St Kitts; hoping to acquaint himself with the kind of landscape described by George Lamming; to know what mangoes and pawpaw and jack fruit trees looked like; to behold the flower of the jacaranda, looking for a more reflective mirror, if not a home.

“Home is the most difficult word in the English

Poet Anthony Joseph goes one on one with Linton Kwesi Johnson.



■ LIT FESTIVAL



Caryl Phillips responds to the question of Margaret Busby. PHOTOS: MARLON JAMES, OFFICIAL NGC BOCAS LIT FEST 2014 PHOTOGRAPHER

language I think for diaspora people, which after all, apart from the Amerindian population, we are all diaspora people in the Caribbean. We have to stitch together where we are from ancestrally—be it India, or Africa, or Syria or England, wherever it might be—with the reality of life here. So the word home is a contested word in the Caribbean. Growing up in England that was the word that caused me the most problems in the house, because my parents would talk about home and it didn't mean anything to me, but I knew it meant a helluva lot to them. But then again this was a place I'd never seen and there was no indication they'd ever be able to take me to see it."

"Daily I was reminded that Britain didn't consider me a person who should sit down on the sofa and make themselves at home."

But even as Britain offered house, but not home and hearth, it was there, in the formation of communities of 'outsiders' that a different sense of belonging was fostered.

For LKJ it was a powerful bond that transcended physical space.

"One of the great things about being part of the diaspora is that you develop a Caribbean consciousness which is not so easily available to you if you are living in the Caribbean. I mean there is no Caribbean consciousness as far as I am concerned outside of cricket, never mind Caricom and this sort of thing.... But when you live in England, we all become part of the same community," he said.

And just as it has provided Phillips with magisterial imperviousness—he told his interviewer, Margaret Busby, that he never reads anything people write about him—it has given LKJ an ease in his skin that is nothing short of mellow.

"I am not into this schizophrenic consciousness, double-vision consciousness kind of thing. I am quite comfortable being called a Black British poet. I am equally comfortable being called a Caribbean poet. ...I don't see any contradiction between the two."

Times have changed since the seventies, LKJ acknowledges, and much of his life's work has been dedicated to bringing about those changes.

"We were on the periphery. When I was a youth growing up in England, black people were marginalized. We were treated like third class citizens. We had to wage struggles. We had to organize ourselves, form political organizations, resorted to riots, insurrections and rebellions in order to integrate ourselves into British society. This [mainstream] is where we're reached through those struggles."

It stirred him, remembering how his accountant's ambitions had been dismissed.

"That's why I wrote this poem, Ingran is a bitch—because my parents' generation—they were constrained in the way they could fight racial oppression because they had responsibility.

"That first generation built a solid foundation for us you know. John La Rose called them the heroic generation because of what they were able to achieve in spite of the racial hostilities.

"My generation now, we were the second generation. We were the rebel generation because we refused to tolerate the things our parents reluctantly tolerated, and we didn't have the same fetters. We didn't have the same responsibilities. We didn't have the same considerations; and it was through our rebellion that we began to change Britain... and we changed ourselves in the process."

Library gets Roffey works

Writer, Monique Roffey has handed over her papers to the Alma Jordan Library at The UWI, making hers the first collection acquired by the library of a female literary author.

Roffey who was born in Port of Spain, Trinidad has authored a memoir and novels including *Sun Dog* (2002), *The White Woman on the Green Bicycle* (2009), the memoir *With the Kisses of His Mouth* (2011), *Archipelago* (2012) and forthcoming is *House of Ashes* (2014). She was shortlisted for the prestigious Orange Prize for fiction in 2010 and the Encore Award 2011. Her novel *Archipelago* won the OCM Bocas prize for Caribbean Literature in 2013.

The collection contains print and electronic manuscripts, unpublished works, photographs, notebooks, newspaper clippings and correspondence. The collection was handed over to the University/Campus Librarian, Jennifer Joseph at the Diasporic Literary Archives workshop in Port of Spain.

The collection will be processed and made available to researchers soon.



Standing from left is Lorraine Nero, Special Collections Librarian and Claudia deFour, Deputy Campus Librarian. Seated from left: Monique Roffey with University Librarian, Jennifer Joseph. PHOTO: JULIET CHAN WING

The 2014 NGC Bocas Lit Fest featured a number of firsts this year, with activities taking place in both Trinidad and Tobago; among them a day of readings held at the St. Augustine campus of UWI, which is one of its supporters. For more on the Festival, please visit their website at <http://www.bocaslitfest.com/>

UWI CALENDAR of EVENTS

MAY – AUGUST 2014

HATS OFF!

May 25, 2014 at 2pm
Sport and Physical Education Complex
The UWI St. Augustine

Join the UWI ASCC as they commemorate one and a half years of operation with their 2nd Tea Party and Fashion Show fundraiser, "Hats Off!" from 2pm-6pm, at the UWI Sport and Physical Education Centre (SPEC). Tickets are \$180.

For further information, please contact
222-8459/662-2002 ext. 84239
or ascc@sta.uwi.edu

CULTURE OF TRANSPARENCY

June 5-6, 2014
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Port of Spain

The Trade and Economics Development Unit (TEDU) of the UWI Department of Economics hosts a conference titled "Creating a Culture of Transparency: Revenue Reporting," at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Port of Spain. This event is sponsored by bpTT.

For further information, please visit
<http://sta.uwi.edu/conferences/14/revenue/index.asp>

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 Auditorium (LRC), 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 subthemes.

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

COTE

2014

OCTOBER

9-10

PRE-BUDGET FORUM

May 28, 2014 at 7pm
Daaga Auditorium
The UWI St. Augustine

The Fundraising and Alumni Affairs (FAA) Unit partners with The UWI Department of Economics, UWI Alumni Association T&T Chapter and the T&T Group of Professional Associations to host its Annual Pre-Budget Forum at Daaga Auditorium from 7pm.

For further information,
please contact FAA Unit at 224-3739

CONSERVATION OF AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS

June 24-25, 2014
Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex
Mt Hope

The School of Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS) hosts "One Health Workshop: Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems," from June 24-25, 2014, 7.45am-5pm daily, at Amphitheatre B, FMS, Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex. Registration is US\$100.

For further information,
please contact 645-2640 ext 4343 or 4385
vetsch@sta.uwi.edu
Carla.Phillips@sta.uwi.edu
Lecturer Marine Mammal Medicine/Aquatic Animal Health



LOVE YUH OWN II
May 31, 2014
at 8pm
Daaga Auditorium
The UWI St. Augustine

Foreday Mornin' Entertainment presents Love Yuh

Own II – The Concert Experience, featuring Black Stalin and other performers, on May 31, at the Daaga Auditorium, UWI St. Augustine from 8pm. Tickets are \$300 (all-inclusive).

For further information,
please contact 645-8155, or 313-5523

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>

Early registration deadline: May 31, 2014
Students: \$150, Professionals: \$200.

Late registration: From June 01, 2014
Students: \$200, Professionals: \$250.

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

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

