



Pomp and Ceremony



THE INSTALLATION: On May 30, 2015, The University of the West Indies formally installed **Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles** at a elaborate ceremony held at the Cave Hill Campus, where Sir Hilary had been Principal and Pro Vice-Chancellor. The three-hour ceremony was attended by all the pomp associated with such an event - the eighth in this University's history. In photo, the new Vice-Chancellor is congratulated by the **Chancellor, Sir George Alleyne**, while the **University Registrar, Clement W. Iton**, looks on. PHOTO: PHOTO DYNAMICS INC.

INNOVATION - 06

A Sweet Story

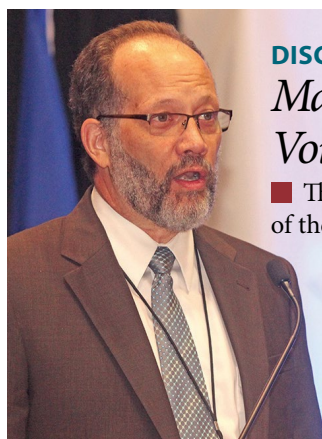
■ UWI and the Chocolate Factory



DISCOURSE - 09

Many Voices

■ The Future of the Caribbean



DISABILITIES - 17

Speaking Out

■ Questions of Intolerance



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Seepersad & Sons

■ The Naipaul Contribution



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■ CAMPUS NEWS

Role of the VICE-CHANCELLOR

The Vice-Chancellor is the principal academic and administrative officer of the University.

The Vice-Chancellor of The UWI is charged with advancing the University's academic reputation and global standing, while championing the strategic direction outlined in the strategic plan for the remaining period of the 2012-2017 plan and beyond.

The Vice-Chancellor must therefore possess the credibility, vision and intellectual respect needed to interact effectively with the highest levels of government, business, other academic and international organizations and civic society, at the regional and international levels.

Pursuant to Statute 5(a) "The Vice-Chancellor shall be ex-officio Chair of the Senate and, save in the case of committees under Statute 10.4 and of excepted Committees, of all committees of the Council and Senate provided that the Vice-Chancellor may appoint any person being a member of the University to be Chair of any such Committee."

Additionally, the Vice-Chancellor by Statute 6 is charged with maintaining and promoting the efficiency and good order of the University for which the Vice-Chancellor shall be responsible to the Council.

In concert with Campus principals, he/she provides strategic direction and leadership and helps to position and present the University internationally, nationally and regionally. The Vice-Chancellor also carries out important ceremonial and civic duties including matriculation and degree ceremonies.

The Vice-Chancellor chairs University Council meetings and other principal university bodies, and nominates deputies to chair others. He/she works closely with

the campuses to ensure a coherent vision across all the constituent parts of the University and across all the constituent parts of the University so that its governance, management and administration are efficient and effective.

TRADITION OF THE INSTALLATION CEREMONY

This ceremony contains elements which are centuries old, based on the tradition of the medieval university such as the gowns, the oath and the mace.

The University's tradition tell us where we have come from and, knowing where we have come from helps to give us a clear idea of where we want to go to next. The installation of a Vice-Chancellor points to a most significant intersection of tradition and renewal in the life of a university.

- *Tradition because we continue to follow the practice of appointing a single head to act on our behalf as a community of scholars.*
- *Renewal because we choose an outstanding individual to bring his/her gifts to bear on this most important of regional institutions and steer it into the future.*

The installation ceremony is an important rite. It is the formal act of welcoming and including the Vice-Chancellor into the academic rites, which are ceremonial acts prescribed by tradition or sectoral decree, known and practiced in all societies and reflect their beliefs and values.

There is significance in this ritual and in particular the meaning of tradition, in the way in which the office of the Vice-Chancellor 'captures' its holder, and how the conferment of authority is signified.

■ Previous Vice-Chancellors

Sir William Arthur Lewis	1960–1963
Sir Philip Sherlock.....	1963–1969
Sir Roy Marshall	1969–1974
Dr Aston Zachariah Preston	1974–1986
Sir Alister McIntyre.....	1988–1998
Professor Emeritus Rex Nettleford.....	1998–2004
Professor Eon Nigel Harris.....	2004–2015

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Building Capacity and Creating Impact



New **infrastructural initiatives** have begun the process for further integration of work being done at The UWI to more directly serve our society. The projects have been many.

In May, the new dental facility at Arima and the UWI School of Nursing (UWISON) at El Dorado were opened, while at Mt. Hope, sod was turned for the expansion of both the Dental School and the Arthur Lok Jack School of Business. Soon there will be ceremonies for two major projects at St. Augustine: the construction of the new Republic Bank building, eventually a Northern Plaza at our Eastern Main Road and the University entrance; and at our Cheeseman Street facility, Phase One of the construction of our new Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA).

Also ahead is the soft opening of the South campus at Penal-Debe; construction and outfitting are moving apace.

We have just signed an MOU with the North West Regional Health Authority to govern the construction of a Teaching and Student facility at the Port of Spain General Hospital which will house students and staff of the UWI St. Augustine Faculty of Medical Sciences. We expect to be present in that Teaching and Learning Hospital very shortly.

The many health-related projects being undertaken by the UWI over a very short period of time presents the most formidable contribution to that sector by any educational institution in our history. The Dean and staff of our Faculty of Medical Sciences and the Ministry of Tertiary and Skills Training and the Ministry of Health must be commended for their commitment to these projects.

I am pleased to report that our University is making good headway with projects that demonstrate responsiveness and capacity building. Common to all these initiatives is the significant impact they will have on society and the positive way in which they will bolster our resources in the areas of health and social services in meeting the needs of our Caribbean people.

CLEMENT K. SANKAT
Pro Vice-Chancellor & Principal

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■ CAMPUS NEWS

21 Honorary Degrees from The UWI

In April 2015, the University Council endorsed the recommendation of the Joint Committee of Council and Senate to award honorary degrees on the following individuals at the graduation ceremonies later this year.

■ At the St. Augustine Campus

MR. GERARD A. BESSON (DLitt)
Publisher, Trinidad and Tobago

MR. HOLLIS R. CHARLES (DSc)
Engineer, Trinidad and Tobago

JUSTICE RALPH NARINE (LLD)
Jurist, Trinidad and Tobago

JUSTICE JEAN ANGELA PERMANAND (LLD)
Jurist, Trinidad and Tobago

MR. RAJKUMAR KRISHNA PERSAD (DLitt)
NKR, HBM, Choreographer, Trinidad and Tobago

MR. DAVID RUDDER (DLitt)
Entertainer/Calypsonian, Trinidad and Tobago

MR. A. NORMAN SABGA (LLD)
Entrepreneur, Trinidad and Tobago

DR. MARJORIE THORPE (DLitt)
Educator/Author, Trinidad and Tobago

■ At the Cave Hill Campus

MR. STEPHEN D.R. MCNAMARA (LLD)
Lawyer, St. Lucia

SIR DAVID A.C. SIMMONS, KA, BCH, QC, LLM (LLD)
Jurist, Barbados

MR. RALPH WILLIAMS (DSc)
Engineer/Entrepreneur, Barbados

MS. PAMELA COKE-HAMILTON (LLD)
Lawyer, Barbados

■ At the Mona Campus

DR. THE HON LLOYD BARNETT (LLD)
Jurist/Educator, Jamaica

HON HUGH HART (LLD)
Attorney at Law/Public Servant, Jamaica

MRS. ALFARITA 'RITA' MARLEY (DLitt)
Entertainer/Philanthropist, Jamaica/Ethiopia

PROFESSOR EMERITUS MERVYN MORRIS (DLitt)
Poet/Educator, Jamaica

MR. DENIS O'BRIEN (LLD)
Entrepreneur, Ireland

PROFESSOR EMERITUS SIR GEOFF PALMER,
OBE, PhD, DSc, FRSM (DSc)
Scientist, Canada

AMBASSADOR BURCHEL WHITEMAN (LLD)
Diplomat/Educator/Parliamentarian, Jamaica

■ At the Open Campus

MR. DAVID SAMUEL BRANDT (LLD)
Attorney at Law, Montserrat

**AMBASSADOR A. MISSOURI
SHERMAN-PETER** (LLD)
Diplomat/Public Servant, The Bahamas

New Teaching and Student Facility at POSGH



From left: Dr. Andy Bhagwandass, Chairman of the NWRHA; Professor Samuel Ramsewak, Dean of The UWI St. Augustine's Faculty of Medical Sciences; Mrs. Judith Baliram, Chief Executive Officer for the NWRHA and Professor Clement Sankat, The UWI St. Augustine's Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal.

The North West Regional Health Authority (NWRHA) and The UWI St. Augustine Campus signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on May 22, at the Office of the Campus Principal. The MOU will govern the construction of a Teaching and Student Facility at the General Hospital, Port of Spain, which will house students and staff of The UWI St. Augustine's Faculty of Medical Sciences.

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal of The UWI St. Augustine, Professor Clement Sankat declared the signing of the MOU as "timely" and emphasised the need to build capacity at every level for the growing number of students given current enrolment numbers at the Faculty of Medical Sciences. He commended Dr. Andy Bhagwandass, Chairman of the NWRHA and the Honourable Minister of Health, Dr. Fuad Khan, for their roles in moving the MOU forward. He stressed the need to "move the agreement from a vision, a piece of paper to getting something done with the reputation of The UWI and the accreditation intact."

Dr. Bhagwandass gave a personal account of his time

spent as a double alum of both The UWI St. Augustine and Mona Campuses and his unique understanding of the need for accommodation on a hospital compound: "the site where students can speak to patients, nurses and staff in a safe environment and develop the social side of medicine." He also stressed that such a facility would encourage regional and international students to come and share knowledge. The facility will allow students to be near the hospital around the clock, allowing them to be able to observe special cases that are brought in, especially incidents of trauma.

Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Professor Samuel Ramsewak, expressed great satisfaction on the occasion, describing the proposed facility as a "premiere teaching hospital." He added that it would be outfitted with approximately 30 rooms including teaching, lecture and study spaces; kitchen and laundry facilities.

The MOU was signed by Professor Sankat and Dr. Bhagwandass, witnessed by Mrs. Judith Baliram, Chief Executive Officer for the NWRHA and Professor Ramsewak.

CARPHA Award for Professor Chadee

Dave Chadee, Professor in the Department of Life Sciences at The UWI St. Augustine, will receive an award from the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) for his "Outstanding Contribution in the Area of Public Health including Vector Control." The award will be presented at a banquet on June 26, 2015, where health research scientists are recognized for their work.

Professor Gerard Hutchinson, Head of the Psychiatry Department at The UWI, in his capacity as a member of the CARPHA Research Advisory Committee, will deliver the citation to Professor Chadee.

"Professor Dave Chadee has generated a very credible and outstanding international reputation because of his prodigious output of relevant research that has provided important insights across disciplines of entomology / epidemiology, medicine and public health," said Professor Hutchinson.

The awards ceremony is the highlight of the annual CARPHA Health Research Conference which is marking

its 60th anniversary this year when researchers gather in Grenada.

The theme of this year's conference is Violence and Injuries Prevention: an Urgent Public Health and Development Issue.

More than 170 oral and poster presentations are expected on a wide range of health issues, such as diabetes, obesity, breast-feeding, violence, nutrition, substance abuse, communicable diseases (like Ebola, Dengue, Chikungunya, HIV), mental health, cancers, health services, non-communicable diseases and environmental health, with many sub-sets of these.

The delegates comprise researchers, doctors, health programme managers and policymakers including the Chief Medical Officers from the 24 CARPHA member states. The CARPHA Technical Advisory Committee and the regional Chief Medical Officers will meet beforehand.

Please visit the conference website for more information: <http://conference.carpha.org/>

■ CAMPUS NEWS

Human Communication Studies Journal launched

Last month, The Journal of Human Communication Studies in the Caribbean (JHCSC) was launched at the St. Augustine Campus, making it the first journal of human communication studies in the English-speaking Caribbean. The JHCSC is led by a team from three of The UWI's campuses and is supported throughout the Caribbean and beyond.

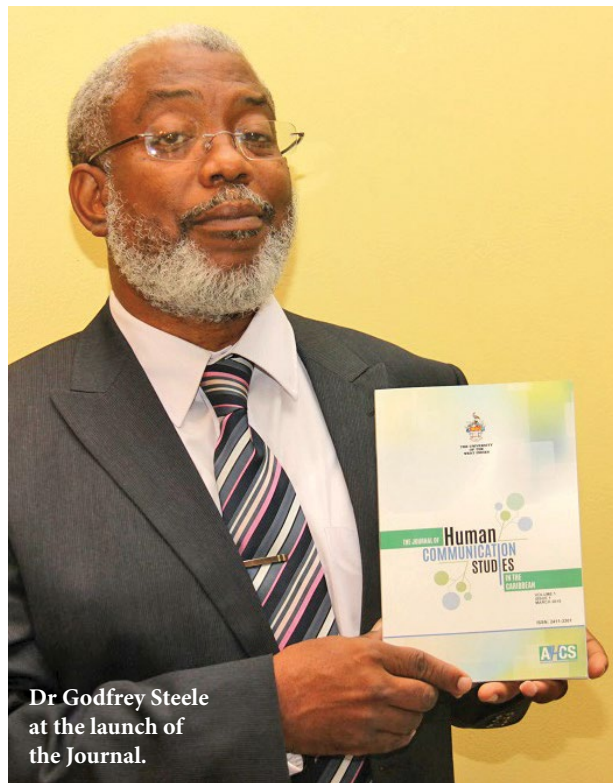
Discussion on the formal establishment of the journal began in March 2014 and the first issue was completed in March 2015. The theme of the first issue is derived from the inaugural conference: "Celebrating the Caribbean in Culture Communication and Community." Selected invited essays, original research articles, a reflective essay by Professor Lawrence R. Frey, University of Colorado, Boulder, USA, the 2013 keynote speaker, and reports, reflections and notices provide the journal content.

The journal website was built using the Online Journal Service (OJS) platform which is hosted by the Alma Jordan Library, UWI. This platform facilitated the online submission, and auto-replies and correspondence, review and editing, revision, copyediting, proofreading and layout of content. Other UWI journals use this platform, but the JHCSC is the first to create an online subscription service to give access to its online and print versions.

The JHCSC aims to promote the study, teaching and research of human communication studies in the Caribbean and beyond by publishing peer-reviewed original research essays and articles on subjects and themes related to human communication studies.

An earlier attempt to create a journal was made many years ago but it was not sustained. This version appears after 40 years of teaching and research in media and communication at CARIMAC at The UWI, Mona, over 15 years of communication studies at The UWI St. Augustine and four years of communication studies at The UWI Cave Hill.

The journal invites scholars and other contributors with an interest in human communication studies in the Caribbean to submit original academic research papers. As the focus and content of the journal evolves, in addition to the call for academic original research articles, proposals for



Dr Godfrey Steele
at the launch of
the Journal.

The journal invites scholars and other contributors with an interest in human communication studies in the Caribbean to submit original academic research papers.

shorter and alternative, imaginative pieces such as reader responses, book reviews, interviews, research in progress, and concept papers will be invited by the editorial board.

The online subscription service is based on the TouchNet platform. Subscribers will pay to access the full content of the journal and thus contribute toward making it sustainable. Some content is free. See: <http://journals.sta.uwi.edu/jhcsc/index.asp?action=currentIssue>. A subscription entitles the holder to a reduced conference fee and membership in the AHCSC.

The JHCSC aims to publish at least one volume consisting of at least two issues per year, but there may be periodic special thematic calls for papers that necessitate a deviation. Interested authors should submit original research papers on human communication studies in the Caribbean for double-blind international peer review.

The JHCSC received start-up funding from the 2013 Human Communication Studies International Conference and the Campus Research and Publication Fund. Another issue is planned for later in 2015.

The Editorial Board consists of three officers, Drs. Godfrey A. Steele, Editor, Livingston A. White, Associate Editor and Korah L. Belgrave, Associate Editor, who represent three campuses and are supported by 25 other reviewers from the Caribbean, USA, UK and Australia. These reviewers come from a wide range of interests in human communication studies and a variety of other disciplines including cultural studies, gender, literature, linguistics, history, management, psychology, information technology and education. The JHCSC has benefitted from interdisciplinary linkages and support from many partners and the Association for Human Communication Studies (AHCSC).

Also launched at the same time was a conference being hosted by the Human Communication Studies Postgraduate Programme in the Department of Literary, Cultural and Communication Studies.

This conference takes place on September 24 and 25, 2015 and focuses on "Identity, Context and Interdisciplinarity in Human Communication Studies in the Caribbean."

(Dr Godfrey Steele)

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INNOVATION

UWI and the CHOCOLATE FACTORY

BY JOEL HENRY

It is mid-morning on campus and Professor Pathmanathan Umaharan, Head of the Cocoa Research Centre (CRC), is making his way across to the engineering labs. He is going to see about a machine. Seems a mundane enough trip, a ten-minute walk through the campus grounds from the Agriculture Faculty to Engineering; but this is only one stop in an enormously important journey, years in the planning and years still from its destination.

The machine, a final-year project of mechanical engineering student Sayeed Khan, automates the process of splitting cocoa pods and extracting the seeds. It's a crucial step in the cocoa cultivation process and one that has remained little changed over its history.

"In cocoa production, none of the procedures have been mechanised," Prof Umaharan says. "Everything is done manually in a traditional way."

And for the reinvigoration of an industry that has been on the decline for many decades, in part because of a dwindling labour pool, that must change. The CRC sees innovation-driven mechanisation as a potential catalyst for this change – and a much wider and more ambitious transformation. Partnering with the Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering (MME), they are working towards creating a robust cocoa sector, from cocoa production to chocolate manufacturing, powered by regionally developed and constructed equipment and machinery.

The goal is audacious, but perhaps even more exciting is the strategy being used to achieve their objective. Faculties are coming together and fostering an innovative culture within the university, with the purpose of finding solutions to some of the region's challenges in the areas of

food production, economic diversification and value-added exports.

"The whole nation (Trinidad and Tobago) has been crying for diversification away from oil and gas," says Rodney Harnarine, Development Engineer in MME. "This is one area where there is a real opportunity. If we can move and grow this opportunity in agriculture and agro-processing we are creating jobs. It is a win-win situation for us."

Harnarine, like some of his colleagues within the Faculty of Engineering, has been an unyielding advocate for applied innovation, particularly in the area of food production. He is also a major facilitator of the growing culture of innovation within MME (see A Secret Garden of Ideas, UWI Today, April 2015 http://sta.uwi.edu/uwiToday/archive/april_2015/article11.asp).

Innovation, food production, economic diversification – there is almost no way to over-emphasize how important these three are to the long-term wellbeing of the Caribbean, or to the planners with responsibility for the region's future. Whether the project succeeds or not, this remarkable example of inter-faculty collaboration is an outstanding model for how UWI can interact both with itself and the societies it was created to serve.

Potential in a pod

"Three years ago Prof Umaharan approached us to build equipment for the cocoa industry because they had problems with labour," says Harnarine over the din of machinery at the Strength of Materials Laboratory of MME.

The department was hosting an informal exhibition of student projects – an array of innovative pieces ranging

from advances in agro-processing, to bamboo work, to glass testing and even medical care. Among them were two projects directly related to the work of the CRC – a conche (a device used in the making of chocolate) designed by student Javed Mustapha, and the cocoa pod splitter.

Umaharan explains his interest in the machines:

"Mechanisation, we think, is a way to make agriculture much easier and sexier than how it is at the moment. That is why I am working very closely with mechanical engineering. We want to introduce more mechanisation in terms of pruning, harvesting, cracking the pods, transferring the pods from the field to the fermentation area, and even fermenters. We use mechanical fermenters that can accelerate the rate of fermentation and improve its quality."

MME has already developed a prototype automated fermenter for CRC under the supervision of Dr Graham King. The centre is also working with Dr Saheeda Mujaffar in the Department of Chemical Engineering to develop an artificial drying method for cocoa.

A Caribbean Cocoa Model

Home to the high quality Trinitario variant of cocoa bean, investment in cocoa as a primary product makes sense in Trinidad and Tobago. But even though increasing agricultural production is crucial for the development of a sector that can make a significant impact on GDP, the real gold is in cocoa as a source of manufactured products.

"If you sell cocoa at the current price of TT\$20 per kg, somebody takes that and manufactures chocolate and that product is then multiplied by 200%. So that person benefits from our labour, whereas if we could add the value here we would benefit," explains Harnarine. "This is where we need to go – add value to our crops."

Trinidad and Tobago has already developed an enormously successful value-addition model in its energy sector. It was a pioneer in using its natural gas as the foundation of an extensive and highly profitable value chain that extended from discovery and production, through refining and downstream manufacturing. Along the way, the value of its natural resources has multiplied, a host of new industries have sprung up and many more people have found employment in a well-articulated energy sector.

Strategic thinkers like Umaharan and Harnarine want the same for cocoa. And once again, innovation can help.

"The CRC has a small chocolate factory that produces chocolate and trains persons from the sector in chocolate making," says Umaharan. "Over the last two years we have trained over 100 persons but when they need machinery and they see the great expense to buy and import the machinery themselves, they have not been able to get into chocolate making."

He adds, "that is where this linkage (with MME) becomes so important. We can use the linkage to make the equipment here cost effectively and really jumpstart a chocolate industry instead of exporting cocoa as a primary product."

The conche on display at the MME exhibition is one example of a locally developed machine for the manufacture of chocolate. In the chocolate making process, the conche is the seventh step (see "Chocolate in Stages") – heating, aerating and kneading the chocolate as well as calibrating the flavouring system. However, many local manufacturers do not have access to a conche and are forced to improvise.

"Currently local chocolate makers improvise with a melangeur to perform the functionality of the conche," says



On May 15, the Faculty of Engineering hosted an exhibition of student projects at an Innovation in Engineering event. There were demonstrations of equipment in solar energy, medicare, CNC machining and 3D printing manufacturing, cocoa and chocolate production machines, and agro-processing machines (sweet potato, plantain, cassava, chataigne and coconuts). On this page is a cocoa pod splitter, and on the facing page, a chataigne peeler.

■ INNOVATION



“Mechanisation is a way to make agriculture much easier and sexier than how it is at the moment.”

Mustapha about his project. “There is no heating element present in the melangeur, which is crucial for removing volatile compounds.”

In other words, a locally manufactured conche could enhance the quality of chocolate made in the region while avoiding the prohibitive costs of purchasing and importing a foreign brand.

Like his designs for cocoa production, Umaharan’s vision for chocolate making is expansive.

“We have a whole range of equipment that we are working on. We need roasting machines. We need machines to do grinding. We need machines for tempering. There are lots of small pieces of equipment that go together in making chocolate so we are looking forward to working with the Mechanical Engineering department so that we have a complete range of equipment. People can come and one-stop shop. They can buy the whole outfit to get their chocolate factory going.”

Though they will take much time and effort to be achieved, the CRC’s objectives for the cocoa sector are worthwhile and ambitious. The strategy to get there however, is already in play, and it is valuable in and of itself. UWI students are being encouraged to pursue innovation to meet the specific needs of the society. In one project the university is meeting its mandate to be relevant to its stakeholders by fostering a culture of innovation and working towards the growth of an economic sector.

Already, the CRC has plans to put the cocoa pod splitter in the field in the hands of farmers to see how effective it is.

“We want to put it in the farmer’s fields so that when they operate it we can see if they have any problems and we can adapt and change,” Umaharan says. “That’s how innovation happens. We have some thinking about how the device should work but when the farmer uses it he can say ‘ok, you need to modify it this way so that it can work better.’ We are looking forward to putting it out there and getting feedback. Once it works in one farm it could work in all the farms.”

Harnarine, himself an innovator, is hopeful for the growth of the cocoa sector but mindful that it will take time.

“The public must be patient and understand these are students. It took me three years to go from idea to machine (for his automated bread nut/chataigne peeler). The idea takes time to grow and iron out the bugs. But we will work on it and sometime soon you will see the results.”

But all signs point to the cocoa sector being well worth the wait. In the words of Prof Umaharan:

“Cocoa has one of the greatest potentials for Trinidad because we have research going back for about 82 years in cocoa production. We have excellent variety. So if we can combine those things with more innovative ways of production then we could really make agriculture more productive and attractive to the farmer. And once it is profitable to the farmer and we link it to the value-addition process, we have a complete business sector evolving around cocoa which creates employment and opportunities for export.”

No, not your everyday campus stroll.



Chocolate in Stages The Chocolate Making Process

- 1. Harvesting** – The cocoa beans are harvested. There are three types of cocoa beans – criollo (*premium bean*), forastero (*the most common bean*) and trinitario a rare hybrid of the two varieties produced in Trinidad and Tobago.
- 2. Fermentation** – The beans are fermented between 4 to 7 days
- 3. Drying** – The beans are dried to stop fermentation (*turning brown in the process*).
- 4. Roasting** – The beans are roasted at between 230F and 428F for 40 to 50 minutes to develop chocolate flavour.
- 5. Blending, Grinding and Mixing** – Beans are custom blended according to manufacturers requirements. They are ground into a liquid mass called “*chocolate liquor*”, a combination of cocoa butter and cocoa solids. At this stage sugar, milk, vanilla and other ingredients can be added.
- 6. Refining** – The chocolate mass is sheared into smaller particles (*about 20 microns*). This size is essential to the texture of the chocolate.
- 7. Conching** – The mass is heated, mixed and aerated for up to a few days to eliminate any off flavours or unwanted bitter substances. Conching increases the fineness of the chocolate.
- 8. Tempering** – The chocolate is heated, cooled and reheated to allow good cocoa butter crystals to form and bad crystals to be eliminated. Tempering results in smooth and glossy chocolate with a pleasant smell and resistance to warmth (*will not melt in your hand*).

CAMPUS LIFE

IBM Research Interns Reprogrammed

Students say their lives have been changed



From left, Hannah Abdool, Dr Nicholas Fuller, Dr Akash Pooransingh and Jevon Beckles at the IBM Research Facility in New York.

The relationship began back in 2008 when Jevon Beckles was chosen as the intern to join the IBM TJ Watson Research Headquarters in Yorktown Heights, New York. The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (DECE) at UWI St. Augustine had been approached not long before by IBM Master Inventor, Dr. Nicholas Fuller, Research Staff Member and Manager at the research facility. IBM Research wanted to offer an annual 10-12 week internship to level-two students, hoping to expose undergraduates to their sophisticated industrial research in the hope that it would persuade them to continue along the engineering research trajectory.

At the time, Dr. Kim Mallalieu was the Head of the DECE, seen as the top performing STEM Department at The UWI. The DECE was also well known for the rigour of the undergraduate degree that prepared students well as regional industry leaders and had attained accreditation from the IET. So when Dr. Fuller selected Jevon Beckles, it was no surprise that he performed exceptionally well in the IBM environment. It paved the way for all the others who have since followed. The internship was offered again for another year, and has been available since.

Dr. Akash Pooransingh, a Lecturer in Computer Systems at the DECE, has been the main coordinator between IBM Research and The UWI. In January 2015, a Joint Study Agreement was signed between the IBM Corporation and

The UWI for one year, naming Dr Pooransingh and Ying Li of IBM as its Technical Coordinators.

One of the terms of the JSA is that, "IBM grants to the University an irrevocable, non-exclusive, worldwide and fully paid-up license to use, execute, reproduce and distribute internally, the IBM Software, and any other copyrightable materials furnished or developed by IBM under this agreement."

The immediate effect has been to allow the 2014 intern, Hannah Abdool, "access to cutting edge research components developed and patented at IBM Research to be incorporated as an element of her own research project at UWI," says Dr. Pooransingh. "This is significant as it was never done previously and UWI benefits from having IBM Research as a research collaborator. Before this, the interns were not able to share or even continue to work on the research done at IBM with UWI."

His enthusiasm is shared by Dr Mallalieu.

"The Department treasures the relationship it has built with IBM Research over the past seven years," she said. "At the host in Yorktown Heights, our interns have made The UWI, their country and the region proud through exemplary conduct and contributions. At home, their shared experience has heightened the interest of other students in intellectual leadership and careers in research. Staff linkages have also triggered thriving lines of research."



Dr. Nicholas Fuller explains the internship to students.

Here is what the UWI IBM interns had to say

Jevon Beckles

IBM Project 2008: Design of a pin array controller for sensory perception and virtual reality

My greatest fear of doing a PhD, especially in the context of a small-island state, was that I would be bound to university teaching for the rest of my life. The internship experience threw those thoughts out quite quickly. It showed me that research could be exciting, but more so, relevant to everyday life.

Yohan Seepersad

IBM PROJECT 2009: Reducing parasitic series resistance in silicon solar cells

The IBM experience is priceless. Words will barely describe the manner in which those few months can drastically change one's perspectives. Research is the heart and soul of everything technology is built on. We have smarter phones, faster computers, smaller robots, better medicine, where does it all come from? Who does it? Who can do it? For me the answer to the last question was most significant: I can do it.

Barrington Brown

IBM PROJECT 2010: Voltage stress dielectric characterization for CMOS interconnects

My ideal career after my next phase of education would be something that allows me the exposure in either Research and Development or Design. Eventually I hope to become an entrepreneur. IBM allowed me to get a taste of research and it has given me a hunger for something outside the typical role of an engineer in the Caribbean.

Brad Ali

IBM PROJECT 2012: Financial control and organizational governance in Cloud

Prior to IBM, I had my eye set on working in the oil and gas industry or in the generation/distribution side of the energy sector, but throughout the internship programme, I came to realize there were many more applications for my experience even within the energy sector. Learning about IBM's Smarter Energy and Smart Grid projects while working there, inspired to explore those avenues within the energy sector.

Hannah Abdool

IBM PROJECT 2014: Design and Implementation of App to Aesthetically Critique Dishes on Google Glass

I had considered changing my degree, at times even quitting my studies altogether. I was not happy with my projected path. I love the Arts, and to me, my STEM degree suffocated that part of me. It is no understatement that my experience at IBM changed the way I perceived my education and my life altogether. My internship project combined aspects of Engineering and Culinary Arts, and proved to me that there is Art underlying every Science.

■ THE FUTURE OF THE CARIBBEAN

Bold Solutions Do Not Reside in Past Thinking

BY PROFESSOR CLEMENT SANKAT



The hosting of this important Forum therefore bears witness that The UWI is indeed re-positioning itself at the centre of thought, being a catalyst and driver for the development trajectory of our region.

Today marks a defining moment in the history of our region as we initiate a new dialogue and begin a novel journey that challenges the status quo and philosophical paradigms of traditional Caribbean development. Our aim is to create a fresh dispensation of ideas, thoughts and actions that will help our region reposition itself as an important player on the international stage and secure sustainable development in an ever-evolving and competitive world system.

Before I continue, I must tell you how thrilled I am that this transformative and mould-breaking forum is taking place right here on the grounds of our University. It brings to memory the vision of our founding fathers captured in the Irvine Commission Report of 1944. This report envisioned the regional UWI, “to be something more than the best possible institution for production of our graduates. It should be ‘The Intellectual Centre of our Region.’”

The hosting of this important Forum therefore bears witness that The UWI is indeed re-positioning itself at the centre of thought, being a catalyst and driver for the development trajectory of our region. Let me thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the UNDP in particular, and all the other supporting agencies for collaborating to host this Forum. And most importantly, let me thank all of you, our distinguished guests and stakeholders from various sectors for taking time out of your busy schedules to be present with us today.

It is imperative that as a region, we shift gears and look towards the future. The time in which we live demands new thoughts and new paradigms which will result in new solutions. We need to create a new vision for our region, our countries, our institutions and ourselves. As I reflected upon the future of the Caribbean myself, I could not help but think of some of the possibilities. This morning, I think aloud and share some of my thoughts with you.

■ What if we removed every barrier to trade for manufactured and agricultural goods within the Caribbean region that have been certified by their States of origin?

■ What if we ensured the free movement of people within the Caribbean region? Or what if we created a Union of Caribbean States?

■ What if we brought together the resources of the Caribbean including capital, technology, labour, energy, manufacturing, production and distribution knowledge, our land and marine assets, etc. to build a robust production capability within the region – a matter which the late Professor Norman Girvan passionately advocated since the 1960s, but a matter that has never materialized up to today, much to our region’s loss?

■ What if Trinidad and Tobago utilized its geographic location and became a trans-shipment hub for goods going to South America, would this not open up the Latin American market of over 350 million people to Caribbean and global exporters? What if we build a bridge from Trinidad to Venezuela?

■ What if the regional UWI becomes the leading university not only for the English-speaking Caribbean, but also for the Spanish, French and Dutch-speaking Caribbean, thereby serving great numbers of students from these countries; What if the regional UWI introduces a liberal fee regime that opens itself up to the wider world, including the sons and daughters of the West Indian diaspora and those from our ancestral origins?

■ What if all our State-funded higher education institutions, universities, colleges and technical institutes are brought together to form one regional collegiate system anchored in quality, technology, mobility and efficiency?

■ What if all the countries of our region implemented legislation with structured funding for research at 1% of our GDP? Or what if there was a regional research funding agency (funded also as a percentage of each

country’s GDP), could we imagine how this may propel problem-solving, creativity, innovation and knowledge generation for our societies?

■ What if university funding was guaranteed and enshrined in the constitutions of our countries in the region and as a percentage of GDP, as it is in some Latin American countries, could we imagine how this will remove all publicly funded universities from the financial challenges of the day?

■ What if the countries of our region implemented long and medium-term visions, strategies, direction and major capital development projects which cannot be changed through the electoral cycle (apart from exceptional circumstances)?

I ask you distinguished ladies and gentlemen, to ponder upon some of these questions, and I hope that more of these will be generated today, for although probing these questions may be seen in some quarters as ‘radicalism’ at work, I say that in the context of an ever-evolving world system, bold solutions to our present challenges and building an exciting future for our peoples will not reside in past thinking. I am therefore of the firm belief that we must speak about fresh ideas, concepts and models; pursue new perspectives and paradigms; while discarding inappropriate old approaches. This is the spirit and philosophy behind this Forum on the Future of the Caribbean. Bold thinking must no longer be on the periphery, it must now be at the center. This is not to say that we must forget our past, our rich history and the significant strides we have made post-independence, but the time has come for us to begin to think outside the box, to be creative, innovative and industrious if our region is to achieve sustainable development! Hopefully, this Forum will begin to interrogate some of these issues, remembering that The UWI must always remain a space for critical thought.

Ideas Aplenty, Inaction the Curse

BY REBECCA ROBINSON

A review of the proceedings from the Forum on the Future of the Caribbean, 5-7 May, 2015 held at The UWI and the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Trinidad & Tobago.

There is no doubt that the content of this conference is absolutely essential to the future of the Caribbean region. The challenge is therefore not in the conception of ideas, but in the more up-stream department of executing ideas. Pro Vice-Chancellor and St. Augustine Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat, in his opening remarks underscored this point by saying that as a region, country and community, “execution has bedeviled us.”

Shortly thereafter, the Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean), Antonio Prado, brought what could have been easily summative and future-positioning remarks in his welcome. Prado said that the models and strategies used to improve the lives of the peoples in the past are no longer working, that small adjustments have not been enough in a hyper-competitive world and there needs to be a tectonic shift, a paradigm change.

Luke Williams’ Disrupt was the provocateur concept for this conference and Prado’s address exemplified and advanced a real-time meaning of being disruptive in the Caribbean with razor accuracy. He said that disruptiveness in the region is needed to challenge the persistent problems associated with development and some revolutionary ways of bringing this would be for:

- (1) Institutions to strengthen a culture of openness with the public at large as they are the groups who make the products, provide the services and craft the experiences. A robust collaborative relationship with the private sector would challenge academics to find practical solutions from their theoretical positions so that the intersection of that relationship is the genesis of disruptiveness.

- (2) Academics need to revise what and how they theorize and conceptualize and leave behind macro-thinking for a deeper level, a micro-level of understanding that can drive innovation and profitability in business, which can be supplied to business to help them leap-frog over past and known challenges to development.

- (3) Business and industry must share in the risks associated with research and development which will benefit all. Only networks of public and private partnerships can find ways to raise productivity levels, cut the lengths between growth and inequality and spread the access to capacity building tools. Overall, the region has to use these “ideas as recipes to rearrange things to create new value and wealth” – the core tenet of Luke Williams’ Disrupt as based on economist Paul Romer’s new growth theory.

This frame was adequately clad with some specifics, statistics and samples over the course of the three days but it was on the last day, at almost the last session that arguably, one of the most important drivers of disruptiveness was presented: CARICOM has to reinvent itself. This call came from Andy Knight, Director of the Institute of International Relations at The UWI.

“CARICOM is an important institution for Caribbean unity but there is a perception that it has stalled or lost its way. It is not enough to tinker with that institution it requires a complete overhaul.

“Caribbean states are small, vulnerable and dysfunctional. Pursuing individualistic foreign policy will be a failure. We need to act as one, to pool our sovereignty, to get rid of the egotistical political leadership and forge a

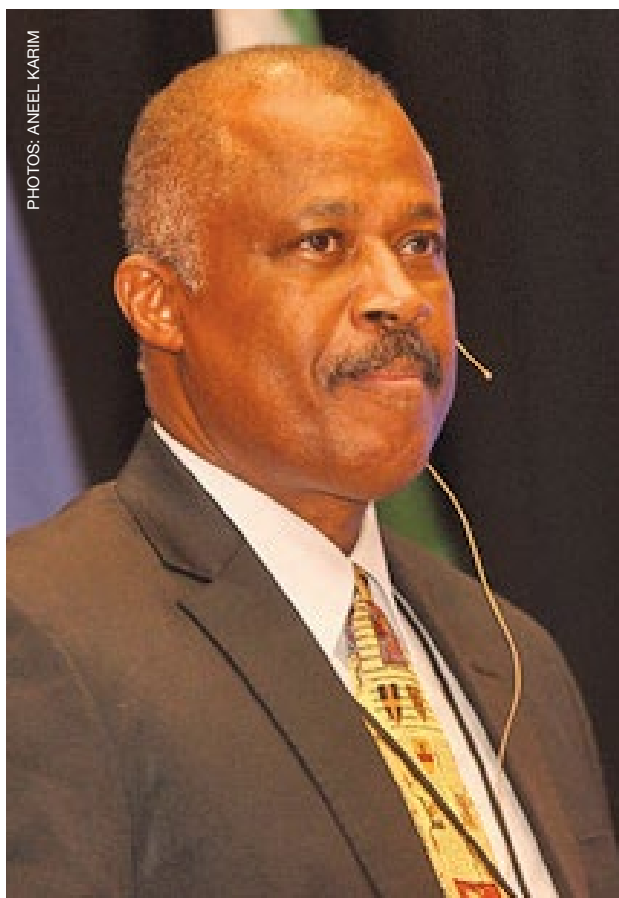
new convergence in terms of collective decision-making and positions within multilateral bodies.”

Caribbean people, by their sheer enduring presence are creative, adaptable overcomers, but there is a time in the personal and collective histories of all people when the survival strategy of ‘brute force’ must be examined and tweaked, if not totally revamped to survival predicated on ‘brain power.’ And that is what this conference was about – acknowledging that the future of the Caribbean lies in using the accumulated intelligence along with the better than ever access to technology, to find a way to make the data meaningful in everyday life.

That is a big request and indeed a major disruption to the current order as every speaker no matter the subject, in some form acknowledged that the ideas and perspectives they were offering in some way challenge the current order and modus operandi. Speakers therefore adequately aligned to the conference themes: laying out futuristic goals for the region; reviewing how the Caribbean collective can converge; calling for the region’s debt burden to be lessened; addressing poverty and other social imbalances; locating innovative financing and finding allies for this drive in the global village.

Andy Knight summarized some of the key issues on the last day:

“It is time to streamline the plethora of regional organizations that have multiplied in the region since independence. Rationalization of their goals and functions and elimination of unnecessary overlap would be part of that streamlining. We need political leadership, but a different type of political leadership than we have currently. Corruption, white-colour crime, unaccountability must give way to clean and accountable governance.”



Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, UWI Vice-Chancellor.



Economist and Head of the Caribbean Centre for Competitiveness, Indera Sagewan-Alli with moderator Josanne Leonard.

■ THE FUTURE OF THE CARIBBEAN



From UNDP, Stacy Richards-Kennedy and Richard Blewett, with The UWI St. Augustine Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat and Sharan Singh Director of the Office of Institutional Advancement and Internationalisation at The UWI.

To effect change in poverty levels, social inequalities, Caribbean integration, climate change, in SIDS (Small Island Developing States) another speaker, Kahlil Hassanali from the Institute of Marine Affairs pointed to the gap between rhetoric and action that in every facet of life, is faced by every country in the region.

“We are signing up to many treaties but lack legislation to bring life to these treaties in national policy and action,” he said.

Concluding Day One, Shariann Henry reiterated, “We need equality for all, equal work for equal pay... The 2014 public corruption perception index ranks T&T at 85 and Jamaica is close to that number too – the trickle-down effect will never occur. We need long term approaches to deal with corruption.”

The essential messages emerging over the days were that people at every corner of the Caribbean are thoroughly fed-up with governments fighting racial or tribal wars, politicking with national resources, misappropriating funds and acting in corrupt and nepotistic ways that further undermine the archaic systems and processes that seem never to work for and are always against people’s prosperity; that collectively the people of the region are disgusted and disappointed with where the Caribbean is developmentally and relative to the rest of the world and that the region needs to hurry up and get on the path to a better existence for not select strata of societies, but for all.

The UWI’s Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, in his opening statement on the second day said, “We all know what we want. We wish to see the Caribbean world develop its materials and infrastructure more aggressively. We wish to see systems of governance and political relations rooted in the Caribbean revolutionary philosophy of justice for all and freedom for all. We wish for cultural dynamism, cultural tolerance and respect. All of this is a part of the Caribbean revolution.”

In locating the historical Caribbean within a revolutionary mindset, he urged that there be a resurrection of that spirit if any change were to be effective.

For a conference whose content description is as bold as ‘disruptive’ to the status quo, the question really is: how does disruptive thinking render to progressive outcomes?

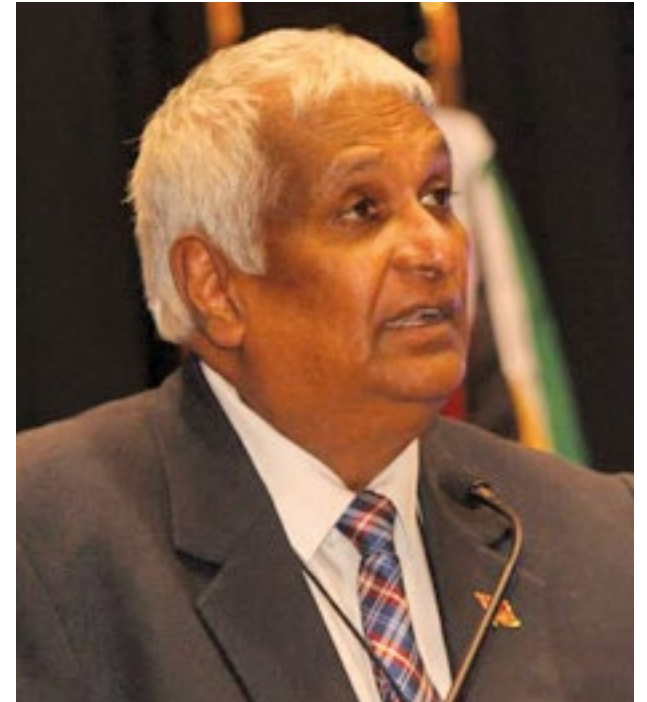
It can be argued that the practical operations of disruptiveness came from the audience. Throughout the three days, comments and questions centered on these points:

we cannot really be disruptive if all the ideas we are discussing are based on Eurocentric beliefs, paradigms and measurements, none or few new ideas move away from this way of thinking and perspectives on the region;

that as a region we are lacking cultural confidence in our own traditions and abilities to respond to global developments; when we talk about ‘sustainable development,’ whose sustainable development are we really talking about, as social justice and gender inequality are still not on anyone’s agenda and the top-down approach to mapping, fixing and engaging Caribbean people is not working but is still being done – take this conference for example – where are the voices of the youth, of civil society, of stakeholders and community leaders?



Deputy Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Antonio Prado.



Minister of Foreign Affairs, Winston Dookeran.

The peeping cynicism of day one was left behind on days two and three where cynicism became rife among attendees who shared their opinions.

“The usual Caribbean talk-shop” was the spin put on the sessions, as people seem to be simply frustrated that the issues around non-performing or under-performing governments cripple their efforts to bring change, bring a better quality of life.

On the morning of day three Indera Sagewan-Alli, Executive Director of The UWI’s Caribbean Centre for Competitiveness shared her perspective: “To have been really disruptive this conference should have started at the question of how to fix the problems of the region – which we are all familiar with. We all understand where we need to move to, so the descriptive statistics on the problems of the region could have been lessened and the parts of the sessions about what are the solutions broadened.”

Another perspective Sagewan-Alli shared on the form and content was that, “The sessions have taken the usual top-down approach to problem solving when people came to share their ideas on disruptiveness for solutions and were looking for a platform to be heard – and heard not in writing, but in the sense of how we do business – talking it out.”

Don’t misunderstand. Attendees across the days agree that the content of the conference – research findings and case studies from other developing nations, quality and variety of the speakers, the analysis they brought, the organization of the sessions, were all top-class. The issues they raised, the possible solutions they provided, the lessons learnt and best practices contextualized, the international perspectives, the new approaches to persistent development problems expounded – all are necessary elements of what the region needs to chart the way forward.

In closing Andy Knight said, “This forum should not be a ‘one-off.’ There is a need for an annual Caribbean Future Forum and a series of interim workshops and action events to make sure that the disruptive thinking which emerged from this inaugural Forum results in bold and decisive action.”

Balancing Knight’s comment and to have truly reflected its title, some said the conference needed to have entered the discourse at ‘let’s disrupt the status quo by mapping out strategies for some targeted interventions that originate with you the people.’ In the apt words of Vice-Chancellor Beckles, “Minister Dookeran has brought us here to plan a revolution. We are here to re-start the revolution.” Sounds like a call for Disruptive Thinking II - doesn’t it?

STILL FIGHTING BATTLES OF THE PAST

We desperately need a more sophisticated understanding of development

BY DR. MATTHEW BISHOP

The Caribbean is living through its most protracted development crisis since independence. This is reflected in a series of acute challenges relating to stalled growth, soaring debt burdens, deteriorating governance, crime and violence, regional disintegration, and climate change. Shortly before his untimely passing, Norman Girvan suggested that these problems collectively amounted to truly 'existential threats.' To have any chance of dealing with them successfully, a concerted regional response is required.

However, these difficulties are emerging at the exact moment when the regional integration process is itself in marked decline. Since 2011, the CSME process has been 'paused' and there is a very real sense of foreboding regarding the future of CARICOM. In any case, regardless of the extent of the malaise, even were these institutions operating smoothly, they were designed for a very different time: one that was considerably more benign than a contemporary era characterised by this daunting list of problems.

As the Caribbean tries to get to grips with these challenges, the wider context has also changed dramatically beyond the global crisis in quite contradictory and confusing ways. On the one hand, the broader dominance of a liberal international economy in which multinational corporations and mega-trading blocs are relentlessly globalising trade seems increasingly entrenched. Yet on the other, the hyper-neoliberal capitalism of the past is actually also becoming rather passé as powerful emerging countries such as the so-called 'BRICS' – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – engage in what are often quite unorthodox and distinctive development strategies. These broad shifts, then, are re-shaping the contours of a new structural order into which the Caribbean must insert itself and find new ways to approach its own development.

The problem, though, is that our intellectuals and policymakers are often fighting the battles of the past. Two broad narratives and separate communities have dominated Caribbean development debate over the past few decades. One group takes up a radical position, and is deeply suspicious of global capitalism, seeing primarily threats and new patterns of exploitation that mirror the neo-colonialism of the past. The other, which is considerably more orthodox and neoliberal, tends to be excessively optimistic regarding the opportunities available to the Caribbean by becoming 'competitive' in a global market economy by making the 'private sector' the 'engine of growth' and letting the market weave its supposed magic. Neither group listens to each other, and both are to some extent stuck in the past: the former are still rehearsing the arguments of the 1960s and 1970s; the latter continue to play the tired Washington Consensus hits of the 1980s.



On the panel discussing Vulnerability in Small Island States, from left, Dr Sebastian Auguste, Dr Matthew Bishop and Mrs. Indera Sagewan Alli. PHOTO: ANEEL KARIM

In 2015 the world is changing rapidly, and the Caribbean desperately requires a more sophisticated understanding of development. A key aspect of this is a nuanced grasp of the relationship between the public and private sector, and the role that this plays in development processes. In short, between the two positions briefly caricatured here, there is space for a genuinely 'developmentalist' synthesis.

This is something that is characterised not by unthinkingly 'opening up' or 'closing off,' but rather by a genuinely strategic approach that seeks to shape economic processes to serve developmental outcomes. We wonder continually why the Caribbean private sector has failed to stimulate high growth rates for the past thirty or forty years: the radicals had the answer, which is that we have a fundamentally rent-seeking, extractive capitalist class which engages in import-buy-sell activity rather than production. This cannot be overcome without purposeful State intervention to change these logics of behaviour, but too many are still wedded to the trite orthodoxies that have been passed down from Washington and Brussels over the years that State intervention is always 'bad' and the market is always 'good.'

Yet this is clearly far from the case. Of course, a vibrant private sector can certainly be a boon for growth and development. But it can also be rapacious and parasitic, misallocating capital and extracting wealth rather than generating it. So, arguing about a bigger role for the private sector rather misses the point: it is the nature of private economic activity that matters, not the extent of it. The same is true of the State: debates about a 'bigger' or 'smaller'

State are insultingly glib: we need a developmental State that intervenes selectively to shape the context in which private actors engage, in order to stimulate private sector activity that is developmentally-inclined.

Today, all of those countries that are enjoying rapid growth and development are doing so with just these kinds of penetrating institutions. Of course, countries as disparate as China, Brazil and India, as well as smaller countries like Malta, Singapore or Mauritius, are certainly globalising themselves, and working hard to find their niches within globalisation, as the Caribbean must too. But they are not doing so in a passive way. Global change is not happening to them: they are rather seeking to construct and sculpt the context in which their entrepreneurs and businesses are engaging with the world, and also challenging them to produce real innovations and wealth, not to simply extract rents behind privileged and protected market positions.

This is the primary lesson that Caribbean policymakers need to take on board, and quickly. Development will never occur if it is left to either chance encounters with often-destructive global market processes, or a largely rent-seeking local private sector. The Caribbean urgently needs to build purposive public institutions, at the regional level, that can shape, as effectively as possible, its engagement with the new global context by simultaneously restructuring internally and negotiating externally. This is what Mariana Mazzucato, in one of the most influential books of the past year or so, terms *The Entrepreneurial State*. It should be required reading for everyone in the region.

"Firstly, we do far too much to let political actors – politicians, regional technocrats, civil society groups, the business elite, academics and commentators, even ourselves as interested individuals – off the proverbial hook. Things do not simply happen according to an unavoidable, impersonal, celestial logic, and the CSME did not pause itself. Passive sentences that are written and spoken without subjects consciously elide agency, and they serve only to obscure deeply political choices made by often-powerful actors."

Dr Matthew L. Bishop is a Lecturer at the Institute of International Relations, The UWI, St. Augustine.

This is an abridged version of his presentation at the Forum on the Future of the Caribbean, "Situating the Caribbean within the new Global Political Economy of Development."

The full text of that presentation can be read online at <http://sta.uwi.edu/uwiToday/default.asp>

Too Unsure about OFFSHORE FINANCE

BY PROFESSOR ROSE-MARIE BELLE ANTOINE

My topic, while focusing on Offshore Financial Centres (OFCs), highlights an area where law intersects with economic and social policy. Moreover, it is representative of a much wider issue that confronts the Caribbean's socio-economic landscape, having deep implications for our future. On the one hand, the development of OFCs in the Caribbean is a remarkable example of Caribbean talent, dedication, creativity and brilliance. On the other, the OFC phenomenon is a tragic reminder of a region handicapped by a world view that has defined our political and economic policy; and even the way in which we define ourselves, or rather, fail to define ourselves and our place in the world.

This is an opportune time to be considering such policy issues – at a time when the very existence of the sector, particularly in developing countries such as ours, is being threatened by an aggressive onslaught by onshore nations under the umbrella of regulation and respectability – much of it orchestrated by the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

I will demonstrate that while legitimate concerns may be raised about the sector, as with any financial sector, many of the allegations, though posed as valid legal objections, are coloured by political and economic overtones and are without legal justification. In fact, from a legal and economic policy perspective, offshore structures and policies are inherently legitimate.

We need to mount an appropriate defence for this mode of industry – chosen by so many Caribbean nations as a legitimate path to development. In fact, this is a billion-dollar sector, responsible for the high GDP and standards of living for several of our neighbours such as the BVI, Cayman, Nevis, the Bahamas and Bermuda.

However, to do so, we must first understand the legal issues involved, since it is through legal policy that such financial centres have been attacked. In fact, offshore finance is an area where law has been used as an important tool for economic policy, to usher in a new era of development. Law was also the weapon used against the region by onshore developed countries afraid of losing revenue to offshore developing countries.

I believe that we must analyse this socio-legal construct if we are to chart a suitable course for the future.

Few people recognize that in terms of economic and legal policy, the creation and development of the OFC is a rare and genuine example of indigenous thought and action – a shining example in fact, that has been emulated the world over, on every continent. Did we know, for example, that the international business company was created right here in the Caribbean, in the BVI, by our own professionals? This is the model IBC that has been exported across the world. Similarly, unique and innovative legal norms and products such as the offshore trust, which I have described as a 'hybrid financial product,' have been born on our shores in various transmutations: i.e. the purpose trust; the anti-Bartlett trust, which challenges archaic, unresponsive, common law rules and orthodox principles, for example, about the liability of trustees considered to be unfair and onerous. We have been the prime movers and initiators – not mimic men – guided by the needs of the market.



We need to mount an appropriate defence for this mode of industry – chosen by so many Caribbean nations as a legitimate path to development.

We don't know these facts because our vision is obstructed by the far more pervasive 'bad press' on the offshore sector. Very few have taken the time to examine carefully the reality behind the sector, and what it represents. The offshore/international sector has been, especially in recent years, repeatedly held up as a negative phenomenon, involving shady deals and criminal activity – the bogeyman. Nothing is said though about the wholesale export of these more modern legal commercial principles involving, banking, trust, company, commercial law in the offshore environment, to the shores of these very same nations that criticize offshore financial centres and the laws that support them. So, while some of us may realize that Jersey, Isle of Man and Guernsey – Cayman, BVI; important offshore financial centres are in fact all British territories. Few of us understand and appreciate that several states in the USA, perhaps the most strident critic of Caribbean offshore financial centres, have copied our offshore laws and policy lock, stock and barrel. I am referring her to Delaware, Atlanta, Colorado, and Alaska and the like.

I have examined this in detail and the picture is telling. Few industries, however, have attracted the kind of hypocrisy allowed to permeate and distort the legal and economic framework of this sector, even well-established principles in economics, trade, domestic law and international law.

My conclusion has been that once again, it is a tale of one set of standards for them, and another, far less

advantageous for us. Indeed, so successful has been the anti-offshore lobby, we have even persuaded ourselves that the term 'offshore' is tainted somehow. Some of us have tried to change the name to 'international'. Since we are being 'disruptive', let us acknowledge that this is the name Trinidad and Tobago preferred, for example, based on the so-called 'Kuwait model' which ironically, has borrowed from the region's offshore laws. I have refused to do this and make no apology. I do not think that we should allow ourselves to be defined and redefined. There is nothing inherently wrong about the term 'offshore' and in any event, whether we call ourselves international or anything else, everyone knows what we are speaking about.

I concede that it is undeniable that there are credible regulatory and even ethical issues in the OFC, as in any financial sector. There are rules and products that though not abusive in or of themselves can be susceptible to abuse. However, the approach to international regulation of the sector has been self-serving and cynical, to say the least. When we examine the case law, it is clear that where these issues are concerned, the outcome for onshore developed countries has been different, that is, more advantageous than where offshore jurisdictions are concerned. Attempts by onshore countries to bully offshore nations to abandon or compromise such developmental policies are without foundation. Today, the OFC is in retreat mode. Time will tell...

This is an excerpt from the presentation, "The Caribbean Offshore Financial Services Revolution – A Bold, Futuristic Initiative Requiring Brave Leadership," made by Professor Rose-Marie Belle Antoine, Dean of the Faculty of Law, The UWI St. Augustine at the Forum on the Future of the Caribbean on May 5, 2015.

The full text of her presentation can be read at <http://sta.uwi.edu/uwiToday/default.asp>

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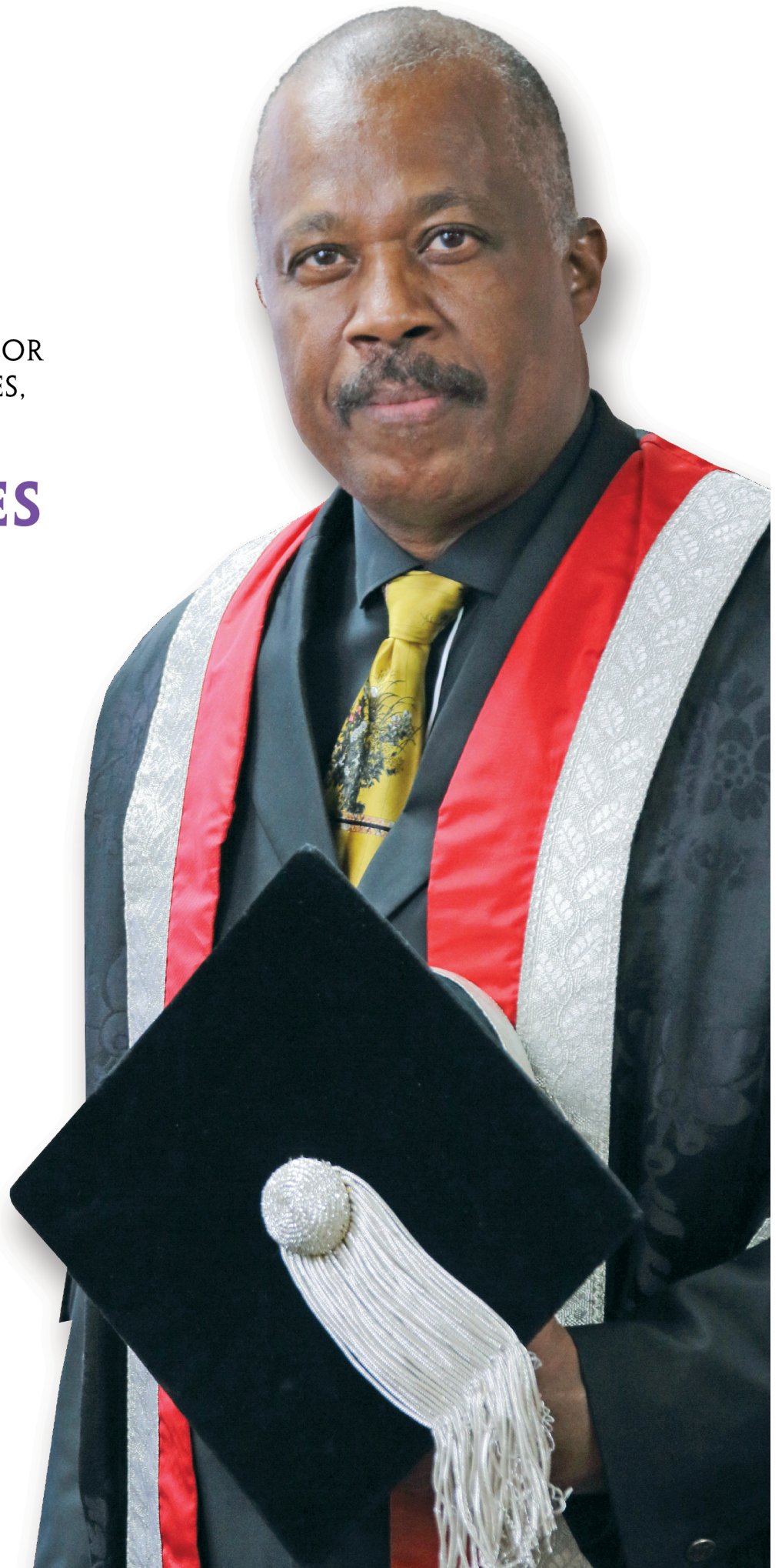
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CARIBBEAN UNITY – DOOM *or* DESTINY?

The End of the West Indies PART I

BY PROFESSOR GERARD HUTCHINSON

*Mr West Indian politician
Ah mean, yuh went to big institution
So how come you cyar unite 7 million?*
–Leroy Calliste, Black Stalin

Caribbean political independence is a farce at its zenith
– CLR James



The question of the ideological and psychological identity of the Caribbean continues to be one that should be easily answered but remains largely unconsidered. Economic, cultural and psychosocial problems – not least crime and violence – where the Caribbean leads the world alongside Central America, demand a regional response in order to prevent a return to a complete loss

of independence and some form of colonization; if we are not there already.

However, in each country there seems to be a complete ignorance of similar problems in the proximal and distal region. There have been several reports in the newspapers recently assessing – either directly or indirectly – the state of the Caribbean union. The lack of a regional response to the issues of crime and violence underscore the parlous nature of the union.

Cricket and The UWI have often been touted as the last remaining symbols of regional unity, but the title West Indies may now be anachronistic, given the current preferred generic referencing of the region as the Caribbean.

Names and labels are important, especially in this age of branding, and the concept of the West Indies throws up many unresolved dilemmas. Should we be a West Indies as separate from a Caribbean or as a constituent part of the larger Caribbean? What is this larger Caribbean and what does its geographic existence mean? What of those countries that remain politically aligned as colonies to European countries, as applies to the French and Dutch Caribbean?

Gabriel García Márquez, the late Colombian author, opined that the Caribbean extends into Central America and indeed the southern United States by virtue of the common historical experiences.

Guyana, of course, is on the South American continent but has traditionally been embraced as part of the West Indies and by extension, the Caribbean.

Understanding the meaning of the two terms and the need to clarify their meaning and relevance seems to be a priority for the leadership of the region. The duality of names may be contributing to an implicit identity crisis. Names are important in the assumption of purpose, and creating a platform for belonging, becoming and representation. We have assumed multiple names for the groupings in the Caribbean, perhaps because of our fractured histories and the multiple colonizers that shaped this migrant Caribbean world.

The English-speaking Caribbean has been commonly called the West Indies. The origin of this name lies in the misleading geography of Columbus and the inability of his

successors to come to terms with the reality of this part of the world. The health of the regional project continues to be severely compromised and I would suggest that one of the reasons for this is a lack of definitional clarity in our own minds. CARICOM seems to have failed to engender a sense of regional unity, purpose and commonality of destiny.

The issue of leadership is perhaps best reflected in the ongoing debate about the best model of management for West Indies cricket. The role and value of cricket and its administration in the region are also in continuous review, as dissatisfaction about the administrative management, including its structure continues to fester. Yet one radio commentator suggested that the recent victory over England in the final Test match of the recently concluded series would do wonders for the psyche of the Caribbean citizen.

Leadership that seeks the benefit of all and does not seek to recreate the old divisions in order to maintain its hold on power is a desperate need.

The exercise of leadership in the Caribbean née West Indian enterprise of The UWI has also come under historical and contemporary scrutiny. Since the banning of Walter Rodney by the administration of The UWI Mona Campus in 1969 and the perceived lack of an intellectual ideology generating scholarship related to the generation and preservation of regional identity, The UWI's role in the clarification of the nature and purpose of the Caribbean union remains unclear.

The CARICOM leadership has not fared any better since Black Stalin's landmark song, as the response to the Maurice Bishop-led coup in Grenada and the subsequent events culminating in the US invasion after the collapse of the coup's leadership was confused and inconsistent at best.

There has been no detailed academic or regional analysis of that coup or indeed, the two attempted coups in Trinidad in 1970 and 1990. Several other regional issues have not been sufficiently explored to examine the effects on our consciousness. The Dudas extradition in Jamaica, the financial implosion of CLICO, the denial of entry of CARICOM nationals to CARICOM countries, the exegesis of Haitians from the Dominican Republic, the growing presence and influence of China in the region, the lack of regional consensus about the Caribbean Court of Justice among others, all demand detailed and insightful analysis. Would it not be more effective to develop and adopt one regional solution than multiple island ones?

Perhaps this process should have begun with the reasons for the failure of the West Indian Federation that has seemed to haunt our efforts to unite under a common banner of regional interdependence. The recent struggle to establish a common protocol and affordable carrier system for facilitating movement between the islands continues to inform the immigration challenges that islanders face

in travelling from one Caribbean island to another. From Shanique Myrie to Yasin Abu Bakr, the questions seem to have no consistent answers. Identity becomes critical to the formation and elaboration of the questions that we need to ask, and our confidence in the answers. There are so few genuine regional institutions, and they continue to be mired in covert and subtle expressions of one-upmanship and lack of an explicit regional purpose and philosophy. These institutions are becoming increasingly anomalous if not anachronistic. They require unity of purpose and unity of effort if they are to survive and prosper.

*'No set ah money, could form a unity
First of all a people need their identity'*
–Black Stalin

The deceptive trap that money and funding are the solutions to our problems continues to misdirect attention. Paying people well does not guarantee consistent commitment if they are not consumed by the desire to perform at their representative best. If what they are representing is self only, individualism will breed selfishness and eventually triumph over community. It is worth interrogating the idea that a working model of Caribbean unity is the best means to deal with the pressing problems facing the region. The upsurge of crime and violence across the region is a direct consequence of the unbridled materialism and authoritarianism that has infiltrated and overtaken our societies. There is more negation than affirmation, particularly in the appreciation of our human resources.

The question of negation or affirmation, what to reject, what to seek, what is the value of Caribbean unity? The role of alliances in the expression of identity, the issues of language and of course, the historical trajectories that have seen the USA, itself an amalgam of states, replace Britain as our greatest cultural colonizer.

A large component of the hegemony enjoyed by the USA has been derived from the vast human and physical resource diversity contained within its borders. New York, Florida, California and Texas are further apart in culture and character than any of the West Indian islands yet they are held together by a constitution that recognizes the value of being together.

What does our lack of unity convey about the Caribbean psyche? Is it fragmented and unable to create a solid foundation? Lacking in foundation? Will it always be rudderless and therefore unable to be molded as a purposeful entity? These are the questions that must be answered to determine the future of the region and whether we will some day become a net importer of talent and brain instead of a net exporter.

HONOURING THE PIONEERS

BY DR. CLAUDIUS FERGUS

The Department of History hosted its inaugural History Fest under the theme “Honouring the Pioneers” from March 11-20, 2015. Several groups of lecturers, teaching assistants, and members of the History Society produced a historical panorama of the Department since its fledgling days in the Arcon Building in 1962.

It began with a remembrance service for passed colleagues, Dr. Neville Hall, Mr. Keith Radhay, Dr. Kenneth Parmasad, Dr. Fitzroy Baptiste, Professor Keith Laurence, and Dr. Peter Harris. Invocations were done by Professor Anderson Maxwell and Deacon Cy Moore. It ended with a dinner and awards to long-serving and pioneering members of the Department.

Photographic displays were mounted along corridors of the Humanities block, in the lobby of the Main library; and in the JFK Quadrangle a tent with a flat screen and printed displays was set up. The Department invited the Chiefs of the First Peoples to formerly launch the Library display. Among the exhibits was a collection of cultural artefacts that included the oldest manmade object in the Caribbean, a 9,000 year-old stone spear head found in Biche in 1988, and currently lodged in the Archaeology Centre of the Department.

Chief Ricardo Bharath Hernandez and Christo Adonis of the Santa Rosa First Peoples invoked their deities and ancestors in a short ceremony next to the artefact.

A symposium marking the centenary of Marcus Garvey’s United Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) was incorporated into History Fest, together with the Department’s faculty seminars that fell within the period. Altogether there were five robust academic sessions. The UNIA symposium featured visiting scholar, Dr. Erik McDuffie of the University of Illinois, who spoke on “The Diasporic Journeys of Louise Norton Langdon Little: Grassroots Garveyism, Women, and Global Black Freedom,” Dr. Jerome Teelucksingh, who spoke on “Race Consciousness vs Class solidarity: The impact of Marcus Garvey on

the Labour movement in Trinidad and Tobago,” and I spoke on “Garveyism and Africa: Reception, Rejection, Re-Union.” Dr. Michael Toussaint was the panel chair.

Two symposia were capital to the theme, “Honouring the Pioneers,” each demonstrated emphatically the diverse roles of historians in general as well as the significant intervention of historians of the History Department in the political and social history of Trinidad and Tobago. The first of these symposia was titled “History and the Black Power Movement.” This fascinating panel relived and reinterpreted the enigmatic run up to declaration of the state of emergency in April 1970 and the social changes unleashed by the revolutionary uprising throughout the 1970s. The panel brought together lecturer-activist, Professor Brinsley Samaroo, and political detainee, Mr. Khafra Kambon, who admitted he had just graduated from the UWI, but still frequented the campus; Dr. Rita Pemberton who shared her experience of Black Power as a student at Mona under the tutelage of the famous revolutionary, Walter Rodney, and as participant in a public march against neo-colonialism; and one of the many young female revolutionaries who combined Black Power activism with female emancipationism, Dr. Olabisi Kuboni.

Samaroo remembered his induction into Black Power when he, Bill Riviere and Patrick Emmanuel were “commandeered” by student activists to engage in a “conscientisation” of the masses through public meetings.

If the commandeering was a shocker, the enthusiastic response by all three lecturers was even more so. Samaroo, for example, gave lectures from Rio Claro to Belmont and also participated in the “March to Caroni” under the banner, “African and Indians Unite Now”. Samaroo paid tribute to another student activist (and future lecturer in the Department), Ken Parmasad, for his diplomatic interventions that made the march a peaceful event. Kambon iterated that mass meetings and public marches in the 1960s were unfettered by legislation requiring Police permission;

without this freedom, the March to Caroni might not have taken place, since, not only the Government, but also, Bhadase Sagan, the self-appointed “Maharaj” of Caroni was dead set against it.

“Lecturers in Politics and Government” was the second capital symposium, featuring Brinsley Samaroo, Dr. Kusha Haraksingh, Dr. Lovell Francis and Professor Emerita Bridget Brereton.

Other history lecturers had also been drawn into national politics, including Dr. Sahadeo Basdeo, Professor James Millette, the leader of the United National Independence Party (UNIP) and Professor Kelvin Singh, the UNIP’s Education Officer. Samaroo confirmed that his induction into politics began with his groundings in the Black Power movement. His political career included Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and Cabinet Minister in the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) Government. Although Haraksingh held the influential post of Vice-Chairman of the United Labour Front, he refused to offer himself as candidate for national elections; however, he also became a Senator and led his party’s negotiation in the formation of the NAR. Both Samaroo and Haraksingh affirmed that history shaped their politics, but equally, that their teaching of history was enhanced by their involvement in politics and Parliament.

History Fest closed with a staff seminar paper by Dr. Michael Toussaint on the topic, “The Eric Williams Diaries.” Interestingly, Williams was very much part of the Department’s history: during the interviews of retired faculty, both Samaroo and Singh affirmed Williams’ tremendous influence on their intellectual development. Williams was also largely responsible for introducing the history of India and Africa to the department. Although Toussaint was more interested in interrogating the diaries as a window to the soul of Williams, it was inevitable that the Q&A session would open other vistas that linked Williams to Black Power and national politics to which many lecturers of the department were drawn.



Members of the Symposium on History and the Black Power Movement



Members of the Panel, Lecturers in Politics and Government

TOWARDS SOCIAL INTEGRATION

Sexual Oppression *and* Exploitation

BY DR YANSIE ROLSTON

There is widespread misconception that disabled people have no sexual attractions or urges, cannot perform sexually, are sexually irresponsible or are oversexed. This leads to a tendency to infantilize the disabled embodiment, denouncing sexual curiosity, and inadequate sexual health services. All of which indicate the deficit embedded in the social values towards disabled people and the false dependency notion that those with impaired bodies are incompetent, passive beings of whom things must be done for, and to.

Symptomatic of the way that the rights to full citizenship are denied for disabled people, is the widespread prevalence of sexual oppression and exploitation with disabled women being assaulted, raped and abused twice as much as non-disabled women, and the more disabled the woman the greater her risk of being assaulted (Cusitar 1994, Simpson & Best 1991, Sobsey 1998). Sexuality is the second most important human drive after survival (Owens De Than 2015) yet so many are afraid to speak openly about it. But as the incidents of sexual and intimate abuse are so prevalent isn't it time for frank discussions and risk reduction actions on this silent taboo?

Below is just a snapshot of what some disabled people have experienced:

Joyce a 21 year old with severe physical impairments was plied with alcohol and raped by a neighbour. The police officers refused to take further action because according to them "she can't understand what happen to she, she retarded." The only villager to chastise the perpetrator was Simon the parent of a disabled son.

Four siblings who had been raped were taken into a home for displaced youngsters. The matron found the 13 year old masturbating and relayed that she "beat the nastiness out of him and send him to bed without food as punishment."

Carol's family take her to weekly prayers. The Pastor squeezes her breasts and genital area because he believes she has a sex demon.

So who are the abusers? Perpetrators are people we know and trust, they live in and amongst us, are the people we work and socialise with – according to the Out of the Shadows 2011 Report, 97% to 99% of victims know their perpetrators.

The consequences of sexual exploitation range from unwanted pregnancies, to emotional distress leading to misuse of drink or drugs, destructive behaviours and suicide. It carries a degree of shame and guilt where some victims believe that they may have enjoyed the experience thus creating mistrust and in some instances destroys families. As a result, it is clear that more needs to be done to safeguard, protect, educate and support disabled people.

But try as we might, resisting the conversations only increases the vulnerability of our disabled population. Although Trinidad and Tobago is intending to ratify the UNCRDP shortly there needs to be widespread awareness raising in all sectors and robust sex education for the entire population that addresses gender stereotypes, cultural sexualisation leading to a cultural change that develops and promotes positive healthy sexual behaviours.

One perpetrator said he took advantage of the victim's lack of mobility demonstrating that the sexual exploitation is also about vulnerability and opportunity. These can be done



hand in hand with a number of risk reduction measures while simultaneously addressing the social ills that are harbouring the perpetrators.

Disability sexuality should be a specific theme within overall sex education, disability strategies, and crime and violence prevention processes together as part of a multi-partnership approach to the social and structural barriers that prevent disabled people from accessing services. There needs to be investment in accessible services that responds to the needs of disabled people, that includes quality sexual health care in accessible formats – easy to read, simple English, large print, electronic text, braille – and the needs of disabled people ought to be catered for in HIV/AIDS systems. There should also be independent scrutiny of social care institutional settings and robust reporting frameworks that ensure justice will be exercised and hefty sanctions imposed.

On a more individual level here are a few tips:

Be mindful of one's own sexual behaviours. A group of adult women were seen gyrating on a young teenager while others laughed and joked about it.

Look, listen and take action.

Encourage consent and feelings of discomfort conversations about the body and touch, remembering the mouth is also an orifice for sexual abuse.

Do not compromise freedom and sexual autonomy but encourage safe, healthy consensual relationships and allow opportunities to share experiences.

TOWARDS SOCIAL INTEGRATION

Is Our Future in Our Schoolbags too?

Therapeutic and educational prospects for children with speech and language difficulties in T&T

BY PROFESSOR VALERIE YOUSSEF

In late 2014 it was observed that parents attending a private speech-language clinic in South Trinidad had one topic that they voluntarily discussed while waiting for their children: the lack of access to support for their children’s medical and education needs. Since this complaint ran at odds with the provision of services described on Government documents, a questionnaire was set up, to be supported, when possible, by interviews, in order to find out more about this apparent contradiction.

The Minister of Education had himself noted that most children are not being catered to (CARICOM/UNESCO meeting, November 16, 2013) and we knew that the only full-time speech-language pathologist working for the Ministry of Health works at the General Hospital in Tobago.

We sought to get a real understanding of where the challenges in the system lay in the hope that they might then be specifically addressed.

A child case history form was developed which included a question on financial support for child needs, and two questions on informants’ experience of medical and educational processes. Data was collected at three private clinics, two of which run schools for children with speech and language needs. One Clinic was in North, one in South and one in Central Trinidad. Parents were asked for details of the education their children had received to the time of filling out the form.

Data on the children aged between five and fourteen years are tabulated below.



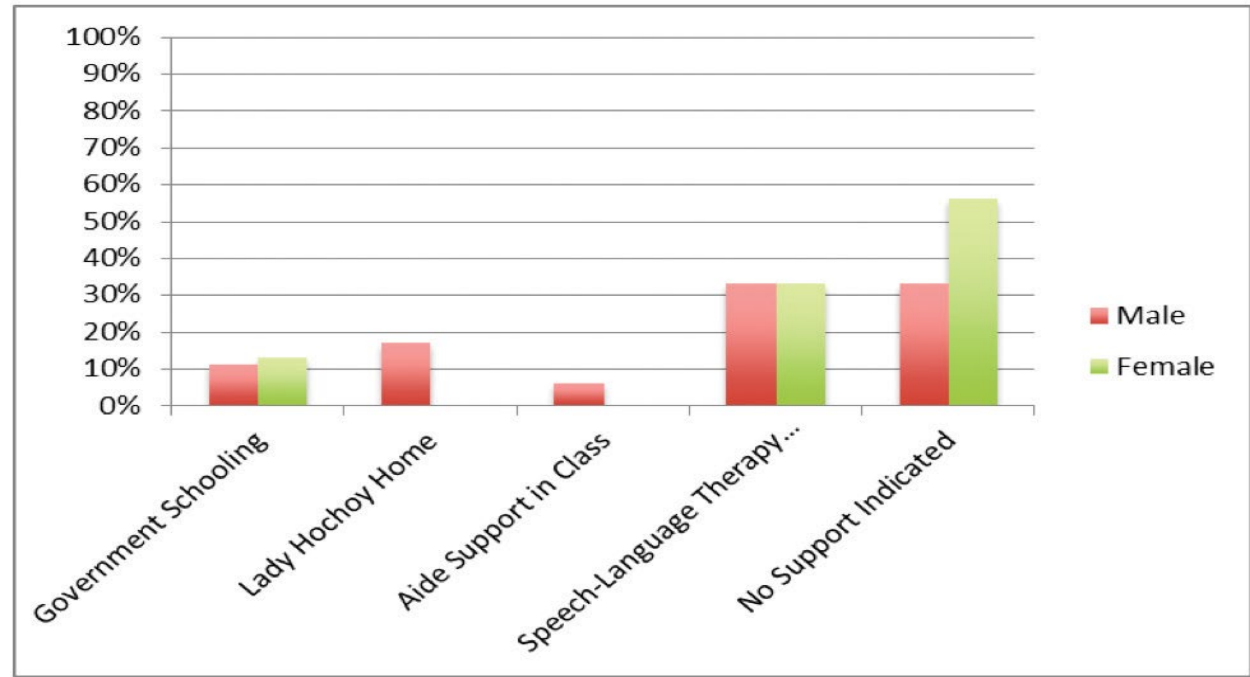
We have identified those who are reported to be receiving government education and those receiving speech therapy services, including those supported financially by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Health or NGO. Five persons reported specifically that they received support from the Ministry of Social Welfare to whom they submitted receipts from the Speech-Language Clinics they attended. Three of these also reported original referrals to the SLP Clinic by the paediatrician at San Fernando General Hospital.

The findings record only 10% of the children being in government schooling and only 30% to be receiving speech and language services. Of these more than 50% of girls and 30% of boys receive no financial support.

When reasons were given for non-attendance at government schools these included most specifically the need for an aide to work with the child. We were informed that government had advertised for classroom aides without success. One mother gave a figure that was supplied to her of two aides for 200 applications. If an aide in the classroom can support a child, he/she may enter the school but if not the school deems it impossible because of potential disruption and the inability of a single class teacher to give individualized support.

Informally, we were assured that those who do work as aides are persons doing on-the-job-training (OJT) with no special qualification for this work. Some parents reported that their children attended a variety of private institutions/ special schools and for the autism spectrum disorders four persons reported having received supportive part-time educational services from the Autistic Society of Trinidad & Tobago.

Since we know that 12-20% of our school age population have speech and language difficulties it seems we need to do better in providing for their needs. This population can contribute significantly to their social environment and the local work force if they can obtain education and therapy, but become a drain on themselves and society if they cannot get support. It is suggested that massive restructuring of education and allied health care sectors is needed immediately to redress the current deficit. More direct access to funding for therapeutic services is perhaps the simplest concern to tackle and the provision of aides for children with speech and language difficulties perhaps the hardest. Training could be obtained however, for persons seeking graduate employment. Finally SLPs need to be attached to each hospital and health centre and several attached to each school district. We recognize that these provisions would cost money but what better resource could be invested in, as Eric Williams so rightly saw, than the growing generation.



Child Support by Government for Education and Speech-Language Services

TOWARDS SOCIAL INTEGRATION

The Leap from *Disabled* to *Enabled*

BY PROFESSOR GERARD HUTCHINSON

Lifting the burden of disability and therefore positively impacting on the future of disability requires that we see ourselves differently and acknowledge the inherent flaws of the human condition. Disability is as much a biological reality as it is a social construction. A recent story about the delayed reopening of the School for the Blind in Santa Cruz implied that because the children were blind, the officials at the Ministry of Education were less than dedicated to seeking the best interest of the children and the school. Ironically the building of the Blind Welfare Association has also been closed for repair for an inordinately long period of time.

It would appear that people with disabilities function at the margin of society, objects to be pitied, derided or laughed at, sometimes all at once. Our Immigration Act Section 7.2 speaks to prohibiting from entry to the country: idiots, imbeciles, feeble minded, dumb, deaf, blind and those who would be a charge on public funds. How this judgment is made and how it affects those who are disabled when they travel is unclear.

Oscar Pistorius has made the leap from disabled to abled (some reporters say super abled) because of technology. With his blades for legs, he competed against non-disabled athletes at the London Olympics and reached the finals of the 400 metre race after being a successful paralympian. He described being anxious and self conscious when he was at home with himself and the blades came off. He also said that he felt embarrassed when people saw him without his prosthetic legs. He had a congenital disease that caused him to have both of his legs amputated above the knee in early childhood. Technology whether it be prosthetics, robotics or simulation will eventually overcome the physical effects of disability but how does it remove the self adduced sense of being inferior, less than, looked at, marginalized and of course stigmatized as a result.

Neurodiversity is one concept that might address that. Neurodiversity, a term coined by Judy Singer, is defined as atypical neurological wiring being viewed as an acceptable form of human difference just like age, class or gender. It arose out of her research on autism. Being neurologically different then and being seen as such should not be a basis for prejudice or disadvantage. It should be seen as a unique way of being; not a disease to be cured. However as the



example of Oscar Pistorius demonstrates, the perception of disability is internalized by those so affected and is difficult to overcome. This is especially so when the disability is something visible.

Even when it is not visible as in mental illness, it becomes socially isolating. John Derby, analysing the visual representations of madness from antiquity to the present, highlights three common threads. Paternalism, ableism and speciesism – these represent the sense that people with mental illness need to be taken care of, are not able to function in life like everyone else and are not quite human when they are ill. This sense of not quite human explains the popular and ongoing propensity to suggest that mental illness is a form of demon possession. Derby argues that these perspectives on the mentally ill act to justify multiple overt and subtle forms of oppression that may be sometimes masked as care. Identifying mental illness as disability creates a shift in meaning for the treatment of those so diagnosed. Although they might appear to be physically healthy, their inability to meet societal expectations for behaviour and productivity become justification for social isolation and stigmatization. It is a delicate line to draw and tread. The provision of services and support for those with mental disorders juxtaposed with providing the encouragement to function as individuals, can enable them to take full responsibility for their lives.

Erich Fromm in his book “To Have or To Be” suggests that the choice of possessions and material well being over self actualization and self awareness is the fundamental problem of the modern world. The concept of disability is primarily informed by the inability to be as productive as the non-disabled, meaning the inability to have. However we all have the capacity to be and we all have to deal with our internal and unseen disabilities in order to fulfill that capacity to be. The burden that people with disabilities are made to carry is a by-product of the inability of those who do not believe they are disabled to look inside themselves and accept that we are all flawed in one way or another. The need to engage with others’ weaknesses with compassion and respect, not judgment or discrimination, is paramount if we are to continue to live with ourselves. The survival of our species depends on our capacity to accept difference, including those who are neurologically different.

Our Immigration Act Section 7.2 speaks to prohibiting from entry to the country: idiots, imbeciles, feeble minded, dumb, deaf, blind and those who would be a charge on public funds. How this judgment is made and how it affects those who are disabled when they travel is unclear.

■ CAMPUS NEWS

After words

Communication Studies students go into action

BY ARIANA HERBERT

It's a common complaint that many university students appear to be confined by the walls of theory to the point that they fail as active participants when entering the world beyond their classrooms.

At The UWI, St. Augustine, the Department of Literary, Cultural and Communication Studies has been combating this perception of university students as “ivory tower” products for some time. Its latest salvo came in the form of this year's Communication Studies Research Day event, “Third Eyes: Communication Beyond Perception.”

On April 9, final-year students of the Communication Studies degree programme showcased what can happen when theory and practice come together. The students partnered with organizations and mentors in the working world, identifying and solving communication issues within the small businesses, NGOs and corporate sector companies that they worked with.

One might muse in a similar fashion to the Departmental Head, Dr. Louis Regis, that this is one of the most effective ways to educate students.

If you walked past the Daaga Auditorium at the beginning of the event you would have been struck by the students' booth displays, which represented a wide spectrum of organizations and issues. The booths were so well displayed that one observer remarked, “this could easily have been mistaken for a trade expo at the Hyatt.”

The eight booths featured small and medium sized businesses such as The Perfect Cup, a coffee shop on Ariapita Avenue; Look Opticals, an eye-care provider; Body By Marcus, a fitness centre; and Above Group from the advertising industry. Also in the mix were two NGOs – FEEL (Foundation for the Enhancement and Enrichment of Life) and the Blue Teddy Initiative, a movement that focuses on helping child victims of sexual violence.

Each of these organizations partnered with a group of four to five final-year students, together with a supervising tutor from the course, and they worked together to addresses communication challenges within the organization over a period of eight months. Organizations wanted help on issues as diverse as building a stronger social media presence, increasing foot traffic in stores, lifting sales, building a communication plan, and establishing a firmer, fresher brand identity.

One partner organization, Salt Water Advertising, was so pleased it offered a job to the five students who worked with them during the year.

Inside the packed Daaga Auditorium, the remaining students gave exciting group presentations on stage. One group transformed the stage into a Sunday market scene as they made their case for greater support of the Green Market in Santa Cruz. Vicki Assevero, founder and manager of the Green Market, said that she was totally pleased with the presentation and the collaboration with the students.

The Green Market was followed by a presentation on gender representation in the media, which so impressed and moved the Master of Ceremonies, Errol Fabien of Gayelle, that he announced his television channel's intention to



A presentation on gender representation in the media.

contribute five hours of programming time per week to the Communication Studies programme.

The audience was then informed by another student presentation of the importance of certification in the field of journalism as The UWI gets ready to launch its BA in Journalism degree. The final presentation discussed the clash between millennial culture and traditional corporate culture.

Course coordinator, Dr. Tia Smith, was brimming with pride as she noted that thinking beyond the sometimes confining walls of the classroom is an important step for students becoming socially responsible individuals.

The keynote speaker, Retired Supreme Court Justice of New York, Judge Laura Blackburne, offered some critical insight into the importance of effective communication to society.

No stranger to engaging the people, she acknowledged the presence of social injustice and the necessity of tactical, collaborative communication in overturning inequality. She asserted that the great Martin Luther King Jr. used excellent communication strategies to successfully allow many voices to be heard through nonviolent strategies.

Her advice was that while it is easy to retaliate, an act of outrage remains a mere act of outrage if the accompanying message is not effectively delivered. What's not easy is staying in the battle and strategically organizing unified action through becoming focused on communicating in better ways.

This particular academic year students were able to move beyond the classroom and engage with the world in a greater capacity. An unfounded perception still lingers that university students lack the skills to participate in the working world, but that narrative is being transformed, just ask anyone who attended the 2015 Communication Studies Research Day.



Destination Fitness offered lots of tips.

SEEPERSAD & SONS

September 6-8, 2015

The debunking of myths

BY VIJAY MAHARAJ

In Jahaji: An Anthology of Indo-Caribbean Fiction Frank Birbalsingh provides us with a useful note on which to begin this month's engagement with the upcoming conference, *Seepersad & Sons: Naipaulian Creative Synergies*, which is being hosted by The Friends of Mr Biswas in conjunction with the Department of Literary, Cultural and Communication Studies of the St Augustine campus of The UWI from September 6-8, 2015.

Birbalsingh reminds us that "Indo-Caribbean imaginative writing... [began] with Seepersad Naipaul in 1943." In addition, as I have argued, his stories "are set in the period of settlement and adjustment, the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and allow for the investigation of the earliest pre-independence self-perceptions of post-indenture being and belonging" (*A Caribbean Katha*).

This is no minor accomplishment. The study of narrative, as Ulric Neisser and Robyn Fivush argue in *The Remembering Self*, has been "one of the more prominent currents in late 20th-century intellectual life." As a result we now know without a doubt that self-awareness, self-understanding, self-knowledge, self-assertion and so much more are dependent on the ability to narrate our lives and this ability is formed by the kinds of narratives to which we are exposed. In the hands of the creative artist, narratives can be powerful tools for social transformation.

The transformation that Seepersad Naipaul's work accomplishes is vividly depicted in the covers that V. S. Naipaul chose for the reproduction of his father's 1943 collection (1976 edition). Putting paid to the idea of the helpless coolie peasant, the front cover depicts a young couple with a single girl child, whose postures, expressions

and juxtaposition belie stereotypes of women's passivity, rejection of girl children and patriarchal male violence. Reinforcing the image at the front, the image on the back cover of *Seepersad* with members of his family including his two young daughters shows a family in whom the same proud hauteur and self-confidence are immediately apparent. The third picture from the Guyana Gallery selected for reproduction in this article similarly reiterates the debunking of common stereotypes associated with the Indo-Caribbean, not only during the 'coolie' past but also in the present.

In the stories moreover, "oppressed women, or girls really, are at the centre of Seepersad Naipaul's concerns, and they serve in a sense as signifiers of the value of the community's cultural patterns" (*A Caribbean Katha*). Perhaps for this very reason, in the foreword to the 1976 edition, V. S. Naipaul remarks that the original publication in 1943 "drew one or two letters of abuse from people who thought my father had written damagingly of our Indian community." As many events marking the 170th year since the first arrival of the Indian indentured labourers this year indicate, the dominant discourse remains celebratory of the accomplishments of their descendants against the background of indentureship.

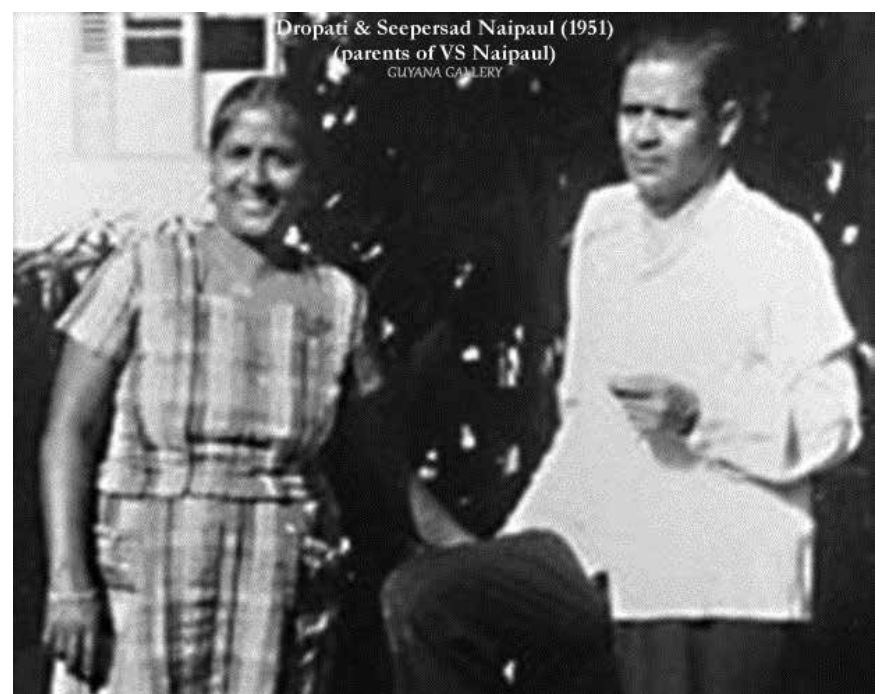
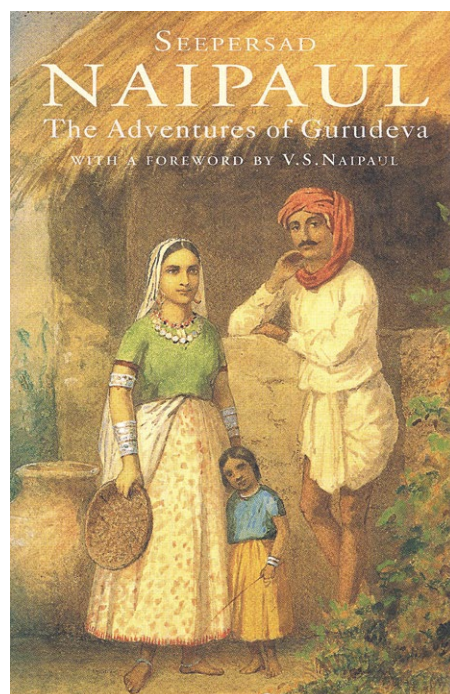
In keeping with the ethos of our times, this generally translates into recognition of social status and fiscal well-being rather than less easily discernible albeit perhaps more important qualities such as honesty, perseverance and resistance to the valuing of status and money as the sole purpose of life. Seepersad Naipaul's work asserts the latter. In fact in the depiction of the titular character, Gurudeva,

Seepersad Naipaul exhibits severe reservations about the liberties that a certain amount of money and community status affords Gurudeva. Seepersad's sons have written in a similar vein and their work, perhaps not surprisingly, has drawn similar if more widespread opprobrium.

Despite this, in the preface to Frantz Fanon's *The Wretched of the Earth*, Jean Paul Sartre claims that "The European elite undertook to manufacture a native elite. They picked out promising adolescents; they branded them, as with a red-hot iron, with the principles of western culture; they stuffed their mouth full with high-sounding phrases, grand glutinous words that stuck to the teeth. After a short stay in the mother country they were sent home, white-washed." In their portrayal of such characters, the Naipauls' work stood then and continues to stand now as a bulwark against the possibility of such characters lasting very long in the Caribbean.

Moreover, as the recently concluded Indian Diaspora Conference on the UWI St Augustine campus highlighted, myths about the indentured labourers have proliferated abundantly. One of the most important tasks that the Naipauls' work achieves is the debunking of myths. In this vein, one of the objectives of the conference 'Seepersad and Sons' is to distinguish between myth and reality in relation to the three Naipauls' works and their contexts as Brinsley Samaroo has done in the article "The World of Seepersad Naipaul" for *The ARTS Journal* in March 2008, including the prominent myth which conflates the real life Seepersad Naipaul with the fictional Mohun Biswas.

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■ CAMPUS NEWS

Dental Clinic for Arima

For 21 years, The UWI St. Augustine School of Dentistry, part of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, has been serving the community of Arima through The UWI Arima Dental Clinic located at the Arima Health Facility. The old facility has now been upgraded and The UWI formally unveiled the clinic on April 27, 2015.

At the ceremony, UWI St. Augustine Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat acknowledged the work done by the pioneers of the School of Dentistry and credited them for paving the way to this state-of-the-art facility. The new clinic, previously housed in two locations within the Arima Health Facility, will operate Monday to Wednesday from 8.30am to 2.30pm and on Thursday, from 8am to noon. It is a walk-in adult clinic, providing services like extractions (by appointment), cleanings, fillings and other planned surgical procedures. All complex surgical cases, however, will still be referred to the School of Dentistry at the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex, Mt. Hope.



Testing out the spanking new equipment is Dr. Deandra Rudolfo.



Some of the eager new faces at the UWISoN.

Strengthening Nursing

On May 13, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal of The UWI St. Augustine, Professor Clement Sankat was joined by the Honourable Dr. Fuad Khan, Minister of Health, Senator The Honourable Fazal Karim, Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training, to formally launch The UWI School of Nursing (UWISoN), located in the Academy of Nursing and Allied Health in El Dorado.

UWISoN was established to meet the needs for specialist nursing personnel including administrators and educators. It is the only tertiary education institution in Trinidad and Tobago that offers specialist training for nurses. The school has been strategically positioned to develop nursing and midwifery professionals with core competencies in seven domains – Nursing Practice; Professional Conduct; Health Promotion and Maintenance of Wellness; Nursing Leadership and Management; Communication; Clinical Decision Making and Intervention; and Professional Development. The programme's core focus, therefore, is the development of competent practitioners.

TICK TALK – Professor Basu takes a journey with parasites

The Caribbean livestock industry experiences losses to the tune of US\$62 million, as a result of parasites like ticks. Parasites affect both humans and animals. Some parasites are relatively harmless; others can produce pathological changes which lead to severe health problems and even death says Professor Asoke Basu of The UWI, St. Augustine Campus.

Professor Basu has made parasites his life's work. On May 21, he shared insights at his inaugural lecture as Professor titled "A Journey with Parasites – Focusing Concern, Control, and Eradication in Tropical Regions."

Professor Basu currently heads the Department of Basic Veterinary Sciences and is a Professor in Veterinary Parasitology in the Department of Basic Veterinary Sciences of the Faculty of Medical Sciences. He believes that nothing short of a thorough knowledge of various aspects of parasites is needed to combat them effectively. This knowledge, he asserts, must include their epidemiology, biology, bionomics, life cycle, and treatment.

The Professor revealed that globally, some of the more deadly parasites include *Onchocerca volvulus* (a filarial parasitic nematode) which causes river blindness among



Three species of ticks inflict about \$62 million in annual losses on the Caribbean's livestock industry. Of the three ticks, the Cayenne Tick is the second most important.

people in sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, and South and Central America. It's estimated that about 25 million people are infected with river blindness worldwide; one million of them become blind. Veterinarians, livestock farmers, and persons who keep domestic pets will be familiar with ticks. Professor Basu described these parasites as fascinating because of their considerable medical and veterinary importance. Ticks are essentially blood-sucking obligatory ectoparasites (they live on the outside of their hosts) of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. They give rise to anaemia, decreased milk production, paralysis, and irritation from bites. Globally, annual losses as a result of ticks are estimated to be between US\$ 13.9 billion and US\$ 18.7 billion. Professor Basu has spent time studying the three species of ticks that do the most damage to Caribbean livestock.

Born in India, Professor Basu joined The UWI in 2008 as a lecturer. During his time, he has been active in community service and has helped to treat with parasites in broiler chickens, sheep, goats, dogs, and swine.

■ CAMPUS NEWS

Mona MASTERS



On May 28, the UWI Mona Campus track and field athletes painted the day's Games red as they dominated the events. The Mona team maintained their title of "Champion Campus" having also taken the title at the last games in 2013 and overall, the results remained unchanged from the 2013 games with the Cave Hill and St.

Augustine Campuses taking second and third place overall respectively. Final point standings were 104, 92 and 56. The Athletics meet was the final event for the 2015 UWI Games, the biennial meeting of the four campuses of The UWI, which kicked off on May 21.

Of the 10 sporting disciplines, the Mona Campus took the titles for swimming, female basketball, netball, cricket, female football and female volleyball, in addition to athletics. Securing second place overall was the Cave Hill Campus who championed male basketball, female and male hockey, male volleyball and lawn tennis. The St. Augustine Campus placed third overall finally taking the male football title that has been long held by the Mona Campus, as well as table tennis. For the Open Campus, the UWI's network of smaller sites across the region, this was their first showing at the Games. The team successfully competed in netball, tennis, female volleyball and male football, but unfortunately did not take any of the individual titles.

For full results please visit us at
<http://sta.uwi.edu/uwiToday/default.asp>



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READ AND RUN

This year's UWI Games provided an avenue for regional UWI athletes to give back. For the first time in the history of the UWI Games at the St. Augustine Campus, an outreach initiative called the "U+We Read: Crossing Borders" was introduced; requiring that each campus make a book donation to one of four selected primary schools in the St. Augustine area.

Delegations of approximately ten students of the four campuses – St. Augustine, Mona, Cave Hill and the Open Campus, visited St. Benedict's Boys' RC Primary, Curepe Vedic Primary, Riverside Hindu School and Maracas SDA Primary schools for a book reading to the students and donation of the collected books. This is part of the campus-wide "Service Learning and Community Engagement: A New Agenda for Higher Education and Learning" initiative, commissioned by the Office of the Deputy Principal in 2009 geared towards training students to become civic-minded citizens.



UWI CALENDAR of EVENTS

JUNE–SEPTEMBER 2015

CARIBBEAN TERTIARY LEVEL PERSONNEL CONFERENCE

June 10-13
Radisson Hotel,
Port of Spain

The Caribbean Tertiary Level Personnel Association, CTLPA presents their 18th Annual Conference on the theme: “Collaborating, Connecting, Creating & Committing.” The featured speaker is CPA President, Gavin W. Henning.

For further information visit <http://www.myctlpa.org/>.



OPEN DAY

June 16-18
9am to 6pm
UWI St. Augustine

The UWI St. Augustine will host a joint Undergraduate and Postgraduate Open Day at the JFK Undercroft which will include Campus and Faculty tours, access to support services as well as access to the Applications Centre. The Applications Centre will be re-opened specifically for the three days to facilitate new applications.

For further information visit www.sta.uwi.edu.



INTERNATIONAL BREADFRUIT CONFERENCE

July 5-10
Faculty of Food and Agriculture,
The UWI St. Augustine

The Faculty of Food and Agriculture (FFA) will host the 2015 International Breadfruit Conference under the theme “Commercialising breadfruit for food and nutrition security.” This event is aimed at realising the potential of breadfruit to contribute to food and nutrition security through promoting entrepreneurial efforts and development of industries and features a keynote address by Dr. Diane Ragone – Director of the Breadfruit Institute at Kauai, Hawaii. There will also be an exhibition on the many uses of breadfruit and breadnut (chataigne) where food and produce will be on sale and open to the public.

For further information,
email: <https://sta.uwi.edu/conferences/15/breadfruit/>



BEST PRACTICE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

June 24-26
The UWI St. Augustine

The UWI's Quality Assurance Unit and Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning will host a regional conference on “Institutionalising Best Practice in Higher Education.” This three-day forum will bring together a mix of regional and international subject matter experts to deepen knowledge and share ways of infusing best practice principles in the management and administration of higher education institutions.

For further information,
email: <http://www.uwi.edu/bestpracticehighered/>



CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

August 23-29
9am-4pm
Asa Wright Nature Centre

The Faculty of Law in collaboration with the Asa Wright Nature Centre (AWNC) presents “UWI/AWNC Continuing Legal Education Course: Caribbean Environmental Law.” Tuition Fees are US\$700.

For more information, please visit the Campus Events Calendar at www.sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar

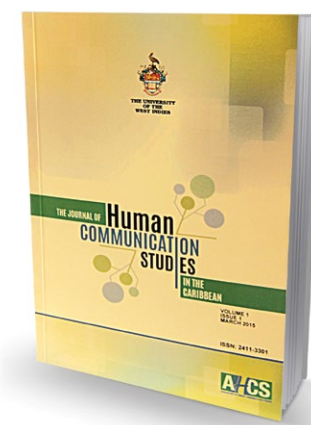


HUMAN COMMUNICATION STUDIES CONFERENCE

September 24-25
The UWI, St. Augustine

The UWI St. Augustine presents the “Human Communication Studies Conference” with the theme “Identity, Context and Interdisciplinarity in Human communication Studies in the Caribbean and beyond.” The deadline for submission of papers has been extended to June 15. Requests for interdisciplinary collaborative research such as communication studies education; communication, culture and gender; media, culture and society and other related topics are requested.

For further information,
visit <http://journals.sta.uwi.edu/jhsc/>



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