



Got MILK?

From 16–18 June, at the JFK Auditorium, students as well as the general public had a chance to experience UWI at the campus' Open Day. The joint **Undergraduate and Postgraduate Open Day**, themed *Open Day, Open Mind* gave members of the public access to faculty and services, providing a fulsome experience of study options available at The UWI.

OUR CAMPUS – 05

Crossing the Caribbean Sea

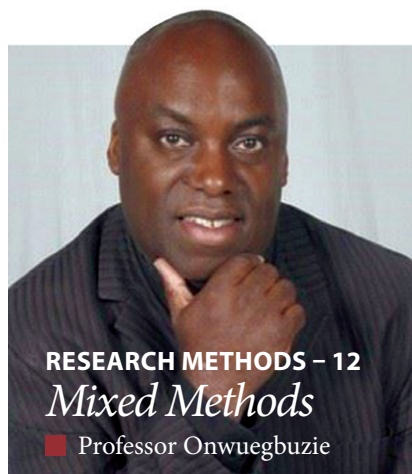
■ UWI gets closer to the University of Havana



FOOD SECURITY – 08

The Breadfruit Story

■ The backstory and preview to the 2015 International Breadfruit Conference



RESEARCH METHODS – 12

Mixed Methods

■ Professor Onwuegbuzie



OUR CAMPUS – 15

Ministry of Design

■ From cottage industry to state enterprise

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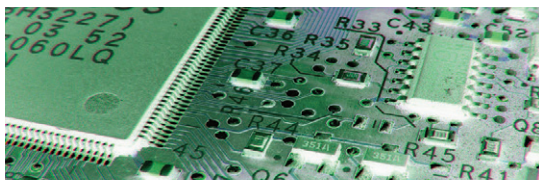
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■ THE EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

The Heat Continues

Before becoming known as 'the summer' it was called the 'August vacation' – this time of year was relished by every person attending any type of school – and not so much by all others like parents, grandparents or other care-givers, as 'summer school' and vacation camps were not as plentiful as they are now. Regardless, of its label, the time between the end of one school year and the beginning of another was special.

The aura of the 'August vacation' largely persists at the university level as faculty and students all look forward to the June-August long break as a time to refresh and regroup, pursue alternative interests and work or pick up projects that could not have been facilitated during the semesters that seemed to have whizzed by. The generally slower pace in those months are a thing of the past though. With growing frequency and even after 'summer' school ends, The UWI campus in particular, has remained a bevy of activity that simply rolls into the new academic year in September.

June has already delivered on keeping that said frenetic pace going and July promises more of the same – so if you are no longer moved by having that time to lounge, but rather, exciting and engaging events are needed to keep your vacation months lively, a guide to the happenings on The UWI St Augustine campus should be your companion. Incidentally, this guide to upcoming events is provided on the back page of this publication, but here is a round of what happened in June and a look at some of the other attractive events that are to come in July.

Starting today and lasting for a week (so there will be numerous opportunities) is the 2015 International Breadfruit Conference, and one of the many interesting events taking place within this event is the first ever breadfruit exhibition and festival on 10 July. Every kind of use for the breadfruit the human imagination can design will be displayed, in addition to new versions of uses like cooking it and lesser explored ones like breadfruit ice cream. Serah Acham provides the full run-down on the uses and potentialities of this wonderfully versatile and indigenously plentiful fruit on page 8.

A round-up of open day takes the centre spread of the paper this month as secondary school students and anyone thinking of higher education got the chance to ask questions and get access to assistance for filing their entrance applications. This initiative was complemented by the Campus Principal hosting secondary school principals that week – some highlights of that event are on page 7. Other campus happenings from June are featured in the second part of the paper as well as a couple of interesting interviews with people who visited Campus to share their work and perspectives or enlightened audiences – Judge Helen Whitener, Author Karen Lord, Mixed Methods research proponent Anthony Onwuegbuzie – just to list a few.

Between all that has just past in June and all there is to come in July, we at UWI Today wish not only to showcase the hive of exciting and engaging activities that make The UWI St Augustine campus the place to be even in the long vacation period, but to point to and invite you, to come out and connect with our campus, benefit from participating in these events.

Hope we see you soon. Rebecca.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The Profile of a Successful Student and a World Class University



On many occasions I have been asked my opinion on what do I believe to be the characteristics and attributes of a good student. Questions have also been posed as to how have we at The UWI contributed to ensuring that all our students attain not only their true potential, but also meet the minimum threshold of being considered good students; ones who will eventually contribute to

the needs of the society.

Traditionally, The UWI has always benefitted from having talented students, many of whom would have scored highly on their CAPE examinations. This cadre of students will usually bring with them specific characteristics, such as a history of commitment to their studies, clear focus on the future, along with a competitiveness that drives their enthusiasm to do well. Important to note is that the entrance requirements at The UWI St. Augustine depends on students excelling in these exams. Sadly however, due to the competitiveness and limited space available in some areas of study, some applicants have had to be denied, or given deferred entry, like in the Faculty of Medical Sciences. As many would be now aware, we are working to change this situation, and there is tremendous expansion taking place at The UWI-St. Augustine, with the primary objective of giving deserving students a chance to pursue their dreams.

Over the recent years The UWI has broadened its intake policy, now to include students who would have pursued Associate degrees, or Diploma and Certificate programmes subsequent to taking their CSEC examinations. This policy inevitably presents another type of student, many of whom may have chosen to be part of the workforce for a few years, then going on to pursue diploma or certificate paths, before applying to come to The UWI. There has been evidence that supports the fact that these mature students coming to us from an alternate track, in many cases do well at The UWI. Many are working students, registered in our Evening University. They are extremely focused and demonstrate a dedication and drive to go beyond the call of duty, with many graduating with honours. We welcome such mature students to our Campus.

Another area that should be viewed as an important component of the educational development of students is, adopting a deliberate approach to fostering their emotional and social development. While we have no shortage of intelligent, academically gifted students, there is an urgent need to combine those qualities with characteristics that foster the acquisition of fundamental qualities that reflect the caring, passionate, social attributes that must guide our thoughts and actions as human beings. With this being said, it is imperative that we have an adaptable education system that caters for two important things;

the student's ability and the changing needs of societies. All learners in today's society should be equipped with knowledge and skills that would allow them to inculcated respect for human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence. Students must be taught to accept the reality that they form and must contribute also to a global citizenship. As part of our curriculum we must insist on our student body being appreciative and accepting to our cultural diversity and its valid contribution to sustainable development and overall social well-being.

Only last week I attended the 19th Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers held in the Bahamas, where various ministers of governments were in attendance. At that conference I witnessed the central thrust of many of the participants, in adopting and realizing the term 'humanizing education'; in our educational development systems. To borrow a quote from Haim G. Ginott, a concentration camp survivor and an educator, "help your students become more human. Your efforts must never produce learned monsters, skilled psychopaths, or educated Eichmanns. Reading, writing, and arithmetic are important only if they serve to make our children more human."

In essence, in keeping with the tenets enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), education should be geared to the complete development of the human personality and to the reinforcement and strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It has now become more important to measure our institutions adherence to such an important aspect of student development, and equally as essential to manage the process to ensure that it is accomplished.

The provisions now being made at The UWI is in keeping with this new approach, starting with the broadening of the spectrum of the demographics from which our students come. The diversity of this student body brings tremendous value to the overall student population at The UWI campus. The UWI St. Augustine will continue to create new opportunities to increase our enrolment, while at the same time provide the best practices available to ensure that our diverse student population is well prepared to make a significant contribution to our local and regional workforce, to the world as many do, and at the same time strengthen the interwoven fabric of our social diversity.

CLEMENT K. SANKAT
Pro Vice-Chancellor & Principal

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■ OUR CAMPUS

MOU for The UWI and Yucatan Center

The UWI St Augustine Campus and the Yucatan Center of Scientific Research (CICY) signed a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) in mid-June at the start of the *In Vitro Clonal Propagation of Tropical Plants Training Course*.

In his remarks, Campus Principal Sankat said, “This MOU goes further than a symbolic demonstration of our commitment to cooperate and collaborate. As important as this is, today’s signing also symbolizes the strengthening of relations and partnerships between our two institutions for the benefit of national and regional development.”

The Yucatan Center of Scientific Research generates scientific and technological knowledge in the areas of plant

biochemistry and renewable energy among other areas in order to contribute to sustainable development of the region. The cooperation between The UWI St. Augustine Campus and the Yucatan Center of Scientific Research in clonal propagation of tropical plants will help to scale up production of our agricultural produce and will help to boost of commercialization efforts in agriculture throughout the region, and therefore advance the sustainable development of the Caribbean.

The Principal said that taking into consideration that The UWI is in the process of establishing an Agricultural Innovation Park in Trinity, Orange Grove on 200 acres of

land, this research will indeed be useful as technology is needed to demonstrate productivity in agriculture can be improved, and must be improved.

The following dignitaries were also present for the occasion: Dean of the Faculty of Food and Agriculture, Dr. Isaac Bekele; Ambassador of the United Mexican States, Your Excellency Mario Eugenio Arriola Woog; IICA Representative in Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Gregg Rawlins; Director General, Yucatan Center for Scientific Research (CICY), Mr. Lorenzo Felipe Sanchez Teyer; Advisor, Technology Transfer, Yucatan Center for Scientific Research (CICY), Dr. Carlos Guillermo Borroto Nordelo.

The Yucatan Center of Scientific Research generates scientific and technological knowledge in the areas of plant biochemistry and renewable energy among other areas in order to contribute to sustainable development of the region.



Members of the head table attentively listening to presentations



Dignitaries display the actual signed MOU that concluded the short formal session



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APPLICATION DEADLINE: JULY 17, 2015

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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Tel: (868) 662-9596, (868) 662-7107 ext. 3908
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■ OUR CAMPUS

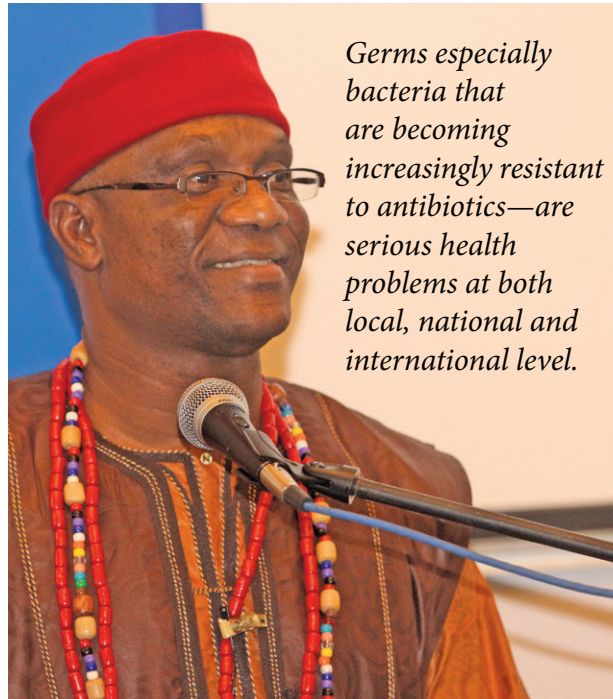
Bacterial Paths in Trinidad Hospitals

A Public Lecture

Newly-appointed Professors of The UWI are encouraged to give Public Lectures to share their specific areas of research with the wider community. Professor Akpaka's lecture titled "Microbes without borders, tracking the molecular epidemiology of germs" took place June 18, 2015 at the Amphitheatre A, Faculty of Medical Sciences at the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex.

According to Chief Akpaka, "Germs especially bacteria that are becoming increasingly resistant to antibiotics—are serious health problems at both local, national and international level. Drug resistance is definitely a global problem and there are several troubling examples when it comes to global drug resistance to bacteria".

A native of Nigeria, Chief Akpaka joined The University of the West Indies (UWI) St. Augustine Campus as a Lecturer in 2005 in the Department of Para clinical Sciences. In 2011, he was promoted to the position of Senior Lecturer. His research works have focused on the molecular epidemiology of the germs such as TB, MRSA, multidrug resistant *E. coli*, *Klebsiella* and *Pseudomonas*. His work has aimed at delineating how these germs especially *Staphylococcus aureus* crosses borders to enter hospitals and



Germs especially bacteria that are becoming increasingly resistant to antibiotics—are serious health problems at both local, national and international level.

even countries. *Staphylococcus aureus* or "staph" has long been recognized as one of the most important bacteria that cause disease in humans. It is the leading cause of skin and soft tissue infections such as abscesses (boils), furuncles, and cellulitis. Did a special strain of these organisms evolve in hospitals in Trinidad & Tobago? How do we track their activities, movements and infections in Trinidad & Tobago and beyond the region? Are the strains of germs we have here in the country clonally related to those from other countries? Those were some of the questions his lecture attempted to answer.

Professor Akpaka's chosen area of specialization - Molecular epidemiology in Medical Microbiology, has emerged from the integration of molecular biology into traditional epidemiologic research. "This field improves our understanding of the disease processes by identifying specific organisms, pathways, molecules and genes that influence the risk of developing infectious diseases," he said. He noted that when molecular techniques are applied to studies of disease, it results in enhanced measurement and increases our ability to more reliably detect associations.



UWI STRENGTHENS TIES WITH UNIVERSITY OF HAVANA



Joining Campus Principal and Sharan Singh is Her Excellency Jennifer Jones-Kernahan Ambassador of Trinidad and Tobago to Cuba (left)



Principal Sankat, with Dr. Francisco González García, Vice Rector of the University of Havana and the Director of the Office of Institutional Advancement & Internationalization, Sharan Singh.



Principal Sankat (3rd from R) together with the Director of the Office of Institutional Advancement & Internationalization, Sharan Singh (2nd from R) meets with the Deputy Minister of Higher Education in Cuba, Dr. Oberto Santin (Center) and various Directors of the International Relations Department

OUR CAMPUS

DIPLOMATIC BRUNCH

The second edition of the UWI Diplomatic Brunch was hosted by Principal Sankat on 14 June at the historic building that houses the UWI Principal's Office on the St Augustine campus. An eclectic mix of ambassadors and high commissioners from the Caribbean, Latin America, North America, Africa, Europe, Australia and Asia came together with UWI academics and administrators to enjoy a local brunch and discuss collaboration between their countries and The UWI.

Building upon the success of the first Diplomatic

Brunch held in 2013, the Campus Principal delivered a comprehensive presentation during the brunch which showcased a cadre of diversified international collaborative initiatives in which the Campus is currently engaged, as the basis for a conversation about new and emerging opportunities for partnerships. The Heads of Mission, along with Minister Winston Dookeran also participated and applauded The UWI for its active and dynamic internationalization portfolio and committed to a number of new initiatives including providing assistance to promote

The UWI's new ACS Fee Initiative in their countries which has been developed to attract students from the wider non-English speaking Caribbean to attend the St. Augustine Campus.

Many of the Heads of Mission in attendance, especially those new to Trinidad and Tobago, have since contacted The UWI's International Office to explore opportunities for strengthening collaboration with Higher Education Institutions in their countries.



A diverse group of attendees enjoyed the brunch as well took the opportunity to field questions and make connections

■ OUR CAMPUS

AN APPRECIATION FOR PRINCIPALS



Secondary school principals from across the nation were hosted by the Campus Principal, **Professor Clement Sankat** at his annual Secondary School Principals Appreciation Day. It was an opportunity for the school principals to hear and ask questions about the latest developments on the Campus and the possibilities for their students. The gathering, which included Minister of Education **Dr Tim Gopeesingh**, got updates on new programmes, research and the Campus' expanded infrastructure- especially the construction of the new South Campus Penal-Debe which the Principal said was making steady progress. He described it as the greatest expansion in the 55-year history of UWI St Augustine.



■ FOOD SECURITY

The Story of Breadfruit

BY SERAH ACHAM

Beginning today, The UWI is hosting the 2015 International Breadfruit Conference, themed, Commercialising breadfruit for food and nutrition security.

A fitting theme, if one were to revisit breadfruit's introduction from the Pacific to the Caribbean islands in 1793 when, after having been struck by hurricanes and other natural disasters, in addition to feeling the brunt of Britain's trade embargo mounted against the American War of Independence, the region found itself in need of a local food supply. The solution – breadfruit.

The breadfruit's journey to the Caribbean can be described as nothing short of an adventure. Its difficult introduction to our region forms an important part of our history. The fruit survived and thrived, in fact, and is now considered a staple in Caribbean cuisine. Apart from the fruit itself, you'll find on the market, packaged breadfruit chips, frozen breadfruit chunks and slices, canned breadfruit in some Caribbean islands and even frozen TV dinners. Yet, for its 200 years of existence in our islands, its value has not been fully realised.

Even in the Pacific Islands where the breadfruit originated, consumption and knowledge have diminished. This general disinterest has led to some varieties disappearing altogether.

A Senior Lecturer in Crop Production and former Head of the Department of Food Production, Dr Laura Roberts-Nkrumah has been working on the breadfruit for more than 25 years; her research spans the region and includes topics such as breadfruit propagation, germplasm collection and evaluation, orchard management, consumer preferences and cooking methods, as well as the use of breadfruit for food security and income generation. She has also been instrumental in expanding the range of breadfruit varieties grown in the Caribbean, having travelled to the Pacific to collect additional germplasm. Our breadfruit germplasm collection, housed at the University Field Station, is now the largest outside of the Pacific.

In 2007, the first international breadfruit meeting was held in Fiji. Its objective – to encourage conservation of the plant. This year's conference goal is commercialisation: to realise the potential for breadfruit's contribution to food and nutrition security, through support for enterprises and development of breadfruit-based industry. In underscoring this theme, Dr Roberts-Nkrumah added that the discourse on breadfruit included its relative, the chataigne.

The Caribbean region is the biggest consumer of breadfruit outside of the Pacific Islands. However, Dr Roberts-Nkrumah said, "As well-known as the fruit is as a food crop, it has not experienced the levels of development and promotion for consumption as some of our root crops." This can be traced back to the breadfruit's establishment within our islands, when it was rejected by the planters and enslaved Africans, alike. During the decades since, in Trinidad and other Caribbean countries, the fruit has gone through periods of extreme discrimination. Its relatively low cultural requirement and cost in comparison to other staples, like rice, potatoes and sweet potatoes, as well as its use to feed livestock, resulted in the stigma: breadfruit is poor people food. The fruit is, however, now experiencing a period of high popularity – breadfruit's health benefits, particularly in warding off certain lifestyle diseases, have been widely touted. As a result of these findings and its high yields, Dr Roberts-Nkrumah said, "In 2004 the breadfruit



was declared a crop to be conserved for food and nutrition security."

Building on these trends, the 2015 International Breadfruit Conference aims to converge breadfruit researchers and producers, equipment manufacturers, farmers and exporters from the Caribbean, the Pacific, Africa, Asia, Latin America and the United States. Dr Roberts-Nkrumah added, "People working in various areas - medicine, nutrition and health, propagation, processing equipment" have shown interest – among them being Dr Diane Ragone, Director of the Breadfruit Institute in Hawaii – who is the keynote speaker. Still on the subject of taking breadfruit seriously, she also said, "If you're talking commercialisation and building industry, then researchers can't just sit among themselves and come up with feasible developmental ideas. All stakeholders must contribute to the discourse if we are intending to build a long term industry."

The private sector, as a key stakeholder with the resources and vision to drive an industry has led the support for this conference. PCS Nitrogen Trinidad Ltd is the main sponsor. The Caribbean Development Bank and The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), are also key supporters. The Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Food Production breadfruit nursery and NAMDEVCO will be among the sites visited during the field trip which takes place on Wednesday 8 July. Another contributor to the conference is the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), which will play an active role in the first ever Breadfruit Exhibition and Festival in TT, carded for Friday 10 July, at The UWI.

With all the support and interest gained, Dr Roberts-Nkrumah is confident in the conference's success. "The biggest take-away we can achieve is that all attendees – from Trinidad and Tobago, the region and the countries from which other participants will come, leave enriched and motivated to stimulate and support the development of breadfruit and chataigne in their own countries."

Dr Roberts-Nkrumah is particularly looking forward to Friday's exhibition, which will feature displays by community groups and farmers, as well as those whose works have been inspired by breadfruit and chataigne, including, researchers in medicine and health, artists and chefs. Open to the public and free of charge, this whole-day event aims to showcase the diversity of the breadfruit, which can be used for many things, from being repurposed as a craft item to an element of growing community tourism.

Of course, its value as a food cannot be eclipsed and among the objectives of conference is to show the public new and varied ways of preparing breadfruit-based meals. In addition to challenging chefs, who will be demonstrating their own breadfruit creations, a breadfruit recipe book, developed by Instructor in Human Ecology, Chanelle Joseph, in collaboration with UWI's Library, will be available.

Here's a sneak peek at what's inside.

■ Breadfruit Salad

Ingredients

4 cups boiled, diced (1/2" cubes) breadfruit
 ¼ cup red sweet pepper, chopped
 ¼ cup green sweet pepper, chopped
 ¼ cup chive, chopped
 1 small onion chopped
 1 cup mayonnaise
 salt to taste (optional)

Method

Mix all the ingredients together. Brush a Pyrex bowl with oil. Fill with mixture. Chill. Turn out onto a serving dish and serve.

■ Breadfruit Au Gratin

Ingredients

1 breadfruit
 4 cups heavy cream
 1 cup cheese, shredded
 4 cloves garlic, minced
 4 tbsp butter
 2 tbsp cornstarch dissolved in ¼ cup water
 Salt and pepper to taste

Method

Slice breadfruit lengthwise and remove the center core. Boil the breadfruit until just tender. Cool slightly and remove the skin with a sharp knife. Slice the breadfruit thinly. Melt the butter with the garlic until the garlic softens (2 – 5 min). Pour the heavy cream into the pan and let the mixture come to a low boil, being careful not to let the cream spill over the top of the saucepan. Let the cream mixture reduce by ⅓ and then add the cornstarch-water mix. Lower the heat and add the shredded cheese to the cream sauce (reserve ½ cup of shredded cheese for the top). Layer the breadfruit and cream sauce in a 9-inch x 11-inch pan. Top with the reserved cheese. Bake at 350°F for 35 – 40 minutes, until the top is lightly browned.

■ Stuffed Breadfruit

Ingredients

1 large breadfruit
 ½ cup sweet pepper
 1 medium tomato cut in pieces
 1 cup fresh minced or left-over meat
 ½ cup chopped carrots
 1 tbsp margarine
 Salt to taste

Method

Roast or boil breadfruit whole. Braise onion and sweet pepper in margarine or oil. Add other ingredients and simmer till done. Core breadfruit and stuff with filling. Serve warm.



PCS Nitrogen Trinidad *sponsors* INTERNATIONAL BREADFRUIT CONFERENCE



(L-R) Dr. Laura Roberts-Nkrumah, Conference Co-Convener, The UWI; Dr. Isaac Bekele, Dean, Faculty of Food and Agriculture, The UWI; Ms. Julia Gomes, HR Manager, PCS Nitrogen Trinidad; Prof. Clement Sankat, Principal, The UWI St. Augustine

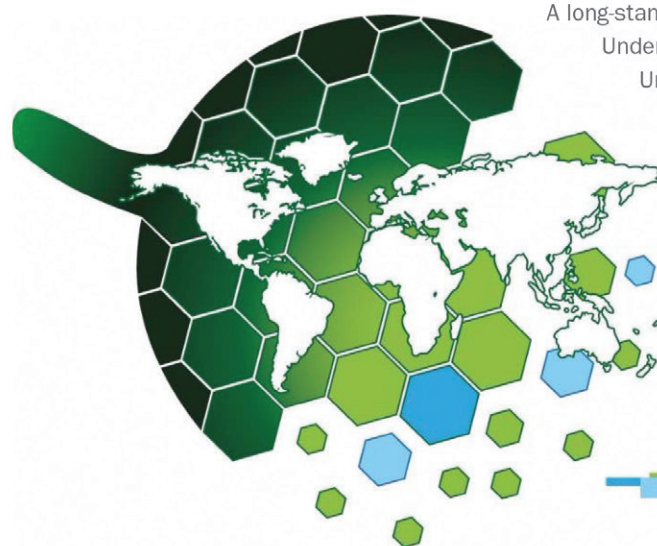
The conference from July 5 - 10, 2015, themed **"Commercializing Breadfruit for Food and Nutrition Security,"** will focus on the potential of breadfruit as a contributor to food and nutrition security, the possibilities for entrepreneurial ventures and the development of industries.

Approximately 4 hectares [10 acres] of breadfruit were established at the PCS Model Farm & Agricultural Resource Centre in September 2009, and the first harvest took place in 2011. This is the largest pure stand of breadfruit in Trinidad and Tobago and the trees are of the 'Yellow' and 'Ma'afala' varieties. The latter is a recently introduced, small-fruited type.

development of breadfruit. **Dr. Laura Roberts-Nkrumah**, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Food Production and co-convener of the conference, has been contributing to training activities on orchard management. Her postgraduate students are engaged in on-going research at the PCS Model Farm on the growth habit of plants developed using traditional and new types of planting materials, pruning practices to manage tree height, and yield characteristics.

This conference, which has attracted delegates from throughout the Caribbean, the Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the USA, will provide up-to-date information that can support the development of a breadfruit industry. It will create opportunities for networking among the public and private sectors, rural communities and research institutions for the future development of the crop for food and nutrition security. In addition to the conference, there will be a stakeholders' forum, an awards function and a public exhibition and festival.

For more information on the conference, please visit:
www.sta.uwi.edu./conferences/15/breadfruit



A long-standing Memorandum of Understanding between The University of the West Indies and the PCS Model Farm has guided its partnership, in support of the commercial

INTERNATIONAL BREADFRUIT CONFERENCE 2015

■ OUR CAMPUS



OPEN DAY

UWI's Open Day

An Introduction

For three days in June the St Augustine campus hosted secondary students to help them decide where they next move after exams. This activity was centred around experiential learning, social media and ads in the newspapers on new courses. From the public had a chance to experience UWI at the campus' Open Day.

The "Open Day" model is not novel – coming to an open day allows students to find out more about studying at a particular institution. For those who missed the application deadline for the September 2015 intake, the three open days were reopened.

The joint Undergraduate and Postgraduate Open Day, themed "Open Mind", was not only faculty representatives, but representatives from the campus' student union, Bursaries, as well as an Applications Centre, where they had information on programme offerings across 7 faculties at the Certificate, Diploma and Degree levels. Only tertiary institution locally boasting such an expansive curriculum.

Building on the theme Open Day, Open Mind, UWI invited students to a 3-day event. Each day there were campus/ faculty tours to discover the UWI Museum. And guests were also be able to connect with the various services: Bursaries, Career Guidance, Health Services and information on UWI's various programmes.



OPEN DAY

Open Mind

Open Day 2015

to Campus Life

...y school students from all over the country as they contemplated
...standing their interacting with the institution - beyond the website
... June 16 to 18 at the JFK Auditorium, students as well as the general

...y is the best way for prospective undergraduate and postgraduate
... However, St. Augustine's Open Day offered an added plus – giving
... 5 intake a “second chance”, as applications for all programmes on

...d Open Day, Open Mind gave members of the public access to not
... support services, like the Bursary, Student Advisory and Scholarships
... the opportunity to apply to a programme of their choice. With
... , Bachelors, Masters, MPhil or PhD level, the campus remains the
... ulum.

...d all to get familiar with the institution in a different way at the
... r the campus' hidden treasures like the Whisper Wall and Zoology
... us campus Support Services for information on Scholarships and
... living on one of the four Halls of Residence.



RESEARCH METHODS

Trending now MIXED METHODS RESEARCH

BY JEANNETTE AWAI

If you ever bought a house, car or even a box-lunch you have used a mixed methods approach to getting to your decision without recognizing it! Review the process you used to make the choice – you investigated how popular, that is, how many people make the selection you are interested in (a quantitative research method) then you asked around – interviewed several others (a qualitative research method) on the key points that you think will inform your final decision. This is the mixed methods approach to research (affectionately called MM by its proponents). Its versatility and naturalness to any research question is what makes this technique (or combination of techniques) a rapidly growing movement in the world of scientifically conducted research.

*To keep with the trends, the School of Education presented a two-day workshop on mixed methods research at the School of Education at The UWI, St. Augustine in March, 2015. Facilitators were **Professor Anthony Onwuegbuzie** and **Dr. Cindy Bengé** of Sam Houston University, Texas. Lecturers, research students and policy makers across The UWI and other educational institutions attended.*

*UWI Today spoke with **Prof. Anthony Onwuegbuzie** and **Dr. Bengé** along with School of Education Lecturer, **Dr. Vimala Judy Kamalodeen** about mixed methods research, the state of research now and what they hope for the future.*

JA: So what does mixed methods research entail?

AO: Over the years, there have been two major traditions in research: qualitative which is looking at words, observations, etc. and the other is quantitative which involves numbers and they've been separate until the late '90s where we said, why not do both to get the bigger picture? Mixed methods is a way to get more out of your data and answer more complex questions rather than just doing one technique.

JA: Since this is a burgeoning field, how did you get involved in mixed methods research?

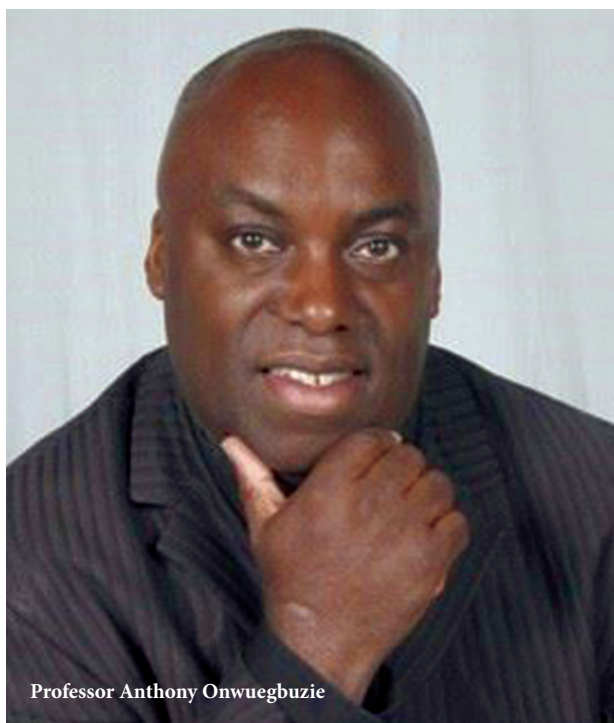
AO: My dissertation was really mixed. I was studying anxieties related to testing and I did a mixed methods study and didn't realise it because it was natural for me so I started to read more about it and write about it and I got a lot of rejection; it was hostile actually – I used to get mocked. A guy told me "Tony you are such a rabble-rouser, when are you going to realise that mixed methods is never going to take off?"

JA: He said this in front of the audience?

AO: Yes it was serious and it was difficult to get published in the late '90s. I went up to a presenter and said, "I have this article, it has mixed methods and could you take a look at it?" and they were impressed. It led to me co-authoring a chapter in a Handbook in 2003 that was really pivotal and helped to validate mixed methods.

JA: Is mixed methods research mainly done at the postgraduate level or do you see it as cross-disciplinary and applicable to teachers in high school?

AO: I think as early as possible. If we get students at high school and allow them to solve problems using different types of data, when they go to college and beyond they will have that positive attitude.



Professor Anthony Onwuegbuzie

CB: We use mixed methods in our daily lives to make decisions all the time. When I give my assistant a task to purchase something; she has to find the best price, do research, but I also want quality, so she's going to use information that she finds where people have spoken to the quality of a product. I would not hire someone who could not use mixed methods research. When we bifurcate into qualitative vs. quantitative it creates a false dichotomy.

VJK: I just feel that mixed methods is very natural way of life. Only when you reach a certain level of postgraduate, you learn these words qualitative, quantitative. But in every other aspect it's mixed, you do it naturally.

JA: How would you get people who are fixated on one method or the other over using both as a mixed method approach, to see it as the most natural method and therefore as equally scientific methodology?

AO: There was a mixed methods conference in Jamaica and they had to grasp concepts very quickly and it was very impressive. That was the best experience I've ever had with students. A lot of students say – "I just want to get it done" and we want you to get it done too! I will make sure you don't take longer than what is realistic because a lot of what we do as methodologists is to trim the scope. We want them to learn the skills so they can move on with their research and their lives.

JA: From a legislative standpoint, do you see policy-makers taking mixed methods research seriously?

AO: That's a challenge we have because ultimately numbers still prevail and we emphasise in our students to make qualitative as rigorous and integrative as possible so they can't separate it out into two sets of tracks.

JA: What is next for the future of mixed methods?

There is another conference in Texas, I told them to use the Jamaica conference as a model. There will be three more conferences coming up - one in Texas, Philadelphia and Japan. You can find information at <http://mixedmethodsira.wildapricot.org/>. It's a very exciting time for researchers.

JA: In closing, what would you say to people who are still reluctant to embrace mixed methods research?

AO: It's inevitable like the phrase, "you want to be on the right side of history;" you don't want to be the one saying you can't do it, don't do it. In the future, people are going to be doing what we're doing and more, so why fight it? They should embrace it and join the bandwagon.

Examining Race, Politics and Religion in Caribbean Life

A workshop in Political Anthropology hosted by Cultural Studies

BY MAARIT FORDE

Questions of power, inequality, citizenship and the state have guided political anthropology in the Caribbean since the Haitian anthropologist Anténor Firmin's 1885 call for "real and effective civic and political freedom." These questions remain highly relevant today, as thousands of Dominicans of Haitian descent face deportation and statelessness; the Cuban revolution has entered a new stage with the US-Cuban rapprochement; electorates in Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago have once again engaged in political discourse oscillating between national unity and racially divisive tribalism; and inequality persists while memories of the radical politics of earlier generations seem to fade away.

Ethnography is a powerful tool for deepening our understanding of contemporary struggles and stratifications, the strengths and weaknesses of the state and the evolution of democracy in the neoliberal moment in Caribbean societies. Anthropological conversations on such issues, however, often take place outside of the region in North American and European conferences and universities. Despite long-standing anthropological interest in the region, the discipline has not been institutionalized in the Anglophone Caribbean.

To facilitate a dialogue on political anthropology in the Caribbean, from within the Caribbean, I organized a workshop at The UWI, St. Augustine on 11-12 June, 2015. The workshop brought together anthropologists based in the UK, US, and Trinidad and Tobago, working on political questions in different parts of the Caribbean and its diaspora. Meeting for two days, the participants discussed their works-in-progress, pre-circulated to allow for meaningful critique and informed questions. Among the presenters were three UWI doctoral students, and the audience consisted of staff and students from Cultural Studies, the Institute for Gender and Development Studies, Sociology and other departments.

Their questions and comments made a valuable contribution to the discussion.

Professor Don Robotham from the CUNY Graduate Center concluded the workshop by drawing together trajectories of thought in our conversations and in related literature. Although all the presentations drew on ethnographic material on Caribbean societies and explored local life-worlds, they were theoretically linked to more general anthropological concepts and arguments. It was an explicit objective of the workshop to reach beyond narrow national or regional contexts and contribute to globally relevant discussions from a Caribbean perspective.

Subjectivity and the formation of political selves were recurrent themes in the conversation. Martin Holbraad (UCL) explored the idea of self-transformation in revolutionary ideology and rhetoric in Cuba. How do political awakenings and



Dr. Maarit Forde

transformation on the personal level relate to the shifts in power relations and structures that revolutions seek to produce? Holbraad's take on Foucauldian technologies of the self opened exciting theoretical viewpoints to subjectivity in the context of social and political change. Post-revolutionary subjects in Haiti, on the other hand, were pathologized as incapable of self-governance in popular and scientific discourse, as Erica Caple James' (MIT) work suggested. Hostile representations of the Haitian Revolution served to naturalize Haitians as inferior 'others' and to legitimize racial categories and inequality more generally.

Epistemological violence, the reproduction of otherness and inferiority in academic knowledge production, has supported political and economic oppression of Haitians and obfuscated the premises of their self-formation as revolutionary subjects. Tyehimba Salandy (UWI) addressed epistemological contestations in public and popular representations of Rastafarians in Trinidad. Like the discourse on Haiti, the material analysed by Salandy was deeply entrenched in, but also constitutive of, racial and class stratification on local and global levels. Related epistemological concerns were linked to methodological considerations in Gabrielle Hosein's (UWI) critique of normative andro-centricity in ethnographic analyses of the state. Feminist political anthropology with a sensitivity towards the transnational realities of Caribbean societies can lead towards more diverse and balanced understandings of governance, democracy, and citizenship.

Rhoda Reddock's (UWI) work investigated political subjectivity and its cultural and social parameters from the perspective of Muslim women in Trinidad by charting their efforts to maintain access to religious practice within the sacred space of the

masjid. Gendered public and private space within various, evolving Muslim groups set the context for these women's political and religious subjectivity. In my own paper on a disadvantaged neighborhood in East Port of Spain I looked at cultural norms and spatial practices that limit the residents' possibilities to engage in public discourse on common issues. Understandings of inside and outside, private and public space, as well as concrete social relations and practices like the balkanization of the area into gangs' territories structure the public sphere and hinder the emergence of collective political formations.

The possibilities for such formations constituted another major theme underpinning our conversations. What forms can citizenship, belonging, or activism take in neoliberal, multiply stratified, transnationally oriented societies? What can we learn of the civil society, inequality and advocacy in societies faced with exploitative global finances-capes, ethno-nationalist politics or war against drugs?

Rhoda Bharath (UWI) probed the role of ethnically "mixed" citizens in racially aligned party politics that sustain the notion of race-based competition for resources. A different take on citizenship and the formation of collective political identities emerged in Fadeke Castor (TAMU) and Josiah Olubowale's (UWI) papers on local as well as transnational rituals and belonging in Orisha and Ifá traditions. Spiritual connections to shrines and communities across the Afro-Atlantic, but also to ancestral spirits across temporal divides, invite us to reconsider the ideas of community and belonging, citizenship and political allegiance.

Finally, Ryan Jobson's (Yale) ethnography of the Trinidadian Highway Re-Route Movement posed important questions about social movements in the contemporary Caribbean, but also about sovereignty in postcolonial states. Ethnographic accounts of the cultural specificities of states and state power allow for nuanced and plural conceptualization of the state, including the "deep state" of invisible but powerful institutions that underpin and outlast the visible state, like governments, public services, or infrastructure. Dylan Kerrigan's (UWI) work on insecurity and militarization in Laventille added to this problematique by a discursive analysis of residents' experiences and understandings of the police and military presence in their community.

The papers are now being developed towards a publication, and the participants plan to continue and expand the dialogue through research and teaching collaborations. I am deeply grateful to the Campus Research and Publications Fund and the Department of Literary, Cultural and Communication Studies for financial and administrative support in organizing the event and fostering the growth of anthropology at the UWI.

■ WRITER IN RESIDENCE

STRANGER *than* FICTION

Karen Lord dispels Caribbean Speculative Fiction myths

BY JEANNETTE AWAI

In spaces where reality often plays out like science fiction, it is easy to dismiss 'Caribbean speculative fiction' as a pop-culture fad in Caribbean storytelling; but fiction author and economics researcher, Dr. Karen Lord sets that wayward thought straight. The writer-in-residence of the Department of Literary, Cultural and Communication Studies, featured guest speaker for this year's Campus Literature Week and UWI Cave Hill alumna sat down with UWI Today to speak about her genre, what it means to be a writer and how we can nurture the next wave of writers currently canvassing The UWI St. Augustine campus.

JA: So what does it mean to be the Department of Literary, Cultural and Communication Studies' writer-in-residence?

KL: It means meeting many interesting students and discovering what I would call, the future of Caribbean Literature. I give advice bearing in mind, Professor Funso Aiyejina does an absolutely brilliant job of this already in the programme. So what I bring, is the experience of being a published author. I look at the writers in the MFA programme here through a kind of 'future filter' where I think in ten years, I'm going to be bumping into some of them at literary festivals or be excitedly buying their books.

JA: How to you carve out a space to write?

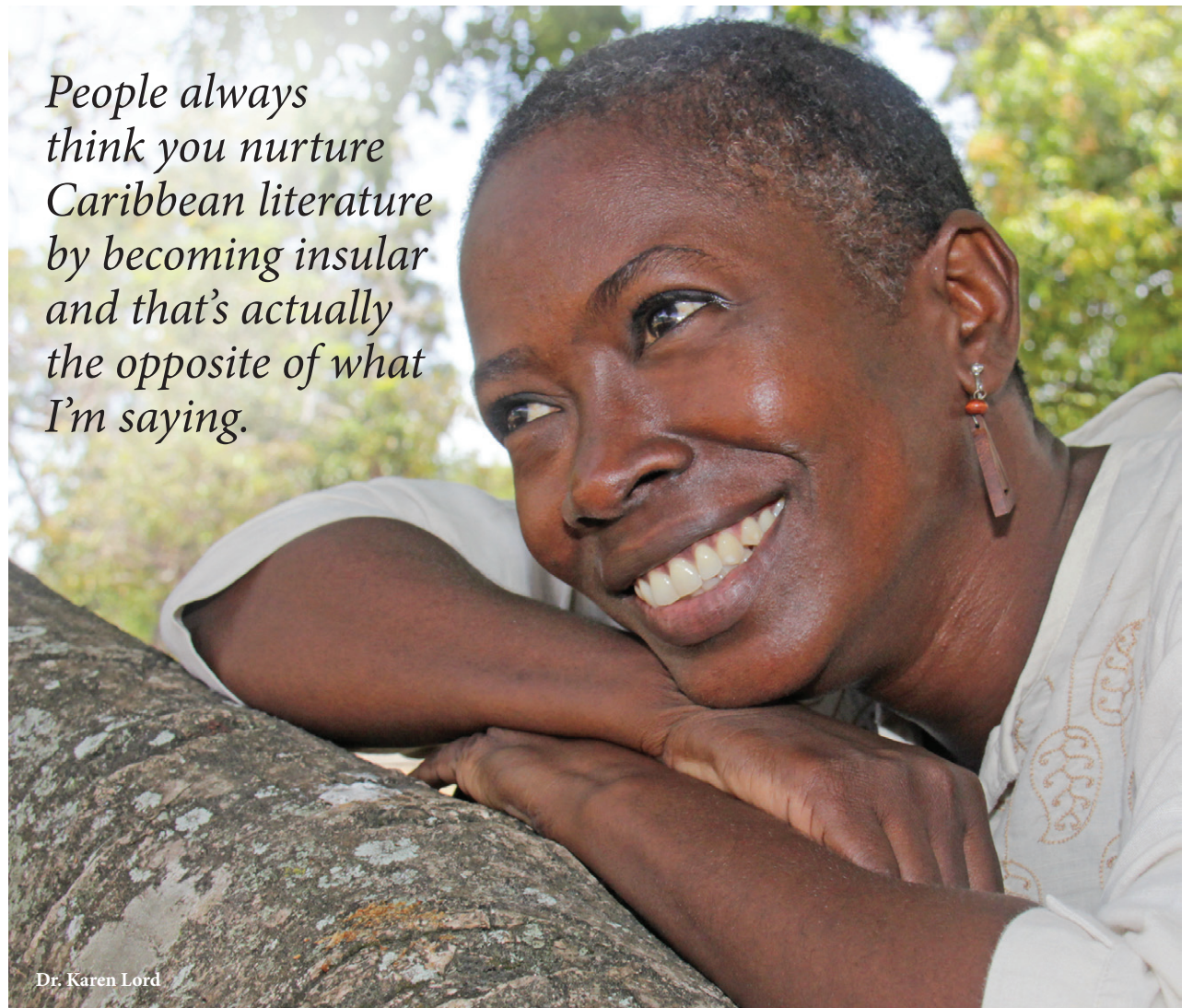
KL: We keep talking about wanting to hear all voices and hearing all stories, but we forget that to be able to find the space and time to write a story requires privilege. That's why I'm thrilled about literary festivals like Bocas. We have literary awards in the Caribbean that give you money. Do you know how rare that is? Usually you get a shiny statue, some prestige and a little bump in the sale of your books - if you're lucky. But in terms of sheer usefulness, that Frank Collymore award? Coming at a time when the whole country was in economic recession and no research projects were available - it enabled me to go to my father and say: Yes I just finished my PhD in Sociology of Religions, but I've received this opportunity that will give me my first amount of cash for the year. I think I should pursue it and see where it could go. That financial base enabled him as a West Indian parent, to support me and trust me.

I am constantly inspired by writers of other countries, but I also know what it's like to be grounded in Caribbean Literature. When I did CXC in school, one of the books I studied was Edgar Mittelholzer - My Bones and My Flute, a horror story set in Guyana! When people come to me and say that Caribbean Sci-Fi doesn't exist, I say, you fool. You didn't have the right syllabus!

JA: Given your academic background, how did you decide to start writing fiction?

KL: I used to write in school, but I never had the guts to submit, but what I got right is that I knew I had to live a little so I would have something to write about. By the time I sat down in 2003 to write a novel - I had something to draw on that helped me produce a textured and complex world with multiple voices. The thing that helped me the most was when I started my PhD at Cave Hill. I took a course on how to write academic essays in undergrad, so I knew how to write in a focused and structured way. Then by postgrad, you're writing about forty thousand words and that's an amazing incubator for the development of a novel and that's what helped me unlock the writer within.

People always think you nurture Caribbean literature by becoming insular and that's actually the opposite of what I'm saying.



Dr. Karen Lord

JA: How do you see Caribbean speculative fiction in conversation with what's happening globally?

KL: From the mundane to the mythic, I ask myself what are our traditions in the West Indies? I know we are flooded by La Diabliesse and Soucoyant and that's ok, but also think about the future. What's going to happen with our solar power, water level etc.? These are things we could examine. Tobias Buckell's Hurricane Fever is a good example of this. I want there to be the full gamut of Caribbean literature. We have our Nobel Prize winners and that's beautiful, but I want mediocre writers too. We inherit other people's throwaway media, why not ours? I also want to see more of the African and Indian Commonwealth literature come to the fore as well as translated works. People always think you nurture Caribbean literature by becoming insular and that's actually the opposite of what I'm saying. I'm saying, there's a lot of amazing work out there and we need to support each other.

JA: Tell us about your new book, The Galaxy Game.

KL: Every book I write is different and that's not the popular thing to do. Redemption is fantasy. Galaxy Game is a follow-up from The Best of All Possible Worlds (Boapw) so it's Sci-Fi. You will appreciate the Galaxy Game more if you read Boapw first. Galaxy Game is a road trip to a foreign planet that has many different societies and cultures. I told this story from the point of view of someone who began on the realm of Boapw and we spring off of that. The joy of Galaxy Game is I wanted it to feel as if you were properly in a new place, but still one that knew fully how to function.

JA: What is next for you?

KL: I will be in Trinidad until the end of August. The audiobook of the Galaxy Game is coming out soon. I'll also be doing more research work. I am also working on a manuscript that's a sequel to Redemption - it's getting closer and closer to completion. It is one of those works that you start and you realise you have a lot of work to do on it and you let it take its time.

Campaigning for a MINISTRY OF DESIGN

BY LESLEY-ANN NOEL AND MICHAEL LEE POY

Innovation is the key to competitiveness. This rhetorical sounding truism is timeless relevant for a reason – the fact that commercially successful products are so because they have found a way to conceptually and practically reinvent, sometime repurpose a largely familiar system into new, cannot-live-without products. Just in this contemporary time, the nexus of innovation and market brings to mind smartphones, any portable computer device, moisture-repelling fabric, the hybrid car, super-light footwear, action cameras like the go-pro, wireless devices such as headsets, keyboards, the computer mouse, and so many more.

However, regardless of genre, all innovative and competitive products turn on the element of design, which is then supported by relevant research and development but it is this key – design that is generally considered to be the genesis of innovation and competitiveness. Research suggests that design has a significant positive effect on the economies of countries by making industries more competitive, by stimulating manufacturing as a tool for social development and even by addressing issues to improve infrastructure for health, crime prevention, education and transport systems.

Every Carnival season in an ever increasing number of ways and for at least the last one hundreds of its years of history, the nation of Trinidad and Tobago proves to the world that its capacity for design is incomparable; yet there is no formally organized institution or system that is aimed at nurturing and harnessing this socially and economically all important skill. How can this be addressed? This question is the one that was taken up by the Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA) at The UWI, St. Augustine campus, at its recent two-day colloquium.

Titled, *Ministry of Design – from cottage industry to state enterprise*, the colloquium explored the general public

The Ministry of Design colloquium, was just the first step in a series of initiatives that will be needed to sensitise both the public and policymakers about the value and impact of design.

perception that design relates primarily to fashion, graphic design and Carnival. Currently, Trinidad and Tobago has neither design policies nor programmes to incubate or facilitate design although there is an avowed focus on innovation and competitiveness. Colloquium chairs Lesley-Ann Noel and Michael Lee Poy guided the process over the two days and encouraged debate on the possible outcomes should the government of Trinidad and Tobago direct substantial financial investment towards design initiatives on a national level. The sessions were governed by the enquiry: How could a 'Ministry of Design' encourage and stimulate design and create awareness of its importance among individuals, families, educators, business and non-governmental organisations?

The colloquium was arranged around a hypothetical existence of the 'Ministry of Design', complete with a coat of arms, designed by Level 2 Visual Arts student Melissa Miller, and with a motto in Latin: *cognitans a melior Trinidad et Tobago*, which translates to 'designing a better Trinidad and Tobago. Memorabilia for the 'Ministry' was produced in-house. The co-chairs Noel and Lee Poy then 'campaigned' for this Ministry to political candidates, government officials and public figures, in a bold move to create public awareness about design. See adjacent photos that captured Lee Poy walking the talk to current names in the political arena.

The colloquium featured speakers from the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Barbados and of course Trinidad and Tobago. Dr. Maria De Mater O'Neil from Puerto Rico presented four areas that should be researched in order to create a Ministry of Design in Trinidad and Tobago: (1) contemporary local design history with emphasis on

the business aspect (2) current local design education approaches (3) how people relate and experience culturally with their mobile technology and (4) current financial issues among design practitioners and their businesses. She presented findings from the case of Puerto Rico along these four factors.

Robert Pulley of the Royal College of Art in London proposed in his paper that a Ministry of Design in Trinidad and Tobago could facilitate inspiring collaborations between students, academics and entrepreneurs, with the Visual Arts Unit of the DCFA playing a leading role in these collaborations and in promoting learning through making. He suggested that an international research centre for design, education and enterprise as a joint venture of the UWI and the government of Trinidad and Tobago, as a main project of launching a Ministry of Design.

Several other valid suggestions on how the Ministry could function, and what projects it could undertake were made in other papers and in the Q&A sessions of the colloquium. Full papers will be available for digital distribution by the end of June. (Interested persons can contact dcfa@sta.uwi.edu to be added to the MOD mailing list)

The Ministry of Design colloquium, was just the first step in a series of initiatives that will be needed to sensitise both the public and policymakers about the value and impact of design. The chairs of the colloquium have the long-term aspiration of developing a Caribbean Design Research Institute that will produce real time data on the benefits and impact of design, and support the creation and implementation of regional design and innovation policies and action plans.



Lee Poy tells the Opposition Leader, Dr. Keith Rowley about the Ministry of Design

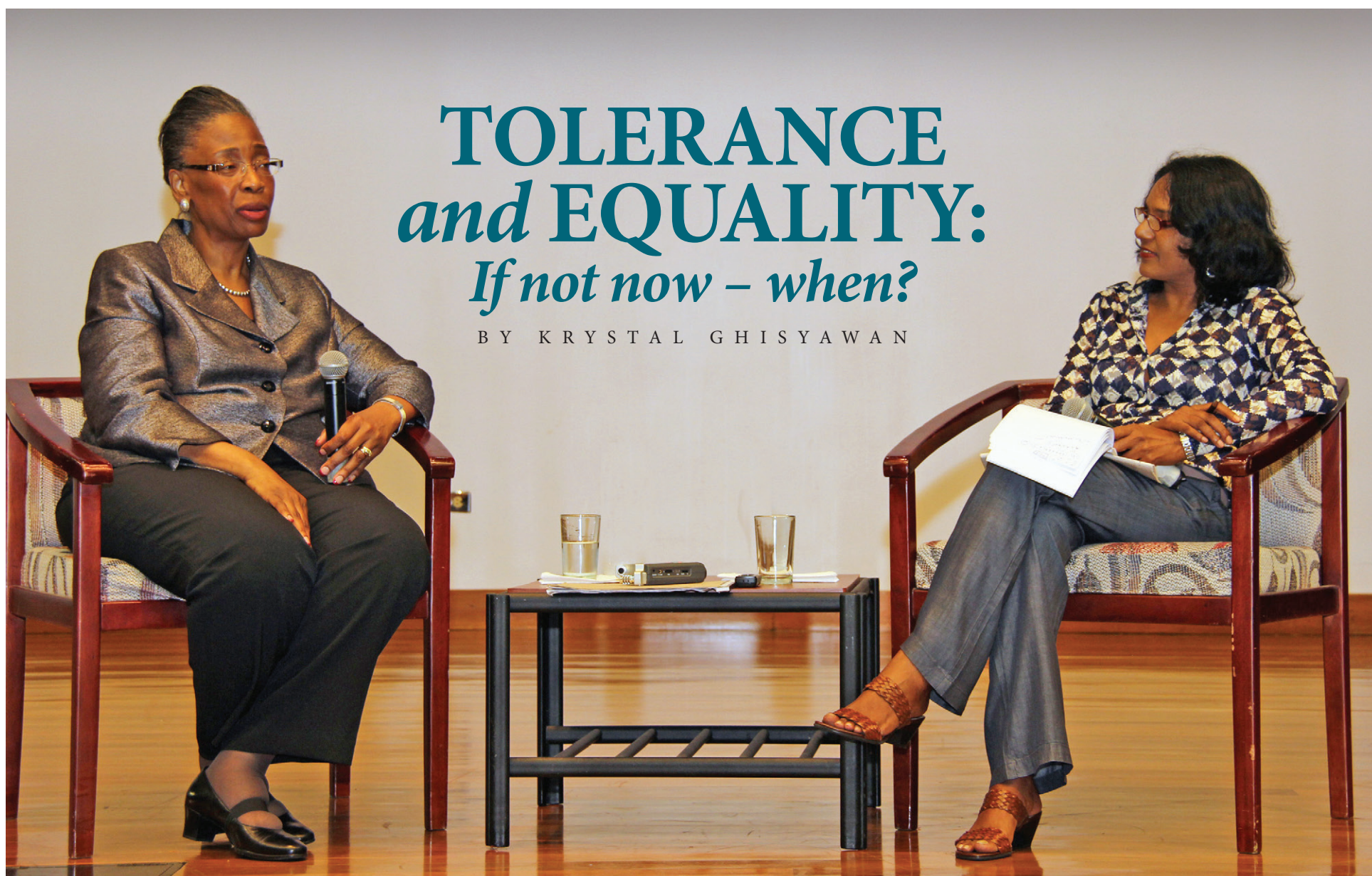


Lee Poy tells the Minister of Sport, Brent Sancho about the Ministry of Design

A wide range of photos from the event is available at: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Unofficial-Ministry-of-Design-Trinidad-and-Tobago/1604002036523307>

Lesley-Ann Noel is a lecturer in Design at UWI and a PhD candidate at the North Carolina State University.

Michael Lee Poy is a part time lecturer, designer, artist and registered and practicing architect in Trinidad and Tobago.



TOLERANCE and EQUALITY: *If not now – when?*

BY KRYSTAL GHISYAWAN

“Tolerance as an ethical virtue does not require us to accept other people’s choices, but it does require us to respect those choices.”

If no other point is retained from Judge Helen Whitener’s address this one above should be.

Judge Whitener channeled Dr Eric William when she defined “tolerance,” one of our nation’s watchwords and underscored its necessity to the functioning of a healthy democracy as it allows us to disagree about controversial issues and debate our deepest differences in a civil and nonviolent manner. A disposition of tolerance she said, is necessary for the development of enlightened and just policies for resolving contested moral issues, such as disability rights, capital punishment, sexual rights, AIDS and HIV issues and abortion. It was fitting that though hosted by the US Embassy and moderated by journalist, Dr Sheila Rampersad, she delivered this message at Daaga Auditorium, on the St Augustine campus of The UWI – the seat of higher education and progressive thinking.

Using the words of Dr Eric Williams, Judge Whitener outlined democracy as he saw it – the recognition of the rights of others; equal opportunities for all in education and employment; the protection of the weak against the strong; and the government’s responsibility to protect citizens from the arbitrary exercise of power. Questioning

whether these founding principles were in fact being observed in the country today, she called on Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar to take homophobic laws off the books.

She also endorsed the work of local activists groups, like the Silver Lining Foundation which the Judge felt was indicative of an awareness of the shortcomings regarding the equal treatment of ALL citizens. The Foundation was established after the suicide of a young man who was bullied for being gay. If the society was truly tolerant, the Foundation would not need to exist she opined.

A highlight of the talk was when Judge Whitener’s mother, Mrs Joyce Pierre, explained what it was like being a Caribbean woman and having a gay child. “These are people and have their own life to live. They’ve taken a choice, I don’t even know if it’s a choice. It was shocking to me but it is a journey,” she said.

This journey is one from a place of ignorance (not knowing), intolerance (not accepting) and shame, to one of knowledge, understanding and tolerance. Mrs Pierre highlighted the need for parents to be willing to learn from their children, and to take this journey together, by talking through issues of sexuality. Ultimately, parents will face the question “Will I lose my child?” and must determine if trying to maintain dominant intolerant attitudes and

behaviours is worth the loss of emotional ties and family.

Before an audience of local activists, academics, lawyers and social workers who work with one or more disenfranchised groups, Judge Whitener acknowledged that she had little knowledge of our current political state and was instead asking: if the nation is proud of her, and her accomplishments as a black, Trinidad-born and raised, openly gay woman, who at age 50 was the youngest person to sit at the highest bench of the United States legal system, why is it not proud of all of its LGBTQI population? (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex – LGBTQI is the acronym commonly used, for example, in the US when Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton said that LGBTQI rights are part of the US’s Human rights policy and foreign policy interests)

Yet she was not speaking solely from an LGBTQI rights perspective, rather on a human rights platform which includes all people in disenfranchised positions; emphasising the need for building coalitions across differences be it sexual orientation, (dis)ability, (dis)ease, race, class, and ethnicity.

Drawing on her professional training as a judge, she believed that legislative change was urgently needed to recognise innate rights, to secure space at the table for all citizens, asking, “If not now, when?”

Ultimately, parents will face the question “Will I lose my child?” and must determine if trying to maintain dominant intolerant attitudes and behaviours is worth the loss of emotional ties and family.

Krystal Ghisyawan is a PhD candidate in Sociology whose work focuses on women in same-sex relationships in Trinidad, their space-making practices and the politics of their identity.

■ DISCUSSING NAIPAUL – Part 2

Shiva in the Naipaul Dynasty

BY VIJAY MAHARAJ

In the academic world, work dedicated to Shiva Naipaul has been greatly overshadowed by that focussing on his older brother, VS Naipaul, a position Shiva Naipaul anticipated and rescinded, as the quotes gathered on the Friends of Mr Biswas website illustrate (<http://www.friendsofmrabiswas.org/pages/shiva-and-vidia-my-brother-and-i>).

Such sibling-overwhelming is rather unfortunate because Shivadhar Srinivasa Naipaul, aka Shiva Naipaul, benefitted from the literary experiences of his family and from inception his voice was strong and his crafting unique. In fact, his very first novel, *Fireflies*, published when he was twenty-four years old, was longlisted for the Lost Man Booker Prize 1970 and won the Jock Campbell New Statesman Award, the John Llewellyn Rhys Memorial Prize and the Winifred Holtby Prize.

In the sixteen years between that first book and his death at the young age of forty, he wrote two other outstanding novels, *The Chip Chip Gatherers* in 1973 and *A Hot Country* in 1983, which was re-published in 1985 under the new title *Love and Death in a Hot Country*. Between these two novels, using his brother's well-worn methodology of following the surging tides of displaced humanity to first write the travel narrative that fosters later fiction, he wrote two. *North of South: An African Journey* (1978) describes his visits to Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia, and *Black and White* (1980) tells about his travels in Guyana prompted by the Jonestown massacre.

The latter was republished in 1981 with the title *Journey to Nowhere*. It provided the research material on which *A Hot Country/ Love and Death in a Hot Country* is based and reminds us of what Paul Fussell says in *Abroad*: "To speak of 'literary traveling' is almost a tautology, so intimately are literature and travel implicated with each other" (212). In 1984, a collection of short stories and essays *Beyond the Dragon's Mouth* was published and in 1986, the year following his death, another collection of essays, especially about his travels in Australia and Sri Lanka, *An Unfinished Journey*, was released.



Shiva Naipaul

Like his brother and many others, such as Isak Dinesen aka Baroness Karen Blixen whose life readers may be familiar with from exposure to the movie, *Out of Africa* starring Meryl Streep, Shiva Naipaul has been criticised, especially for his travel writing on Africa. Nonetheless his writing is considered outstanding. The travel writing prize that has been named in his honour – The Shiva Naipaul Memorial

Prize – awarded annually by *The Spectator* is an indication of this and the criteria for the prize are worth noting. As Tom Coote puts it on his travel writing website: "the prize is not awarded for travel writing in the conventional sense. You need not have gone anywhere highly exotic or far away: the prize is for 'the most acute and profound observation of a culture alien to the writer.'"

Certainly, regardless of its genre or a culture's alienness, the works of the three Naipauls share this quality. In addition, as Michael Joseph Chukwudalu Echeruo notes with regard to the writer of the foreign novel of Africa, he (sic) "uses the distanced peoples and lands of his narrative to make assertions of a large and general kind about human life and human values." Distancing to this effect is a predominant element of the Naipauls' writing, and as I have mentioned elsewhere, in the father's writing it primarily "demonstrate(s) his Brahminic knowledge of Hindu traditions as well as the Brahmin right to violate the explicit rules of community cohesion by criticism, which in the traditional sense paradoxically speaks to the strength of a community that can withstand and incorporate such criticism" (Maharaj, 2008, 182). The stage for the sons' work is however a much larger one and the criticism is less linked to religion.

Nevertheless, it incorporates the same moral, ethical stance. In relation to Shiva Naipaul's work as a whole, one may argue in fact that he develops a theme of postcolonial pusillanimity, demonstrates its pervasiveness in a variety of societies that have recently been declared independent and opposes it by illustrating the many ways it is detrimental in a variety of scenarios and fatal in those situations that require its exact opposite: moral courage. We will pick up on this important note next month in the lead up to the 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.



Shiva and VS Naipaul
with a portrait of Seepersad



Shiva Naipaul

Editor's Note: The original date for the conference of 6-8 September has been reconsidered by organizers due to the national election which has been scheduled for 7 September. The new dates are 28-30 October, 2015.
Dr J. Vijay Maharaj is a cultural and literary analyst who works in the Department of Literary, Cultural and Communication Studies.

ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATION

The AIMS are to use BIO-CONTROL and BIO-FERTILIZER

Amar Lall, a farmer from Macoya who gave remarks at the opening of the project, *Promoting Agriculturally Important Microorganisms (AIMS)* - to address the challenges in Food Safety and Food Security in the Caribbean, said that he has expectations of what the project can do for his livelihood.

The UWI-TT RDI Fund sponsored project on *Promoting Agriculturally Important Microorganisms (AIMS)* to address the challenges in Food Safety and Food Security in the Caribbean was launched on 25 June by Dr. Isaac Bekele, Dean, Faculty of Food and Agriculture at UWI. The launch was attended by farmers, vegetable producers, Director from the Research Division, Ministry of Food Production, Deputy Director Research (Crops), Deputy Director Extension, Regional Administration North, Agricultural Extension Officers, NAMDEVCO, Representatives from regional organizations like USDA, CABI, IICA, CARDI, FAO, the Campus Registrar Richard Saunders, Academic, Technical staff and students from the Faculty of Food and Agriculture, Faculty of Science and Technology, Cocoa Research Unit, UWI, St. Augustine.

Mr Lall went on to explain that the repeated application of pesticides to his crops was not able to contain the pests and diseases so he welcomes The UWI community's interest in working closely with the farming community to solve their problems to ensure food security and reduce the cost of application of pesticides. He also emphasized that the farmers need to be educated on early diagnosis of plant pest and disease so as to deal with holistic approaches.

Dr. Gaius Eudoxie, Lecturer (Soil Science), Department of Food Production, Faculty of Food and Agriculture, chaired the session with briefing about the significance of the project in the region, more specifically the relevance of soils component in the project.

Professor Neela Badrie, Head, Department of Food Production welcomed the gathering and mentioned the suitability and relevance of the AIMS project within the UWI strategic plan 2012-2017. Prof. Badrie reminded the audience of the UN definition of food security: 'An access to safe and secure food is a basic human right and thus each country has a responsibility to address food safety issues'. During her opening remarks, she quoted the reports that reminded all that there are unacceptable levels of pesticide residue in some of the food commodities in the Central America.

Dr. Saravanakumar Duraisamy, Senior Lecturer (Plant Pathology), and Team Leader of the AIMS Project on his introduction to the project spoke about the *Plantwise* programme - a UK report on the crop production losses to the value of US\$ 240 million due to pests and diseases attack worldwide; and that for every 1% reduction in pests and diseases, it is estimated

that we would be able to feed an extra 25 million people. Dr. Saravanakumar Duraisamy acknowledged the UWI-TT RDI Fund and thanked Prof. Clement Sankat, Campus Principal for project approval.

Mr. Assim Dilbar, Director, Research Division, Ministry of Food Production on his special remarks mentioned the Ministry of Food Production's involvement in the promotion of bio-fertilizers especially VAM in corn through Mexican collaboration and emphasized the need for good agricultural practices and crop integrated practices to manage the pest and disease problems. The Director has also give insights into the research taking place in the Ministry of Food Production in the use of Metarhizium on the red palm mite control under laboratory conditions and wished the project for successful implementation.

As part of the promotional activity and more importantly to sensitize the students, research scholars and interested groups on the utility of beneficial micro-organisms in agriculture, there was an AIMS logo design contest. The AIMS research team selected the logo for the project with the slogan of *safe and secured food* which was submitted by Carla Washington Mclean. Her award was presented on the same day of the project launch by Dr. Isaac Bekele, Dean, Faculty of Food and Agriculture.

Dr. Isaac Bekele on his launch address emphasized the necessity for food security and self-sustainability in the region. He also stressed the importance of growing the network between Institutions, Extension Officials, Ministry of Food Production and Regional Organizations. He emphasized the need to sensitize the graduate students' research in the basic and applied aspects of agriculture so as to address the challenges in food security of the region. He mentioned that the Faculty received 6 projects to the funding of TT\$ 2 million from the 3rd call proposals from the UWI-TT RDI Fund. He ended his remarks by saying that he appreciated the efforts of faculty members in bringing out quality publications and marching towards quality research in the region.

Dr. Wendy-Ann Isaac, Lecturer (Weed Science), proposed the vote of thanks recognizing the efforts taken by the students and staff of the Department of Food Production and Faculty of Food and Agriculture to organize the launch.

Facts about the UWI-TT RDI AIMS PROJECT

The UWI-TT RDI fund recently sanctioned the project on *Promoting Agriculturally Important Microorganisms (AIMS)* to address the challenges in Food Safety and Food Security in the Caribbean to the Department of Food Production, UWI, St. Augustine. The project will be for three years commencing from May 2015 to April 2018. The AIMS project is envisioned

to identify, characterize and promote agriculturally important indigenous microorganisms as bio-control agents and bio-fertilizers in the perspective of an effective plant disease and soil fertility management in an effort to reduce the use of hazardous pesticides in the region.

Plant diseases are the major constrains in vegetable production of the Caribbean and viewed as the vital challenges to be addressed to ensure food security of the region. Further, an indiscriminate and intensive use of hazardous pesticides to control pests and diseases have revealed the great concerns over environmental and human health hazards posing serious threats to the safe food especially in vegetables where most of them are consumed without processing and or consumed as raw materials. In addition to this, the continuous and intensive application of inorganic fertilizers has deteriorated soil biota thereby reducing the yield potential in the Tropical agriculture. These practices warrant the development of locally adaptive novel and sustainable strategies to ensure food safety and food security of the region. One such holistic approach which is foreseen to address the above said issues in a sustainable manner will be the promotion of Agriculturally Important Micro-organisms (AIMS) which has so far received very little attention in the region. Thus the current proposal justifies and demand the basic and applied research on developing potential AIMS suitable for the tropical agriculture.

The main aspect of the project will be to explore native micro-organisms with the perspective of developing it as the elite bio-control and bio-fertilizer strains for quality vegetable production system in Trinidad and Tobago so as to reduce the use of chemical pesticides in the region. The project will utilize various traditional pathological, biochemical and advanced molecular techniques to track novel elite microorganisms to thwart pests and diseases in the vegetable cultivation and to fix and facilitate the mobilization of the nutrients in the soils to improve soil fertility ultimately to increase plant growth and yield.

The potential of AIMS will be demonstrated in the vegetable crops viz., hot pepper, lettuce, okra and bodi as model systems at greenhouse and field conditions. The utility of AIMS in vegetable crops will be demonstrated by the conduct of field day and awareness on AIMS will be created among the farmers, nursery entrepreneurs, vegetable growers and protected cultivation systems by the conduct of workshops and trainings.

This would also be a viable input in future to the organic vegetable producers, home gardeners and school gardens for plant disease and soil fertility management as it would reduce the risk of pesticide exposure to common public and school children as well.

Email: aimsproject.uwirdi@gmail.com



The AIMS launch was attended by a wide cross-section of the senior campus staff as well as stakeholders in agriculture



AIMS Launch attended by the Farmers, Representatives from Regional Agricultural Organizations, Officials and Extension Officers from the Ministry of Food Production, Staff and Students of UWI

■ OUR CAMPUS

Under the Pressure of Humanity

Soil is a ubiquitous resource that is forgotten from our personal and national agendas

BY GAIUS EUDOXIE

To most, soil is indistinct from land. The latter represents a legal attribute of financial value. The Soil Science Society of America defines soil as “the unconsolidated mineral or organic material on the immediate surface of the earth that serves as a natural medium for the growth of land plants” and land as “one of the major factors of production that is supplied by nature and includes all natural resources in their original state, such as mineral deposits, wildlife, timber, fish, water, coal, and the fertility of the soil.”

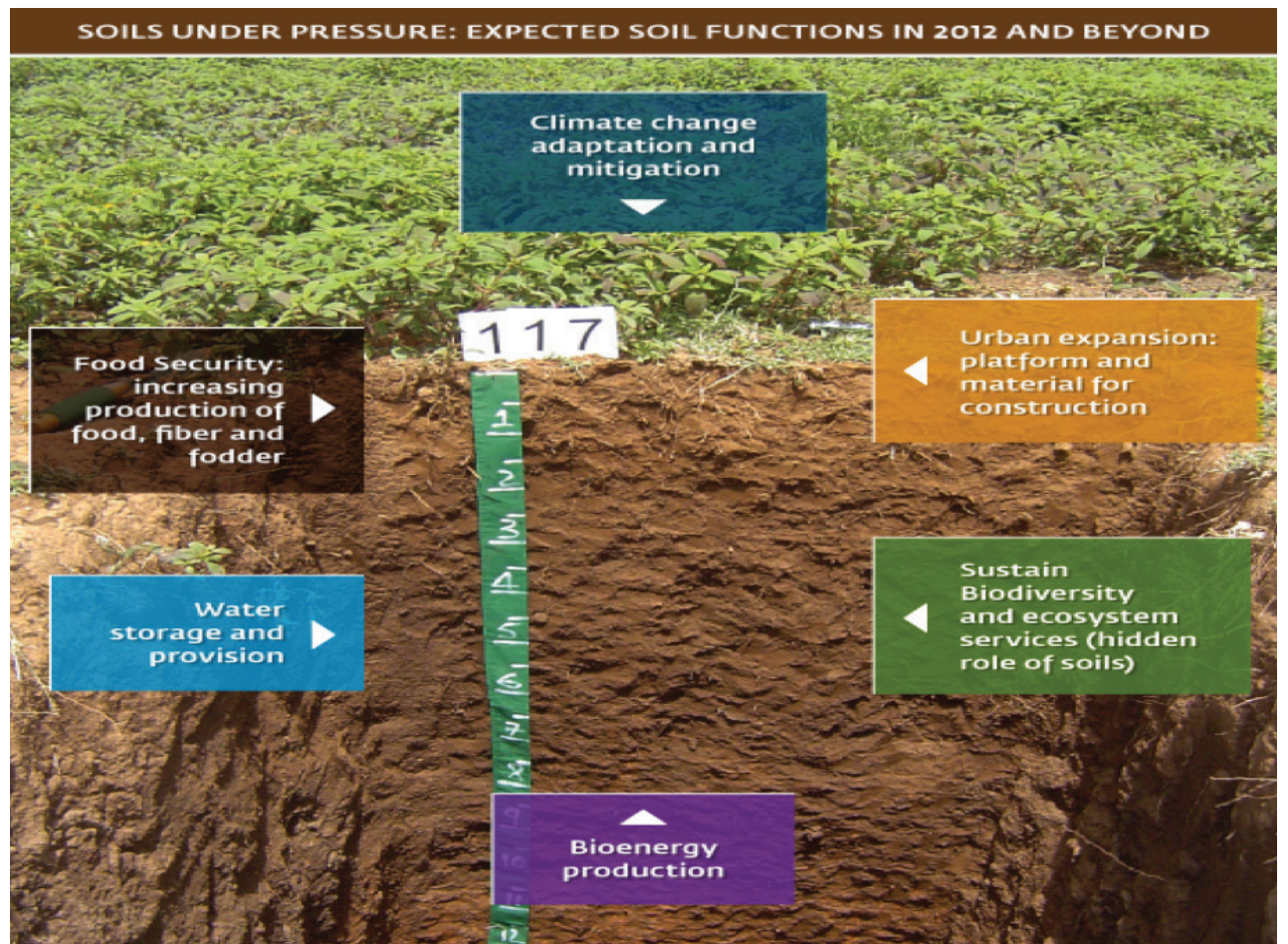
Regionally, policies exist that protect, regulate and strategize for the development of water, air, land, forest and biodiversity resources but our institutional libraries are devoid of any legal recognition of soil. Focus must therefore be placed on soil as a critical resource to sustainable development and a good place to start is to highlight the functions and pressures placed on soils in our economy:-

- Food security: increasing production of food, fibre and fodder
- Water storage and provision
- Bio-energy production
- Sustain biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Urban expansion: platform and material for construction
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation

The United Nations designated 2015 the International Year of Soils with a rationale coming from the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) and the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS) under the auspices of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO): “The renewed recognition of the central role of soil resources as a basis for food security and their provision of key ecosystem services, including climate change adaptation and mitigation, has triggered numerous regional and international projects, initiatives and actions. Despite these numerous emergent activities, soil resources are still seen as a second-tier priority and no international governance body exist that advocates for and coordinates initiatives to ensure that knowledge and recognition of soils are appropriately represented in global change dialogues and decision making processes.”

The realities of being a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) are reflected in the greater dependence on this limited natural resource. A reduction in the size and quality of this resource has more profound effects on our island as the land area per capita is reduced. A greater effort is needed on the part of the state and associated institutions to recognize and give deserved attention to soil resources. A five-pillar approach has been adopted by the GSP. These are:

- Pillar 1: Promote sustainable management of soil resources
- Pillar 2: Encourage investment, technical cooperation, policy, education awareness and extension in soils
- Pillar 3: Promote targeted soil research and development focusing on identified gaps and priorities
- Pillar 4: Enhance the quantity and quality of soil data and information
- Pillar 5: Support harmonization of methods,



The anticipated functions of soil

measurements and indicators for sustainable soil management, with a national validation that takes into account the differences of production systems and ecosystems

Pillar 4 has been chosen for discussion first in this series as the other pillars are dependent on this one - the quantity, quality and availability of soil data and information.

In the era where agriculture was socially and economically important, a comprehensive soil survey was performed (1960-70s) across the English-speaking Caribbean, with resultant soil maps (1:25,000) and narratives. It took another 40 to 50 years to digitize those maps which are still not readily available. This information remains the only cohesive geographic soils information available guiding decision-making, with fragmented studies mostly archived on the shelves of our libraries.

Two concerns arise with respect to pillar 4: firstly, the age of the data and its applicability in our changing landscape. Land use has changed significantly over the past six decades, and this would have influenced soil properties. Additionally, the scope of the soil data is limited to mainly agriculturally related features. There is a need to generate (probably through a coordinated survey) new information about our soils and continue to add subsequent data (monitoring) to an information system supporting soil management.

The second concern is not technical but administrative. Access (public or otherwise) to soil information is critical to foster sustainable management. Numerous stakeholders utilize soils and are guided by soil data. Where such data is not readily available assumptions and best-fit scenarios are used to model soil behaviour, ultimately leading to poor decisions. Local projects coordinated by researchers at The UWI seek to collect, analyse and present agricultural data on an open access platform. This effort, if successful, should address the data availability issue and lend a hand to building a national soil resource inventory. However, sustainability of such efforts demands inter-institutional cooperation and coordination.

The Latin American and Caribbean Regional Soil Partnership was launched in Cuba in 2013 with a similar aim under pillar 4, albeit with a regional focus. The group is scheduled to meet later this year to consolidate and apprise members of regional and global initiatives. Many more types of regional to community level initiatives directed toward saving our soils are needed for a turn-around in the value of this resource. It is clear however, that the starting point is an awareness of the threat to our soils so this discussion will continue.

UWI CALENDAR of EVENTS

JULY–AUGUST 2015

ACHEA: RE-VISIONING, RE-ASSESSING, RE-COMMITTING

July 9-11

UWI, St. Augustine

The Association of Caribbean Higher Education Administrators (ACHEA) presents their 14th Annual Conference from July 9 to 11, 2015 at the Teaching and Learning Complex under the theme Re-visioning, Re-assessing and Re-Committing for Success in Higher Education. Pre-register for sessions such as: A Librarian's Forum, Technology-Driven Software Engineering Curriculum Development Workshop and The Work Integrated Education (WIE) Forum.

For further information, visit
<http://sta.uwi.edu/achea/conference2015.htm>

BREADFRUIT EXHIBITION & FESTIVAL

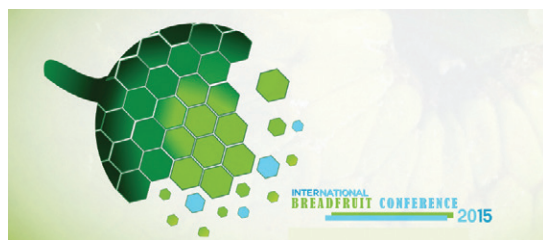
July 10

9am to 6pm

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; and as part of the conference, will host a Breadfruit Exhibition & Festival. This free event takes place at the JFK Auditorium and Quadrangle and is open to the public. Look out for interactive displays on food; breadfruit and breadnut (chataigne) products; processing equipment; educational material and breadfruit-themed arts and crafts. Experience breadfruit like you never before in unique dishes like breadfruit pizza, pastelle even ice-cream.

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



LAW, NEGOTIATION & THE MEDIATION PROCESS

July 20-21

8.15am to 4pm

UWI, St. Augustine



The Faculty of Social Sciences Department of Behavioural Sciences will be hosting a workshop on Law, Negotiation and the Mediation Process at the Faculty of Social Sciences Lounge. Learn about how businesses have become more aware of the litigation and mediation processes and how to avoid major pitfalls in business especially involving legal disputes.

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

IGDS SHORT COURSES

July and August

UWI, Institute for Gender and Development Studies (IGDS)

Register early to reserve a spot in any of the exciting courses being offered in July and August by Gender Studies on topics such as Critical Sexuality Studies, Looking in: Looking Out, Gender in the News and The Law and Women. Final deadlines for registration and payment of all short courses are three working days prior to the start of the course so register now.

For further information,
visit: <http://sta.uwi.edu/igds/shortcourses.asp>

IMPROVING LEARNING FOR SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

July 24

9am to 3pm

UWI, Family Development Centre (FDC)

The Faculty of Humanities and Education - Family Development Centre (FDC) hosts its 2nd Interactive Learning Event Part of their Enhancing Professionalism Series with the topic Teaching students with special needs: Improving learning and work performance in the classroom. This event takes place The UWI, FDC 1st Floor, Conference Room and will feature guest speakers: Occupational Therapists, Christopher Ristic and Tara Riley. The cost is TT\$600.

For further information,
please email fdpuwi@sta.uwi.edu.

VEME

August 10-14

UWI, St. Augustine

The 20th International Bioinformatics Workshop on Virus Evolution and Molecular Epidemiology (VEME) will open at the Teaching and Learning Complex, St. Augustine Road on 10 August. The keynote speaker is Professor Edward Holmes an internationally renowned research scientist studying the mechanisms by which pathogens cross species boundaries to emerge in humans.

For further information,
please email veme2015@sta.uwi.edu



**UWI TODAY WANTS
TO HEAR FROM YOU**

UWI TODAY welcomes submissions by staff and students for publication in the paper. Please send your suggestions, comments, or articles for consideration to uwitoday@sta.uwi.edu

