

King David

Three days. Six graduation ceremonies. Eight honorary graduands. Six valedictorians. Nearly 4,000 students crossing the stage to take their scrolls of accomplishment. More than 16,000 proud eyes. That was the throb of the St. Augustine Campus as it took its turn to host UWI commencement ceremonies that mark the month of October regionally. Our eight honorary graduates are Justice Jean Angela Permanand, Mr. Norman Sabga, Mr. Gérard Besson, Dr. Marjorie Thorpe, Mr. David Rudder, Justice Ralph Narine, Mr. Rajkumar Krishna Persad, and Mr. Hollis Raymond Charles. Mr. Rudder performed at his ceremony on Saturday October 24. We asked him what the honorary degree meant to him. **“To me it’s the reaffirmation that people are still hearing what I have to say, and a good deal of it seems to be quite relevant,”** he said. **“It re-energizes the journey.”** He had some advice for the students. **“Do not limit yourself, search, ask, listen always. Everything is linked in this life.”** We asked if he thought we had moved closer to regional integration, and though he did not want to say much, saying he already spoken so often on the subject, his laconic response was eloquent, **“No, far from it. The old poisons are still there. Just look at cricket.”** (See Page 3) PHOTO: KEYON MITCHELL

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■ OUR CAMPUS

The MIGHTY POET



PHOTO: GUYTN OTTLEY

David Michael Rudder's unique blend of calypso, pop, jazz, blues heavily influenced by the Shango rhythms of his childhood, transcends boundaries of genre, culture, ethnicity, language and geography. His lyrics have so captured the essence of what it means to be Trinidadian, Tobagonian, Caribbean, human – that many of his songs have become unofficial anthems across the region and resonate with audiences near and far.

He grew up in Belmont and began singing with a group called The Solutions when he was 11 years old. As a young man he worked as an accountant during the day while moonlighting as a back-up singer at Lord Kitchener's Calypso Revue tent. In 1977, at age 24, he joined the popular band, Charlie's Roots and in 1986 his solo career started with a bang when he released his first album, *The Hammer*, which contained what are now calypso classics: *The Hammer* and *Bahia Gyal*. The following year he issued another classic, *Calypso Music* and in 1998 came the Haiti album featuring the haunting song of the same name and the cricket anthem, *Rally 'Round the West Indies*.

David Rudder made history in 1986 by winning almost every calypso competition that season: the Young King title, National Calypso Monarch, the Road March and Panorama. By his own account, it was after he won the Calypso Monarch crown that none other than the Mighty Sparrow gave him a new name – King David. Since then the awards and accolades – locally and abroad – have continued to flow like water.

In 1992, now Professor Emeritus, Gordon Rohlehr heralded Rudder as "A Mighty Poet of a Shallow People in a Savage Time." In songs such as *Another Day in Paradise*, *Hosay* and *High Mas*, to name just a few, David Rudder has used his music to hold up a mirror to Trinidad and Tobago society, to plumb the depths of the region's collective soul and to call attention to the plight of the oppressed in places such as Haiti and South Africa. In 1996, he was appointed a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Development Programme.

Over the course of his career, David Rudder has released more than 30 albums. He has performed across the Caribbean, North America, Europe and Japan, sharing stages with renowned musicians. Back at home his collaborations in the 1980s and 1990s with mas designer, Peter Minshall, are legendary and today he works with and inspires a new generation of local music artistes. He has made forays into acting on both the large and small screens and while best known for his music, this former apprentice to the late master copper craftsman, Ken Morris, still paints today and actually sees himself more as an artist rather than an entertainer.

(Nicole Huggins-Boucaud)

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Another Brood has left the Nest



The St. Augustine Campus of The UWI is extremely proud to recognize our graduating class of 2015. As Principal, I always feel a great sense of pride in witnessing the fruits of the labour of these students. We had approximately 4,000 students graduating at the six ceremonies in October. I congratulate you, and your parents, guardians and loved

ones who have supported you throughout your journey.

This year, eight distinguished individuals were conferred with honorary doctoral degrees: Justice Jean Angela Permanand, Mr. Norman Sabga, Mr. Gérard Besson, Dr. Marjorie Thorpe, Mr. David Rudder, Justice Ralph Narine, Mr. Rajkumar Krishna Persad, and Mr. Hollis Raymond Charles. I congratulate these eminent members of our society, many of whom have also contributed significantly to our University. The UWI is honoured to have them in our company of scholars, teachers, administrators and students.

At this special time, it is important to reflect on the arduous journey that our undergraduate and more than 1,000 graduate students have endured, to be finally able to hold their certificates in their hands. The UWI experience is an extremely unique one, demanding, at best, but bringing with it a distinctive perspective and experience of regional connectivity.

Many of our graduating students will attest that the journey for them began a long time ago; as far back as when they were in primary school; as several of them from this tender age already knew what they wanted to be as adults. One can also contend that the degree of difficulty in getting into The UWI was also quite apparent from a tender age; being fully aware of the competitive nature of our education system here in the Caribbean. In fact, getting into the best educational institutions is never an easy journey anywhere in the world and therefore one must begin preparations from very early.

As many are aware, the marathon for our young children in the Caribbean begins with the SEA and continues with CSEC and CAPE. Only after demonstrating excellence in their academic achievements, are students eligible to enter The UWI. However, it is critical to mention that the percentage of students accepted to pursue studies in the seven faculties at UWI varies. Our faculty entrance committees, led by deans, deputy deans, academic staff, and senior administrative staff, are guided by the academic performance of our applicants.

Meritocracy is the word we often use to describe our system of entrance and eligibility. To this end, the discerning factor, with regards to the selection or eligibility process, resides primarily on the quality of the grades of the students who apply. It is heart-breaking to say the least, when students who have attained straight A's in CAPE are not accepted into some programmes; especially in the Faculty of Medical Sciences. Some are given deferred entry because of our capacity limitations; but the Faculty of Medical Sciences always tries its very best, and for this I salute them. Engineering and Law are also very competitive Faculties. Nonetheless, this entrance evaluation process is an approach that has been adopted by many universities world-wide, and it has proven to be extremely valuable in guiding our committees across all Faculties in making transparent decisions for students applying to the more sought after programmes.

I must also say that in spite of the current economic challenges that confront the regional UWI at this time, we have made some positive strides in increasing the number of spaces available in the Faculty of Medical Sciences, in particular to the professions of doctors and dentists. The expansion of our student medical training facility to the 'Teaching and Learning Hospital' in San Fernando will see an increase of approximately 100 more students to be trained as doctors (into the new academic year 2016-2017). In addition, we have begun the construction of a new building at Mt. Hope, to expand the School of Dentistry. This will significantly allow the University to increase its intake of students to be trained as dentists, so as to double our intake to at least 60 students. It is our sincere hope that The UWI, will be able, in a reasonable period of time, to provide the capacity and service, in all faculties, to many more eligible students who apply to be part of this regional institution. This can only be achieved through the continued cherished support of our national and regional governments, and also the private sector partnerships that we are forging.

I reiterate my congratulations to our graduates, and wish them well in their future endeavours, as they embark on a new journey, one that may also bring with it new challenges.

CLEMENT K. SANKAT
Pro Vice-Chancellor & Principal

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■ HONOURS

Seven Awards for Excellence

Seven members of The UWI community were presented with the 2015 Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence at a ceremony at the Cave Hill Campus in October.

From the St. Augustine Campus were Professor Hariharan Seetharaman of the Department of Clinical Surgical Sciences; Professor Surendra Arjoon of the Faculty of Social Sciences; Dr. Sandra Gift, Head of the Quality Assurance Unit, and Professor Patricia Mohammed, Campus

Coordinator, School for Graduate Studies and Research and Head of the Institute for Gender and Development Studies.

A University tradition for more than 20 years, the awards recognise and reward outstanding performance in Teaching, Research Accomplishments, Service to University Community, Contributions to Public Service, and All-round Excellence in a combination of two or more of the four core areas. In the 2012-2013 academic year, a departmental award

was added to recognise quality, service and operational excellence.

The 2015 honorees included: Professor Michael Taylor of the Department of Physics at the Mona Campus; Professor Byron Wilson, of the Department of Life Sciences at the Mona Campus; and the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), Faculty of Science and Technology at the Cave Hill Campus.

The Honorees

PROFESSOR HARIHARAN SEETHARAMAN

*Professor of Anaesthesia and Critical Care Medicine,
Department of Clinical Surgical Sciences,
St. Augustine Campus*

Outstanding Research Accomplishments

In addition to clinical and teaching commitments, Professor Hariharan Seetharaman has been published in numerous peer-reviewed journals. His interest in developing innovative models for performance measurement of healthcare units, including ICUs, has led him to pioneer work in the area of healthcare management. He has conducted expansive research in other areas including critical care, medical ethics, general surgery and health economics. Outside of his medical qualifications, Professor Seetharaman has successfully defended and completed his PhD research thesis in economics and is awaiting the award of the degree.

PROFESSOR MICHAEL TAYLOR

Head, Department of Physics, Mona Campus

Outstanding Research Accomplishments

Professor Michael Taylor's general areas of academic specialisation are environmental physics, climate variability, climatology and climate change. He is well known for undertaking the study of Caribbean climate variability and climate change at a time when studies devoted to the region were largely led by persons outside the region. Among his publishing accomplishments is a book authored earlier this year, "Why Climate Demands Change." In May 2015, he played the lead role in securing a US\$10.4 million grant for the Mona Campus.

PROFESSOR BYRON WILSON

*Professor, Herpetology & Conservation Ecology,
Department of Life Sciences, Mona Campus*

All-round Excellence in two or more core areas (Research Accomplishments and Public Service)

While Professor Byron Wilson has a proven record of leadership in research, his efforts to document and conserve Jamaica's biodiversity also contribute to public service. Over the last five years, Professor Wilson has displayed outstanding productivity in all categories of research output: authorship of books and journals, special issues, editor/series editor and conference presentations. His research and service activities positively impact the island's unique biodiversity. Since 2009, he has earned over US\$900,000 in local and international research funding; a total of about US\$1.5 million since joining the Department in 2001.



The UWI St. Augustine awardees with Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat (from left) Professor Surendra Arjoon, Professor Patricia Mohammed, Campus Principal, Professor Sankat, Dr. Sandra Gift and Professor Hariharan Seetharaman.

DR. SANDRA GIFT

*Senior Programme Officer,
Quality Assurance Unit, St. Augustine Campus*

Outstanding Service to the University Community

Within the regional Quality Assurance Unit, Dr. Sandra Gift has long played a lead role in building awareness among The UWI community and external stakeholders on quality in higher education issues. Dr. Gift successfully led the St. Augustine Campus' inaugural institutional accreditation exercise involving six self-study working groups and internal and external stakeholder consultations. She cultivated general awareness of the importance of institutional accreditation while securing the Campus' accreditation for the maximum time possible.

PROFESSOR PATRICIA MOHAMMED

*Head and Professor of Gender and Cultural Studies,
St. Augustine Campus*

All-round Excellence in two or more core areas

(Research Accomplishments and Service to the University Community)

Professor Patricia Mohammed leads two interdisciplinary academic fields and has successfully introduced a gender perspective into Caribbean Cultural Studies, generating an original body of work in visual studies and visual intelligence in and of the region. She has consistently advanced knowledge in these fields, shaped research agendas, influenced curriculum offerings, supported graduate students and influenced policy locally, regionally and internationally.

PROFESSOR SURENDRA ARJOON

*Professor of Business and Professional Ethics. Head,
Department of Management Studies, St. Augustine Campus*

All-round Excellence Award in the combined areas of Teaching and Research Accomplishments

Professor Surendra Arjoon's research, teaching and practice in ethics are all integrated. He has pioneered both research and teaching in the areas of business and professional ethics at The UWI and is internationally recognised for his work. In 2012, Professor Arjoon was the winner of a UWI/Guardian Life Premium Teaching Award.

THE CENTRE FOR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES (CERMES)

Faculty of Science and Technology, Cave Hill Campus

The VC's Departmental Award for Excellence

The Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) promotes and facilitates sustainable development in the Caribbean and beyond through graduate education; applied research in natural resource and environmental management; innovative and collaborative projects; professional training and building capacity of decision-makers; and involvement in the national, regional and global initiatives that shape the Caribbean's future. It also provides advisory services to governments, non-governmental organisations and the private sector.

■ CAMPUS NEWS



**NEW
CAMPUS
BURSAR**
**Andrea
Taylor
Hanna**

A finance professional, Mrs. Andrea Taylor-Hanna, has been appointed the new Campus Bursar at The UWI St. Augustine Campus. Mrs. Taylor-Hanna has more than 35 years of experience from several industries, including auditing, manufacturing and banking and finance. She takes over from Ms. Joy Patricia Harrison who had been Campus Bursar from February 2013.

Mrs. Taylor-Hanna is a Fellow of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants of England and Wales and a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Trinidad and Tobago. She holds a diploma in Financial Management from the University of Manchester as well as a Masters in Human Resource Management from The UWI's Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business. Speaking on her appointment, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal of The UWI St. Augustine, Professor Clement Sankat said "We are looking to our new Campus Bursar to build an information-driven, customer-focused Bursary for our staff, students and external stakeholders, while

providing the leadership to facilitate the management of the Campus' finances, now and in the future."

Mrs. Taylor-Hanna joined the Republic Bank Group in 1994 at the Trust and Asset Management Division and was instrumental in launching the Bank's suite of mutual funds, as well as managing the investment portfolio for the Trust's wide range of pension plans and personal investment products. In 2002, she assumed the post of General Manager of Planning and Financial Control with responsibility for the Bank's financial reporting, budgeting and strategic planning. Mrs. Taylor-Hanna later assumed the position of General Manager of Internal Audit at the Bank, a portfolio under which she was responsible for the systematic, disciplined approach to evaluating and improving the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance of the Republic Bank Group. In 2012, she reassumed the position of General Manager of Planning and Financial Control at the Bank prior to her retirement. A wife and mother of three sons, she has a passion for educating others on budgeting and saving.

ASPHALT *seals this deal*

On Friday, September 25, The UWI St. Augustine and Lake Asphalt Trinidad and Tobago (1978) Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to collaborate on research, development and commercialization relating to asphalt and asphalt-based products such as sealants, paints, adhesives, waterproofing and damp-proofing formulations, and marine coatings. Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal of The UWI St. Augustine, Professor Clement Sankat and Chief Executive Officer of Lake Asphalt of Trinidad and Tobago Ltd, Mr. Leary Hosein were the signatories.

In photo from left: Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal of The UWI St. Augustine, Professor Clement Sankat and Chief Executive Officer of Lake Asphalt of Trinidad and Tobago Ltd, Mr. Leary Hosein sign the MOU for collaboration on research and technology development.





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ECONOMY

A CASE *for* COCOA

BY DARIN SUKHA

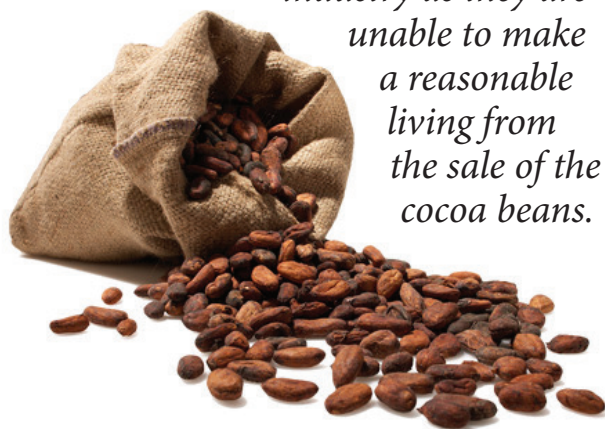


Chocolate captures the hearts and imaginations of peoples all over the world. Its unique flavour, textural characteristics and more recently documented health and nutritional benefits combine and together make the secret of its success. Chocolate has the power to gladden mortal hearts.

Chocolates made from our fine or flavour cocoa beans have earned us the enviable reputation as an exclusive producer of high quality fine or flavour cocoa beans. This reputation continues to be recognised by the International Cocoa Organisation, as Trinidad and Tobago is one of a handful of countries in the world with this status, and by chocolate producers who continue pay premium prices for our beans.

Trinidad and Tobago enjoys a healthy comparative advantage in cocoa production with its unique combination of rich cocoa history, suitable soils and climate, investment in intellectual capital by having the longest continuous cocoa breeding programme in the world, a one of a kind universal collection of unique cocoa varieties, high demand and premium prices.

The industry currently faces numerous challenges and has been on the decline in the past few years. It has become financially unattractive for farmers and several have turned away from this industry as they are unable to make a reasonable living from the sale of the cocoa beans.



Marcia Guerrero of Café Mariposa puts the final touches on a cake at the Mariposa Enterprises booth at the World Cocoa and Chocolate Day.



Students from the University School are riveted as Kadine David, of the CRC explains the cocoa process. PHOTOS: ALVA VIARRUEL



The chocolate muffin-eating competition was full of takers, and naturally, their classmates cheered them on! The winner of Round One was Kifah Hernandez of Blanchisseuse High School and the Round Two winner was UWI student Savita Ramoutarsingh.

It seems paradoxical then that cocoa production in Trinidad and Tobago has fluctuated and declined continuously since a production peak in 1921 of over 35,000 metric tonnes, to a low of approximately 600 metric tonnes today. One of the main reasons for this can be traced back to the 1850s where the direction of the Trinidad and Tobago economy began to change away from an agrarian based economy with the discovery of oil in Trinidad, and the commercialization of the petroleum industry during the early 20th century. In a classic case of Dutch Disease, the Trinidad and Tobago economy continues to be energy based and the country derives most of its revenues from the energy sector. Real Gross Domestic Product and growth in GDP continue to be closely linked to fortunes of the energy sector.

The latest Ryder Scott Report (2013) stated that there was a 7% decline in proven natural gas reserves in 2013. These findings serve as timely warnings that there is an urgent need to diversify the Trinidad and Tobago economy away from non-renewable hydrocarbons to other more sustainable sources that can make a significant contribution to National GDP.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago, has identified cocoa as a strategic crop to be developed because of its global potential and our comparative advantage as an exclusive producer of fine or flavour cocoa beans.

The industry currently faces numerous challenges and has been on the decline in the past few years. It has become financially unattractive for farmers and several have turned away from this industry as they are unable to make a reasonable living from the sale of the cocoa beans. The cocoa industry cannot develop sustainably with the current production of between 400-600 metric tonnes, so as a first step we need to increase cocoa production urgently.

We need to reorganise the industry to be more efficient and we need to explore value added opportunities once the production has been increased above a certain acceptable level to ensure this sub sector can be sustainably exploited. Our cheaper energy costs compared to other countries for chocolate making offer an immediate comparative advantage that should be tapped.

ECONOMY

From *Black Gold* to *Dark Gold*

Cocoa is good business

BY PAT GANASE

The World Index of commodity prices (at October 2015) reports an average price for cocoa beans of US\$3160.24 per metric tonne. Premium beans in Trinidad have been known to fetch over US\$7000 per tonne; and the conservative international base price for Trinidad's beans is US\$5000.

Cocoa and chocolate can help diversify the Trinidad and Tobago economy away from non-renewable “black gold” to sustainable industries that integrate culture, people and the environment. A look at the cocoa value chain provides insight into the prospects behind our country's “dark gold.”

Ten years ago, none of these brands were on the market. Enter the World Cocoa and Chocolate Day 2015, and there is a crush for space. Present are chocolate makers representing cocoa grown on estates around Trinidad: Cocobel from Rancho Quemado; Exotic Caribbean Mountain Pride from Tamana; Ortinola from Maracas St Joseph; Olando out of Tableland and Tobago; Tory Ven from Lopinot; JB Chocolates from Gran Couva; House of Arendel; Gina's Fine Chocolates; Persad's with beans from Montserrat Co-operative; and CRC's Spirit of Chocolate, using beans from the International Genebank, Trinidad.

It is noticeable that these chocolate makers are cultivating not just the taste for locally grown and produced chocolate, but a taste for dark chocolate. “Dark” means higher percentages of cocoa solids, less sugar, focus on releasing the flavours of beans grown on single estates, proud of the “terroir” of the beans, that elusive sensory quality imbued by sunlight and soil.

Dr Darin Sukha of the Cocoa Research Centre, UWI, believes that this quality gives Trinidad and Tobago the edge as a premium cocoa and chocolate producer.

“Our cocoa should be treated in an analogous way to that of champagne, low volumes, high quality, high price, high profit and having a growing global demand. The country's reputation for this premium crop has been cemented through its success at the International Cocoa Awards and the premium price it fetches on the market.”

The World Index of commodity prices (at October 2015) reports an average price for cocoa beans of US\$3160.24 per metric tonne. Premium beans in Trinidad have been known to fetch over US\$7000 per tonne; and the conservative international base price for Trinidad's beans is US\$5000. Further, it is estimated that a tonne of cocoa beans may yield

over a tonne – and as much as 1600 kg – of dark chocolate.

What is dark chocolate worth? The prices at the Chocolate Day 2015 are still “introductory prices” direct from producer to consumer. The TT\$60 bar of 50gm Spirit of Chocolate is low by international standards. But consider this, our good fortune is the affordability of a completely locally grown, processed and packaged product! And the conversion of a metric tonne (1000 kg) of cocoa beans has the potential to gross almost TT\$2 million at these local prices.

Here's the enterprise in economic terms, simple and rounded but presented for consideration by shrewd businessmen interested in the development of Trinidad and Tobago. An estate of say 500 high-yielding cocoa trees may produce a tonne of beans a year. A tonne of beans may produce almost two tonnes of chocolate.

Chocolate production is also people intensive, with specialty skills required in every part of the process. Modern estate production is facilitated by the development of new productive clones of Trinitario – the cocoa variety that put Trinidad on the map around the cocoa-growing world. Mechanisation for processing cocoa beans is available. In the chocolate-making shop, skills training, research and continuous experimentation are encouraged. Innovation and development of new cocoa products are encouraged: candles, soaps, beauty products, teas, and of course, confectionery.

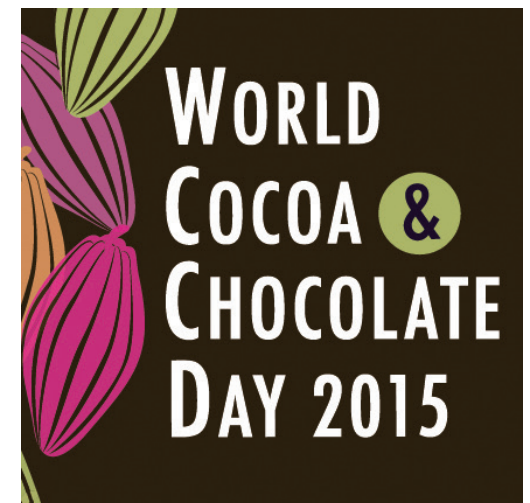
Landowners of old estates are sitting on a fortune. The older cocoa trees are still to be valued for flavour and as gene material. Revitalise with new high yielding stock. Take advantage of the resources that have been cultivated here for over a hundred years, with intellectual capital vested in the Cocoa Research Centre at UWI; estate skills and monitoring services at the Ministry of Agriculture; and shared experimentation in a new community of cocoa growers and artisan chocolate makers. What are we waiting for?



THE NOBLE BEAN

The Cocoa Research Centre (CRC) located at The UWI St. Augustine grew out of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture (ICTA) and is regarded as the research and science centre for cocoa growers and chocolate producers around the world. (<http://sta.uwi.edu/cru/>)

The newly established Cocoa Development Company is intended to extend the services of the Centre to produce innovations along the entire cocoa value chain. Investors with an eye on future returns from the world cocoa economy – now worth some US\$83 billion – are invited to bank on cocoa business. Trinidad and Tobago is poised to turn the noble bean, food of the gods, *Theobroma cacao* L., into gold.



CHOCOLATE DAY

World Cocoa and Chocolate Day 2015 allowed the Trinidad public, including school children, to meet chocolate makers and to sample their products. The event in the JFK Auditorium at The UWI featured some of the finest chocolate being made in Trinidad and Tobago, which is to say, among the finest in the world. The World Cocoa and Chocolate Day is the brainchild of the International Cocoa Organisation and the Académie Française du Chocolat et de la Confiserie to bring awareness of the living conditions of cocoa growers' worldwide in an effort to build a sustainable cocoa economy. It is celebrated on October 1, every year since 2011. In Trinidad, the celebration is coordinated by the Cocoa Research Centre (CRC) at The UWI St Augustine, and supported by the Cocoa Development Company of Trinidad and Tobago, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Tourism Development Company, InvestTT, The UWI and University of Trinidad and Tobago.



Cheering on the muffin eaters.

■ OUR CAMPUS

Over the years in the Caribbean, we have seen a declining interest in the profession of agriculture, especially by our youths; we have a severe dependency on imported foods; we also have an ageing population of farmers and poor rural infrastructure. We are also witnessing the effect of climate change, across the world, and its destructive effects on human lives, infrastructure and particularly, rural infrastructure and agricultural production. The ravages of floods and droughts on our livestock production are to say the least, traumatic, and cause consequential increases in food prices for consumers. In this context, it is important for us to become creative and innovative and to work together through partnerships so as to cultivate a regional passion for producing more of what we are consuming: tropical agricultural products of quality and distinction, some of which we may also export and create new wealth. We need to develop an agricultural sector that our young people will want to be a part of, and apply their technological savvy to agriculture, food production and food processing.

This Park in our 200-acre parcel at Orange Grove will showcase advanced intensive agricultural production practices, using technologies and best practices from China and our indigenous knowledge. We will be utilizing technology, biotechnology, mechanization, new varieties and climate-smart intensive agricultural production systems, which I am hoping will apply to all our small island developing states. And we all know that there are many lessons which we in the Caribbean region can learn from China's experience. In fact, China's advancement in agriculture and its ability to feed itself, moving from famine to food security in about 40 years has been phenomenal and inspirational. We hope that as we adopt international best practices in farming and food production techniques, this Park will eventually serve as a development model for Caribbean agriculture.

What we are launching today is just the beginning of Phase One of this project. This Innovation Park concept represents an ambitious vision of putting agriculture in a wider agri-business model so as to enhance its commercial and financial attractiveness and appeal. As they say "from fork to farm" – agriculture production, processing, marketing, food preparation and restaurants, agri-recreation, tourism, entertainment, etc. So we are going to use this Campus for seven proposed areas: (1) the Crop Area; (2) the Technology Service Area; (3) the Horticulture Area; (4) the Aquatic Production Area; (5) the Mini Zoo; (6) the Leisure & Recreation Area, and (7) the Commercial Area.

To this end, this Agricultural Innovation Park will not only provide an avenue for cutting edge research and innovation in food production and agriculture, but it will also provide opportunities for leisure, commercial activity, and financial self-sustainability. Looking at agriculture as planting the land only will not suffice. Agriculture needs an enabling environment for it to be attractive and thrive. Intensive agriculture production in this setting we are opening today, in an attractive environment is therefore a great beginning. But agriculture must also be linked and central to our food production and consumption system – "eat what we grow, and grow what we eat." We hope that this Park, highly visible and accessible, will inspire young people, especially entrepreneurs; educate our current farmers; engage our researchers and teachers; and push our policy makers to support decisive steps in transforming our agriculture sectors as a matter of urgency.

The partnership between The UWI St. Augustine Campus and China Agricultural University (CAU) began officially on June 1, 2013, when we had a distinguished visit from Madam Xu Lin, the Director General of Hanban who recommended CAU, as our official partner university in setting up our Confucius Institute. Incidentally, a few days later I was invited to make a presentation on "The State of Agriculture in the Caribbean Region" at the 4th Global Forum of Leaders for Agricultural Science and Technology (GLAST) in Beijing, China. I took the opportunity to visit the China Agricultural University (CAU), and met its vibrant and determined President, Professor KE Bingsheng. Our meeting was very fruitful, as both our universities expressed a desire to partner, particularly in the area of agriculture. Just three months later in September 2013, a technical team from their university made a reciprocal visit to our Campus and worked alongside a team led by our Dean of the Faculty of Food and Agriculture, Dr. Isaac Bekele from St. Augustine to prepare the Master Plan for our Agricultural Innovation Park at Orange Grove. Since then, we have worked

UWI-CAU Agricultural Innovation Park

A model for Caribbean agriculture

*This is an excerpt from the address given by
Pro Vice-Chancellor and St. Augustine Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat,
at the launch of the UWI-CAU Agricultural Innovation Park (AIP)
at the East Campus in Orange Grove on October 21, 2015.*



Director of the Office of Institutional Advancement and Internationalization, Mr. Sharan Singh; Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Trinidad and Tobago, His Excellency Huang Xingyuan; Pro Vice-Chancellor and St. Augustine Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat; Chairman of the China Agricultural University, Professor Jiang Peimin, and Dean of the Faculty of Food and Agriculture, Dr. Isaac Bekele at the launch of the UWI-CAU Agricultural Innovation Park. PHOTOS: ANEEL KARIM

steadily, culminating with today's launch of Phase One. I extend sincere thanks to our partners from China, including the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Trinidad and Tobago, His Excellency Huang Xingyuan, our colleagues from the China Agricultural University, led today by its Chairman, Professor Jiang Peimin, and the Government of the People's Republic of China, including the Minister of Agriculture, who unfortunately could not be here. I also extend thanks to my own colleagues from The UWI St. Augustine Campus who have been instrumental to the success of this project (including

the land works): Dean Dr. Isaac Bekele and the entire team from the Faculty of Food and Agriculture, including Deputy Dean Govind Seepersad and those from the University Field Station. I must also commend Mr. Suresh Maharaj, Director of our Facilities Management Division and his team for lending their full and enthusiastic support to this project, Mr. Sharan Singh of the Office of Institutional Advancement and Internationalization for his negotiating skills and Professor Jane Hu of the Confucius Institute of the St. Augustine Campus for building the bridges between St. Augustine and Beijing.



Checking out the seedlings.

We will be utilizing technology, biotechnology, mechanization, new varieties and climate-smart intensive agricultural production systems, which I am hoping will apply to all our small island developing states.

HUMAN COMMUNICATION STUDIES CONFERENCE REPORT

Upload yuh talk

Communicators told it's time to be uploaders not downloaders

BY WYNELL GREGORIO

Opening the Human Communication Studies International Conference on the morning of a resplendent Republic Day, Dean Heather Cateau brought greetings and located the Communications discipline within the wider discourse on the Humanities. While the Communications programmes at the St. Augustine Campus are well subscribed, the reality is that a crisis looms in the study of Humanities courses overall.

She shared her concerns for the discipline of Communication and others under the Humanities umbrella and called for greater engagement showing the applicability and practicality of the areas of study.

Just two days after the conference, the UK Guardian newspaper published a story “Japan’s humanities chop sends shivers down academic spines. Japanese universities are cutting humanities and social sciences in favour of ‘practical’ subjects, sparking global concern.”

The article went on to detail very similar sentiments of The UWI Dean that esoteric research takes a back seat and is treated as less important. This however meets with the argument that in order for us to understand and innovate we need the cultural and historical research and understanding which the Humanities brings.

Her push for us communicators to show the world our skill and its applicability to Caribbean and global society may be one of the reasons that resonated with the conference theme, “Identity, Context and Interdisciplinarity.” Conference Chair and Senior Lecturer in Communication Studies, Dr. Godfrey Steele and his team of planners including Dr. Korah Belgrave of the Cave Hill Campus and Dr. Livingston White from Mona, chose this theme to focus on the nature and development of human communication studies in the Caribbean, highlighting its many fields,

including media, culture and society, interpersonal and family communication, organizational and corporate communications, and health communication.

Dr. Steele indicated that the time had come to discuss an academic rationalization of academic programmes linking communication, journalism and film at UWI St. Augustine in a new configuration in keeping with global and regional trends.

Similar ideas necessitating relevance were expressed by Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat who shared his vision for the interaction among disciplines of Communication Studies with the main goal of offering a holistic experience for the student. He charged the faculty leaders to connect the Communication courses with other related fields on the Campus, including Film Studies, Animation and Media. This interdisciplinary approach he said, will seek to fill the society’s needs for an all-round communication programme.

Keynote speaker, Professor Hopeton Dunn, Director of CARIMAC at the Mona Campus, offered an informative presentation which echoed sentiments expressed at the opening ceremony and plenary, with his talk, “Cultural resilience and Globalization from within.”

While Dean Cateau opened the conference with the state of the Humanities globally and called for a response, so too did Professor Dunn with a rally cry for us to create our own content to become a society of ‘uploaders’ rather than ‘downloaders.’

He expressed the firm belief that there is no monopoly on good ideas and hence we as Caribbean communicators, should be producing and exporting more of our great



Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education at the St. Augustine Campus, Dr. Heather Cateau, said a crisis looms in the field.
PHOTO: RYAN DURGASINGH

Communicate with us

It was evident at the end of the two-day conference that attendees benefited from practical takeaways spanning a wide range of topics, renewed relationships, new connections and a collective energy to move the discipline forward. Classes continue to be maxed out in the Communication courses at the St. Augustine Campus, but as we forge ahead, practitioners, employers and faculty should look critically into its future and longevity given the direction of the Humanities globally. Two avenues for this are contributions to The Journal of Human Communication Studies (The JHCSC) and The Association of Association of Human Communication Studies in the Caribbean (AHCSC)

Selected, double-blind, internationally peer-reviewed articles and essays are expected to be published in future issues of The Journal of Human Communication Studies in the Caribbean (The JHCSC), launched in May 2015. Online subscription and access to The JHCSC is US\$55, and at a discounted rate of US\$25 for students. An annual subscription to The JHCSC and AHCSC annual membership are mutually inclusive.

At the business meeting which closed the conference, the AHCSC was launched officially, after ratifying the association’s aim and scope, plans for the founding executive board, widening the membership base, the development of a constitution and a programme of benefits and activities for members.



Conference Chair and Senior Lecturer in Communication Studies, Dr. Godfrey Steele, who shaped the conference themes, with Dr. Prahalad Sooknanan (right) of the University of Trinidad and Tobago, as they answered questions. PHOTO: RYAN DURGASINGH

HUMAN COMMUNICATION STUDIES CONFERENCE REPORT

innovations in research, products and services to the world. Calling on great Caribbean theorists and thinkers who went before like Rex Nettleford, Roderick Sanatan and Stuart Hall, he urged the crowd of Communicators, Marketers, Researchers and other professionals in the field to tell our own stories and not allow them to be told by others. Theories of cultural and media imperialism he said were all offered from the North and as Caribbean people, we have the knowledge, the skill and the capacity to present from our points of view.

Peter Neptune, Corporate Transformation and Communications Consultant, spoke on defending the brand and what accounts for good branding using examples from industry. He cited research that shows that brands that communicate frequently with their stakeholders “are more easily trusted, benefit from goodwill from investors, perform better in their markets, have more loyal customers and are more connected to their communities.”

Yolande Agard-Simmons, Manager Corporate Communications in the Ministry of Trade and Industry, addressed developing one’s personal brand and image as a brand ambassador, investing in self, and maintaining professional standards.

Your brand exists in the public’s mind; it is all about perception and you must recognise its importance. Zero in on the attributes that you want to define you and invest in developing that brand, was her take.

Daniel Plenty, Senior Manager, Corporate Communications, Water and Sewerage Authority, discussed the role of the communication professional in decision-making in an organization. He asked some key questions for organisations to consider in ascertaining what that role should be for them.

“How high in the organizational structure should the communications practitioner be positioned?” he asked, as he wondered if it should be at the highest decision-making level.



Keynote speaker, Professor Hopeton Dunn, Director of CARIMAC at the Mona Campus, spoke on Cultural Resilience and Globalization from within. PHOTO: ATIBA CUDJOE



Dr. Kathy-Ann Drayton’s football fandom research was connected to the quest for identity and explored the virtual communities shared by fans forming a network based on a common social identity.

PHOTO: RYAN DURGASINGH

Dr Tara Wilkinson McClean of The UWI, Cave Hill applied communication and gender perspectives to examine male masculinities as reflected in popular male lifestyle magazines in Barbados and Paula Thomas reported her findings on the potential influence of teacher attire on students in secondary schools, in the panel on Communication, Culture and Gender.

Using a clip from Alicia Keys’ “I don’t know your name,” Amanda Lewis examined the influence of popular love songs on young adult romantic relationships on the Political and Rhetorical/Influential Communication panel. This presentation generated discussion on male and female experiences and interpretations of the role of imagined interactions.

On the Health and Risk Communication II Special Professional panel, Carlon Kirton, Communications Manager at the Caribbean Regional Health Agency (CARPHA), and Yvonne Lewis, Director, Health Education Division in the Ministry of Health addressed regional and national issues in Chikungunya public health communication activities and strategies.

Dr Godfrey A. Steele shared insights into research on media coverage and patterns of reporting of the 2013-2014 outbreaks of Ebola in West Africa.

For more on the conference presentations, please go to <https://sta.uwi.edu/conferences/15/humancommunication/index.asp>

For more on the opening plenary, keynote address, pictures and social media, please visit <https://sta.uwi.edu/conferences/15/humancommunication/socialmedia.asp>

The talk at the table

Adding to the discourse of other great Caribbean thinkers, conference presenters from Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, joined minds and gave insights into a vast array of subject matters related to the discipline of Human Communication and featured academia, public sector and private sectors for this 2nd biennial conference.

Among other topics, it examined issues such as identity and fandom in an online football community (Dr Kathy-Ann Drayton), the representation of national culture in the public websites and repositories managed by agencies such as NALIS (Revelino Guevara and Dr. Prahalad Sooknanan) and the influence of the Disney channel on the identity of adolescent girls (Casey Pereira-Smart and Dr Prahalad Sooknanan). This research was on the Media, Culture and Society panel.

The Disney research looked at the channel’s contribution to the identity development of nine to 12 year-old girls in Trinidad and Tobago by examining content of its selected television programmes. The football fandom research was connected to the quest for identity and explored the virtual communities shared by fans forming a network based on a common social identity.

The Interpersonal/Family Communication panel shared research on the communication challenges and experiences of families who are geographically separated (Maxine Maxwell) and compared the influence of face-to-face and online counselling on communication in the families of alcoholics (Anisa Hasanali).

The Health and Risk Communication I panel celebrated the Green Market and the communication strategies used to promote a green and sustainable lifestyle (Ryan Jaggernauth), traced the public education and communication efforts of the UWI Seismic Research Centre (Omari Graham), and analysed the marketing communication strategies used in sugar sweetened beverages and their contribution to discourse on obesity in point of purchase communication (Chinyere Roberts and Dr. Godfrey A. Steele).

The parallel panel, Organizational and Corporate Communications I, featured relationships among democratic and autocratic leadership styles, communication competence and subordinate responses (Donneyal Faray), and an example of internal communications research which studied the efficacy of communication modes used to engage employees (Wynell Gregorio).

The Organizational and Corporate Communications II Special Professional panel was well-received and generated much discussion among younger communication professionals and their more experienced colleagues.

HUMAN COMMUNICATION STUDIES CONFERENCE REPORT

A LinkedIn group invitation pops up to discuss “5 ways Internal Communication matters,” a blog post sends a prompt about the “All things IC” to my inbox and the Ragan Summit on Employee Communications is a reminder on my RSS feed. There is a deafening buzz about internal communications on the Marketing and Communications (M&C) landscape and its essential role in organizational effectiveness, employee engagement and Communications management. Undoubtedly, there is great demand for discussion and analysis in the area; the reality however, as David Cowan says in his book on Strategic Internal Communications (2014), “If communications is regarded as the organization’s Cinderella, then the Internal communications unit is the department’s Cinderella.” He suggests that while Internal Communications (IC) is not yet as sexy as Social Media and Search Engine Optimization, it is a maturing function. Organizations and communicators continue to grapple for resources, as well as establishing priority and measuring value.

The broad-brush approach to IC of sending an email to all staff and ticking the box for good internal communications is the norm among organizations. Here’s the thing about using emails to reach your audience: they’re quick, easy and with one click you have the ability to target as many as you like. You’ll snag some in the process, but will the message be opened and more so read, and understood? Will it cause the intended action?

This was one of the harsh realities that prompted the UWI study on its internal communications channels undertaken by the M&C Office earlier this year. With over 74 trillion emails per day being sent globally, it’s no secret that we suffer from information overload and message saturation. So how then do you ensure that that your messages are being heard? Add to that, the well-quoted global stat that “70 % of employees are not engaged,” the Campus’ strategic focus on employee engagement; the need to put people first, as well as building a culture of engagement with IC at its core – it was clear we needed to do the research and establish a baseline before we could do anything that would encourage our community to check every ‘very satisfied’ box.

Our study aimed at gauging the success of the existing communication methods to help us identify the best way to communicate with staff – and in essence, learn their preferences when it comes to volume and type of information.

This communications audit gleaned robust data in the areas of channel preference, timing, content and layout by the various employee groupings our findings were quite instructive for future IC planning.

Mirroring global data, our Campus study found that the top three channels for IC included emails, intranet and the website. Staff members articulated a sense of being well informed of campus happenings due, in large part, to daily and weekly emails from the Marketing and Communications Office.

Emails sent are well received. Staff members were largely satisfied with the content and layout of the email bulletins but also looked to their managers, staff meeting and word of mouth for information. Information on training and development opportunities for staff and events were of particular interest to all staff with this factor arising in different categories of the survey.

For future improvements, there was a call for greater use of technology, including mobile apps, feedback loops, more information of University issues and layout enhancement to current communication channels.

Overall, nine in 10 staff members, in all categories, shared the view that they were well informed as a result of internal campus communication, and while the satisfaction levels are high, our aim is to do further exploration. A deep dive into the ‘whys’ and ‘hows’ that comes with a mixed method approach is the next step to ensuring that we can

Are you happy with the conversation at work?

BY WYNELL GREGORIO



Wynell Gregorio presenting on the value of internal communications.

Overall, nine in 10 staff members, in all categories, shared the view that they were well informed as a result of internal campus communication, and while the satisfaction levels are high, our aim is to do further exploration.

draw conclusions and set direction for IC strategy at the St. Augustine Campus. This user-driven approach to IC planning will allow us to understand our employees, their nuances, their preferences and tailor our messages to have an impact. As Communicators, our role as content creators and content curators, demands that we are constantly listening

and responding to our audiences.

The findings of the study prompted a series of further research exercises involving other audiences – communication surveys that targeted current students and prospective ones – enabling us to develop more holistic insights into the campus community’s preferences.

RESEARCH EXPO 2015

The Expo also catered to families and young children, by having age appropriate activities that were available at many of the display units.



The Impact of Our Research

BY DEBRA CORYAT-PATTON AND LOIS ST. BRICE

The UWI St. Augustine Campus hosted its biennial Research Expo, “Advancing Knowledge, Impacting Lives,” from September 22-25, 2015. The JFK Quadrangle was transformed into a showcase of research activity, exhibiting the work done by both staff and students. The Exhibition hall featured more than 20 booths from the various faculties and departments, as well as its independent research units, centres and institutes. External exhibitors like NIHERST, TSTT and Microsoft, with interactive technological displays, were popular among the booths.

At the Expo’s launch, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat spoke about the importance of the University’s research agenda.

“Research is what distinguishes us from other tertiary education institutions in our country and region. For over six decades The UWI, through its dedicated faculty and students, has contributed to the development of our country and region through research – whether it is in engineering, education, tropical agriculture, law, medicine, history, literature or cultural arts. We have improved the lives of people across the Caribbean region, and in other small island developing states.”

The Expo launch and preview event was attended by over 250 patrons, comprising representatives from the public and private sectors, multilateral agencies, and members of the diplomatic corps. The UWI fraternity was also in attendance, with staff, students and alumni, including several members of executive management from the other regional UWI campuses. The keynote address was delivered by Mr. Pedro Gomez Miranda, NLAR Enterprise Chief Technology Officer at Huawei, who spoke primarily on the importance of research and development to business competitiveness. This theme was also echoed by Mr. Tickaram Roopchandsingh, Vice President, Gas Transmissions and Distribution at the



Attendees were particularly impressed by the 3D printing capabilities of the Faculty of Engineering, as well as the numerous prototypes on show, such as the Electronic Pan and the Chataigne peeler.

National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited.

A highlight of the evening was the launch of the Campus’ commemorative research publication, “Advancing Knowledge, Impacting Lives.”

This publication, commissioned by the Office of the Campus Principal in recognition of the Campus’ 55th anniversary, was developed by Professor Patricia Mohammed, editor of the publication and the Coordinator of Graduate Studies and Research at UWI St. Augustine and Head of the Institute for Gender and Development Studies. Prof. Mohammed and her team also produced an accompanying film series comprising eight short films, which highlight research efforts at The UWI St. Augustine Campus.

At the Expo there was a steady stream of visitors, with more than 3000 attendees recorded over the four days. Visitors included approximately 300 sixth form students from schools across the country, including Fyzabad Anglican Secondary, Iere High School, Presentation Colleges in Chaguanas and San Fernando, Sangre Grande Secondary School, Naparima Girls’ High School, Debe Secondary School, Bishop Anstey, Trinity College East Secondary, and Saraswati Girls’ Hindu College.

Many of the Expo displays included live demonstrations of advancements made in various fields, ranging from vermiculture to laparoscopic surgery. There were also demonstrations and facilitated downloads of apps developed by UWI students, including the AGRINETT apps for agriculture and the MAVERICK app, designed to assist the visually challenged to identify money denominations. Attendees were particularly impressed by the 3D printing capabilities of the Faculty of Engineering, as well as the numerous prototypes on show, such as the G-Pan and the Chataigne peeler.

Visitors received a variety of seeds developed at The UWI, and they were also able to sample and purchase goods

RESEARCH EXPO 2015

and agricultural products produced at The UWI. The fresh, lactose-free cow's milk from the University Field Station was a standout, and chocolate connoisseurs familiar with premium quality chocolates fully appreciated samples of the Trinidad Origin 70% ICG,T brand chocolate developed by the Cocoa Research Centre. The external exhibitor booths were also a hit with visitors, who were able to walk away with Polaroids after having their photos taken with the latest phones at the TSTT photo-booth. Free downloads of Windows 10 were also available at the Microsoft booth, while others immersed themselves in the world of robotics at the NIHERST booth.

Visitors were keen on going to booths that provided participatory research experiences, such as the booth hosted by the Institute for Gender and Development Studies. This station encouraged visitors to share their perceptions of masculinity, and to share perspectives on how they perceive themselves to be mastering work-life balance.

There were also structured tours, which included visits to the Eric Williams Special Collection at the Alma Jordan Library, and tours of the National Herbarium. Free legal aid from the Faculty of Law was offered too. Attendees even participated in performances hosted by the Faculty of Humanities and Education, organized by its Department for Creative and Festival Arts; with demonstrations on how culture and history have influenced Caribbean dance.

There were over 40 very diverse workshops, that covered a wide range of topics, such as: revitalising threatened languages; teacher education; smart grids; food processing; social work; the SEA exam; seismic safety; sensory chocolate assessment; IMF policies; male underachievement; algal biofuels; health financing; dementia prevalence; HIV/AIDS; open source GIS, patois; organizational effectiveness; project management; grant proposal writing; cultural policy; genomics; food security and archaeology.

The Expo also catered to families and young children, by having age appropriate activities that were available at many of the display units; which even included



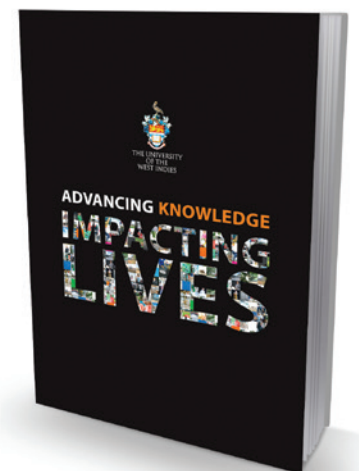
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There were also demonstrations and facilitated downloads of apps developed by UWI students, including the AGRINETT apps for agriculture.

lessons in how to walk on stilts. The drum circles challenge was also an eye-catcher; being facilitated by the Faculty of Humanities and Education. Overall, the dedicated fun zone was well received, with both children and adults enjoying the activities.

The UWI Research Expo, sponsored by the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited, is an initiative led by the Office of the Campus Principal, Professor Sankat. The Principal is of the view that the Expo is a unique, innovative and necessary venture for making the research agenda at the Campus more accessible to the general public.



■ WORKSHOP REPORT

What's your *Emotional Intelligence*?

BY CHRISTA SANKARSINGH

The Executive Development Unit of the Institute of Critical Thinking at The UWI St. Augustine seeks to foster professional development through workshops it hosts periodically. In September, one of its popular workshops on emotional intelligence, “Building Organisational Efficiency using Emotional Intelligence: Aligning skills, purpose and strategy,” took place. The interactive workshop takes leaders through the gamut of people issues that they face when attempting to improve the efficiency and overall productivity of their operations. It is built for leaders who have reached the top of their organisation by virtue of their technical competence and soon realise that despite their best efforts to improve the organisation's performance, issues of personality, communication and motivation hinder their progress.

The concept of Emotional Intelligence has been studied by many social scientists and was made popular by the work of Daniel Goleman. In his 1998 article, “What makes a leader?” published in the Harvard Business Review, Goleman pointed to four elements that differentiated good leaders from great leaders. The first element was self-awareness. As the name suggests, it is the ability to understand who you are, what matters most to you, your own strengths and weaknesses. Being self-aware allows you to assess a situation that you are confronted with and question yourself to determine the most appropriate response. After all, if you understand your own emotions, then you can appreciate how your employees feel and how your emotional response can impact on them.



Dr. Graham King of the Faculty of Engineering doing a presentation on “How to make your organisation more innovative,” during the workshop, “Crafting an Agile Organisation through Critical Thinking,” in March.

The second element is that of self-management. Self-management is the ability to take a step back from a situation, remove the initial emotional reaction from your mind and develop a more productive response to a situation. Control over your own emotions ensures that you are able to maintain your stance on matters that are most important to you and not compromise your values. Further, the ability to self-manage gives you the power to lead change, to think fast and to design creative and innovative solutions to issues.

Social awareness is the third element of Goleman's model. Social awareness speaks to the leader's ability to interpret the emotions of the members of his/her team. Imagine how influential you can be if you understood the emotions of your team and could use this to see things through their eyes. This would allow you to provide them with the right motivation to have them achieve goals, to be able to build and retain team members that you want and to provide the right views for appreciating organisational goals. A team that is motivated to achieving the goals of their organisation will be self-directed and high-performing.

The final element of Goleman's model is social skills. Social skills are directly related to communication. Leaders with good social skills are good communicators. They are able to express themselves in a way that causes hearers to pay attention to what they are saying. This also lends itself to being able to deal with conflict appropriately. As a leader with good social skills, you will be able to communicate the organisation's vision to your team by linking their goals with the vision and providing them with a mechanism for self-motivation and a focal point for developing team cohesiveness.

Control over your own emotions ensures that you are able to maintain your stance on matters that are most important to you and not compromise your values.



■ WORKSHOP REPORT



BY DARA WILKINSON BOBB

A disruptive family is one that fails to meet the basic needs of one or more of its members. The Mediation Unit at The UWI, St. Augustine, has introduced imaginative role-play using stuffed toys and animals to help families resolve their problems.

Programme Co-ordinator for the Mediation Unit of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Ann Diaz, discussed some approaches to repairing rifts in families through mediation at the Family Mediation Conference held in October.

According to Diaz, family mediation is a true solution for families in crisis. It is a process in which a mediator facilitates the resolution of a dispute by gaining voluntary agreement. The UWI's Mediation Unit has adopted a peace agenda as it relates to families.

"We want to work through difficult situations," says Diaz. "We want to assist in communication. We want to encourage understanding. We want to generate and explore options."

Diaz indicates that getting to family peace requires getting to a response designed to curb those elements that threaten families.

"Parties navigate the process through dialogue... The family mediator does not decide what the settlement is. They work with families to come to a place where they decide on the settlement."

Indeed, the predicament of the family at the point of intervention through mediation can be quite grave in some cases. Diaz points out that sometimes when things break down, you find yourself looking at dividing all the things you have acquired all those years – the division of assets –

and it hits you that this is it... it is all finished.

This is where Mediation Counselling steps in. This is where a teddy bear can become a tiny hero.

Formally called The Family Peace Plan, this type of mediation is a process of resolving conflict which allows families to refocus their attention using stuffed toys. The concept combines Harvey Jenkins' re-evaluation techniques, as well as person-focused intervention and solution-centred assistance.

The toys allow distraction from the person and so reduce hostility and enable sharing in a safe environment without the fear of direct insults, says Diaz. This approach helps to insulate the relationship against the arrows of anger which may further damage the relationship beyond repair.

Pain is channeled as animals are used to tell the stories of the clients. Further, this enables persons to better listen and hear the issues because they do not feel directly targeted.

According to Diaz, some persons feel they have stopped communicating when they stop speaking, but withholding speech in this way actually communicates your story in a very amplified manner. She says, "When you say you are not speaking, you are speaking very loudly."

This type of impasse fails to be productive in the search for a positive resolution. If we remain in a polarized mode, there is little opportunity for dialogue and resolution, says Diaz. A distraction is needed.

"The toy actually is a distraction from the prospect of the conflict," she says.

Diaz indicates that the initiative is getting buy-in because people in conflict take any opportunity to look for

a resolution. She says that so far it is actually working with middle-income families very successfully.

Other indicators of success are client satisfaction and client adherence to the resolutions. In Ann Diaz's experience, sometimes without the mediation process, if an agreement is made, people will not stick to it because perhaps they do not feel heard nor feel that their issues have been justly addressed.

Ann Diaz was also careful to answer concerns that mediators who were not trained counsellors might be trespassing into the territory of counselling. She says that the individuals who seek help have their own opportunity to work through their own issues. The mediators use solution-focused, person-centred strategies, but ultimately, it seems, do not tell the clients what to do. As a whole, too, mediators are usually drawn from persons with a background in the social sciences, but only mediators that already have a background in counselling are advised to use it.

They explain to the subjects why the toys are used, and that the purpose is to reduce and deflect conflict.

There is a wide assortment of stuffed toys and toy animals. The participants are asked to choose one, and then asked why they chose the one they did. Usually, a characteristic of the toy seems to speak to their situation.

This innovative means of intervention is an initiative of The Mediation Unit of the UWI St. Augustine. It was one focus of the Family Mediation Conference produced in conjunction with the Mediation Board of Trinidad and Tobago in October.

This type of mediation is a process of resolving conflict which allows families to refocus their attention using stuffed toys.



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The Age of the Selfie

SIX CHAPTERS

BY VANEISA BAKSH

I The Pre-Schooler

A mother of two young girls, six and three, was alarmed by the call from the pre-schooler's teacher for all parents to attend an emergency meeting.

"Your children are not writing," said the teacher to the bemused parents; they are not interested in writing.

Their interest is focused on the screens of various devices – some of which the school uses as teaching aids. The children are so *tecched-up* that keyboards are already passé for them and their preference is for devices that let them swipe their way into games and apps and so on.

The problem, warned the teacher, is that they are behind the standard of measurement used for their age group. She urged them to restrict access to devices and to encourage the children into habits of both reading and writing.

Even if they are proficient at navigating their way through cyberspace, they are bypassing a fundamental aspect of learning.

Is it prudent to insist that they start with the basics, or is it more realistic to recognize that they were born into a world of which they are among the first and second generation of inhabitants and it would not be useful to take them to a different path of learning?

II The Teen

An evening in early October at the Learning Resource Centre billed as A Literary Conversation between writers Caryl Phillips and Robert Antoni with Dr. Raymond Ramcharitar moderating turned as most conversations do, to matters at the heart.

As Professor Phillips was advising that "you need to read what you want to write," a woman said that she had teenaged children and although they read, they were more taken with social media. (See Page 18)

"What advice can you give me as a mother to get my child really reading?"

Antoni empathized with her.

"Part of me feels all of your anguish," he said. "You go out with your kids and they're on their phones." He tried to comfort her by telling her of an article in the New Yorker counseling parents that from early they should practice taking the phones away from their children and managing their access.

III The Young Adult

In his classes, Professor Phillips faces that with the firm hand that should have come much earlier in life for most. He allows social media breaks, he says, but the rest of the two hours or so must be focused on what he is teaching. He knows technology is changing everything because the same things are happening in literature.

"It will change the way we read, and the way we write," he says.

IV The Adult

Another member of the audience speaks of the feeling that "you can never disengage your digital self," and his alarm that novels, "with their interior monologues seems like one of the culture's last few available weapons to fight against that," he said. "Part of what you were touching on was that problem, but of course, if the delivery system for the antidote is already the thing that is a sort of anti-matter to it; how does a writer negotiate that?"

Acknowledging the meatiness of the question, Professor Phillips tried to get to the essence of literature.

"Part of the great moral purpose of literature is to imagine somehow, the national, social, racial, ethnic divisions that have been constructed around our existence in this world are actually all bogus to some extent, because we are all part of one family. If we are not part of one family, we wouldn't be able to read Anna Karenina and feel anything. We wouldn't be able to watch Ibsen plays..." Marquez, Indian novelists...

"We can do it because literature reminds us that Faulkner's definition of the novel as issues of the human heart, and the problems of the human heart in conflict with themselves, and it is a universal issue, and that's the window we look through at other people in order to see ourselves."

"The platform to media that we're talking about is so damned narcissistic that it is working against the impulse of literature to empathy. There is a tension there between these systems of delivery and the essence of literature: deep reading, deep empathy and an understanding of somebody who isn't you. That's not what text, twitter, Facebook Instagram are about."

V The Selfie

Students at a lecture by a psychiatrist are discussing the role of selfies. It's an artificial representation of the self, says the lecturer, as they talk about the worlds projected online and how contrived and managed they can be.

Technology has enabled a safe way to fashion and refashion your image, your brand. So what if you couldn't care less if a dog was being ill-treated right in front of your eyes, you could post up hundreds of cute puppy videos and be seen as a dog-lover.

You could 'like' as many of the relevant posts as it takes to become part of a community.

This desire to belong seems to be a powerful force driving these online obsessions.

But what really feeds the social media culture? What has been its impact on attention spans, human relations, social awkwardness, bullying? So many fuzzy areas still.

VI The Research

At the Human Communication Studies Conference held in September on this Campus as well, the theme, "Identity, Context and Interdisciplinarity" was chosen by Senior Lecturer in Communication Studies, Dr. Godfrey Steele and his team of planners to explore various issues surrounding the discipline. (See Page 9)

Looking through the list of presentations made over its two days, it struck me that there was scarcely anything that looked at the impact of social media and the various platforms and devices that are transforming lives at every level. It seemed oddly dissonant with the environment.

The changes are dramatic and as pervasive as the man in the audience mentioned. You simply cannot escape your digital self – because you engage it continuously: at the bank, the malls, your car, your home. Its very ubiquitous nature demands that we explore its impact, that we bring some academic focus on a culture that has changed and changed and changed again within the last 20 years – and, like a helicopter's blades going from lazy motion to blurry speed, it is going to change even more rapidly.

I think that the next conference should be focused on these issues because it just seems too monumental to be ignored.

There is something at risk besides writing and reading, something profound in the course of human existence – a particular kind of connection – that is being lost in cyberspace.

"...if all of your relationships are virtual, you cannot look anyone in the eye," said Robert Antoni. It might be the reason everything now seems so farcical.



For sale at Amazon.com is this CTA Digital 2-in-1 iPotty with Activity Seat for iPad, described as a "Comfortable and child-friendly potty with activity stand for iPad (2nd, 3rd, and 4th generation)."

There is something at risk besides writing and reading, something profound in the course of human existence – a particular kind of connection – that is being lost in cyberspace.

■ LITERATURE

Caryl Phillips and Robert Antoni, both writers of the Caribbean diaspora creating innovative historical fiction and recasting Caribbean-ness, came together for a literary conversation recently.

Professor Phillips, a writer of fiction and non-fiction, is a Yale professor, who was born in St. Kitts and grew up in Britain, and has authored 11 novels as well as plays and essays. He read from his 2015 novel “The Lost Child.”

As he discussed his inspiration for the book, he mentioned that he has often speculated whether the name Liverpool crops up throughout the Caribbean as street signs and other touch-points harking back to England. He grew up ten miles from where the Brontes had lived. As a youth someone gave him a line drawing of Emily Bronte and he always imagined that there was some kind of umbilical connection between his desk which held this photo and her home ten miles away.

The biggest question in Emily Bronte studies, said Phillips, is who was this seven-year-old boy found on the docks of Liverpool where he grew up and who became Heathcliff of Bronte’s famous “Wuthering Heights.” Increasingly, Phillips thought about life growing up in the shadows of the Yorkshire moors. Out of these musings, “The Lost Child” was crafted.

“I didn’t start off with the idea or theme or structure. I started with the idea that has bedeviled scholars for years: Who on earth was Heathcliff? Who on earth was this raggedy boy that started on the docks and then became this romantic figure of canonical literature?” said Phillips.

Yet beyond historical circumstances and cold data, Phillips wanted to craft a novel that would explore the humanity integral to and beyond the question of Heathcliff’s origins.

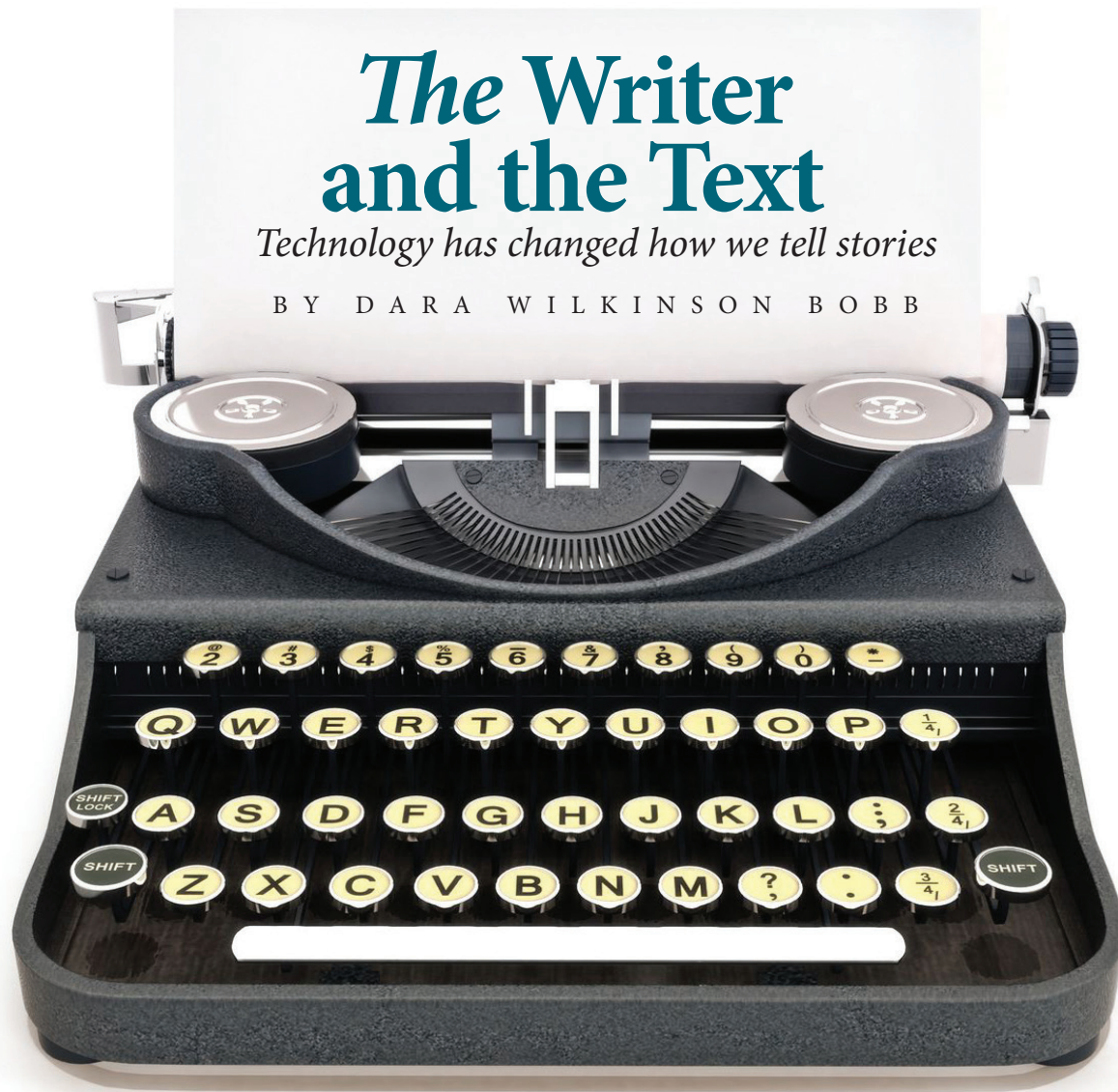
“I started with this question but then it became and had to become something more in conversation with the human heart,” he said.

He had perceived that non-white children growing up in Britain in his time seemed to echo the Heathcliff story. The parallel is that the pervasive reading of Heathcliff is as a wild, passionate and brooding character, dark and mysterious, and certainly a poor fit into the staid and mannered English society of that time.

In making this link between fiction and current realities, between history and present contexts, he noted that a part of writing fiction is that you are exploring the landscape and topography of your own life. It isn’t to be taken lightly. It is a terrific responsibility.

Robert Antoni, similarly a celebrated writer, is an author whose fiction’s terrain is the British West Indies. He has written five novels. Antoni read from his novel “As Flies to Whatless Boys,” which is also a work of historical fiction.

Antoni literally reaches backwards to tell the story of the Tuckers, a family in his mother’s lineage. Around 1845 inventor John Adolphus Etzler, a Londoner, convinces the Tuckers to migrate to Trinidad to help form a utopia based on his machines. The machines were powered by nature and were supposedly guaranteed to change the Tropics into a “proper” English garden. The narrator is middle-aged Willie Tucker who is telling his son how he managed to get to Trinidad in his teens.



“My problem was how to get all of that research out of the way and invent the story from scratch,” said Antoni.

At first, he was hesitant to write the story because his antecedents were estate owners and he knew he would “have to talk about slavery and did not want to.” However, he learned that the Tuckers came after emancipation and “precisely because the slaves had been emancipated.” Etzler could not condone slavery, he said. Indeed, the inventor and family arrived in exactly the same year as the first ship of indentured labourers arrived in Trinidad from India.

“The difference between writing non-fiction or history and a novel, is a novel can only be personal. A part of my process is to have these touchstones of personal and immediate connection that make all the imaginings anchored and allow me to push ahead,” he said.

“There is always this question of who you are writing for. Are you writing for an audience? Are you writing for yourself? You write for the story that’s being told... at least I do. I have to believe that wherever I take it people will respond even if they have never heard of Trinidad. And they do respond.”

In terms of how an audience receives work, Phillips added that between 1950 and 1970 in Britain, 70 novels by West Indians were published, and that as writers mounted the platform to present their work there were probably pre-conceptions as to what they would say. Now literature has become more globalized and national and regional boundaries have become less important. Old conceptions of what constituted a region’s writing will be questioned and perhaps changed, he said.

Antoni’s own form of experimentation with regional writing, of pushing the envelope regarding expectations, is with the vernacular as he feels the form has to reflect the content.

“The vernacular is a hybrid language and I am looking for a hybrid form to reflect a very hybrid West Indian consciousness and sensibility,” he said. He is not the first to have done this, but it remains a gamble in the business of publishing where publishers can be unwilling to have your book translated for other markets.

Both writers commented on the role of technology in our mediated lives. Responding to a question from the

*“Part of the great moral purpose of literature is to
imagine yourself into the life of people who are not you.”*

—CARYL PHILLIPS

■ LITERATURE



From left:
Authors in conversation,
Professor Caryl Phillips,
Dr. Raymond Ramcharitar
and Robert Antoni.

PHOTO COURTESY
THE TRINIDAD GUARDIAN

audience on teenagers, technology, and literature, Antoni said, “Part of me feels all your anguish. They go out for dinner with you and they are on their phones all the time. The problem with the phones is if all of your relationships are virtual, you cannot look anyone in the eye.”

Regarding experimentation, he felt that, “Technology is going to transform the way we tell our stories and the way they will be transmitted. So how can we find a way to make electronic literature writerly? That is my question and that is hopefully the question your children will answer if they find a way in between their texting.”

Indeed, though writing historical fiction, Antoni’s themes may be considered more forward looking, more contemporary, than harking back to more traditional themes of colony and writing-back to Europe.

“The colonial chip-on-your-shoulder is something my parents had and my grandparents had but I do not have,” he said, individuating himself from the conventional expectations of Caribbean literature.

Phillips echoed this idea of contemporary imaginative licence, but with a more philosophical

slant, feeling that writing can speak to our common humanity.

“Part of the great moral purpose of literature is to imagine yourself into the life of people who are not you,” he said, and that creates empathy. He believes that literature reminds us that [William] Faulkner’s definition of the novel as problems of the human heart in conflict with itself is a universal issue... a human issue.

“That is not what text, twitter, facebook and instagram are about,” he said, pointing to their narcissistic nature.

“They’re all about the selfie!” was the response.

Perhaps the digirati and youth who, always connected to their circle of friends globally, might find that expression in digital text and images is the new literary frontier. As global boundaries become more fluid through technology, diversity is increasingly embraced, and niches and tribes celebrate their difference from the mainstream. Many book lovers, however, will continue to cherish that new-book-smell, the feel of the page beneath fingertips, and the way re-reading an old favourite reconnects you to other minds and cultures.

And as they creatively recast our Caribbean pasts and unearth their truths and insights, writers Caryl Phillips and Robert Antoni are connecting human hearts across the globe, word by word.

*“...if all of your relationships are virtual,
you cannot look anyone in the eye.”*

—ROBERT ANTONI

One of the aims of post-colonial literature is to examine the way Europe maintained its power. It is also concerned with re-reading and re-writing the past. This understanding of historical fiction, and in particular the works of authors **Caryl Phillips** and **Robert Antoni**, was shared by **Dr. Kumar Mahabir**, Assistant Professor UTT, at a reading and dialogue for both authors held at the UWI St. Augustine campus. The event titled “**A Literary Conversation**” was held on October 3, 2015, by the **Anthony N. Sabga Caribbean Awards for Excellence, the Bocas Lit Fest, the University of Trinidad and Tobago and The UWI**. The Chair for the proceedings was **Professor Emeritus Funso Aiyejina** and the moderator was **Dr. Raymond Ramcharitar**.

Professor Phillips was a Commonwealth Prize recipient a decade ago, and was named the **ANSA Caribbean Award for Arts and Letters Laureate in 2013**. **Robert Antoni** was the **2014 OCM Bocas** Prize winner and has been the recipient of a **Guggenheim Fellowship, the Commonwealth Writers Prize**, and the **NALIS Lifetime Literary Award** among other accolades.

The CUBA FORUM

The Institute of Critical Thinking is hosting “The Cuba Forum,” to allow the business community to hear of new opportunities, and the cultural nuances and economic environment of Cuba so they can competitively enter its market.

Dr. Antonio Romero Gomez, the President of the Caribbean Studies Chair “Norman Girvan” at the University of Havana; Dr. Omar Everleny Pérez Villanueva, Senior Lecturer and Professor at the CEEC, of the University of Havana, and Dr. Andres Santiago Gomez, Assistant Provost, Dean of International Studies & Senior Fellow for Cuban Studies, University of Miami (retired) will be speaking.

The Forum takes place on November 5, at Lecture Rooms 2&3 of the Institute from 2pm. To register, please email ict@sta.uwi.edu or call 785-4587.



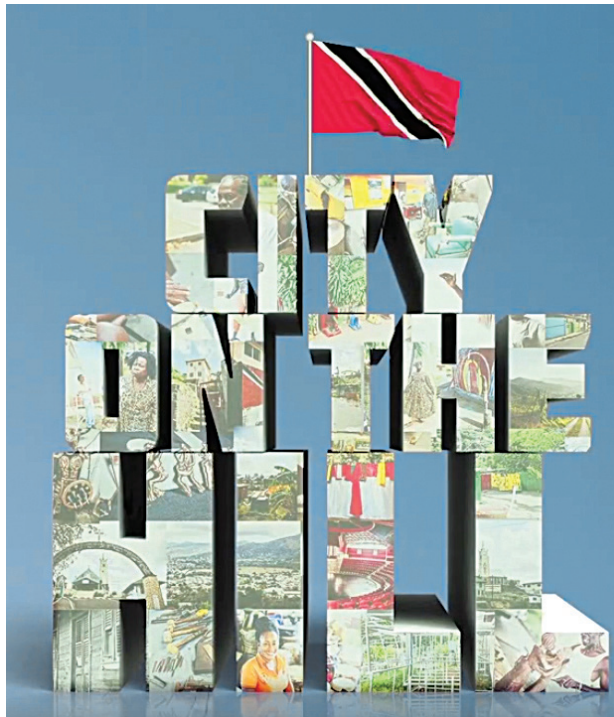
■ AT THE MOVIES

Big Ben. Time's Square. Christ the Redeemer. These iconic images need no introduction and easily conjure sweeping landscape shots in our minds. Professor Patricia Mohammed and UWI Film Programme alum Michael Mooleedhar allow East Port of Spain audiences to see themselves on screen alongside these iconic landmarks, as co-directors of the documentary, "City on the Hill."

Drama happens from the onset with the sounds of Madame Butterfly juxtaposed against a wide shot of Our Lady of Fatima atop the hills of Laventille. One of the most talked about aspects of the film – for better or worse – Laventille sprawls before the viewer in all her glory and the film demands that you take her in. In the Q&A session following the screening, Professor Mohammed noted that, "There was a moment when I went up the hill and I was sitting looking at Mary, and imagining the epic tragedy of Laventille...and nothing spoke to me the way Madame Butterfly does and the idea of starting with that was also engaging with that tragedy by representing a vision of their pathos."

To understand the tragedy of Laventille is to go to back to the beginning and reimagine how the "city that built the city" contributed to the creative, spiritual and architectural hallmarks we now identify as undeniably 'Trini.' The film does this by giving us an insider's perspective through the eyes of its residents. Members of the Rada, Hindu, Christian and Orisha religious societies warmly invite the camera to "come in, come in" and be witness to a community united in faith.

Observatory Street's history is excavated as a reminder of the Laventille of yesteryear – the site where Don Cosmo Damien Churrua, Spanish Officer and scientific navigator, led an expedition to fix the longitudinal points in the New World relative to Cadiz, Spain in 1792 resulting in the establishment of an observatory at Fort Chacon. The placement of these historical gems throughout the film is no coincidence, since its inception was part of a three-pronged project made possible through The UWI Trinidad & Tobago Research and Development Impact Fund (RDI), Leveraging Built and Cultural Heritage of East Port of Spain, led by Dr. Asad Mohammed. The project also includes a 3-D model of the city and a book, which are mentioned in the film.



The City We Built

Patricia Mohammed
Michael Mooleedhar

BY JEANNETTE AWAI

When asked if being tied to such a specific message limited the scope of the film, Mooleedhar said, "They gave us the freedom to go in any direction we wanted – because of that awareness it helped mould the direction of the film – it was an opportunity."

With much creative freedom comes the responsibility of a dynamic personality to channel it, and Wendell Manwarren fills that slot as both an omniscient narrator and subject in the film. He provides the artistic vehicle to bring to life the Laventille depicted in great literary works by reciting quotes from Derek Walcott, Wayne Brown and Earl Lovelace – delivered with rooted oratorical flourish as only Manwarren, Belmont native can. For Manwarren, other artists, makers and Carnival enthusiasts alike, Laventille is remembered as their coveted muse, "She was the hill, she was their own. They would have fought for her, lifted her up, made her queen." Laventille's reciprocal affections however, lie not with her admirers, but the smallest among them – the children. The film closes with its most picturesque scene – an old-fashioned kite fight between two neighbourhood children, set to the pulsating score of a drum riddim section. One kite flies high above the other with Laventille's hills as backdrop – whose kite will get cut first? The camera shifts back and forth as the kites become entangled and finally, the loser's kite is guillotined; yet our gaze remains hopeful, watching the unattached kite flying freely, disappearing into the atmosphere.

So is the future of Laventille, a city whose narrative is often etched with violence and tragedy, yet she guides her dwellers to look upwards, remembering that they are the light of the world, for a city built on a hill cannot be hid.

Professor Patricia Mohammed is taking a break from filming to complete her next book.

Michael Mooleedhar is working on the pre-production stages of the film, "Green Days by the River."

Jeanette G. Awai is a freelance writer and marketing and communications assistant at the Marketing and Communications Office, UWI St. Augustine.



■ AT THE MOVIES

Potential *and* Possibility

P E N D U L U M

Michael Rochford

BY MATTHEW BAILEY

From its inception in 2005, The UWI St. Augustine Film Programme has contributed to the evolving film industry of the Caribbean. Many of the Programme's students and lecturers have written, produced, directed, edited and appeared in a number of documentaries ("Caribbean Skin, African Identity" directed by Mandisa Pantin, 2010), short films ("Buck, the Man Spirit" by Steven Taylor, 2010) and feature films ("Haiti Bride" from Yao Ramesar, 2014).

This year, a new film from the Film Programme made its way to the Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival (also celebrating 10 years). What started off as a 50-minute film made during the Programme's third-year Capstone thesis course evolved into a 72-minute feature in competition for Best Trinidad and Tobago Feature at the Festival.

"Pendulum", the debut feature from 23-year-old Michael Rochford, won him the bpTT sponsored prize for the Best Emerging Trinidad and Tobago Filmmaker.

Written by Rochford, Anastasia Alexis and Joshua Paul, the movie revolves around the character of Ryan Williams (played by Jovon Browne), a former soldier turned journalist who suffers from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder after a traumatic wartime incident left him mentally scarred.

Perception of reality or the "reality" presented to the audience permeates "Pendulum." Shot in Port of Spain, Tunapuna, Arima and The UWI St. Augustine Campus, the film was designed in such a way that it all feels part of the same place – this place being the fictional Urio City.

There's also the film's comic relief, a former soldier turned Ryan's unofficial accomplice, Harold (Scott Evans), who subtly represents the perception of reality in "Pendulum." Established in his introductory scene (filmed in Trevor's Edge – a popular pub/restaurant in St. Augustine) as a man who chose alcohol as a means of moving on from his wartime past, Harold regularly uses colloquial slang in his dialogue despite his blatantly foreign accent. Oddly enough, he uses more colloquial slang than anyone else in the movie. Perhaps I'm reading into this character too much, but to me, Harold represented a level of self-awareness in "Pendulum" where the use of colloquial slang to help authenticate the nationality of Trinbagonian film characters (not actors) is



Michael Rochford's first feature film, "Pendulum" saw him being named as Best Emerging Trinidad and Tobago Filmmaker at ttff 2015.

challenged – or should I say, poked fun – at by having a "foreign" character say them.

But it's the character of Ryan Williams that truly embodies the film's theme. Ryan questions, and is questioned about, his own sanity as he is regularly bombarded by brief, intense panic attacks and flashes of broken memories. There's a memorable scene where we see the first of Ryan's panic attacks, which begins with him staggering through a street and ends with him on the muddy ground of a playground – heart racing, losing his breath. I wish the film took some more time to delve into the fractured mindset of Browne's character, to really make the audience understand how powerful a grip his PTSD has onto his psyche, and make us question his sanity even more.

Fortunately, the narrative and technical missteps (sound design, for example, for the version that I saw needed some polishing) are few and far between, as "Pendulum" is still an amazingly entertaining movie from start to finish.

Michael Rochford's direction is focused, economical and assured. The cinematography, with its cool colour palette of greys, browns, blues and greens, helps in creating a contemporary yet neo-noirish version of Trinidad for the film's characters to inhabit. Speaking of characters, the cast of "Pendulum" turned in impressive performances, especially from Jovon Browne, Stephen Hadeed Jr. and Scott Evans. There's also the talented Anokha Baptiste, who plays Luther's receptionist Sarah Darding, who easily rivals Browne, Evans and Hadeed Jr. in terms of standout performance.

Michael Rochford started off his film career with a 2012 short film (which he made before entering the UWI Film Programme) "The Man in the Woods" (you can find it on YouTube), which starred himself and Jovon Browne as the two lead characters. Three years later, they've worked together on their own feature film. Having known Michael since the challenging production of "The Man in the Woods," and having heard from Michael himself of the trials and tribulations that went into making "Pendulum," I am truly amazed at the success his debut feature turned out to be. For what it's worth, this movie represents the potential and possibilities of Trinbagonian cinema.



Matthew Bailey is also a product of The UWI St. Augustine's Film Programme

■ OUR CAMPUS

Embracing Our World

The **St. Augustine Campus** celebrated International Week (iWeek) from October 5 to 9, 2015 under the theme Embrace Our World. iWeek provides a platform from which the campus can enhance the understanding of internationalisation and the significant contribution it makes in its community and throughout the world.

According to Director of the Campus' Office of Institutional Advancement and Internationalisation, Sharan Singh, "The project is hinged on the cooperation of a number of departments of The UWI, as the mandate for internationalisation lies with all of us and it is imperative that we get university staff and students interested and actively involved in embracing this concept."

The week-long event comprised a series of educational, cultural and recreational events designed to foster interest in the global community. Staff and students took part in the Study Abroad Fair, and got very creative at the International Dress Day campus competition. The opening ceremony featured traditional dances performed by students of the Pacific Islands.



■ A Festival of Plays

The Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA) at UWI St. Augustine presents the 2015 edition of the New Directors' Forum: A Festival of Plays.

This production features student directors from the BA Theatre Arts programme and the Directing II-THEA 3203 course taught by Dr. Lester Efebo Wilkinson.

These performances run at the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) from November 27 to November 29 nightly, from 6 to 8pm.

This year's schedule includes the following plays:

Francisco Arrivi: Masquerade

Director: Cydelle Crosby
Friday November 27 | 6pm

Eugene O'Neill: Long Day's Journey into Night

Director: Chanel Glasgow
Friday November 27 | 8pm

Davlin Thomas: Lear Ananci

Director: Esther-Marie Jones
Saturday November 28 | 6pm

Tony Hall: Twilight Café

Director: Antonia Thomas
Saturday November 28 | 8pm

William Shakespeare: Much Ado about Nothing

Director: Gabrielle Scott
Sunday November 29 | 6pm

Zeno Constance's: Patricia – A Love Story

Director: Renaldo Frederick
Sunday November 29 | 8pm

**Admission: Adults: \$50 Students: \$35;
Season Pass: \$100.**

Tickets are available at the DCFA office at Agostini St., St. Augustine. For further information, please call 662-2002 ext 83792 or 663-2222 or email maria.cruikshank@sta.uwi.edu.



The Marketing & Communications Office won for their portrayal of Cuba.

Off to MALTA

Secretary of the Guild of Students, Nikoli Edwards, has been selected as a candidate to contest the Commonwealth Youth Council elections for the position of Vice Chairperson – Policy and Advocacy. He will be off to Malta on November 20 to attend the Commonwealth Youth Forum which forms part of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. The elections take place during the Youth Forum.

Nikolai, who was one of the Honours graduates from the Faculty of Humanities and Education at the ceremonies in October, has our support in his quest.



■ BOOK REVIEW

Hog Heaven

It was once hog food; too bland for the palates of the slaves brought from West Africa, and it was only after Emancipation that breadfruit found a place at the table of free peasants – and then mainly those from rural areas.

This is part of the short story told by Sandra Barnes a former librarian at The UWI in an opening chapter on “The History of Breadfruit,” in the recently published book, “Breadfruit Flavours.”

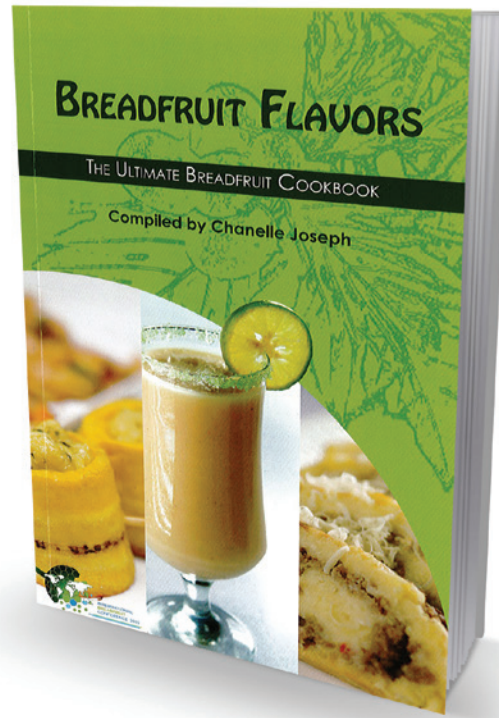
“Slow to gain acceptance and only consumed during ‘hard times’ breadfruit cookery was for many years monotonous – roasted, baked, boiled or fried, usually to accompany a main dish,” she writes, saying that times have changed since the hog food days and breadfruit has become a “staple of Caribbean cuisine and has found its way into upscale supermarkets and on to restaurant menus.”

It made me feel young; because it was news to me that the lovely, delicate flavour of the breadfruit had once lowered it to the category of hog food. I was not surprised though. Much of what had once been dismissed as poor food in the region is now prized as exotic delicacies because of the growing interest in different cuisines. Indeed, this era can be easily described as the time of the foodie – chefs, restaurants, cuisines, ingredients and techniques – these are the stars bred by food channels and devoured by people dying to excite their taste buds.

So the breadfruit, which I had only known in childhood as a rare treat cooked with spinach and coconut milk and other vegetables (not meat), was something warm, soothing and gentle, not at all bland. And it was only later, when other hands stirred the pots that I came to discover that it was as versatile as all the other provisions we still don’t take along on culinary adventures often enough.

For Chanelle Joseph, an Instructor at Agricultural Economics & Extension, at the Faculty of Food and Agriculture at The UWI St. Augustine, it brought many discoveries as well. The book covers the wide range of breadfruit uses in Caribbean kitchens, and while most recipes are built upon the basic roasted, baked, boiled or fried foundation, there are many twists that open the doors to creativity.

I asked Joseph what was her favourite dish and she said, “I enjoy cooking and was happy to try new recipes



BREADFRUIT FLAVOURS *The Ultimate Breadfruit Cookbook* Chanelle Joseph

BY VANEISA BAKSH

made from breadfruit. Of so many versatile and innovative recipes it is difficult to pinpoint the one I like the most. However, I had the greatest consumption of those recipes that incorporated breadfruit as a salad and as a main dish,” not surprising as her training is in Nutrition and Dietetics (and International Business), but there are many other takes.

Casseroles, salsas, fritters and chips; soups, salads, puddings and pies; you can have it stuffed and buttered and made into balls, or you can mash it and fry it and drench it in sauce. There are breads and cakes, pastas and puffs, and when you run out of things to eat there’s wine and punch.

The recipe for wontons caught me by surprise. I had imagined the breadfruit as a sort of doughy wonton skin, but no, it was the filling!

In skimming through the 115 or so recipes, I was struck by the ways the breadfruit was described for its relevance to the recipe: young, ripe, mature, green but mature, just ripe, fresh, very soft and ripe, very ripe, firm, and half-ripe. It occurred to me that my biggest problem with cooking breadfruit dishes is that I cannot distinguish between the stages of maturity, though I can tell which are firm and which are soft.

I asked Lydia, who is a breadfruit expert, how to tell the difference. “When it’s young the skin is smooth and has a greener look,” she said, and when it is full, like for oil-down, it starts getting a more yellowish hue.

I bet there are all sorts of ways to tell, and I wish readers would write in and share their techniques.

The book has devoted some attention to the nutritional value and health benefits of the breadfruit, declaring that it helps bone and heart health, and for diabetics it assists in glucose control and regulating blood glucose concentrations, among other things.

The recipes have their origins in several publications and underscore some of the subtle differences in Caribbean cuisine from island to island – it might be the addition of nutmeg here, or the amount of cheese there – little things we associate without realizing it.

Like the resurgence in cassava, coconut oil and cocoa among the list of foodie favourites, the breadfruit has made a comeback, and this book makes it easy to welcome it into your kitchen.



Chanelle Joseph speaks about her compilation “Breadfruit Flavours: The Ultimate Breadfruit Cookbook,” which was launched along with “The Bread of Life: Breadfruit” by Chef Volentedeo George, at NALIS in August. The books were launched following the preceding month’s Breadfruit Conference and Expo hosted by the Faculty of Food and Agriculture.



UWI CALENDAR of EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2015–MARCH 2016

THE HISTORY OF INVESTMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN

November 4 to 8
Teaching and Learning Complex
UWI St. Augustine

The Caribbean Economic History Association (Asociación de Historia Económica del Caribe, AHEC) and The UWI present the 3rd Annual Conference of the AHEC with the theme “The History of Investment in the Caribbean.”

For further information,
visit: www.sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar.



POPULATION ISSUES AND DYNAMICS

January 7 to 9, 2016
UWI St. Augustine

The Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) St. Augustine Campus is hosting the Population Issues and Dynamics in Trinidad and Tobago – Theory, Practice and Policy for post-2015 Strategic Development Goals (SDGs). The conference will explore themes about the Fertility Dynamics and Implications for Development; Trends and Differentials in Morbidity; globalisation, gender and sexual reproductive health in Trinidad and Tobago.

For further inquiries, please contact Dr. Godfrey St. Bernard or Ms. Taresa Best at crpsdtt@sta.uwi.edu.

For more information, please visit
<http://sta.uwi.edu/conferences/16/population/themes.asp>.

ESCAPE TO PARADISE

January 24, 2016
UWI St. Augustine

UWI Fete presents their annual all-inclusive UWI Fete with the theme Cuba – Escape to Paradise. Experience a great party featuring the best soca bands and performers, Cuban-themed cuisine and cocktails and much more.

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



INDO-CARIBBEAN FEMINIST THOUGHT

November 5 to 6
Board Room
Faculty of Science and Technology
UWI St. Augustine

The Institute for Gender and Development Studies (IGDS), invites scholars and students of Caribbean and Indo-Caribbean gender relations and feminisms to the two-day symposium — Indo-Caribbean Feminist Thought: Beyond Gender Negotiations. The workshop will be held at the FST Board Room, next door to the IGDS, Chemistry Building 2. Panelists from around the world will present on topics such as My Mother's Baby: Wrecking Work after Indentureship, Indo-Caribbean Masculinities: Where are We Now? Between the Cane and the Deep Blue Sea: Relational Indianness in Mauritius and the Caribbean, and more.

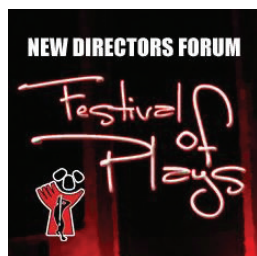
For further information,
visit: www.sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar.

CLASSIC CONCERT

February 14, 2016
Hyatt Regency Hotel

The second annual Classic Concert with the theme – Pappy – Tribute to Roy Cape, is an exclusive event that showcases the range, versatility and talents of Mr. Roy Cape, former recipient of an honorary doctorate of letters (DLitt) from the University of the West Indies as well as the Roy Cape All Stars, and their many talented friends including 3Canal, David Rudder, Olatunji and more. The price of tickets will be TT\$1000 for all patrons. Details to follow.

For more information, please continue checking the Campus Events Calendar at www.sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar for updates.



FESTIVAL OF PLAYS
November 27 to 29
UWI St. Augustine

The Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA) presents the 2015 edition of the New Directors' Forum: A Festival of Plays. This production features student directors from the BA Theatre Arts programme and the Directing II-THEA 3203 course taught by Dr. Lester Efebo Wilkinson. Performances of plays such as Much Ado about Nothing, Patricia – A Love Story and Lear Anaci happen nightly at the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) from 6 to 8pm. Tickets for adults: \$50; students: \$35; Season pass: \$100. For more info, please contact 663-2222 or call 662-2002 ext. 83792.

For further information,
visit: www.sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar.



SPORTS AND HIGHER ED
January 13-15, 2016
UWI St. Augustine

Save the date for the 2nd Biennial Conference on Sport Studies and Higher Education: An Interdisciplinary Approach under the theme, Physical Literacy: Gender, Science, and Sport for Development. This conference will contribute to the development of research and scholarship on sport which can support programmes of sport in tertiary and higher education institutions. They conference will feature panels addressing sub-themes including but not limited to topics such as The Role of the State; Sexuality and Gender Identities in Sport, Anti-Doping Policy and more.

For further information, please email
sportstudiesconference@sta.uwi.edu
or visit www.sta.uwi.edu.

BASIC SURGICAL SKILLS WORKSHOP
March 19-20, 2016

Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex, Mt. Hope

The University of the West Indies Department of Clinical Surgical Sciences in conjunction with the Royal College of Surgeons host “Basic Surgical Skills (Intercollegiate BSS) Workshop.” This workshop costs \$1500US or \$9000TT with an administrative fee of TT\$500.

For more information, please contact
Ms. Melrose Yearwood: 645-3232 or 662-7028 ext. 2864.
Fax: 1 (868) 663-4319.
Email: melrose.yearwood@sta.uwi.edu.

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

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