



THE UNIVERSITY
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THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES (UWI), CAVE HILL CAMPUS

INNOVATION CRITICAL TO THE UNIVERSITY'S FUTURE

Professor R. Clive Landis assumed leadership of The University of the West Indies (UWI), Cave Hill Campus on August 1, 2021, following the retirement of Professor V. Eudine Barribeau, in July 2021. In presenting his vision for the Campus to senior members of staff at the first meeting of the Campus' Academic Board in September, the Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal affirmed that one of the key roles of the University is to create value for individuals, society, industry and government. He asserted that generating new revenue streams, in particular through innovation, would continue to be a very important goal for the Campus.



Professor Landis noted that the entrepreneurial culture was growing throughout the University. He urged colleagues to seek to be globally competitive by examining where the Campus enjoys natural advantages and utilising their intellectual assets combined with technology to generate new knowledge. He said that creating research and development projects with industry, including those which could lead to joint ventures and spin off companies, would be critical in the future.

The Office of Business Development (OBD) will continue to play a pivotal role in this process. In September 2021, OBD launched its Innovate! Campus New Venture Challenge, a first of its kind at Cave Hill. The competition aims to stimulate innovative thinking among all categories and levels of staff that will lead to generation of income through new businesses or entrepreneurial activities for the benefit of units/departments and the Campus. CIBC FirstCaribbean International Bank has generously agreed to provide US\$60,000 as prize incentives, of which 75% must go for the startup of the businesses.

"We have received 12 Expressions of Interest to participate in the competition", said Sonia Johnson, Business Development Officer. "We are very pleased with the response which has come from staff members, including academic, administrative and technical staff. We are very excited about the prospects for enhancing income generation at Cave Hill."

RECENT EVENTS

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An update on exciting happenings in philanthropy over the summer.

MEDICAL CANNABIS INDUSTRY

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A feature on the support the Campus is providing to propel the growth of the industry.

Many thanks to our contributors in this edition:

Prof Patsy Prussia
Emeritus Prof Wayne Hunte

Dr. Damian Cohall
Dr. Natalie Greaves
Dr. Nikolai Holder
Ms. Beverly Smith-Hinkson

Ms. Sonia Johnson
Ms. Rosita Spooner
Mrs. Julia Bailey-Smith

RECENT EVENTS

CIBC FirstCaribbean International Bank Contributions Reach US\$2M



Signing of MOU with CIBC FCIB

Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Principal of The UWI Cave Hill Campus, Professor R. Clive Landis and Chief Executive Officer of CIBC FirstCaribbean International Bank (FCIB), Ms. Colette Delaney signed the 2021-2023 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at a ceremony hosted by the Cave Hill Campus on 17th August 2021. The MOU is valued at US\$330,000, which brings the total funds contributed by the Bank since the first MOU in 2003 to US\$2,000,000. The MOU includes a continuation of 12 annual undergraduate scholarships valued at US\$2,500 each and academic grants for research studies in banking and finance with a focus on ICT. OBD serves as university coordinator of the MOU.

We have a Winner!

As the OBD's year-long fundraising efforts continue, the Spin-the-Wheel sweepstake for a two-night staycation for two at Cobblers Cove Hotel was drawn in August 2021. The winner was Janelle Collymore. Some BDS\$630 were raised. OBD is more than half-way toward achieving the target of US\$50,000 to assist students in financial need, particularly those who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. You are urged to support this worthy cause by making cash contributions to the fund or by establishing scholarships or grants in the name of your company. If interested, visit the OBD website <https://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/business-development/give-now/scholarships,-grants-bursaries-en.aspx> or email businessdevelopment@cavehill.uwi.edu.



Janelle receiving her prize from OBD's Julia Bailey-Smith

Pondside Recreational Area Handed Over



With a contribution of BDS\$25,000 from the Cave Hill Campus Alumni Circle and BDS\$1,000 from OBD, a beautiful new recreational space was handed over to the Campus on 20th September, 2021. OBD oversaw the development of the area with landscaping and the installation of the six benches, lighting and wifi. The area is located near the Roy Marshall Teaching Complex. This project is in response to an OBD Campus services survey in which students indicated a dire need for additional recreational and study space. With technical assistance from Campus INPLAIS, the benches were built and installed by SBT Building, which also donated one of the benches. To contribute to this initiative and have your brand exposed to hundreds daily, please email businessdevelopment@cavehill.uwi.edu.

RBC Race for the Kids 2021 Raises US\$20,000

The second RBC Global Virtual Race for the Kids (RFTK) was held on the weekend of October 16-17th, 2021. Once again, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, participants were asked to determine their own distance and route and walk or run as individuals or in their "safe bubbles". Some 35 charities in 19 countries participated in the event. For the first time this year, there was an RFTK app to track training sessions and routes on Race weekend. Kurt Clarke of GFS Personal Training offered free warm up sessions on Zoom in the lead up to the Race. Some 298 runners/walkers took part in the Race in Barbados, covering 257 kilometres and raising in excess of US\$20,000. The winner of the grand prize draw of a 6-week fitness programme offered by BodyShapers Personal Training Services was Alison Inniss. All funds go to students in financial need.



A group of friends enjoying the race

PARTNER OPPORTUNITIES

Research of Young Scientist Yielding Potential Commercial Products

Dr. Nikolai Holder is a graduate of The UWI, Cave Hill Campus, who specializes in microbial biochemistry. Anaerobic digestion technology, one of Dr. Holder's research areas, is gaining a lot of traction with respect to the conversion of organic material, which would traditionally be considered as waste, into valuable biofuel. A second product from the anaerobic digester Dr. Holder has built at the Campus is the digestate, which is the waste material after the gas is produced. It has the potential to be used as a powerful soil enhancer and plant fertiliser. Dr. Holder's research indicates a direct positive correlation between the concentration of digestate applied to corn plants and the growth of the plants, as measured by chlorophyll levels and height. The results are visually very impressive, and demonstrate practically the capability of anaerobic digestate to boost crop production by approximately 2-3 times. Dr. Holder is also focusing on developing an antifungal ointment using lemongrass. So far, laboratory tests show that the extract has antifungal properties. In addition, he is working on a bay leaf ointment. For more information on Dr. Holder's research, contact him at nikolai.holder@cavehill.uwi.edu or visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7h_YFb4T594



Sound Bites for Healthy Living - Sponsors Needed

The UWI continues to make waves in its quest to impact and transform the Caribbean region; in this instance through sound waves carrying messages of healthy living. Within a few short months the people of Barbados and anyone tuning into the STARCOM Network of the CCGM group will be able to receive practical accessible advice on major health issues affecting our region. The media project is being spearheaded by the Cave Hill Campus' Faculty of Medical Sciences' Entrepreneurship Committee, in conjunction with its Public Health Group and the Faculty of Culture, Creative and Performing Arts. The production group will involve members of the Medical Students Association. Their involvement is a good example of the university's efforts to foster a spirit of giving and philanthropy in the region's next generation of Health Professionals. From teenagers wondering about acne or the young ladies uncertain what to do with the pain of endometriosis, or the gentleman looking for advice on prostate health, erectile dysfunction, or stress management, this healthy living programme will provide answers. To become a sponsor and for more information email natalie.greaves@cavehill.uwi.edu.



Retired Professor Makes Generous Donation to OBD Fundraising Campaign

OBD records is sincere thanks and appreciation to retired UWI Professor of Anatomical Pathology Patsy R Prussia MBBS., DM., FIAC, GCM for a leadership donation of BDS\$10,000 to its Campaign for Scholarships, Bursaries and Grants for students in financial need at The UWI Cave Hill Campus. In explaining what motivated her gift, Professor Prussia said, "Many moons ago, when I was a Medical Student at Mona, I had many benefactors including the UWI Mona Group of Lecturers' Wives. I was fortunate to meet one of the wives, Ann Seakins who, around 1981, had relocated to Barbados with her husband Michael Seakins, then Professor of Inorganic Chemistry, Cave Hill Campus. My giving back is really a selfish act as reflected in the Bible Scriptures (Good News Translation), Luke 6: 31 & 38: "Do for others just as you want them to do for you" and "Give to others, and God will give to you. Indeed, you will receive a full measure, a generous helping, poured into your hands - all that you can hold. The measure you use for others is the one that God will use for you". I can certainly testify to this truth."



A UWI alumna, Professor Prussia was recognised by the Government of Barbados with the award of the Gold Crown of Merit on November 30, 2020 for her outstanding contribution to Cancer Research and Continuing Medical Education, as part of the Barbados National Independence Celebrations. It is one of many awards in a career of illustrious service in the field of medicine, particularly pathology. Professor Prussia is currently Clinical Director, Barbados National Registry - Cancer, with the George Alleyne Chronic Research Disease Centre of The UWI. Not only is she a distinguished academic, but Professor Prussia has also completed introductory courses in Christology, Theology, Sign Language and Ballroom Dancing. Her generous contribution will go a long way in assisting students whose cases are considered by the Campus' Financial Aid Committee. Thank you, Professor!

BUSINESS ON CAMPUS

The University Bookshop

Did You Know? The University

Bookshop located on the Cave Hill Campus is open to the general public and welcomes corporate, institutional and individual customers. The book section will provide publications for in-house training, corporate libraries and individuals as requested. Its fully stocked computer department provides laptops, tablets, phones and other electronic items. Other services include copying and printing, as well as Fedex and DHL shipping.

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MEDICAL CANNABIS INDUSTRY GROWING WITH UWI SUPPORT

The Medicinal Cannabis initiative at Cave Hill was active in 2021, with many activities implemented through the Private-Public-Partnership (PPP) between The UWI and BIM Medical Cannabis Ltd. (BMC). Advisory services to the Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Licensing Authority (BMCLA) accelerated under the MOU signed between the BMCLA and UWI. Dr. Damian Cohall chaired the BMCLA's Technical Working Group on Packaging and Labelling and Emeritus Professor Wayne Hunte led the BMCLA's Technical Working Group on Testing and Standards. Guidance was also provided on UWI Internships to assist the BMCLA with their work programme, and on an approach for conducting Cost Benefit Analyses of Companies in different industry sectors. Dr. Cohall was appointed Chair of the recently established National Advisory Committee on Medicinal Cannabis which reports of the Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Licensing Board.



Dr. Damian Cohall, Deputy Dean (Preclinical), Senior Lecturer in Pharmacology and Member, Principal's Steering Committee on Medicinal Cannabis Initiatives



Emeritus Professor Wayne Hunte, Chair, Principal's Steering Committee on Medicinal Cannabis Initiatives

In training and education, the Faculty of Medical Sciences, BMC and the Office of Online Learning are designing the first of three MOOC Cannabis Courses to be delivered using the FutureLearn Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) platform. In research, Dr. Cohall continued to collaborate with the Institute of Molecular, Cell and Systems Biology at the University of Glasgow and his MPhil and PhD students advanced their research on effects of cannabis and cannabinoids on epilepsy, Type 2 diabetes, inflammation and endothelial dysfunction. The UWI-BMC-PPP has learned that its research proposal on Optimising Phenotypic and Genotypic Cannabis Strains in Barbados will be funded by the JuicyFields Group, Germany, and a Memorandum of Agreement is being prepared. Infinite Percent Partners, USA has expressed interest in financing pharmacologically-oriented cannabis research at Cave Hill, provided that IP issues can be agreed to. The UWI-BMC-PPP has disseminated an investment proposal, in collaboration with Invest Barbados, to develop a Medicinal Cannabis Testing and Quality Assurance Faculty at Cave Hill. Two overseas investors are currently negotiating this with the UWI-BMC-PPP. The operation of the Facility will require the incorporation of Cave Hill's first Spin-Off Company.