



# Connections

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An electronic bulletin about interdisciplinary research, teaching and outreach at the  
Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES)  
Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus  
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## ***Dalhousie University and UWI team up for ocean governance***

Over the next two years, CERMES will be working with Dalhousie University, Canada, on a project entitled, 'Strengthening Principled Ocean Governance Networks: Transferring Lessons from the Caribbean to the Wider Ocean Governance Community'. The aim is to improve ocean governance worldwide through the implementation of a pilot study in the Caribbean region and concomitant transfer of lessons learned to the global ocean governance community. The project also aims to assist Caribbean states and those benefiting from shared marine resources in putting key sustainability principles into national and regional practice. The project is funded by a two-year Nippon Foundation grant.



*MOU signing between the UWI and Dalhousie. Standing L to R: Drs. D. Van der Zwaag, M. Butler and R. Fournier. Seated L to R: Dr. L. Fanning, Sir Hilary Beckles and Prof. R. Mahon*

From 3-6 March, an inception mission team from Dalhousie comprising Dr. Lucia Fanning, Director, Marine Affairs Program (MAP); Dr. Robert

Fournier, Professor Emeritus; Dr. David Van der Zwaag, Canada Research Chair in Ocean Law and Governance; and Dr. Mike Butler, International Ocean Institute-Canada, met with Prof. Robin Mahon (Director, CERMES) to discuss and prepare a workplan for the first year of the project. On the first day of the three-day meeting there was an exchange of information between CERMES and Dalhousie regarding ongoing and planned activities related to the project. The University of the West Indies (UWI) and Dalhousie University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the second day of the meeting for the implementation of the project. Project developments will be covered right here in the Connections!

## ***Research agenda for the Caribbean Sea***

The Cropper Foundation and the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus organized a regional workshop to begin developing a research agenda for the Caribbean Sea. Entitled, 'Towards Integrated Sustainable Management of the Caribbean Sea: Identifying the Research Priorities and Data Gaps', the workshop was held 10-11 March 2008 at the Cascadia Hotel and Conference Centre in Trinidad.

Amongst the 36 participants from the English and Spanish-speaking Caribbean (including several CERMES partners) were Prof. Robin Mahon and Dr. Patrick McConney. They made presentations on the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) and Marine Resource Governance in the eastern Caribbean (MarGov) projects respectively, and shared information on several other CERMES initiatives.

The workshop was undertaken as follow-up to the Caribbean Sea Assessment (CARSEA), funded by



*Prof. Robin Mahon sharing a CERMES perspective*

the IDRC of Canada, which was a regional component of the global Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA). The overall goal is to initiate the formulation of a research agenda for the Caribbean Sea which would support policy and decision-making for the integrated sustainable management of the Caribbean Sea pursuant to the recent United Nations resolution on this matter. As a result of the workshop we may see more attention paid to linking research with policy and networking amongst organisations with coastal and marine research capacity.

### ***Good CERMES showing at SciTechXpo***

CERMES once again participated in the National Council for Science and Technology's (NCST) biennial SciTechXpo recently held at the Sherbourne Conference Centre, 19-22 March 2008. Katherine Blackman, Maria Pena, Dale Benskin, Renata Goodridge and Neetha Selliah were involved in organizing and designing the CERMES



*Having fun while testing their environmental knowledge*

exhibit as part of the UWIs Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences display.

The exhibit was designed to be interactive with the inclusion this year of live dive models completely outfitted with labelled equipment, an environmental computer quiz and a water quality testing and underwater writing station. Additionally, recent CERMES research publications and MSc programme information were on display in the form of books, research papers, posters, flyers and information folders.

Dale Benskin and Darren Browne (MPhil student in the department of Biological and Chemical Sciences) deserve special mention and thanks for their creative design of the CERMES computer quiz which grabbed the attention of numerous Xpo-goers, especially school children. Visitors to the booth complimented CERMES for the inclusion of such an interactive and educational tool which specifically targeted school children.

Prof. Hazel Oxenford was specially invited on the opening day to give a slide presentation to school children at a mini-symposium on Coral Reefs organised by the Coastal Zone Management Unit (CZMU) as part of their International Year of the Reef (IYOR) activities. Her presentation was called, "Coral Bleaching and its Implications for Barbados."

Special thanks to all CERMES staff and PhD students who manned our booth during the Xpo.



*Writing underwater and loving it! This station demonstrated how our divers record their data while diving*



## ***Marine resources and public policy in Memphis***



The 2008 Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology was held in Memphis, Tennessee from 26 to 29 March. Dr. Patrick McConney chaired a session on 'Marine Resources and Public Policy' and made a presentation on 'Engaging

Public Policy in Marine Resource Governance:

Cases from the Caribbean'. In the same session Kemraj Parsram, PhD candidate with the MarGov project, had slides on 'Network Governance in the Fisheries for Large Pelagics in the Eastern Caribbean'. Sessions at the conference highlighted the need for more maritime anthropological studies in the Caribbean. Commercial fishing is a livelihood under threat from many different sources in the USA. We in the Caribbean need to appreciate the usefulness of having an anthropological perspective on the human dimensions of fisheries so as to avoid a similar fate.

## **MarGov project update**

This section has been specially added to our e-bulletin to inform, update and share lessons learned with partners, stakeholders, policy makers and other interested persons about the CERMES Marine Resource Governance in the eastern Caribbean (MarGov) project. We invite you to follow the development of MarGov in subsequent issues.

### ***MarGov communication workshops***

Clearer, stronger messages that allow fisherfolk to effectively input into policy decisions that affect their livelihoods; plus strengthened ties between fisheries management and fisherfolk, are two major outcomes expected from a workshop series currently being undertaken by the MarGov Project.

The workshop series entitled "Enhancing Marine Resource Governance through Developing Capacity for Communication in the Eastern Caribbean" was officially launched in Barbados on 25 March and continued in Grenada on 27 March, St Lucia on 2 April, and is scheduled for Antigua on 30 April and at least two other eastern Caribbean territories in early May.



*MarGov communications assistant Carmel Haynes (centre) guiding Vernel Nicholls, president of the Central Fish Processors Association and Everton Hinds, a member of the Weston Fisher Folk Association, through a media exercise.*

Participants drawn from the islands' fisheries management departments and fisher folk organisations are taken through from a basic understanding of the stages of the communication process, to devising communications strategies for their organisations, while also being encouraged to recognize the importance of effective communication in conflict resolution and policy influencing. The workshops, which have been co-ordinated and facilitated by MarGov communications assistant Carmel Haynes, were made possible through a grant from the Small Grants Fund for Sustainable Fisheries and Alternative Livelihoods for Fishers administered by the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, on behalf of the United Nations Environmental Program and the Caribbean Marine Protected Area Managers Network.

## ***New member of the MarGov team***

The MarGov Project has a new addition to its team. She is Tenile Grant, the first recipient of the project's two-year fellowship and research grant for full time interdisciplinary research on marine resource governance leading to an MPhil degree. This MPhil candidate, is a graduate of the University of the West Indies, Mona campus. She holds a BSc. (Hons.) in Zoology and Botany. Tenile is a Senior Fisheries Officer in the Division of Fisheries in the Ministry of Agriculture in Jamaica. Her research area while with the MarGov Project is focused on examining the interventions in the governance structure that are effective in enhancing adaptive capacity and enabling self-organisation that contributes to resilience within the eastern Caribbean.

## ***Private sector showing interest in MarGov***

Private sector companies in the eastern Caribbean are showing interest in assisting the MarGov Project to translate its research findings through systematic and strategic communications into beneficial change for marine resource governance, policy and management. Island Heritage – a Cayman-based group with insurance operations throughout the eastern Caribbean – has already cemented its commitment with a cheque for US\$5,000 to assist in funding MarGov's outreach efforts. Paul Inniss, Island Heritage's chief operating officer, who is based in Barbados, said his company was pleased to support the project in recognition of its importance to good marine resource governance in the region and its contribution to the sustained economic viability of the 16 territories in which the company operates.

The SOL Group – the Caribbean's only indigenous regional oil company – has also expressed strong interest in working with the MarGov project team and the details of that sponsorship package are currently being finalised.



*Paul Inniss, Island Heritage's chief operating officer, said his company was pleased to support the MarGov project*



*Roger Bryan, SOL's South Caribbean general manager (right) chatting with MarGov communications assistant Carmel Haynes and project manager Dr. Patrick McConney*



## ***The Jenson memoirs***

With every posting of the CERMES Connections, I am assured of a response from one of our past students, Jenson Deokiesingh, regarding the quality of and types of articles in this e-bulletin. While I know how much he enjoys receiving the *Connections*, his relentless comment of, "Maria, this is much too serious" drove me earlier in the year to challenge him to produce a suitable article for this newsletter. He gladly took up the challenge and has produced a great tribute to his experience in the CERMES MSc Programme. Live his experience with him.



The artful Trini writer himself

"I remember it like it was yesterday. August 31 2006, yours truly, the protagonist of this real life tale, woke up at 4am, a time of day he had never seen before, entered his little sister's bedroom, crept

into her Pocahontas covered bed and whispered to her with a deep sadness ingrained in his voice, "Jenelle, I don't want to go to Barbados again. I'm scared." My sister, the loving and caring sibling she is, retorted "Jenson it is 4am, GET OUT OF MY ROOM!"

It has been more than a year and a half ago since my parents sent me to Barbados on a ONE-WAY ticket to pursue my Masters. As I'm sitting here writing this article during my lunch break at work and reflecting on my tenure at CERMES, I can't help but not have a huge smile plastered over my face. CERMES represented much more than an educational institute to me. It equates to family; it equals home, it represents a time when I had perhaps the best time of my life.

The initial uncertainties I had cart-wheeling in my mind prior to going to Barbados immediately disappeared when I saw the island. There was an unparalleled beauty and sophistication I had not really known about the island that reassured me that I was going to have an unforgettable year

here, and that I did. And this is how the story unfolds.

The first day of class I remember well. It was very much like a mini-CARICOM gathering - students from a litany of Caribbean countries, all excited, and I'm sure, all nervous about the journey we were now about to embark on. We were all asked to say something about ourselves and I whipped, "I love Barbados. I intend to have a vacation and in the process get an education. The beaches are beautiful, the people are friendly, the place is clean but everything is expensive and I'm sure by the time I return home I'll be on welfare." Dr. Janice Cumberbatch, one of our more outgoing lecturers laughed and said, "Finally an honest answer."

The initial enthusiasm about being in a new world was quickly replaced by a sobering reality the next day. That reality was Dr. Patrick McConney and his three essays that had to be written in less than two weeks and submitted on time. I had prided myself on being a procrastinator prior to entering CERMES. Patrick's essays, however, made me rethink my now former mantra of positive procrastination because never before had I sweat so much in my life - after all, a late submission was an unforgivable crime or worse, two percent deducted from your overall essay!

With each passing week, the workload, I will admit got progressively more intense. It wasn't the content but the sheer volume. It was sometimes painfully overwhelming. I did contemplate quitting at times, however, Neetha, our programme coordinator/psychiatrist assured us, sometimes quoting the infamous words of Bob Marley "everything's going to be all right." She was right; I was like students before me and like students who will come after me and I will survive. It was about realising the goal but enjoying the journey.

Between the copious amounts of projects, papers and presentations were field trips with Dr. Oxenford where we snorkeled in amazingly beautiful beaches (with life jackets of course), climbed on mangroves (and fell), went turtle watching at ungodly hours in the morning; trekked through gullies with Renata (and her machete); dived with Kim (and nearly drowned); had a 'brown bag' presentation with Maria on her trip to Kenya (and missed most of it); and drove through

remote parts of Belize and heard Dr. Nurse sing 'Sparrow'.

Coupled with these were the many arguments, fights, and disagreements I had with my peers but these were negated by lots parties in St. Lawrence, Ruleta's home cooking, Lekeisha and her party cruise (which ended up being a Christian cruise), Cher's aimless driving, Adana's unorthodox humour, Marciano's cynicism, Cecy's whining, Amy's cookies, Rachel's uniqueness, Ekeziel's opinions, Gladwyn's mothering, Kurl's

professionalism, Kendra and her anti-whaling, Nadeera and her meticulous ways and Hayden's unwavering patriotism.

CERMES was and still is family. Cliches are cliches for a reason. They are based on an insurmountable amount of truth. CERMES was "home away from home"- epitomises that. The experiences, the lessons, the laughs, the cries, the stresses, but more so, the people are what made CERMES my home and unforgettably, one of the definitive experiences of my life."