



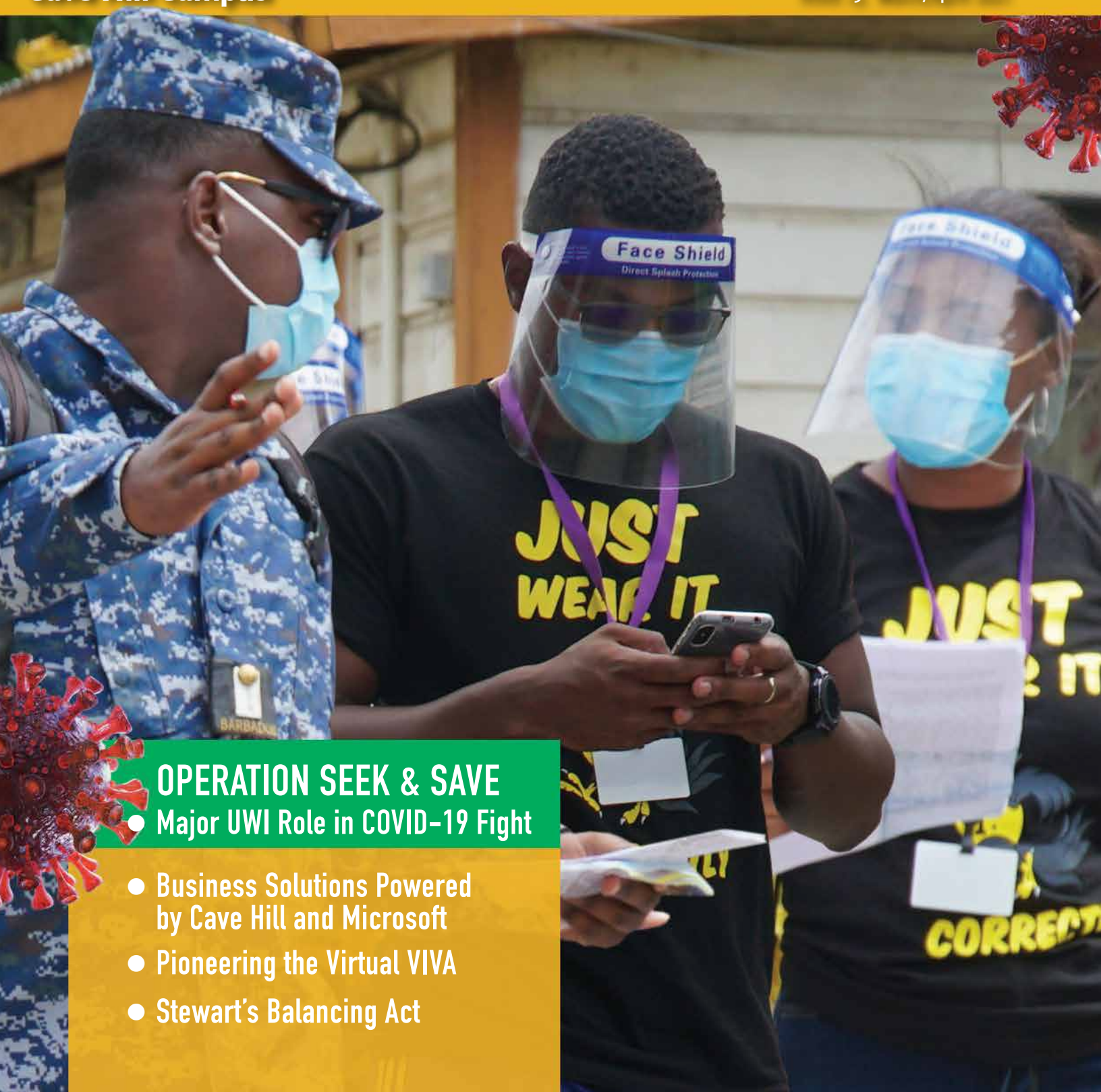
UWI

Cave Hill Campus

CHILL

news

ISSUE 25 March/April 2021



OPERATION SEEK & SAVE

● Major UWI Role in COVID-19 Fight

- Business Solutions Powered by Cave Hill and Microsoft
- Pioneering the Virtual VIVA
- Stewart's Balancing Act

CHILL news

A PUBLICATION OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES,
CAVE HILL CAMPUS, BARBADOS.

We welcome your comments and feedback which
can be directed to chillmagazine@cavehill.uwi.edu
or CHILL c/o The Office of Marketing and
Communications, The UWI, Cave Hill Campus,
Bridgetown BB11000, Barbados.
Tel (246) 417-7529

EDITOR:
Chelston Lovell

CONSULTANT EDITOR:
Ann St. Hill

PHOTO EDITORS:
Rasheeta Dorant
Brian Elcock
Marie-Claire Williams

CONTRIBUTORS:
Professor Eudine Barriteau, PhD, FB, GCM
Chelcéé Brathwaite
Camille Russell
Shridath Rampal Centre
Dr Kay Thompson
The UWI Marketing and Communications
Carol Williams
Marie-Claire Williams
Dr David Yawson

PHOTOGRAPHY:
Ian Bourne
Brian Elcock
Salim Hussain
Nation Publishing Co. Ltd.
Dr Kay Thompson
Carol Williams
Marie-Claire Williams
XQUIZIT Digital Photos
Internet images

PAGE LAYOUT:
Paul Gibbs
Mark Straughan

COVER DESIGN:
Paul Gibbs

Contents

DISCOURSE

- 1 The Case for Higher Education

NEWS

- 2 Biosecurity Expert Sounds Regional Alarm
4 Business Solutions Powered by Cave Hill
and Microsoft
6 Commercial Lab to Offer Scientific Testing
8 In Search of New Ricch-ness
10 Adapting to Sargassum
12 Beckoning Kenyans
13 Warning of Zoonotic Outbreak in the
Caribbean
15 Efforts to Hook Gender Mainstreaming in
Fisheries
17 Limited Birth Control Information
19 Law Students Gain Insight into UN
Operations

COVER STORY

- 20 Major UWI Role in COVID-19 Fight

IN FOCUS

- 24 A Resilient Caribbean Food System
Beyond COVID-19
27 Owen Arthur Special Collection
30 COVID-19 and Pregnancy
32 NCD Worry amidst COVID
34 Make Way for Dialects
36 Beyond Sun, Sand and Sea: Developing
an Inclusive, Sustainable & Resilient
Tourism Sector in Barbados
40 SPISE Adopts a Virtual Guise

PARTNERSHIP

- 42 ACCA Partnership Produces Region's
First Embedded Master's Programme
44 Spreading Chinese Language and Culture

RESEARCH & INNOVATION

- 46 Researchers Examine COVID-19's
Impact on Learning

AWARDS

- 47 Inniss Awarded Arnott Cato Scholarship
48 Outstanding Staffers Saluted for
Excellence

RECOGNITION

- 50 Trailblazer's Name Emblazoned on Alma
Mater

PUBLICATIONS

- 52 Charting a Course for the Blue Economy
54 Defending Caribbean Freedom

AROUND CAMPUS

- 56 Administration Building Named in Honour of
Beckles
58 Trade Liberalisation Not a Regional
Panacea
60 Law Faculty to Get Spruced Up
61 A New Campus Vibe
62 Race for the Kids Benefits Students
Affected by COVID-19

TECHNOLOGY, TEACHING & LEARNING

- 64 Pioneering the Virtual VIVA
65 Steep Rise in Some Operating Costs
66 Alignment with CETL Fosters Agile Access
to Teaching Online

ACTIVISM

- 68 UWIHARP's Winning Formula
70 Jules Laments Outmoded Models of
Management

PEOPLE

- 72 Through the Years
74 Akombo Brings a New Cultural Rhythm
76 Barrow-Giles – Keeping Political Watch
78 al Attar's Legal Mission
80 Bouncing Forward from Failure
82 Reading Awakened Appetite for Learning
84 T&T President Champions Women's Rights

OUTREACH

- 86 Students Explore Careers in STEM
88 Pan in a Major Melody

SPORT

- 90 Cricket Reform
92 Stewart's Balancing Act
94 Sport as a Vehicle for Change

TRIBUTES

- 96 Sir Everton Laid to Rest alongside Former
Teammates
99 Arthur – Lessons in Leadership

STUDENT-CENTRED

- 102 Online Rapture

THE CASE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

After over 35 years of my association with universities regionally and internationally, as student, lecturer, visiting scholar and administrator, I know the invaluable role that higher education plays in the flourishing of individuals and societies.

Higher learning has proven to be a lifeline for millions worldwide, including many born into grinding poverty, especially when other pursuits may have failed. A university education can produce beneficial social and economic policies, nurture greater civic engagement, facilitate international collaboration, and in other words, generate knowledge to be used to create more just societies.

Yet, even though there is irrefutable evidence that the presence of universities enhances societal well-being, several of these institutions increasingly are struggling to survive. Their invaluable and proven social impact bears no guarantee of institutional longevity. We ask, if a university education delivers a desirable, public good without which societies would be worse off, what should we do to secure the relevance of universities in our societies, where increasingly information is substituted for knowledge, and critical thinking is supposed to yield to formulaic, prescriptive agendas?

Since its 1948 establishment, The University of the West Indies has, on occasion, found itself facing questions about its relevance and mission. The current conversation that surrounds funding for the institution is again one of those seminal historical moments that necessitates careful analysis. That The UWI requires a sustainable funding model is not disputed. The debate on the financing of The UWI is taking place in isolation from a debate on the contribution and ongoing relevance of the institution. It is also occurring when the world is still in the throes of a global pandemic that has upended international



Professor the Most Honourable
V. Eudine Barribeau
Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal
The UWI, Cave Hill Campus

financial systems and devastated regional economies, underscoring The UWI's funding dilemma. As the university's major contributors and beneficiaries, cash-strapped regional governments are challenged to meet their financial commitment to the institution. We assume governments are well aware of the critical importance of ensuring that The UWI continues to function since its very mission, buttressed by its proven record, revitalises Caribbean societies.

The greatest support for The UWI should come from its vast number of graduates, many of whom have become successful in their chosen careers and who should pave the way for those who follow, seeking to gain an education at this internationally accredited institution. Now is as good a time as any to accelerate this process of giving back or paying forward.

Meanwhile, The UWI continues to function in an environment of accelerated change. COVID-19 has already introduced and will continue to force greater change in higher education, perhaps unlike anything that the institution has experienced since its inception. While governments search for the right

balance of university funding between itself and other entities, including students and corporate stakeholders, the university has to accelerate its use of digital technology, deeper intercampus collaboration and cross-university networking.

At Cave Hill, we are preparing for increased and intense competition from universities worldwide that will reach out to Caribbean and international students willing to study online, and also from universities that offer a range of blended courses. Yet, even as The UWI embraces digital transformation, we cannot lose sight of our unique educational niche as the foremost academy in a region that has survived a tortured history, and has incubated world-respected social and political thinkers and cultural creativity.

The UWI leaders should spare no effort in ensuring that this university never loses sight of the reason why it was founded - to provide tertiary education to the people of the Commonwealth Caribbean. That mandate is not incompatible with sound financial management, and as educational leaders, we have a responsibility to ensure that this sound financial management takes place. Still, The UWI must never become an elitist institution. We have to pursue every avenue to ensure that we remain a premier higher education institution that offers quality education to all who enter, especially those who deserve a university education but cannot afford its costs.

While the ongoing pandemic has highlighted the significant costs to this region of maintaining a first-class university, it has also showcased the enormous and often unquantifiable benefits of having The University of the West Indies. As with the entire UWI, the role that the Cave Hill Campus has performed in the COVID-19 pandemic has amply demonstrated its relevance and ongoing significance to our host country and the region at large. ♦

Biosecurity Expert Sounds Regional Alarm



Mr. O'Neil Hamilton
CARICOM Regional Implementation
Coordinator, United Nations Security Council
resolution 1540

One of the Caribbean's leading experts on biosecurity has issued a call to action to regional states.

Regional Coordinator for the implementation of **United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)**, O'Neil Hamilton was addressing the launch of a lecture series by the Centre for Biosecurity Studies.

Speaking on the topic **"Advancing Biosecurity Governance in the Caribbean: The Role of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and UN Security Council Resolution 1540"**, he urged regional states to be more proactive on such an important issue even as he lamented the lack of concrete action internationally. That resolution requires states to adopt and enforce appropriate laws and other measures to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery to non-state actors, in particular for terrorist purposes.

"When we look at things like coastal erosion, heightened public health challenges, bacterial threats, temperature-related health concerns that will continue to get worse, it simply means

that biosecurity has to be a more important issue for us than the United Kingdom, [and] than the United States.

"There is so much lip service taking place in that domain right now [but] within another ten to 15 years, it will be too late to respond when things start hitting the fan. That call to arms has to be now because it is going to impact not just public health but public security in a very, very consequential way."

Hamilton is also the Caribbean's point person for the **United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate**. In 2015, he became the first CARICOM national to be nominated to that body with a focus on non-proliferation and terrorism.

The policy professional and diplomat said biosecurity does not appear to be a priority for

Caribbean states, due to a lack of resources. Using Antigua and Barbuda as an example, he cited three pieces of legislation that guide biosecurity activity: an importation prohibition act from 1818, a public health act passed in 1957; and the Biological Weapons Act adopted in 1975, the same year the **Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)** of the United Nations came into force.

"Since 1975, most of our countries, including Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, have not moved beyond the 1975 Biological Weapons Act though we have good attorneys, several universities, [and] several campuses within The UWI system with law schools.

"When we look at what has been gained globally, the steps that have been taken, the gains that have been made globally in implementing biosecurity and the BWC, the picture is not good at all. The steps have been very, very meagre; the successes have been exceptionally few."

The BWC is formally known as **"The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction"**.

Hamilton spoke of the risk of a catastrophic biological event being magnified by global travel, urbanisation, terrorist interest in weapons of mass destruction, and access to technology, all allowing easier weaponisation of these agents.

He also said there are real concerns in weaponisation of diseases by non-state actors, even

"When we look at things like coastal erosion, heightened public health challenges, bacterial threats, temperature-related health concerns that will continue to get worse, it simply means that biosecurity has to be a more important issue for us .."



as funding to combat the problem declines. Equally critical, he said, is the threat of agroterrorism in which there appears to be an alarming and unexplained interest from both state and non-state actors.

"Because we have not really had a major terrorist incident over the last 13 months, there has been a bit of waning of the budget allocation, which is a mistake. It is not that these people are less committed to using these pathogens to create mayhem and havoc globally; it's just that the opportunity has not presented itself yet for them to do it, and we have to be conscious of that."

Hamilton did not negate the threat posed by the Sargassum seaweed to regional economies and explained that a robust biosecurity system is central to protecting natural resources and biodiversity.

He said there is an urgent need for member states to develop and implement policies and programmes that protect and conserve the environment by conducting risk analyses. Institutions of higher learning can assist where needed, he added.

"If this thing is not taking root, if ministries of health keep saying 'listen, we're having problems in the implementation of this,' then maybe we need to look at some other assistance mechanism that can be brought to bear of which institutions of higher learning, in my view, are also a good place to start and a good asset to have in this process." ♦

Business Solutions Powered by Cave Hill and Microsoft

by Marie-Claire Williams



Microsoft's Dona Sarkar

Regional students were given a coveted opportunity to develop app-based solutions to business or organisational challenges when the Cave Hill Campus teamed up with international tech giant **Microsoft** last December for a two-day workshop.

The 5 and 13 December tech forum, dubbed **PowerBarbados 2020**, also gave participants

an opportunity to explore career options in the global tech industry.

Fourteen teams registered for the hybrid hackathon, comprising in-person and online participation, that was the first such virtual event ever held on the campus. The tech forum dealt with: introduction to digital skills, productivity and collaboration tools, information and media literacy, spotting fake news, introduction to privacy and security (how to stay safe online, laws governing your online life),

your rights and responsibilities, and money and the internet (buying, selling, banking); with participants starting their app-building exercises on the second day.

Organisers were thrilled at the outcome. Software Engineer at Microsoft Dona Sarkar was impressed with the high energy and engagement of participants as well as the level of interest generated by businesses that submitted problems they wanted solved with an IT solution.

"These are problems we've seen in every single country all over the world, from time sheets to inventory management to traffic; and the solution that the students and attendees build today will be



David Smith speaking with students

practical not just for Barbados but for any city in the world,” said Sarkar, the Principal Advocate for Microsoft’s Power Platform.

Network Engineer at Cave Hill David Smith, who hailed the event a success noted: *“... the idea is to build from here. This is a start and we [should] keep working on it. We [should] keep growing it, and I think we can start creating a group of people who can really start building solutions.”*

Deputy Principal at Cave Hill Professor Winston Moore, who spearheads the campus’s entrepreneurial thrust, praised the initiative saying it provided students with the opportunity to prepare for the realities of working in the 21st century.

“Indeed, among the many lessons that COVID-19 has taught us is the indispensable role that information technology can play in facilitating the adaptation of

so many of our essential activities and services in our new operating environment thus allowing them to continue accordingly,” he said.

Smith noted that one of the participating groups which worked on a solution to reduce the amount of duplicated data at a commercial

bank operating in Barbados impressed that financial institution to such an extent that it signalled at possible sponsorship of future **PowerBarbados** events as one of its corporate social responsibility initiatives. ♦

Microsoft’s Dona Sarkar working with students



Environmental challenges at a school several years ago sowed the seed for one of Cave Hill's latest entrepreneurial ventures. As a result, the campus is set to launch an analytical laboratory housed within its Faculty of Science and Technology.

Commercial Lab to Offer SCIENTIFIC TESTING



The idea was born in 2005 with the proposal for the establishment of an analytical facility following environmental problems at the now defunct **Louis Lynch Secondary School**.

"The faculty was involved at that point and the quantity and quality of analytical testing, chemical testing, and microbiological and particulate analyses and the costs associated with that testing, drove us to the realisation that such a facility would be of benefit not only to the campus but also to the country and the wider region,"

said Dr. Avril Williams, Head of the Department of Biological and Chemical Sciences.

"After that, we saw initial plans for what would be called an environmental analytical facility or the EAF at that time. That precipitated as a result of the project and it was actually included in a memorandum of the then Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences in the 2005-2006 academic year."

Dr. Williams added that the proposed facility was further supported through its inclusion into the faculty's Draft Action Plan of 2007-2012, and seed funds were subsequently provided in the 2008-

2009 academic year.

*"Subsequent to the injection of those funds, we saw analyses being performed for numerous public and private enterprises including **Mount Gay Distilleries, Cheffette, Bico, Warrens Motors** as it was then, and the **Ministry of Health**. At that point, we sought to look for a location for this environmental analytical facility because at that time, it was what you would call a virtual facility, with the various equipment and instruments located in different parts of the Department of Biological and Chemical Sciences.*

"So around that time, interestingly, the construction of the

SEED [Student Entrepreneurial Empowerment Development Project] building started and this provided a potential site for the environmental analytical facility, given its proximity to the Department of Biological and Chemical Sciences as well as the faculty as a whole.”

Additionally, there was a potential market for the testing and analysis of generic drugs as a means of reducing the cost and turnaround time to the **Barbados Drug Service**, as well as an increase in requests for analytical testing from other governmental organisations and private sector businesses.

However, Dr. Williams said financial constraints and the 2010 recession forced the campus to pause work on the project.

“We actually had architectural plans drawn up as to how the space in the SEED building was going to look. However, circumstances beyond our control resulted in the shelving of all the plans associated with the environmental analytical facility,” she recalled.

Fast forward to 2020 when the campus’s Finance and General Purposes Committee gave the green light for the creation of an analytical facility named the **Commercial Analytical Laboratory (CAL)**.

Dr. Williams, who sits on the committee appointed to operationalise CAL, pointed out that the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted an even greater need for the service of this facility. She said while the lab would not be



Dr. Avril Williams
Head, Department of Biological
and Chemical Sciences, The UWI, Cave Hill

involved in testing individuals for COVID, it could provide support to Barbados’s **Best-Dos Santos Public Health Laboratory** as well as service private sector companies. Dr. Williams predicted that CAL could eventually undertake the testing of samples that are currently sent abroad, thereby saving government and the private sector significant time and money, including valuable foreign exchange, by having those results provided in Barbados.

CAL’s home-grown expertise would be able to deliver international standards of analysis at a reduced cost while earning revenue for the campus, thereby helping to improve its overall financial health.

“The lab will also potentially provide jobs for the highly qualified workforce that we have here in Barbados and also for graduates of the campus and the wider UWI. It can also serve as a training ground for junior scientists such that we build capacity in these testing areas,” she said.

While a date has not yet been set for the establishment of CAL, Dr. Williams hopes it will be operational *“within one year”*. She is optimistic about the laboratory’s potential for servicing both public and private sector organisations.

*“You also have to speak of the **Commercial Analytical Lab** in terms of safety and security. This has come to the fore at a time of COVID-19 and the importance of having greater food safety and food security.*

*“We also see the CAL being involved in emerging markets, markets that you would not have thought of ten years ago, as well as the testing of botanicals ... and other products. And leading right off from that, the **Commercial Analytical Lab** can support other huge centres; the one that immediately comes to mind is the [Cave Hill-based] **Centre for Food Security and Entrepreneurship** which is located right here in Barbados,”* she said. ♦

IN SEARCH OF NEW RICCH-NESS



Seeking to broaden its stakeholder partnerships, Cave Hill has rebranded and repurposed a key outreach and entrepreneurial unit. The Cave Hill Office of Research and Innovation (CHORI) is now the **Office of Research, Innovation and Community at Cave Hill (RICCH)** and carries a more extensive mandate.

CHORI was set up in 2017 to engage with internal and external stakeholders to assist the campus in meeting its 2017–2022 *Strategic Plan* goals in the areas of research, innovation and entrepreneurship.

However, Professor Winston Moore, Deputy Principal and Chair of RICCH, said the name change

was necessary to highlight the increasing importance of community involvement.

"We're now setting out as an organisation so we have to get it right in these early stages. It was a good opportunity for us to get the name right to better reflect our mandate going forward."

In adherence to its continued emphasis on research and innovation, RICCH will maintain a heightened focus on the academic community, the corporate community, as well as local and international business support communities.

Moore, who also chairs the **Campus Entrepreneurship Committee**, referred to a survey

of the private sector that the campus conducted two years ago, in which the private sector called for greater engagement with the university.

"Every semester we try to arrange meetings with new private sector companies. We try to engage these stakeholders as much as possible to address the gap which they noted in that survey, and if they want us to just come to them and try to interface a little bit more, we're trying to do that," he said, adding that RICCH will work through various departments on campus to achieve this goal.

*"There are lots of different arms within the campus focused on innovation and research. [For example,] the **School for Graduate Studies and Research** has a mandate to enhance research on the campus, and innovation as well. And they also have to interface with the private sector.*

*"There is the **Office of Business Development** which has a mandate to interface with the private sector and to build commercial projects on campus. We have these different entities on campus that seemingly overlap with RICCH's objective, so our job is to pull all of those strands together and weave them into something that is a lot stronger together than what would obtain if they function on their own."*



Professor Winston Moore
Deputy Principal and Chair of RICCH

In maintaining similar work to RICCH's predecessor, which had hosted several workshops focusing on writing for publication, research and grant proposals, the new entity will implement similar training aimed at enhancing the skills of researchers at Cave Hill, such as an author fellowship programme and a **RICCH Master Talk** series.

"The goal behind those talks is to enhance another aspect of research, [and] enhance the number of research grants that we apply for and attain as a campus," Moore stated.

"Prior to the shutdown from COVID, we were planning to have a research grant writing workshop. We did the first part of that on how to write a concept note; that went really well. The second part was going to be a lot more hands-on where we were going to bring together our researchers in the classroom and carry them through

the process of writing a research grant. But COVID intervened and we can no longer do that. We tried to think about how we can do it in a virtual environment but it really wouldn't have worked in an online format. So we decided to postpone it until the start of the new academic year to allow persons to do this in-person, hands-on training of writing research grants."

RICCH is already celebrating the fruits of its labour, having witnessed the recent establishment of a campus-based **Commercial Analytical Laboratory**.

"The goal of the analytical lab is to work with our external community, whether government or the private sector, to do any type of testing they require," Professor Moore explained citing current market demand for scientific analysis to be executed by the Faculty of Science and Technology as well as the Faculty of Medical Sciences

RICCH is also working on similar initiatives with other faculties to make them more responsive to external requests for practical testing and analysis. ♦

Adapting to SARGASSUM

The Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) continues to cement its work in the region as one of the leading authorities on the Sargassum seaweed, which began inundating Caribbean shorelines in 2011.

Experts at the centre are implementing a three-year project in five affected countries to reduce the impact and create economic opportunities from the brown algae that is largely regarded as a nuisance by the highly tourism-dependent countries.

SargAdapt - Adapting to a new reality: managing responses to influxes of Sargassum seaweed in the Eastern Caribbean as ecosystems hazards and opportunities is being executed in Barbados, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Grenada.

The project is supported by the **Caribbean Biodiversity Fund Ecosystem-based Adaptation Facility** with US\$981,392.75 in grant funding from the **International Climate Initiative** of the German **Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety**.

"This is about taking something with negative impacts and converting it into an asset, something that brings benefits. In doing that, we'd actually improve our adaptation to climate change," said Project Manager Anna Karima Degia.

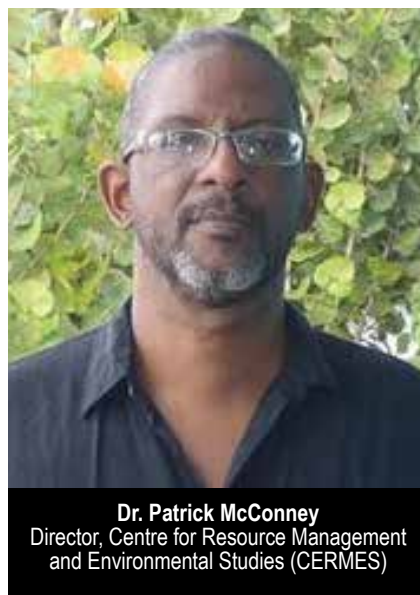
"This is about ecosystems and about people. The approach will be people-centred and participatory, seeking to institutionalise practical adaptation benefits. The activities will include collaborative research; combining scientific information, local knowledge and lessons learnt to produce good practice guidelines; training in standardised monitoring protocols and innovative technology, co-developing practical ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) solutions, and collaborative planning centred on EbA."

Since the first major influx of Sargassum began affecting the region, CERMES has been at the forefront of the regional response.

The countries earmarked for assistance are among the first to receive large influxes of the algae, officials at CERMES explained.

The project has three components: knowledge mobilisation, development of capacity, and institutionalisation of the adaptation. As part of the process, officials will investigate the impact of Sargassum on coastal ecosystems, analyse its economic impact and monitor the movement via drones to help quantify Sargassum, among other things.

"We're doing very easy and quick monitoring," explained Professor Hazel Oxenford, Professor of Fisheries Biology and Management at CERMES, during the virtual media



Dr. Patrick McConney
Director, Centre for Resource Management
and Environmental Studies (CERMES)

launch of the project last June.

"It's very easy to put up a drone and recognise the new fresh Sargassum that's coming ashore. What is a lot more difficult is assessing the volume and, therefore, the weight of that Sargassum. We are working with the technology companies to use the technology to measure volume, not just the surface area."

The field work was initially hampered by COVID-19. However, lecturer in Social and Environmental Management Dr. Janice Cumberbatch explained that they used the time to put in place the necessary administrative systems.

"We want to build up networks that will continue beyond the lifetime of this project. A critical element of that will also be the demonstration aspect of the project. In the early stages we want to understand what's happening in the five countries, look at what their priorities are and engage in projects tangibly on the ground that can build capacity that extend beyond the lifetime of this three-year project," Cumberbatch said.

Since the first major influx of Sargassum began affecting the region, CERMES has been at the forefront of the regional response.

The centre collaborated with the **Regional Activity Centre** for the Protocol Concerning **Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife** for the Wider Caribbean Region (SPA-W-RAC) on research, and in 2017, presented regional governments with a Sargassum management brief titled **Golden Tides: Management Best Practices for Influxes of Sargassum in the Caribbean with a focus on clean-up**.

Aside from providing up-to-date information on the influxes, the 17-page document offers guidance on how best to sustainably manage the seaweed, based on lessons learnt.

Director of CERMES, Dr. Patrick McConney said the management brief had uptake in several countries and they are now working on Sargassum management plans for some states.

"These are adaptive plans; these are not plans for the shelf. The management brief fits well into that [the plans] as well as many other contributions from a number of agencies around the world. We can deal with Sargassum as a hazard, but more importantly, as an opportunity for wealth creation, for small businesses and otherwise. The first step is responsible ecological management of the Sargassum whether it's in the sea or on the shore, and that is part of ecosystem-based adaptation," he said.

Currently, the campus is in the early stages of planning a third Sargassum symposium earmarked for 2022. ♦

Beckoning Kenyans

The Cave Hill Campus is in line to reap significant benefits following a successful mission to Kenya by a delegation headed by its Principal, Professor the Most Honourable V. Eudine Barriteau.

She was accompanied on the 7–11 January 2020 visit by other officials, including Chair of the Principal's Task Force on International Outreach and Lecturer in the Faculty of Medical Sciences Dr. Kenneth Connell as well as former Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences Professor Justin Robinson.

Following a series of meetings with government and education officials, there was agreement on the creation of a degree programme at Cave Hill, which would allow students from Kenya to study preclinical medicine in Barbados, and the introduction of an Executive Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Public Health Care Management at the Sagcor Cave Hill School of Business and Management Inc.

Professor Robinson said the campus is building on the successes achieved in Ghana where it signed a memorandum of understanding that paved the way for Ghanaians to



Professor C. Justin Robinson
Interim Director, Sagcor Cave Hill School of Business and Management Inc.,
Head, Department of Economics and former Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences

pursue studies in Barbados.

"The major area of focus is in medicine and medical education. One of the areas of collaboration would be the development of a programme where Kenyan students can study medicine at the Cave Hill Campus. Right now, my colleagues are working through the details of that programme," Professor Robinson explained.

"The MBA programme [was introduced] in August 2020 and a number of Kenyan healthcare

professionals have expressed tremendous interest in that programme which is really a management programme."

Separate memoranda of understanding were signed with the **University of Nairobi** and **Kenyatta University**.

The **Faculty of Culture, Creative and Performing Arts**, which was launched on 1 August, is expected to benefit from expertise of these universities in the development of some of its programmes.

In addition, the team facilitated the sharing of expertise between the reputable **East African Kidney Institute**, which is attached to the University of Nairobi and is known for kidney transplants, and the **Queen Elizabeth Hospital** in Barbados.

The campus mounted the mission at the invitation of the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Kenya.** ♦

Warning of ZOO NOTIC Outbreak in the Caribbean

Caribbean states have been urged to shore up their defences to prevent an outbreak of zoonoses, which are infectious diseases that are spread from animals to humans.

Director of the Centre for Biosecurity Studies at the Cave Hill Campus Dr. Kirk Douglas said outbreaks are possible because of the social and cultural practices in some countries where residents consume wildlife such as agouti, a member of the rodent family; and mountain chicken, an endangered species of frogs. However, he said if pre-emptive action is taken, the likelihood of a zoonotic outbreak in the Caribbean would be significantly reduced.

Kicking off the centre's inaugural quarterly lecture on 17 September last year, Dr. Douglas spoke on the topic **"Safeguarding Lives and Livelihoods: A Biosecurity Outlook on COVID-19 and Future Pandemics and Outbreaks."**

"We have to take a look at our social and cultural norms and ask, 'How safe are we?' Is it possible that we can have a zoonotic outbreak emerging from the Caribbean? It is quite possible. In fact, there was a study done in Guyana where 15 men contracted leptospirosis from the consumption of agouti."

He questioned, *"Is there a need for updated biosecurity legislation that would help to inform national governments to be able to reduce the risk of human and wildlife contact to preserve lives and livelihood?"*

Bats have been linked to COVID-19, Marburg virus disease, Ebola and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), all of which could lead to death. However, there is no irrefutable proof to suggest they are the origin of all.

Dr. Douglas said social and cultural practices in Southeast Asia put that region at extremely high risk for the emergence of zoonoses. For example, SARS was thought to have originated in a Chinese wet market, much like COVID-19. Wet markets offer a wide range of fresh produce and often sell live animals. More than 8,000 people across 26 countries were infected in the 2003 SARS outbreak, according to the World Health Organization.

In February 2020, the Government of China banned the sale and consumption of wild animals to prevent zoonotic diseases from spreading to people. The wildlife industry in China was



Dr. Kirk Douglas
Director, Centre for Biosecurity Studies,
The UWI, Cave Hill

worth more than US\$74 billion, according to a 2017 report by the Government in that country.

"Infectious diseases have and will continue to emerge all over the world, and so we have to act to prepare for any eventuality. Human activities drive the emergence; we are part of the problem but also part of the solution," the director said.

He addressed the question of

... Continued on page 14

... Continued from page 13

whether COVID-19 is man-made or came from nature and explained there was a predominantly accepted view of the natural origin theory but said claims of it being man-made had not been fully disproven.

According to the researcher, one of the key factors to effectively handling the pandemic was strong political leadership.

"In the Caribbean, we have strong political leadership and this leadership allowed for the rollout of non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs), which led to swift implementation and showcased the agile and decisive governance within the region. We must commend all of the Caribbean leaders on the wonderful job they have done thus far because the number of COVID-19 infections and COVID-19 deaths, as stated by the CARPHA report as of 14 September, has not been as significant as those we have seen around the world."

The **Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)** is the regional public health agency for the region.

"When COVID-19 first emerged, there was a lot that was unknown about the virus such as how it was transmitted. And so, there was a stigma attached to COVID-19. People were very slow in terms of changing their behaviour because you could no longer greet people as you normally would, and you had to wear a mask. So this definitely had a social impact. There was also the issue of equal access to health care where we saw some groups within the population having active infections, but that was not covered by public health surveillance. The drop in economic activity also led to criminal

activity, outbreaks of violence and even substance abuse, and there has been a gender impact."

With COVID-19 having exposed the vulnerabilities of the tourism sector and the heavy dependence on food imports in the region, the expert suggested turning to the biotechnology sector that has gone mostly untapped in the Caribbean. That sector is valued at almost US\$3 trillion globally.

Dr. Douglas said as countries move to a higher level of food security, authorities need to bear in mind that farming practices should not harm the environment but instead be sustainable and green.

"There is hope, and we believe that economic diversification is the way forward so that we can identify different growth strategies for the economy. You want to contain the virus and build strong growth and have the economy rebound."

On the issue of biosecurity, he said there are many threats within the Caribbean. The centre has focused on finding solutions to some of them such as climate change and its impact, maritime issues, and border security and trade.

The centre's director defined biosecurity as the science and practice of safeguarding lives and livelihoods, thereby reducing the vulnerabilities to biological ecosystems. As such, natural disasters, narcotrafficking, cybercrime, and human trafficking were viewed as inherent biosecurity threats to the region. He said a number of other areas needed to be addressed such as the heavy dependence on tourism,



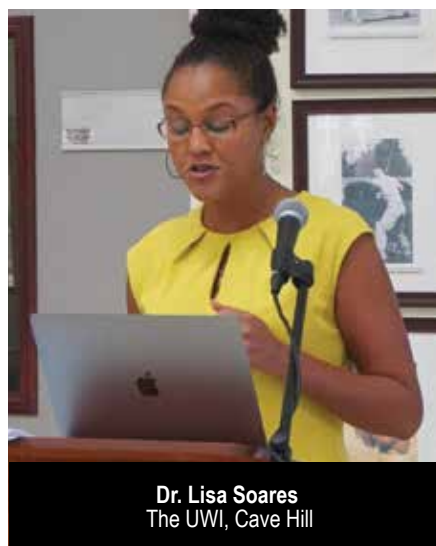
inadequate social safety nets, weak biosecurity, the absence of a biotechnology sector, chronic non-communicable diseases, inadequate sustainable waste management; the lack of formal ethics legislation, and updated legislation regarding consumption of wildlife; invasive species, and pollution.

He said there were also key opportunities that, if seized, could lead to a stronger and more resilient biosecurity system. These include the creation of a stronger and more resilient regional biodiversity system, the development of a regional biotechnology sector, strengthening of regional security, the use of sustainable agricultural practices, the creation of a regional ethics body, and comprehensive legislative reform.

The Centre for Biosecurity Studies was officially launched in November 2019. It focuses on advocacy, education and training, research and consultancy, fundraising and entrepreneurship. ♦



Efforts to Hook Gender Mainstreaming in Fisheries



"I know, for example, in Barbados women control the price of the fish and the men complain that they're being discriminated against from a gendered perspective."

The Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES)

continues to raise awareness of the need for gender mainstreaming in the region's fisheries sector.

Hence, this subject was one of the components of the **Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries (EAF) Workshop** conducted by CERMES last October.

Facilitator Dr. Lisa Soares noted a strategy for achieving gender equality was a much-needed area of focus since gender in fisheries management, conservation and development has not been given high priority in the Caribbean.

"Gender characteristics of Caribbean small-scale fishers are

very poorly documented. What this really means is that we're looking at the equality and equity allocation of our resources, the rights of men and women, the status of men and women, and the responsibilities and roles of men and women.

"We who are involved in fisheries like to make assumptions about gender based on our observations and not facts, so we're trying to bridge that gap with this research that we're doing right here," she said.

In that regard, she noted, it

is important that policymakers assess the perspectives of men and women and the relationships between them at all levels.

The **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** states that small-scale fishers contribute about half of all fish catches

... Continued on page 16

... Continued from page 15

in Caribbean countries, and 90 to 95 percent of that amount goes towards local consumption. Additionally, women account for about half of all small-scale fishers, and they engage in all activities along the fisheries value chain.

"I know, for example, in Barbados women control the price of the fish and the men complain that they're being discriminated against from a gendered perspective. But in other Caribbean countries that's not the case. So it's to understand those gendered balances and nuances and to speak truth to the fact that we need to ensure that gender mainstreaming is included as a product of policy and practice," Dr Soares noted.

President of the **Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organizations (BARNUFO)** Vernel Nicholls welcomed the discussion, saying the work of women is now being recognised, as over the years, much of the focus was on the men.

"This gender session allows us to see the different perspectives of the genders ... and the perception of what happens and the struggles that a woman may have to go through in order to get ahead versus a male getting ahead; or even in terms of equity and equality, how persons share the workload."

Ms. Nicholls added that such fora help to broaden the discourse on the development of the fisheries sector and has led to greater participation of women in the industry.

Quality Control Officer at the **Bridgetown Public Market** Michelle Wiggins shared similar sentiments, stating: *"It will bring awareness and knowledge and highlight the importance of women in fisheries not only to their families and to the fishing industry but to the country and regionally."*

Meanwhile, Gregory Franklin of the **Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Agriculture** said he can now better appreciate some of the issues being faced by his female counterparts in the fisheries industry.

"I am now beginning to see the value of it because I had my own biased views about the whole gender thing. A lot of the ideas that people have are not entirely correct, so it is important to get a clear view of what is meant by it," he said. ♦





Limited Birth Control Information



Dr. Joseph Herbert
Lecturer, Faculty of Medical Sciences,
The UWI, Cave Hill

Lecturer in the Faculty of Medical Sciences at the Cave Hill Campus Dr. Joseph Herbert is concerned that women are being given limited information on birth control options and lack accessibility to some contraceptive methods that have been proven to be effective.

His concern was outlined during the webinar on the topic **"Contraception! Exploring Options and New Trends for Women and Men"**, one of the outreach sessions hosted by the **UWI HIV/AIDS Response Programme (UWIHARP)**.

"...

research clearly shows that when women have the ability to choose long-lasting, reversible contraception, many will choose it. And the method they choose is most likely to reliably prevent unintended pregnancy."

However, having researched knowledge, attitudes and practices relating to contraception in Barbados, Dr. Herbert said it was very difficult for women to access some of these types of contraception.

*"So **Implanon**, or **Nexplanon** which is the newer version, is not available here and copper and hormonal IUDs [intrauterine devices] are hard for women to access. It's not just hard for women to access reliably but [also] to get a doctor who is willing to bring it up as an option. Many doctors and nurses, from my research, assume that women don't want it. I think that there is a real need for us to look at that because it's an infringement on people's rights to choose."*

... Continued on page 18

... Continued from page 17

“... research clearly shows that when women have the ability to choose long-lasting, reversible contraception, many will choose it. And the method they choose is most likely to reliably prevent unintended pregnancy.”

On the question of the best birth control method, the lecturer said it is simply the method chosen after an individual has explored all the options, considered their needs as well as the risks, and taken their preferences into account. He provided details about the various methods, highlighted new trends in birth control for both men and women and pointed out the advantages, disadvantages and side effects of commonly used methods.

The series of webinars hosted by UVIHARP drew widespread participation from several countries including Belize, Guyana, Dominica, The Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua and Barbuda, Canada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, California, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Grenada, Montserrat and the United States of America.

The participants comprised representatives from the **United**

Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), healthcare professionals, gender specialists, activists; representatives from various local, regional and international non-governmental organisations; and students, staff and alumni of The UWI.

A range of issues were covered such as **“Pregnancy Wellness & COVID-19”** that focused on the risks and complications associated with COVID-19, pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding and caring for newborns. It also examined the safety procedures in place for pregnant women and the measures implemented for childbirth during COVID-19.

“Pregnant women have the same risk as the rest of the population of getting COVID. They’re not any more likely to contract it than anybody else,” assured presenter Dr. Damian Best, Lecturer in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Cave Hill.

“There does not seem to be

any evidence of miscarriage, thankfully, and that extends through the first trimester right up to the second trimester. There is also no evidence that the virus causes birth defects, abnormalities, or malformations.”

The webinars covered other critical healthcare topics like **“Living with Endometriosis and PCOS”** that provided information on the common symptoms of endometriosis and polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS). This topic also identified the cause and possible prevention strategies, coping strategies and treatment options. Another session **“Below the Belt Hygiene and Care Practices for Males and Females”** provided information on proper vaginal and penile hygiene and cleansing practices, sexually transmitted infections, and other factors that impact sexual and reproductive health. ♦



Law Students Gain Insight into UN Operations

Law students were among many for whom their faculty provided a rare glimpse into operations of the **United Nations Security Council**.

The insight was given by Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations in New York, Her Excellency Inga Rhonda King on 28 January 2021, just over a year after the country was officially elected as a non-permanent member of the council.

The ambassador was a guest of the Faculty of Law and the first person to deliver a lecture virtually during the 2021 instalment of its **Eminent Speaker Series**. She presented on the topic, **"UN Security Council Reform – A Stalled Process: Can the Pandemic instill New Life?"**

The reform process has faced numerous challenges including calls for the expansion of the 15 member council beyond the current five permanent seats held by China, the United States, France, the United Kingdom, the Russian

Federation, and its non-permanent membership.

Ambassador King noted that the reform is highly influenced by external factors such as geopolitical dynamics, regional rivalries, and power shifts between major states.

However, she concluded that, *"With multilateralism and international rules-based order under threat and with rising powers and emerging markets increasingly shaping world events, there is ample evidence that the current construct of the security council is not fit for purpose."*

"The reform endeavour presents, therefore, an opportunity for member states to refashion the council in a manner that is better suited to 21st century geopolitical realities. Concerns about the implications that council reform will have on global power relations are not the sole cause for the lack of progress as the procedures of the IGN [Intergovernmental Negotiations] create their own obstruction. Some insist that the decisions taken should be made on the basis of overwhelming consensus if not unanimity."



Her Excellency Inga Rhonda King

The diplomat said this has deepened the gridlock and impeded negotiations over the years.

During a meeting of the General Assembly last November, delegates argued that the permanent seats needed to be expanded as a matter of urgency and said the security council needed to reflect 21st century realities.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is the smallest country to secure the non-permanent seat, a position they will hold until January 2022. Former head of the Institute for Gender and Development Studies: Nita Barrow Unit at Cave Hill Dr. Halimah DeShong continues to serve as Ambassador and Second Deputy Permanent Representative at Permanent Mission of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations. ♦



Major UWI Role in COVID-19 Fight

by Carol Williams

Amidst the catastrophic social and economic consequences unleashed by the COVID-19 pandemic, numerous stories of courage, resilience, innovation and heroism emerged in Barbados and across the region.

The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus featured prominently in much of this national and regional narrative as faculty, staff and students rendered selfless service in helping to wrestle the worst public health scourge to affect the region in living memory.

Immediately after Barbados recorded its first case of the virus in

March 2020, campus-based clinical care specialists were pressed into duty alongside other healthcare workers on the frontline, while scientific researchers worked behind the scenes mapping projections to assist policy makers with a plan of action.

Medical scientists recommended non-pharmaceutical intervention approaches to disrupt transmission of the virus, while public health

modelling predicted infection and mortality rates. Such information guided critical policy decisions of the **Ministry of Health and Wellness**.

Other experts at the campus examined the potential psychological and behavioural as well as health and economic effects. Simultaneously, academics began educating the public about the virus to help counter the rapid spread of misinformation.





Dr. Dion Greenidge
Head, Department of Management Studies,
The UWI, Cave Hill

In January, less than a year after its initial request to the campus, the Government of Barbados again approached the institution to partner on a major data-gathering exercise to ramp up its fight against COVID-19.

On this occasion, against a backdrop of the much-dreaded community spread of the virus, government was seeking information from residents in

all districts across the country that would contribute to the development of urgent public health interventions to control the rising number of cases of COVID-19 and dengue fever.

By that time, the number of known active cases of COVID-19 had surpassed 360, with 14 related deaths. Three people had also died from complications related to dengue fever.

With the clock ticking, officials quickly put in place the field operation and logistic elements of **The University of the West Indies–Government of Barbados COVID-19 Evaluation and Testing Project**, informally referred to as ‘**Operation Seek and Save**’.

The field operation involved members of the **Barbados Defence Force (BDF)**, public transport providers, other state representatives, and over 400 student volunteers from Cave Hill. Operational oversight was provided by the campus’s Deputy Principal Professor Winston Moore who singled out the students’ sacrificial and heroic efforts in pausing their studies and braving an uncertain health situation daily.

“The UWI, Cave Hill Campus put its skills, in relation to surveying, data analytics and logistics, at the disposal of the Ministry of Health and Wellness to complete this very important national project,” Professor Moore stated. “The real heroes of this effort, however, were our students; they readily volunteered for the effort, underwent training in modern data-gathering techniques and sacrificed time in order to help their brothers and sisters.”

The partnership with the BDF saw members of the military assigned to supervise teams of about 12 students armed with public health questionnaires and sent into the island’s 30 constituencies daily during a two-week period from 3 February.

... Continued on page 22



... Continued from page 21

Provided with adequate personal protective equipment, which included medical-grade face masks, face shields and hand sanitisers, the students were outfitted with smart devices to upload data collected to the command centre in real time.

"Military personnel tend to be highly motivated and task-oriented; they want to ensure that their task is carried out to the best of their ability. That redounded to the benefit of this type of exercise as well," said Lieutenant Colonel Junior Browne, a reserve officer with the BDF and UWI Law Librarian who managed the logistics aspect of the operation from the command centre established at the 3Ws Pavilion.

"Recognising the importance of the task, [the soldiers] were focused on reaching as many households as possible. Over the years, The UWI and BDF have collaborated on a few things and

speaking from a Barbados Defence Force perspective, I think this partnership is something we would like to deepen to see how we could explore further teamwork."

In a clear expression of eagerness to participate in the programme, more than 900 students had shown interest when it was first touted.

Jakeela Hinds, a second-year student pursuing a Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood

Education, said after careful thought she decided to take a more hands-on approach to help contain the spread of the virus.

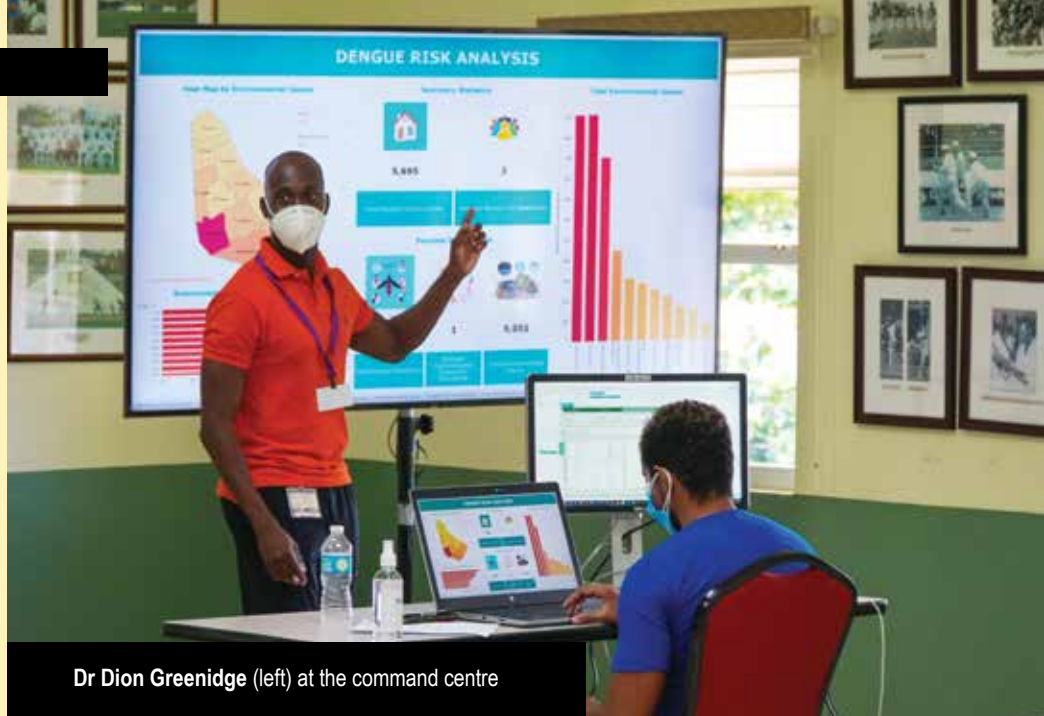
"I'm very young, and I don't want COVID-19 to be here forever; so I'm helping my country battle this virus. I also have a young niece, and I would like her and others to enjoy their youth as much as possible."

Third-year student Shanice Carter said she was also inspired to get involved.

"It is important to help curb the spread of the virus and inform people why they should stay indoors, keep safe, sanitise their hands and things like that," she said.

"I do a lot of volunteering with the campus and outside the institution as well. I just see this as a good way to give back and it's something I like doing," added third-year student Cherish Lashley.

Aside from the field work, there were other student contributions to the national exercise. Cave Hill graduate students, drawn primarily from its MSc. Business



Dr Dion Greenidge (left) at the command centre





Analytics programme, manned the command centre in the 3Ws Pavilion, accessing the aggregate data stored on a secure server and forwarding it to health authorities. Wherever required, they provided more detailed information to the **Ministry of Health and Wellness** which also had teams in the field to conduct follow-up home visits when needed.

Head of the Department of Management Studies Dr. Dion Greenidge who coordinated the field exercise that reached more than 85, 000 households, stated: *"It has been a ground-breaking exercise in terms of what we have been able to deliver. Conceptually, we knew it could be accomplished, but it*

also required skills for successful execution."

A reduced number of students returned to the field for an additional two days in the final week of February to conduct targeted searches in some communities where home occupants had not been reached.

By the time **'Operation Seek and Save'** wrapped up, Barbados had recorded more than 758 active cases of COVID-19, with 32 deaths. However, there was widespread acknowledgement that the field exercise, along with the rollout of a vaccine distribution programme, had placed the country on a better track to arrest any uncontrollable spread of the disease.

By the end of March, the world had recorded more than 2.8 million deaths attributed to the virus and more than 128 million infections. ♦



A Resilient Caribbean Food System Beyond COVID-19

by Dr. David Yawson



Dr. David Yawson
Senior Lecturer, Environmental Management,
Centre for Resource Management and
Environmental Studies (GERMES)
The UWI, Cave Hill

Food is a fundamental requirement of life and adequate access to quality food is necessary for human health before, during and after a crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic. For several months, this pandemic has substantially disrupted economic sectors, livelihoods, and the peace of mind of many persons worldwide. The disruptions in food systems (which cover all the activities, processes and actors involved in food production, processing, distribution and consumption) have forced both governments and citizens to make hard choices between eating and becoming infected by COVID-19. This reality has prompted an examination of the gaps and opportunities for strengthening the national, regional and global food systems.

In the Caribbean, food production has declined while its import has increased substantially and consistently since the 1990s. A recent report by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** of the United Nations indicated that imports account for at least 60 percent of the food consumed in nearly all the member states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), or 80 percent in half of these member states. The value of this import exceeds US\$4 billion and can easily reach US\$8-10 billion. It is not difficult to realise that this scale of imports displaces local production and jobs and consumes foreign exchange. What is also quite discomfoting is that a large chunk of these imports originates from outside CARICOM and are processed foods that contribute to the rising epidemic of persons being overweight or obese. While

calls in the past to address this situation have not been backed by consistent actions, the clarion call from the COVID-19 pandemic should be regarded a disguised blessing that generates a regional process for enduring change in policy to prioritise national and regional food production and related value chains.

Even though the global food system seems to have remained resilient to the COVID-19 pandemic, the fallouts suggest that a regional approach is necessary and crucial for ensuring collective food security in the Caribbean.

For example, constraints with intranational movement of soybean and products in India during the lockdown because of poor infrastructure and absence of dedicated, formal food transport system, has meant imports to coastal cities. In Australia, the government had to quickly reach a deal with the national airline, Qantas AU, to keep specific trade routes active to prevent losses to farmers. In the United Kingdom, while applications for supermarket jobs and interest in backyard food production increased sharply,

government effort to get the unemployed to the field for harvest was poorly received, forcing the government to fly in labourers from Eastern Europe. The United States of America has seen the sharpest monthly increase in food prices in the last 50 years. Could it be that a limited supply and increase in prices of some food items in some islands in the Caribbean such as Barbados coincided with surplus and wastage in another island like Jamaica? These examples suggest a need to carefully assess food production capacity, increase value addition, reduce bottlenecks in transportation and distribution of food, as well as reduce the fragility or vulnerability of livelihoods that depend on food production. There is a need for the Caribbean or CARICOM to reassess and take collective and comparative advantage of the unique capacities and resource endowments of



different member states to achieve a resilient food system. To this end, both supra-system and subsystem integration are necessary. Supra-system integration would arise from regional food and trade policies, regulations, and related infrastructure and services, while subsystem integration will involve linking components that are internal to the food system itself.

Supra-system integration can be illustrated with poultry production, for example, in which the Caribbean seems to be doing well. Yet, as far as poultry products are concerned, the Caribbean Sea divides rather than connect the islands as there are larger imports from beyond the Caribbean Sea. Some may speak of the urgent need for market intelligence but so is the need for production intelligence. Each year, we need to know the number of broilers, layers, beef cattle or blackbelly sheep of different stages, as well as the acres of land under cultivation of, for example, rice, yam, carrot, or banana in each country. This will enable us to forecast yields of harvest to inform the market intelligence, and thereby help keep an intelligent eye on the entire food system on a sustained basis. **While many factors could account for the current situation of division, isolation, and vulnerability, there is an obvious and urgent need for strong connectivity between the islands and integration in the regional food system, not only by coherent food and trade policies but also physical infrastructure and related services.**

... Continued on page 26

... Continued from page 25

Subsystem integration is equally crucial. Ordinarily, the Caribbean has several dietary energy sources: cassava, dasheen, eddoes, yam, plantain, sweet potato, breadfruit, among others. Despite this, it is unbelievable that the largest source of dietary energy in most Caribbean countries is wheat and related products. In Barbados, for example, none of these food commodities appear in the top ten sources of dietary energy. Why then should governments substantially support local farmers to produce or expand production of these crops through policy and financial instruments? The current situation suggests a gap between production and consumption, weak linkages, and inadequate integration of the components of the food system. How strongly is local production embedded in key local and regional sectors of consumption such as tourism, health, and education? How about linkages to supermarkets and value addition actors? How about integration of the crop and animal production subsectors so that food crops and related waste easily flow into the animal feed subsector, and *vice versa*, to reduce the burden of feed and fertiliser importation? For example, cassava and related waste could be a considerable substitute in animal feed. Have we paused to ask how many kilogrammes of corn and cassava Belize, Guyana, Haiti and Suriname can produce to serve the animal feed industry? Similarly, cooperation and inter-

trading platforms for supermarket chains are also necessary, especially during a crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic, so that deficits in one supermarket can be filled in the short term by another that has surplus. Food import and warehousing might also be coordinated and consolidated, nationally and regionally, and diversified to achieve economies of scale and reduce cost to consumers.

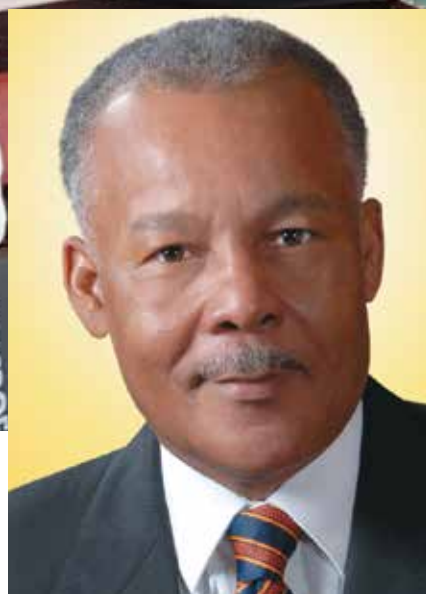
In summary, a resilient food system remains desirable and possible in the Caribbean, but this will require a deliberate regional cooperative approach to integrating supra-components and subcomponents of the food system. Consistent with CARICOM's Common Agricultural Policy, islandism cannot address the food security needs and ensure food system resilience of each island. Through a strongly integrated regional food system, the Caribbean can reduce food

imports and its vulnerability to the risks in the international trade system. **By reducing food import to about 30 percent of total food consumed, the Caribbean can save considerable foreign exchange, stimulate entrepreneurship and jobs, help protect human health and vulnerable populations, and conserve vital food system skills.**

We can start by focusing on how to feed ourselves by ourselves during quiet times and during crises. The need for deliberate national and regional interventions and stronger integration of the food system has never been so conspicuous. We can do this if we pull together with a unified chorus of 'harambee'.

Dr. David Yawson is Senior Lecturer in the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), The UWI, Cave Hill Campus. ♦





OWEN ARTHUR SPECIAL COLLECTION

by Dr. Kay Thompson

A feature on the **Owen S. Arthur Special Collection (OASC)** provides one with a rare opportunity to peruse an archive with a guide who knows the material most intimately. Such an article can treat to the mind of the curator by first-hand account of his process of assembling an historical record of a life's mission and tracking a country's progress over some 13 years as Prime Minister.

The collection is mostly documentary at present and includes several paintings located at the official collections site in the CARICOM Building at Cave Hill, and prospectively, in Arthur's private study at his home. It covers comprehensively the entire period of his leadership as Prime Minister. The collection both reflects and projects in that all items speak to periods that either record significant history or foreshadow events to come.

The OASC was presented to the campus in September 2018.

Arthur notes that his contribution to the campus through the papers and paintings is not yet complete, as his home library is indeed more extensive than the already donated portion. We were privileged to see that he had even understated the size of the total collection.

Cabinet Papers

On entering Arthur's UWI Office, one is struck immediately by the import of several bound, neatly stacked and labelled blue volumes — the precise history of cabinet debates spanning 1994 to

... Continued on page 28

... Continued from page 27

2008. Arthur's aim is to ensure that these are as searchable as possible, essential to any proponent of an evidence-based approach to practice. The collection contains Arthur's policy-defining and policy-critiquing speeches as Prime Minister, speeches that he would have penned in his own inimitable style for, as he declared, *"My speeches are to be heard and not read ... you take into account the persons who are listening"*.

In noting that the Prime Ministerial speeches in the collection were indeed his — self-penned — Arthur recounted circumstances surrounding some items. Among the collection is his first public speech as Prime Minister that was made at The White House of the United States while being Chairman of CARICOM. He recalls that he was allotted five minutes on international television. The President of Haiti had been

overthrown and the recorded history in the collection shows that Caribbean leaders at the time supported strengthening democracy in Haiti, as Haiti *"deserved its rendezvous with democracy"*.

Professor Arthur recalls that the press secretaries of the then President of the United States (US), Bill Clinton, were sent to offer him any help that he might need to write his speech. However, when they arrived to discuss what he wanted to say, he showed them his already prepared speech and they asked themselves why they had come in the first place. This speech is now part of the collection.

Photographs, Paintings and Other Memorabilia

The collection also features photographs, paintings and memorabilia that provide additional authentication for the

documentary elements, and *vice versa*. Paintings and memorabilia are among items that were gifts to Prime Minister Arthur, including, for example, a large historically significant painting given by the late Cuban President, Fidel Castro. This painting has been identified for donation to The UWI, Cave Hill Campus in the second phase of the collection handover.

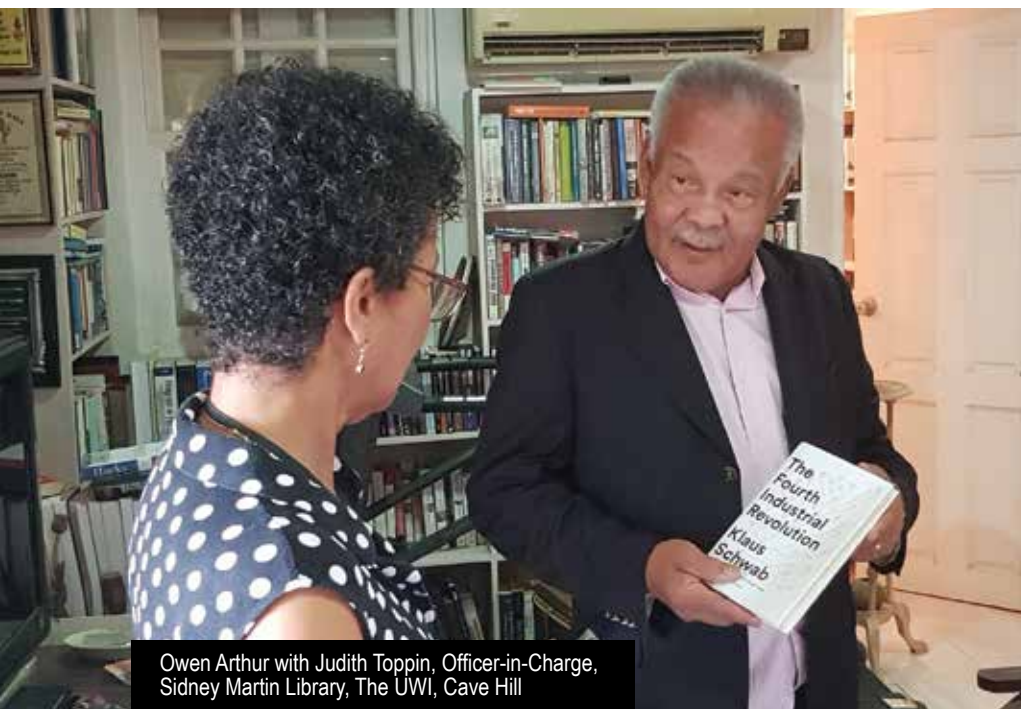
Historic original photographs linked to items already in the OASC at Cave Hill

are also earmarked. For example, when President Bill Clinton visited Barbados in 1997, he signed the **Partnership for Peace & Prosperity (PP&P) 1997**. Even more important than the photographic evidence was the documentary evidence in the collection that this agreement represented a milestone for Small Island Developing States' negotiations with the US, achieved because some Caribbean Heads

of Government (including Prime Minister Arthur) resisted the *Shiprider Agreement* and had refused to sign. This PP&P is the only document for partnership signed by a US President on the insistence and initiative of Caribbean Heads of State. The OASC also contains several seminal policy papers that featured in the development of trade treaties, the deliberations for the future of Small Island Developing States, policy briefs and the like.



The late former Prime Minister Owen Arthur with former US President Bill Clinton



Treasured Moments and Achievements

Within the collection there are several

cherished pieces, but Arthur highlighted specially the **Wilberforce Lecture Trust 2007 Lecture** that he delivered at the **University of Hull** to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the end of the trans-Atlantic slave trade. Then, as now, while doing research for the Government of Barbados towards policy formulation, Arthur affirms the value of a collection as a foundation for research, hence for practice.

"Before I write, I read ... I often read for three weeks before writing".

In commenting further on the value of such a collection, he notes that ordered documentation of historical records helps one to be able to *"always make the best*

decision based on the information and guidance available at a given time". Owing to the importance of the OASC as a searchable resource, he welcomes and strongly urges further assistance to have the materials catalogued by library professionals.

Finally, the collection is described by Professor Arthur as an account of lessons learned in truly authentic contexts as part of a vulnerable but inherently resilient region of Small Island Developing States. The importance of documentation as a form of strategic collecting was emphasised for him in what he describes candidly as an assignment perhaps *"more difficult than being PM"*, or holding the post of Director of Economics at a bauxite entity in Jamaica prior to his political career in Barbados. He notes the required accuracy and specificity for forecasting and predicting trends daily to make reports and life/business-altering decisions was invaluable training for the role of Prime Minister.

The UWI, Cave Hill OASC as a Repository for Inclusion

In this collection, on economic matters, for example, one sees evidence of what Arthur calls one of his most valuable lessons: *"that tribalism can destroy a country"*. This understanding led him to develop and implement a philosophy characterised by the **Politics of Inclusion** and helped him to understand the true import of strategic collection. Therefore, there is reference in the documents to the inclusion and work of a key supporter of the opposing political party who was engaged as one of Prime Minister Arthur's economic advisers — Sir Frank Alleyne.

Professor Arthur sees the collection as a continuation of a philosophy of inclusion. The UWI, Cave Hill Campus is rooted in service to the Caribbean and open to the world. Hence, he notes it is the ideal entity to carry forward this legacy to strengthen knowledge and transparency of our journey as a Barbadian and Caribbean nation.

This is an abridged version of an article written by Dr. Kay Thompson, Senior Programme Officer, Quality Assurance Unit –Regional (Head of the Cave Hill Campus section), Office of the Board for Undergraduate Studies, The Vice-Chancellery, The University of the West Indies. The full version was published in the 2020 edition of the Voices in the Vice-Chancellery Newsletter. ♦

COVID-19 and Pregnancy

Pregnant women have been provided with critical information about COVID-19 to allay some of their fears about the highly infectious virus, and which could possibly limit the spread to this vulnerable group.

The information session was conducted through a webinar on 24 April 2020 by Lecturer in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Dr. Damian Best. It was hosted by the **UWI HIV/AIDS Response Programme (UWIHARP)**, a multidisciplinary programme that uses expertise at The University of the West Indies to work with other partners in the response to HIV and AIDS.

In his presentation on the topic “**Pregnancy Wellness & COVID-19**,” Dr. Best examined the risks and complications associated with COVID-19, pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding and caring for newborns. He also explored the safety procedures in place for the expectant mothers and the current measures implemented for childbirth during COVID-19.

While Dr. Best said pregnant women were not more likely to contract the virus than anyone else, he urged them to adhere to national guidelines, including practising physical distancing. He said there are at least two case reports from China suggesting mother-to-child transmission is possible, but noted that the rate and significance remain unknown at this time.

"It's possible that it [can be] transmitted but not in really big numbers, and we don't think it'll cause a lot of harm at the moment. There does not seem to be any evidence of increased risk of miscarriage or pregnancy loss, thankfully. That extends through the first trimester right up to the second trimester. There is no evidence that the virus causes any birth defects, abnormalities or malformations."

The medical expert said preterm births in COVID-19 infected women were seemingly caused by health professionals putting measures in place to deliver the baby due to respiratory problems in the mother. At the time of his presentation, he said there were no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in pregnant women in Barbados.



Dr. Damian Best
Lecturer in Obstetrics & Gynaecology,
Faculty of Medical Sciences,
The UWI, Cave Hill

Dr. Best noted that maternity care remains essential to keep both expectant mothers and fetuses safe and urged the continuation of all necessary appointments, excluding things like ultrasounds to determine the sex of the baby. He said increased safety measures have been taken at the **Queen Elizabeth Hospital** and at polyclinics to mitigate risks in childbirth and urged any pregnant woman with symptoms of the virus to telephone their doctor, polyclinic or the 24-hour hotline of the **Ministry of Health & Wellness** for advice.

Dr. Best explained that care would be taken to follow the protocols put in place by the Ministry of Health and Wellness, such as isolation of suspected cases and quarantine of confirmed cases until the individual has cleared infection.

Regarding the delivery of babies, Dr. Best said there will be a limited number of medical personnel

entering the labour room, and they will be required to wear full personal protective equipment at all times.

As it relates to breastfeeding, the obstetrician and gynaecologist pointed to current United Kingdom (UK) recommendations that indicate the benefits outweigh potential risks of transmission of the virus through breast milk. He said the pros and cons should also be weighed with the parents.

Dr. Best noted that UK authorities have recommended that new mothers and their healthy babies be kept together in the immediate postpartum period.



NCD Worry amidst COVID

Leading health experts have predicted another pandemic after COVID-19 derailed efforts to get a handle on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in the Caribbean region and globally.

NCD prevention and management became an unintentional victim of the viral illness as countries moved to shore up their resources to cope. Healthcare staff managing NCDs were reassigned, some outpatient services were closed, and health promotion activities postponed.

The dire situation was highlighted during The UWI Vice-Chancellor's Forum titled **"NCDs in a Global Pandemic: The Approaching Wave in the Region"** held on 26 June 2020 that brought together global health experts. Members on the high-level panel were drawn from the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, the **Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)**, the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**,

universities in North America and **The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus**. The discussion, endorsed by the **American College of Physicians (ACP) Caribbean Chapter**, examined the possible impact of COVID-19 in the region and its interplay with NCDs.

With the region recording 6.9 million deaths a year, of which 81 percent are due to NCDs, the situation is particularly worrying for Director of Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health at PAHO in Washington D.C. Professor Anselm Hennis.

"About 92 percent of staff who deal with NCDs were reassigned to various levels. As many as eight percent were reassigned full time to deal with the COVID threat," the former director of the George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Centre at Cave Hill told the online forum.

According to the WHO, outpatient services for NCDs were closed in roughly 20 percent of countries that submitted reports, while another 42 percent offered limited services.

"Clearly, there was a disruption

to services as a result of COVID in the region," Professor Hennis said.

Unit Head of NCD Management at the World Health Organization Dr. Cherian Varghese described the unfolding situation as *"a tsunami in slow motion."* He noted that the global fight to curb NCDs was already facing an uphill battle prior to COVID-19, and now the momentum has slowed. The expert said this now means that the world is off course in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals to reduce premature mortality by one third by 2030.

"Even pre-COVID, things were not so great for NCDs especially in the area of diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliation of NCDs," Dr. Varghese stated.

The WHO conducted a global survey of 121 countries to gauge the disruption of health services for the prevention and treatment of NCDs as a result of COVID-19. It found rehabilitation services, hypertension management, diabetes and diabetic complications management, asthma services, palliative care services, urgent dental care, cancer treatment and cardiovascular emergencies were disrupted across the world.

In Barbados, for example, hypertension services were disrupted at the state-run **Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH)**. When the service recommenced, patients were hesitant due to fear, reported Dr. Kenneth Connell, consultant at the QEH.

"What the hospital is catching up with is this revolving door diagnosis of heart failure from all these patients who delayed care for various reasons," added Dr. Connell, Lecturer in Clinical Pharmacology at the Cave Hill Campus and Governor of the ACP Caribbean Chapter.

But it is not all doom and gloom, according to the experts. The WHO reported that countries have turned to telemedicine and redirected patients with NCDs to alternative healthcare facilities, among other measures, to mitigate the fallout.

Global Noncommunicable Diseases Branch Chief at the CDC Dr. Patricia Richter said states should take advantage of the surge in innovation and create positive, lasting benefits within health systems to be better equipped to handle NCDs going forward.

"This difficult time has forced health systems to innovate and adapt quickly, yet the benefits can be long-lasting. Health systems have identified new solutions, and as we move forward, we can adopt best practices and continue to improve based on the lessons learnt. For patients, these innovations may mean fewer in-person appointments, less transportation time and cost, shorter wait times in waiting areas and less congested waiting areas, reserving longer visits to address illness, and multimonth dispensing of medications.

"For healthcare facilities, the new practices may result in less congestion, less exposure for healthcare workers, and more time for healthcare workers to focus on sicker patients."

Dr. Hennis agreed that integrating telemedicine into health systems, which were previously not exposed to such, is a legacy of the COVID-19 pandemic but said the issue was a complex one.

"What we've started looking at is discreet parts of telemedicine. In other words, issues like infrastructure, who has what,

the private-public sector divide, and the oversight within healthcare systems. What we're trying to do now is develop guidance for doctors to shift their practice from person-to-person contact into the telemedicine era. In terms of services, one might actually use remote tools. [For example], for the cessation of tobacco

smoking we are now developing things like bots, which are virtual online figures that could give counselling."

In the Caribbean region, the civil society group **Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC)** has adjusted its message to have a more impactful outreach. HCC took a multipronged approach including the development of a COVID-19 advocacy and communication strategy. To have more efficacy, it showcased the experiences of people living with NCDs during the pandemic.

President Sir Trevor Hassell said the coalition and its member organisations were also crafting a transformative NCD agenda to 'build back better'. The agenda has five pillars including reframing NCD prevention and control as an ethical, equity-focused, critical regional human security issue with human capital implications, and advocating for the integration of the NCD agenda into post-COVID-19 planning and priority-setting processes.

"This is a significantly new approach that the civil society community in the Caribbean will be seeking to advance over the next two years and beyond. Traditionally and unfortunately, the NCD issue has been viewed through a health lens; increasingly also, through a socio-economic and developmental lens. We think it goes far beyond that to one of human security, to an equity issue, to an issue that relates to human capital, and we think if we're really to bring about a fundamental change in our approach to NCD prevention, this needs to be the approach." ♦



A respected regional linguist has reactivated debate about the use of native dialects in the education system across the Caribbean to improve students' learning.

MAKE WAY FOR DIALECTS

Former Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of The University of the West Indies Open Campus

Professor Emerita Hazel Simmons-McDonald maintained that there should be a policy for its inclusion. She made the recommendation during her presentation of the **Sixth Annual Richard Allsopp Memorial Lecture** delivered on 29 January 2021 on the topic, **"Vernacular Languages and Dictionaries in Education — Validating Caribbean Identities"**.

The St. Lucian and former Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education at Cave Hill, who has written numerous articles and book chapters on second language acquisition, vernacular literacy, language education policy, and language and culture, lamented that the native tongue continues to be marginalised and viewed as inferior to standard English in Caribbean countries.

She argued that the use of an English-only policy in education was not informed by knowledge about the process of language development and differences

manifested in first and second language acquisition. Furthermore, she said research conducted over the last four decades has revealed that vernacular speakers are adversely affected if their first language is not nurtured.

"Students who speak only a creole or creole-influenced vernacular when they first enter school encounter difficulty if the primary focus is on learning literacy in English without providing the scaffolding for developing their communicative abilities in English which, for them, is a second language or dialect."

"Further, if their first or native language is suppressed and if programmes that facilitate acquisition of English do not exist, they are likely to struggle with learning in all the subjects. Situations like this affect the cognitive development of the learner and serve to diminish the possibility for literacy development and full proficiency in English."

Professor Simmons-McDonald said creative writers, in particular, have played a leading role in cultivating and exploiting the varieties of folk language in the



Professor Emerita Hazel Simmons-McDonald

region. However, she said much more reprogramming is required to change attitudes and pave the way for the implementation of approaches that would promote the nurturing of the first languages of students to help them develop cognitive flexibility that would result in success at school.

"Transformation of the mindset that the vernaculars are inferior would result in extending the cultivation and exploitation of these languages so that they can

"Further, if their first or native language is suppressed and if programmes that facilitate acquisition of English do not exist, they are likely to struggle with learning in all the subjects. Situations like this affect the cognitive development of the learner and serve to diminish the possibility for literacy development and full proficiency in English."

become a major force for achieving liberation from the hegemony of the colonial language and contributing to the validation of Caribbean identities."

The educator explained that the pertinent issue of relationship between language and identity is often overlooked.

"If children have acquired just one language, and for many of our children that is a creole or creole-influenced vernacular, they depend on it for communication and interaction with others at home and in the community. It is possibly the only language they hear their parents and others speak in their social circles as they are growing up. If then, when they enter school, they encounter negative attitudes towards their language and they are encouraged to stop speaking it, their self-esteem becomes bruised, and their confidence in life and

experiences they have lived up to then is shaken."

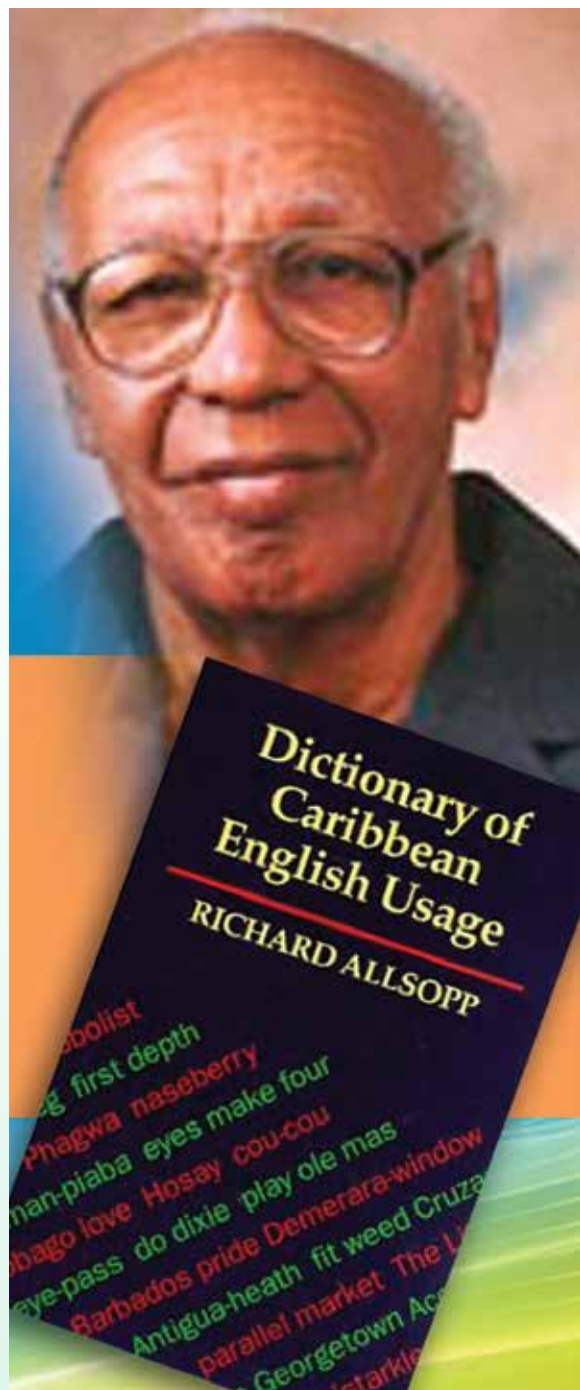
Prominent linguist Richard Allsopp, in whose honour the lecture was held, held a similar position to Professor Simmons-McDonald. He bemoaned that the school system appeared to be programmed to condemn, erase and replace all traces of the folk speech.

Allsopp co-edited the **Dictionary of Caribbean English Usage (DCEU)** in 1996 that helped raised the awareness about the importance of vernacular languages in the English-speaking Caribbean. The dictionary provided an inventory and cross referencing to facilitate teaching and critical discourse. He also headed the **Caribbean Lexicography Project** in the Faculty of Humanities and Education from which the **Dictionary of Caribbean English Usage** emerged.

As the lexicography project marks its 25th year anniversary, it was revealed that a revised edition of the dictionary was completed for schools and is awaiting publication. The edition is designed primarily for use by students at secondary level in the 11 to 18 age group

"It is thematically conceived with sections on flora, fauna, foods, religion, architecture, among others. It also presents a section of general vocabulary, explanations of sources for languages, brief etymologies, abbreviations of Caribbean institutions, titles of award of merit, Caribbean idiom and proverbs. A special section on dictionary skills with activities is also included for teachers. The publication of this edition for schools will hopefully continue

to erode negative attitudes to Caribbean English and dialects, and also serve to accelerate the reprogramming in education, still to be realised, and act as a catalyst for the further cultivation of the language through its academic and creative use by young scholars," ♦





Beyond Sun, Sand and Sea: Developing an Inclusive, Sustainable & Resilient Tourism Sector in Barbados

by Chelceé Brathwaite

Barbados's tropical temperatures, year-round sunshine and award-winning beaches undeniably create a natural comparative advantage luring millions of tourists. Recording its third consecutive year of growth in stayover arrivals, Barbados welcomed 680,269 stayover visitors and 614,933 cruise passengers in 2018, according to the **Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc.'s (BTMI's) 2018 Annual Statistical Report**. Tourism, Barbados's biggest foreign exchange earner, on average accounted for 39 percent of total gross domestic product (GDP), 38.9 percent of total employment and 40.5 percent of total exports, between 2014 and 2018, according to an **Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)** report.

Classed among the most tourism-dependent nations of the world (ranking 14th out of 166 countries in the

IDB's tourism dependency index), Barbados is reeling from the blow dealt to tourism by COVID-19, which virtually halted the industry in 2020, with arrivals not yet normalising. A snapshot of the initial impact according to Minister in the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Investment Marsha Caddle stated that, "By early March 2020, revenues in the sector fell to zero ... Between March 23rd and April 23rd, unemployment claims rose by about 24,500."



Chelceé Brathwaite

The full impact remains unknown, but certainly, the consequences are far-reaching.

The silver lining, however, is the opportunity presented for tourism to reinvent itself as being more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient. Building upon measures by the Barbados Government, this article proposes recommendations for transforming the tourism sector, responding to Minister of Tourism and International Transport Senator Lisa Cummins' call for a new *"inclusive and sustainable"* tourism product for Barbados.

Economic wise, the **World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC)** noted that, *"despite the impressive growth statistics, tourism in the Caribbean is not doing as much as it could to relieve existing problems of unemployment, poverty and social dislocation."*

PLUG LEAKS BY CREATING LINKAGES

When assessing tourism as a local development option, economists warn of the high associated economic leakage. Economic leakage occurs when money leaves an economy, representing revenue lost. To conceptualise this phenomenon, consider the cross-cutting activities involved in delivering a tourism product, including transportation, accommodation, entertainment, food,

etcetera, and the extent to which these goods and services are provided through domestic suppliers. Polly Pattullo, author of ***Last Resorts: The Cost of Caribbean Tourism***, found that for every dollar earned from tourists, 70 cents is lost importing goods and services. Certainly, some leakage is unavoidable due to domestic resource constraints, but where possible, strong domestic linkages must be forged to counteract any avoidable leakage. This requires greater integration of local goods and services within the tourism value chain, as envisioned within the Barbados ***Tourism Master Plan 2014-2023***.

The tourism-agriculture nexus is the 'poster child' for inter-sectoral linkages. Agriculture provides the tourism industry with resources for food consumption and a background for attractions (agrotourism). Strengthening this type of inter-sectoral linkage can stimulate local production, retain greater tourism earnings locally, and improve wealth distribution especially if those in rural communities are able to participate. The ***Coco Hill and Ocean Spray Agro-forest Project***, developed in Barbados by Mahmood Patel, is a tangible example of the tourism-agriculture nexus. This project, comprising a 53-acre agrotourism rainforest, offers guided tours and supplies food to the resort. To develop such linkages on a wider scale, several underlying challenges need to be addressed, including *"low productivity and information asymmetry regarding the food standards required by hotel and restaurant chains, cruise ships and the yachting sector"*, as the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** highlighted in one of its reports.

Other inter-sectoral linkages should also be pursued. Consider strengthening relationships between the manufacturing and tourism sectors, where locally manufactured goods are used to furnish hotels. Consider improving links between artists and tourism markets, allowing local artistic content to be naturally embedded into the tourism product. Consider bringing local entrepreneurs on board to modernise the sector, for example, tech entrepreneurs.

Moving forward, first concretely identify the sources of leakage in Barbados's tourism sector, and then, where possible, develop the local capacity to plug these leaks. Leveraging the research capacity of The UWI, and stimulating entrepreneurship through innovative finance mechanisms and supporting regulatory frameworks can greatly assist here.

... Continued on page 38

... Continued from page 37



ALIGN TOURISM WITH THE SDGs

Although included as targets in the **United Nations' (UN's) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, specifically under Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and Goal 14 (Life Below Water), research suggests that tourism can potentially contribute to all 17 of the SDGs. However, the sector has not been positioned to contribute to sustainable development.

Economic wise, the **World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC)** noted that, *"despite the impressive growth statistics, tourism in the Caribbean is not doing as much as it could to relieve existing problems of unemployment, poverty and social dislocation."* The diversity of players involved in the tourism value chain and the fact that the consumer comes to the producer create several opportunities for local entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to participate in this global market. Encouraging foreign-owned hotels, airlines, and tour companies to make use of local resources and talent and avoiding supply-side incentives, which create a race to the bottom, will be beneficial here. Such opportunities can contribute to SDGs 1, 4, 8, 10, *etcetera*. Streamlining the participation of economically disadvantaged

groups into the tourism sector will require greater collaboration and organisation, innovative financing mechanisms, skills training workshops, quality assurance and compliance certifications, and other supporting frameworks.

From an environmental perspective, tourism is often criticised for its negative contributions, such as a large carbon footprint, habitat degradation, pollution, excessive energy and water usage, among others. However, if developed correctly, tourism can contribute to SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, *etcetera*. For example, initiatives

like the **UNESCO World Heritage Sites** exist to preserve historic attractions like **Historic Bridgetown and its Garrison**. The *Tourism Development Act* of Barbados encourages sustainable tourism investment by offering incentives to projects which conserve natural resources and use environmentally friendly products. The **Barbados Employment and Sustainable Transformation (BEST) Programme** is set to transform the sector by *"committing to greening through water conservation and water harvesting measures, and the installation of renewable energy capacity"* as outlined in the Barbados Government's recent Throne Speech.

Going forward, joining the **World Trade Organization's (WTO's)** negotiations on the *Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA)*, which eliminates tariffs on environment-related products, can encourage eco-friendly imports. Increasing the visibility of incentives under the *Barbados Tourism Development Act* and the **BEST Programme** while expanding their scope to target the entire tourism ecosystem can holistically promote sustainable tourism. Developing eco-friendly tourism products like agrotourism and coral-reef-restoration tours can attract the growing segment of highly 'sustainable intelligent' tourists. Applying **Ellen McArthur Foundation's** three principles of the circular economy (designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use, and regenerating natural systems) can help balance the sector's economic development with environmental and resource protection.

INCORPORATE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES INTO THE TOURISM PRODUCT

The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** predicts that by 2025, digital transformation of the tourism sector will create an additional US\$305 billion in profit, shifting US\$100 billion from traditional players to new competitors with innovative business models. Indeed, greater incorporation of digital technologies in the tourism sector can yield several benefits. For travellers, these include price reductions, customised products, and enhanced visitor experiences; for SMEs, they include reduced transaction costs, real-time engagement and product innovation; and for destinations, increased international exposure, and greater competitiveness. These are just some of the many cited benefits across literature.

COVID-19 is forcing the industry to embrace an even greater digital transformation. Market intelligence technologies remain instrumental in discerning new travel trends; for example, already Barbados has capitalised on one such trend through its **12 month Barbados Welcome Stamp** visa. Touchless technology has been identified as a key pillar in the **World Tourism Organization's Global Guidelines to Restart Tourism**, with airports moving towards contactless boarding through the use of biometric scans, contactless elevators, *etcetera*, and hotels offering contactless stays by using digital check-in/

out, smartphone-powered control of hotel appliances, and other technologies. Virtual and augmented reality technologies are bringing attractions right to your doorstep, creating the possibility of tourism without travel. Imagine reaching previously underserved markets, like the older population segment who can no longer travel or patients coping with life-limiting and terminal illnesses, through a tourism product packaged within a virtual reality programme. Leveraging digital technologies not only creates new opportunities but can also build resilience by future-proofing the tourism sector.

However, successfully integrating these technologies requires underlying challenges to be addressed, such as lack of access to technical and financial resources, inadequate supporting policy and regulatory frameworks, limited uptake of technologies, and others. Useful steps forward include accelerating Barbados's digital transformation that **CrimsonLogic** (the Singapore-based consulting firm that has partnered with several governments to implement digital transformation projects) noted should be accompanied by a master plan, during a recent webinar session. Partnering with expert firms such as **CrimsonLogic**, leveraging The UWI's research capacity, and accessing finance and technical assistance available under existing trade agreements and from financial institutions (for example, the European Development Fund, IDB, World Bank) can help materialise Barbados's digital transformation.

Concluding Thoughts

To reinvent Barbados's tourism industry, we should start plugging the leaks by creating strong linkages, positioning the sector to meet the SDGs, and incorporating digital technologies. Although this *Shridath Ramphal Centre Trading Thoughts* proposes a three-point road map for transforming the tourism sector, the recommendations in this piece should not be considered exhaustive. However, it is hoped that policymakers will take advantage of the pause afforded by COVID-19 and include institutions like The UWI in its national consultations focused on reinventing Barbados's tourism product. ♦

Chelceé Brathwaite is a Research Assistant at the Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy and Services.





SPISE Adopts a Virtual Guide

Travel restrictions and new safety protocols brought on by COVID-19 did not stop some of the Caribbean's aspiring engineers and scientists from participating in the eagerly anticipated Student Program for Innovation in Science and Engineering (SPISE) last August.

SPISE, the flagship programme of the Caribbean Science Foundation (CSF), is hosted in partnership with The UWI, Cave Hill Campus, whose CARICOM Research Building also serves as its headquarters.

In previous years, participating students and their instructors were resident at the campus for the duration of the summer programme. However, last year's event was held virtually to safeguard them from COVID-19. Seventeen students from Antigua, Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica and St. Lucia completed courses in university-level calculus, physics, biochemistry, and entrepreneurship and were also engaged in projects in computer programming and electronics.

To facilitate their virtual participation, students received a kit that included four **Arduino** microcontrollers, a wiring breadboard, a set of resistors,



Dr. Dinah Sah
SPISE Director

capacitors, light emitting diodes, photo detectors; humidity, carbon dioxide and pH sensors; and micro cameras. On 7 August, they presented their final projects in microcontroller electronics, computer programming, and entrepreneurship to an online audience of sponsors, colleagues, friends and family.

Addressing the event, United States-based SPISE Director Dr. Dinah Sah said the course was extended from four to five weeks at

the request of the students, and some adjustments had to be made in light of the pandemic.

"The safety of the SPISE students and the staff [was] the top priority. And as you know, although the Caribbean has largely contained COVID-19, unfortunately that's far from the case here in the US, and many of our instructors ... are based in the US and we simply could not travel to Barbados for SPISE," she said.

Organisers also reported a drop in the number of participants from an average of 22 in previous years to 17 last year, as a result of COVID.

"The COVID-19 pandemic emerged in the Caribbean approximately two weeks before the SPISE applications were due and the schools shut down, which made it quite difficult for the applicants to get all the necessary materials to apply to SPISE. And that of course was immediately one

notable attribute of those students who did complete their applications and sent them in. They persevered despite the very unusual circumstances and challenges of putting together the applications in light of the coronavirus situation," she noted.

The postponement of the CAPE examinations also proved to be another challenge: *"SPISE ran from 5 July to 8 August so as you can see, CAPE exams overlapped SPISE in the majority of the programmes for up to five weeks,"* she explained, adding that this had implications for the annual workshop, as many of the students were in line for government scholarships.

"The CAPE exams are extremely important so we modified the curriculum twice based on the schedule of the CAPE exams, and in addition, we made continuous adaptations throughout the programme between 5 July and 31 July to accommodate the CAPE

exam preparations as well as the exams themselves."

Nevertheless, Sah said the students quickly adapted to the virtual format and were able to present their group projects on schedule.

SPISE was launched in 2012, and to date, 169 students have completed the programme. They have attended several prestigious universities including Princeton, Harvard, Yale, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Stanford, University of Toronto, Ryerson University, University of Nottingham and The University of the West Indies.

SPISE instructors comprised academic and industry professionals from the United States, including MIT, UWI faculty, and leaders from the biotech and high tech industries.

Guest speakers for last year's programme included Professor of Electrical Engineering at MIT and Interim Executive Director of the CSF, Dr. Cardinal Warde; Chief Executive Officer of Lenstec Barbados, Ian Hickling; Founding Partner of Third Rock Ventures, Mark Levin; Biotech Executive and Director of SPISE, Dr. Dinah Sah; Senior Lecturer at The UWI, Cave Hill, Dr. Jeanese Badenock; Professor Emeritus at Colgate University, Professor Jay Mandle; Professor Robert Sah of the University of California San Diego; and university admissions officers from MIT, Colombia University, Princeton, University of Pennsylvania, Acadia University in Canada, and The UWI, Cave Hill. ♦

SPISE 2019 scholars: (left to right) Darshini Coore (Jamaica), Kelcey Allen (St. Vincent), Daniel Reckord (Barbados), Keondre Herbert (Antigua)



ACCA

Partnership Produces Region's First Embedded Master's Programme

The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill has become the first university in the Caribbean to introduce an embedded master's programme by way of an academic partnership with the **Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)**. The programme provides for embedding all or some of the ACCA Strategic Professional level papers within a master's level qualification and is a first-of-its-kind programme introduced partnership with ACCA.

The papers at the Strategic Professional level provide a unique blend of skills, real-world focus and specialisation options that will supercharge careers and impress employers. With Strategic Professional, ACCA has set a new standard by fully integrating deep, broad and relevant

technical expertise with ethics and professional skills. Because every element has a real-world focus, students will be well prepared to handle the challenges they face in the workplace.

The ACCA Strategic Professional Course Structure comprises the following papers:

- Strategic Business Leader
- Strategic Business Reporting
- Advanced Financial Management
- Advanced Performance Management
- Advanced Taxation
- Advanced Audit & Assurance

Academic partnerships provide a progression route to master's level qualification for students who graduated from the Accounting and Finance Bachelor's Programme as well as cross-border education for regional and international students, thereby providing qualification and employability options to students who will become ACCA accountants and leaders of the future. For The UWI, Cave Hill to become an academic partner, it needed to embed ACCA's Strategic Professional level papers into its Accounting and Finance Master's Programme and meet the requirements of an 80 percent plus (80%+) syllabus

match for all Strategic Professional level papers. The ACCA Embedded Master's Programme officially began early this year and will be delivered within the guidelines of The UWI, Cave Hill's blended strategic approach.

Students registering for this programme will also become students of ACCA and will be afforded discounted registration fees; and to supplement their learning with The UWI, Cave Hill, they will be provided free access to study resources from the syllabus, examining team guidance, practice tests and frequently asked questions.

Jane Towers-Clarke, ACCA's Head of Academic Partnerships, who has been instrumental in guiding The UWI, Cave Hill through the embedded master's process, commented on behalf of ACCA: "We are indeed very pleased to have The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill on board as the first university in the Caribbean to promote and deliver the embedded master's programme. From inception, the university was unhesitating in its desire to add an innovative and new concept to learning to its existing offerings. This programme will afford students a double achievement

— an academic designation and a professional qualification all within one package that can be attained in as little as 18 months. We look forward to the continued partnership with The UWI, Cave Hill and the success of this new programme."

Principal of The UWI, Cave Hill Campus Professor the Most Honourable Eudine Barriteau has welcomed the augmented academic alliance with the ACCA, noting that it not only burnishes Cave Hill's reputation as a path-breaking tertiary institution but also advances the campus's internationalisation agenda.

"This represents yet another first for The UWI, Cave Hill Campus, one that will set us apart as a university in the field of accounting qualifications available to our students. It is a further demonstration of the increasing innovation at the campus and extends our global reach and recognition. This embedded master's programme will prove attractive to students worldwide by enabling them to benefit from cutting-edge instruction that combines academic and professional skills and that links them directly and seamlessly to the international accounting profession and its markets." ♦

Spreading Chinese Language and Culture



A further opportunity to gain knowledge of China's language and culture has been afforded to the wider community.

The UWI, Cave Hill is partnering with the **Barbados National Library Service** to offer Chinese Language and Culture through the campus's **Confucius Institute (CI)**. To date, there has been substantial response to the programme that was launched virtually last November.

Director of the **National Library Service** Grace Haynes described the initiative as part of the library's literary thrust to expose the public to foreign languages.

*"In addition to Mandarin, we are currently conducting online Spanish classes for children in association with the **Embassy of Argentina**, and we will be commencing sessions for adults from January in collaboration with the **Venezuelan Embassy**.*

"Chinese is listed among the languages which are most difficult for persons from the western linguistic

group to learn, and in order to [counter] this, some aspects of Chinese culture will be taught to facilitate the learning process of Mandarin," she said.

Campus Principal Professor the Most Honourable Eudine Barriteau expressed her delight at Cave Hill being part of an initiative that *"seeks to widen educational opportunities, especially one that fosters deeper understanding of a leading foreign language and culture."*

She said, *"We do this because we believe that education is a public good, and The UWI's mandate to advance education is unwavering and unchallenged. Indeed, as the foremost provider of higher education in the region, The UWI often partners with libraries because we know you are committed stakeholders in the public education process."*

The programme is also in keeping with the goal of

the Government of Barbados to expose all students to learning at least two languages.

Barriteau stated, "... if we are to transform our educational goods and services to meet the challenges of a rapidly evolving global environment ... Caribbean citizens must be multilingual.

"We have lost the languages of our ancestors. We cannot afford the luxury of perpetuating the myth that we need fluency in only one language to successfully navigate what we can already discern will be a long and demanding century."

She also highlighted the contribution of the CI, since its establishment in 2015, to the internationalisation of the Cave Hill Campus.

"The Confucius Institute at the Cave Hill Campus is an integral part of our campus community. In addition to its role in teaching Chinese and Chinese culture, it has helped facilitate research by relevant departments on campus into aspects of the region's emerging relationship with China."

Among the public outreach activities of the institute are teaching Mandarin in two secondary schools, **The Ellerslie School** and **Springer Girls' Memorial Secondary School**, and in two primary schools, **St. Stephen's Primary School** and **Charles F. Broome Memorial Primary**.

The CI also teaches Chinese to students enrolled in the **UWI China Institute of Information Technology** Software Engineering programme, and it offers a new



co-curricular course, Introduction to Chinese Culture, as well as maintains an evening studies programme.

Additionally, the Confucius Institute prepares students for and administers the internationally accepted test for Chinese proficiency, Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (HSK), and associated tests.

Students may also participate in the **Chinese Culture Club** of the CI that presents, in short format, aspects of Chinese culture as well as the experiences of Caribbean people working and studying in China. ♦



UWI students pay rapt attention while their Chinese counterpart sings.

Researchers Examine COVID-19's Impact on Learning

COVID-19's impact on tertiary education in the region is being studied by researchers seeking to assess the pandemic's effect on student learning experiences.

The University of the West Indies has embarked on research to assess motivation, efficacy for learning, and the academic and social experiences of students with and without disabilities during the COVID-19 period across the five campuses of The UWI.

Leading the research is the **School of Education** at Cave Hill Campus with Dr. Stacey Blackman as the Principal Investigator. Other researchers on the project include Drs. Grace Fayombo & Grace-Anne Jackman also of Cave Hill.

The research team noted one of the current concerns surrounding COVID-19 in relation to its impact on education is that the pandemic has *"widened the inequality gap in education around the world. Significant challenges are also occurring that will shape the next few years and perhaps decades for post-pandemic school systems and education globally."*

Dr. Blackman believes that there is an urgent need to examine the models of education in the Caribbean to determine how to make them more resilient in times of crises.

"The process of building resilient and responsive systems must include understanding how our students have responded in this time of crisis. In other words, how have students adapted to fully online/distant learning, and what are its implications for the future of teaching, learning and assessment," she noted.

The objectives of the research are to:

- investigate the teaching, learning and assessment experiences of students with and without disabilities during COVID-19;
- assess students' academic efficacy and motivation for online teaching, learning and assessment across The UWI;
- provide data-driven and evidence-based recommendations to inform teaching, learning, and assessment decisions going forward at each campus; and
- create a more resilient and responsive service delivery model that meets the needs of students, with or without disabilities, during times of crises such as that presented by COVID-19.



In light of international research trends that focus on building resilient, education systems that respond in times of crises, this study gives regional context to the global challenges many institutions face with school closures.

While the study was initiated at the Cave Hill Campus, it is intended to be conducted across all UWI campuses over a period of one academic year. ♦

Inniss Awarded Arnott Cato Scholarship



Keira Inniss loved helping others as a child. That passion grew as she became older and was moulded during her time in the Brownies and other civic organisations.

Now, Inniss is seeking to turn her passion into a career by pursuing the Master of Public Health Degree Programme (MPH) at the Cave Hill Campus.

Her specific area of interest is non-communicable diseases (NCDs) that is currently the leading cause of death in Barbados. Data from this country's **Ministry of Health and Wellness** show that a significant portion of the adult population has one or more associated risk factors.

Keira's academic pursuits are being assisted by the **Arnott Cato Foundation** in partnership with the **City of Bridgetown Co-operative Credit Union**. On 20 January 2021, she was announced as the recipient of the annual **Arnott Cato Scholarship** that is awarded by this foundation and financial institution. She said the assistance would allow her to focus on the early detection of NCDs.

"Personally, I have witnessed and am still witnessing quite a few loved ones suffer from these diseases which can be avoided by just a change in the lifestyle of some individuals. After [doing some] reading and receiving interesting information in my BA programme, I decided to continue my studies in a similar field.

"Upon successful completion of my [MPH] degree programme, it is my intention to assist in the promotion and prevention programmes for NCDs. My research project for this programme examines the self-management of hypertension in faith-based organisations. Undertaking this research would allow me to gain further knowledge of the far-reaching impact that issue is having on our community."

Inniss completed her Bachelor's in Healthcare Administration and Management at Cave Hill last year.

Chairman of the **Arnott Cato Foundation** Professor Sir Errol Walrond said the Master of Public Health programme provides critical training and urged those enrolled to use the current COVID-19 pandemic as a teachable moment.

"I hope that the participants in this programme are actively learning and researching in this current crisis. Challenge orthodoxy when necessary, but also contribute to the many tasks of managing this critical pandemic."

Programme Coordinator Dr. Heather Harewood said she was heartened by the interest shown, despite the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Outstanding Staffers Saluted for Excellence

The times were uncertain but did not put a damper on one of Cave Hill's annual hallmark celebrations of excellence.

On 5 December 2020, the **Annual Retirees and Long Service Awards Ceremony**, of which the **Principal's Awards for Excellence** formed a highlight, was seamlessly executed. All COVID-19 protocols were observed under the spacious 'Graduation Tent' where the event was held.



Troy Carrington from the **Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL)** received the Principal's Award for Excellence in the category of **Outstanding Work to Enhance the Effectiveness and Efficiency at Cave Hill Campus**. Carrington was credited for having played a pivotal role in the transition to remote teaching during the pandemic. He joined the campus in 2014 as the Faculty Development Facilitator for E-learning and Instructional Technology and has since been upgraded to the post of Educational Technologist.



Dr. Glenda Gay was the recipient of the Principal's Award for Excellence in the category of **Outstanding Teaching**. Her citation noted that she "*exemplifies excellence in every dimension of pedagogical practice and academic instruction*". She was recognised for providing invaluable assistance during the pandemic. Dr. Gay joined the **Department of Management Studies** in the Faculty of Social Sciences in 1998 as a temporary, full-time lecturer and was promoted to the rank of lecturer and awarded tenure in 2019.



Dr. Corin Bailey received the Principal's Award for Excellence in **Academic Category – Outstanding Research**. He joined the **Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES)** approximately 14 years ago. His scholarship addresses issues around crime/prison reform, poverty and inequalities. In the last five years, he has authored four peer-reviewed books, four peer-reviewed essays, one monograph and five policy-related technical reports. He was lauded for research that highlights the importance of multidisciplinary work and serves to inspire many in social science reading disciplines.



Dr. Natasha Sobers received the award in the **Academic Category – Outstanding Research**. She has excelled particularly in research in cardiovascular disease, gender, public service and teaching since joining The UWI in August 2011. She is also the Principal Investigator for non-communicable diseases at the Barbados

National Registry. Dr. Sobers has 19 scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals, eleven of these occurring since 2017, and 25 published abstracts. She has also supported the **Ministry of Health and Wellness**, the **Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners** and **The UWI COVID-19 Task Force**.



Cynthia Barrow-Giles

was honoured in the All-Staff Category for **Outstanding Contribution to Public Service**. She was part of a high-level CARICOM Mission that visited Guyana in March and June 2020, amidst the pandemic, to observe the country's general and regional elections which were in dispute. Over the last five years, Barrow-Giles has regularly served on election observation missions for the **Organization of American States** in Asia, Africa and the Caribbean. She joined The UWI in 1989 and has held numerous positions in the **Department of Government, Sociology, Social Work and Psychology** in the Faculty of Social Sciences, including Deputy Dean of Outreach.



Kiana Hall was awarded in the **Administrative, Technical and Service Staff (ATS)** category. She is a Medical Laboratory Technologist (MLT) with the **Faculty of Medical Sciences**. In 2008, she became the first MLT to be appointed in that position. Since then, she has played a key role in the development of the laboratories and the general physical infrastructure of the faculty. She has assisted in the development of a gross anatomy laboratory, wet laboratory, multipurpose teaching laboratory and research laboratories in the teaching complex at Cave Hill. Hall is known for her extra-departmental service, most notably health initiatives on the campus through her work on the **Health Week Committee**.



Dr. Paula Michele Lashley

received the Principal's Award for Excellence in **Research, Teaching, Public Service and University Service**. She joined the **Faculty of Medical Sciences** in 1994 as Lecturer in Paediatrics. As the Consultant Paediatrician at the **Queen Elizabeth Hospital**, Dr. Lashley has provided over 25 years of service to the children of Barbados. She has contributed to

ground-breaking advancements in the area of diabetes, including the establishment of the first dedicated childhood diabetes clinic at the hospital in 2015. She has served on numerous committees and was instrumental in the establishment of the **Caribbean College of Paediatricians**.



Kristy Ward received the Principal's Award for Excellence in the **Administrative, Technical and Service Staff** category for **Outstanding Work to Enhance the Effectiveness and Efficiency at Cave Hill Campus**. Ward joined the **George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Centre** in 2017. In her position as Administrative Assistant, she was recognised as a positive role model, a visionary and having displayed outstanding professionalism, perseverance and initiative.

During the ceremony, more than 70 people were recognised for dedicating between 15 and 40 years of service to the campus. An additional three – Maureen Beckles-King, Jefferson Cumberbatch and Judy Holder – received special recognition.

Appreciation was also shown to 14 retirees who cumulatively contributed more than 182 years of service to the campus, among them Professor the Most Honourable V. Eudine Barriteau who returned to head the campus in a post-retirement capacity.

In the prelude to the awards, the Principal praised members of faculty and staff for their dedication and commitment, as she noted how the pandemic forced major changes in campus operations. ♦

V. Eudine Barriteau Auditorium



(from left) Chairman of the Board of The Ellerslie School, Steven Williams; Principal of The Ellerslie School, Lt. Col. Errol Brathwaite; Principal Eudine Barriteau; Barriteau's son, Cabral Barriteau-Foster; Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Dr Rommel Springer

Trailblazer's Name Emblazoned on Alma Mater

Professor the Most Honourable Eudine Barriteau has been officially recognised by one of the institutions where she gained her formative education.

On 7 August, The Ellerslie School named its auditorium in honour of Professor Barriteau, outgoing Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus.

The Grenada-born Barriteau attended the then Ellerslie Comprehensive School from 1968 to 1972, two years after migrating to Barbados. She entered the institution at age 13 and went on to become one of its debating champions.

"Ellerslie Comprehensive School provided me with the

secondary education that became the foundation for all that I achieved later in life," Professor Barriteau said.

She went on to attain an MPA in Public Sector Financial Management from New York University in 1984, and a PhD in Political Science from Howard University in 1994. She has published 37 book chapters and peer-reviewed journal articles.

During her more than 48 years as an educator, she has earned an acclaimed reputation as a Caribbean feminist, scholar and activist.

Professor Barriteau is the first female principal of The UWI, Cave Hill, the only woman to have led two of The UWI's five campuses, and

was one of the first two individuals conferred with the **Order of Freedom of Barbados** during the 2019 Independence National Awards.

She has received numerous national, regional and international awards and recognitions, including **The Order of Grenada Gold Award for Excellence** for 2015 and the **Tenth CARICOM Triennial Award for Women** in 2011.

At the recognition ceremony, her contributions were celebrated by diplomats, officials of The Ellerslie School, the Ministry of Education, Technology & Vocational Training, and Cave Hill Campus.

While she expressed regret that her mother could not witness the honour bestowed on her, she was happy her son, Cabral, was present for the occasion.

Minister of Education, Technological and Vocational Training, Santia Bradshaw said, *"I would want all students in Barbados to see what you can achieve with hard work. I would want all students in Barbados to see that it does not matter what school you attended; that does not determine your fate in life. It is what you do while at school that really matters."*

"You have created a remarkable legacy for fellow Ellerslie students to follow, in particular for, I believe, the young women as well who attend this institution and who have left this institution. Certainly, you are amongst the trailblazers and the women who have broken the glass ceiling for all of us; and, indeed, we are very, very proud of you."

Former schoolmate and debating companion Alfred Hoyte recalled the numerous challenges he and a young Barriteau faced while attending the institution, located at Black Rock, St. Michael, that was fully established in 1966, mere months before Barbados gained independence.

He said the institution challenged the status quo of established secondary schools.

"Our work paid off, not 100 percent but it paid off," said an emotional Hoyte, who praised the decision to rename the school auditorium.

"I am very, very happy that this hall where we only had one debate, because it was under construction when we were doing most of our debates, gets to bear your name." ♦



Principal Barriteau and Education Minister Santia Bradshaw look on as Principal of The Ellerslie School Lt. Col. Errol Brathwaite unveils the plaque.

Charting a Course for the Blue Economy

Regional thought leaders and policy makers are sharing their advice on the way forward for the Caribbean's blue economy in a new publication co-edited by faculty members of **The UWI, Cave Hill Campus** and the **University of the West of England**.

The Caribbean Blue Economy, which was published by Routledge, is part of the **Europa Regional Perspectives** series.

It was edited by Dr. Peter Clegg of the University of the West of England; Director of CERMES, Dr. Patrick McConney; UWI Professor Emeritus, Robin Mahon; and Professor of Fisheries Biology and Management, Hazel Oxenford.

It begins by examining the region's position on the global stage regarding the adoption of the blue economy, and addresses key issues such as ecosystem services, climate change, and governance at all levels that could make or break the blue economy initiative. Additionally, the book explores the main sectoral activities of the blue economy, namely fisheries, tourism, shipping and transport, renewable energy, oil and gas, seabed mining and waste management.

Last December, editors Mahon and Oxenford presented an autographed copy to the Minister of Maritime Affairs and the Blue Economy Kirk Humphrey at the ministry's headquarters in

Charnocks, Christ Church.

"It is going to be essential going forward that there is an indigenous understanding of the blue economy, and this book adds great value and insight on this topic that is timely and relevant," Humphrey said, adding that he hopes to see more contributions of this nature to help expand the region's understanding of the Caribbean's blue economy.

Professor Mahon noted that the publication provides a broad introduction to a new approach to sustainable development that is widely considered to have the potential to transform developing economies and the lives and livelihoods of the citizens of those countries.

"As the world develops its ocean space, we just cannot afford to make the mistakes we have made on land again in the ocean. It would spell disaster for our planet. This is why it is so important that our Caribbean blue economies are equitable, sustainable and based on sound information."



The Caribbean Blue Economy

EUROPA REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES



Edited by
**Peter Clegg, Robin Mahon,
Patrick McConney and Hazel A. Oxenford**

*It is our intention that our book **The Caribbean Blue Economy** provides a broad spectrum of such information, illustrating the complexities and interconnectedness of activities in our ocean space and their potential,” Mahon said.*

According to him, it also flags the significant pressure placed on those ecosystems by climate change, as well as the financial and geopolitical challenges to achieving blue economies in the wider Caribbean.

The editors noted that many of the potential benefits of blue economy development involve taking better care of economic activities already occurring in coastal and marine ecosystems and adding value where appropriate. ♦



(left to right) Prof. Robin Mahon, Prof. Hazel Oxenford, Dr. Patrick McConney, Minister Kirk Humphrey; and David Bynoe, National Coordinator for the GEF Small Grants Programme (UNDP)
(Photo credit: Ian Bourne)



DEFENDING CARIBBEAN FREEDOM

Political scientist Dr. Tennyson Joseph is putting forward a fresh case against neoliberalism in his latest publication ***Defending Caribbean Freedom***.

The book, launched via Zoom last November, is a compilation of articles from the newspaper column "All Ah We is One" written by the Senior Lecturer in Political Science at The UWI, Cave Hill Campus, and published in the **NationNews Barbados** from 2010 to 2016.

With a foreword by George Lamming, Dr. Joseph has dedicated the publication *"to the working people of Barbados who, in keeping with their quiet, proud and unadorned regionalism, have accepted me as one of their own ... despite the unfamiliarity of my accent"*.

The St. Lucian told his online audience the articles were a *"coherent commentary on Caribbean politics"* that were written as weekly responses to concrete and actual events taking place in the Caribbean and the wider world.

He explained his decision to



Dr. Tennyson Joseph
Senior Lecturer in Political Science,
The UWI, Cave Hill Campus

publish them as a book, saying they *"lent themselves to a coherent contemporary analysis and critical commentary on the dominant political, social and cultural challenges confronting Caribbean society"* in the era of neoliberalism.

"I wanted to present Caribbean readers a kind of historical document that captured my effort to resist capitulation to what has largely been touted as the singular world view, or the only game in town, of free-market capitalism."

"My main concern all along, even before writing the book, has been to show how some of the central assumptions of neoliberalism were impacting on the kinds of spaces for social democratic development that the Caribbean had ... for itself since independence."

The publication addresses three themes of Politics, Development and

was published by Carib Research and Publications, Inc., and was lauded by Dr. Farley Brathwaite, publisher and retired sociologist of The UWI.

"Tennyson is an outstanding scholar who is willing to share his work, his ideas, his arguments, his debates with all and sundry, anyone who is willing to listen. Because he is a person of deep theoretical insights certainly on the history of Caribbean society and the impact of that history on present day society."

Former member of the Government of Barbados Task Force on Reparations Dr. Rodney Worrell, in his review, noted that the academic's aim was to influence political thought and behaviour. According to him, the author makes a strong case against neoliberalism while promoting greater social democracy and the empowerment of the majority of society.

"Dr. Joseph is clear that an alternative perspective to those champions like the defenders of political power and capital is possible," he said.

Joseph also received rave reviews from Deputy Principal Professor Winston Moore, as well as his colleagues in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

"Congratulations, this is excellent work and I know your students all around the world are going to be happy to read this text,"

Professor Moore said.

Head of the Department of Government, Sociology, Social Work and Psychology Dr. Wendy Grenade had high praise for the publication, saying: *"Since joining The UWI, Cave Hill Campus, [Dr. Joseph] has carved out a research agenda that seeks to disrupt Western centric discourse on globalisation and neoliberalism. As a political theorist, he has contributed new insights to the field of political science."*

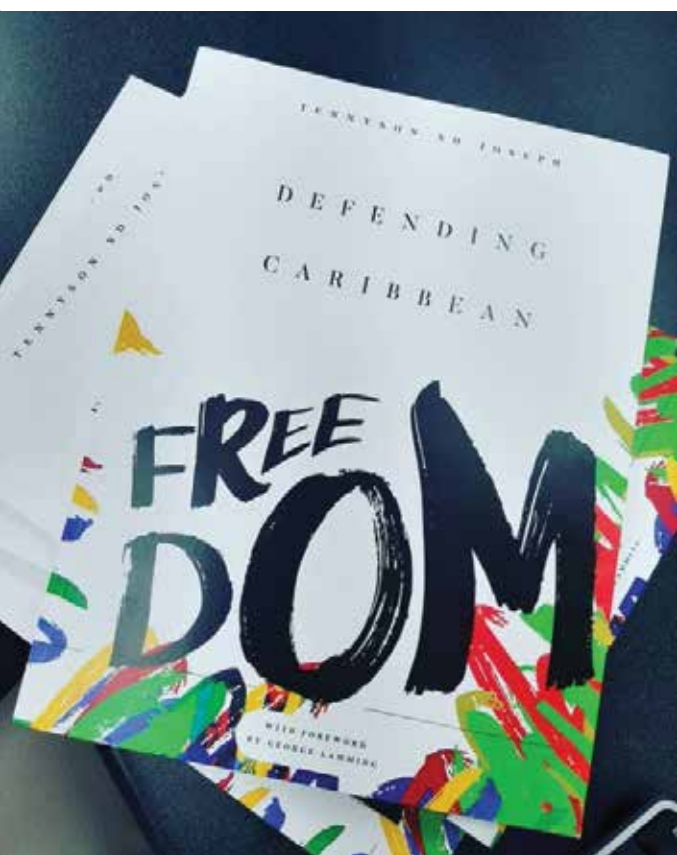
Director of the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) Dr.

Don Marshall also offered words of praise.

"I admire your intellectual tenacity and your obvious courage, and I just want to say congratulations."

Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences Professor Troy Lorde also hailed Joseph's excellent work over the years, stating: *"I have read some of the work already, and I think it's a work that I would recommend certainly for courses ... he has exposed me to a different way of thinking. Over the years, he's always suggested to me there are other ways in which we have to analyse the world."*

Dr. Joseph has published four books and has also had several peer-reviewed articles in international and regional journals, as well as numerous book chapters published by reputable publishing houses. ♦



Political Economy; Culture, Sport and Society; and future challenges for the Caribbean.

The political scientist also believes that his latest work will serve as a contemporary document, noting: *"Today's contemporary politics is tomorrow's history. The book's historical value resides in the fact that it offers a Caribbean political perspective of events in the early 21st Century."*

Defending Caribbean Freedom

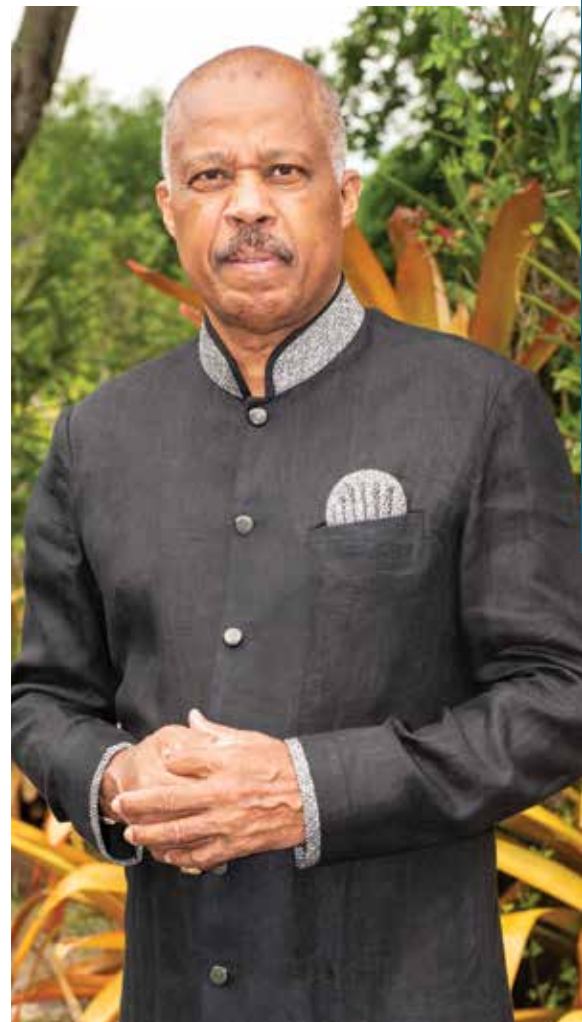


Administration Building Named in Honour of Beckles

Vice-Chancellor of The University of the West Indies (UWI), President of Universities Caribbean, and Chairman of the CARICOM Reparations Commission, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, has been paid special tribute by having the administration building at the Cave Hill Campus named in his honour.

The building now bears the name **Hilary McDonald Beckles Administration Complex**. The iconic four storey structure was conceptualised by Sir Hilary, during his tenure as principal at Cave Hill, to reflect the architectural motif of the Golden Stool of the Ashanti that serves as a symbol of cultural identity and the collective wisdom of elders and ancestors. Sir Hilary invited the Asantehene [King] of the Ashanti, Otumfo, Osei Tutu II of Ghana to Barbados to lay the foundation plaque. The building was opened in April 2010.

Principal, Professor the Most Honourable Eudine Barriteau said



the Cave Hill Campus community, and wider UWI family, fully supported the honour, given Sir Hilary's 40 plus years of contributions to the development of the university, and his current leadership of The UWI's management of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It is entirely appropriate for him to be saluted through the naming of that building in which decisions are made that give the institution its direction and governance. He is someone renowned for his decisive role and leadership qualities," she said.

Professor Barriteau also hailed Sir Hilary's advocacy work in the areas of social justice, gender research and minority economic enfranchisement, adding, *"He is someone who thinks ahead of the times. His emphasis on reparatory justice is one example."*

Sir Hilary served the Cave Hill Campus as the university's youngest appointed Personal Professor, Head of the History Department, and Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education before assuming the office of Principal, which he held for 13 years between 2002 and 2015.

He is a globally distinguished scholar, international thought leader, transformational education administrator, United Nations Committee official, private sector director of major corporations, and expert in sport history, science and practice. He holds Barbados' highest national honour, Commander Knight of St Andrew, in acknowledgment of his distinguished service in the field of education, culture and sport. He also holds the second highest national recognition

from the Commonwealth of Dominica, the Sisserou Award of Honour.

During his tenure as Principal of the Cave Hill Campus, Sir Hilary transformed the academic, funding and infrastructural environment, creating new and innovative programmes and facilities that enabled the campus to thrive. These developments meant that the enrolment of the campus could move from the 3,000 range to the 9,000 range within the context of a scientific system that monitored the relationship between quantity and quality. The academic quality management system at Cave Hill became highly respected by national and international experts. Working with the Owen Arthur Regime he successfully negotiated the acquisition of 50 acres of additional lands at the Lazaretto for expansion, reflecting the commitment to the quality remit.

Sir Hilary has a deep interest in the identity issues of the built environment. Never accepting up front a design brief, he worked closely with the best local architects to fulfill his passion by conceptualising, sketching, and co-designing the many iconic buildings on the campus. These include: the Errol Barrow Centre for Creative Imagination building that reflects the indigenous creole culture; the 'China/India' building that hosts the Confucius Institute, reflecting the regional Asian heritage; the Administration Building, celebrating African culture; and the CLICO and Sagikor buildings that reflect, with majestic Roman

pillars, the European legacy. The Usain Bolt Sport Complex was conceived and designed to celebrate the blended beauty of Barbados' land and sea environments. Cave Hill now has a unique multicultural built environment that celebrates human cultural diversity. The iconic 3Ws Oval serves as the centre piece of identity cohesion with the Mandela Freedom Park as an open invitation.

These structure were created in order to radically improve the pedagogical and educational capacity of the campus with new and innovative academic programmes, and an aggressive postgraduate training and research culture. From the Creative Arts to the Faculty of Medicine, the School of Business and Student Services, academic disciplines and student support systems were empowered in this way.

Sir Hilary, commenting on the honour stated, *"My entire professional life has been dedicated to perfecting a contribution to the art and science of decolonization and nation building within the context of institutional and public education. It has been by necessity a highly discursive experience, and therefore inevitably contentious. One's head is always buried in the work at hand, and this expression of generosity from my peers gave cause to lift it and smile. I feel very blessed by this recognition and accept it as a tribute to all my very noble colleagues, staff and students, who I know worked and are working very hard for the campus and university, enabling our collective results to be viable, sustainable and visible."* ♦

Trade Liberalisation Not A Regional Panacea

by the Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy and Services



Trade liberalisation is important, but not a panacea for the Latin America and Caribbean

(LAC) region. That was the strong message coming out of a panel discussion jointly hosted by the **Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy and Services (SRC)** of The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill and the **Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)**.

The panel discussion took place on 6 February 2020 at the **Sagicor Cave Hill School of Business and Management** and carried the same name as the IDB's 2019 flagship report on which it was based: **"Trading Promises for Results: What Global Integration Can Do for Latin America and the Caribbean"**.

In his welcome remarks, SRC Director Neil Paul expressed the



centre's delight in partnering with IDB on this event, noting the intersecting areas of focus of the two institutions, including trade training, research, and capacity building. In highlighting the Caribbean's *"disappointing"* performance in trade over the past few years, Paul noted the anticipation of the audience, which

largely comprised students and faculty of The UWI as well as members of the general public, in hearing from the esteemed speakers on whether the promised benefits of trade liberalisation for the region had translated into meaningful results.

The discussion, which was chaired by SRC Deputy Director Dr. Jan Yves Remy, began with a presentation by the report's two editors, Dr. Mauricio Mesquita Moreira (Principal Economic Advisor, IDB Integration and Trade Sector) and Dr. Ernesto Stein (Principal Technical Leader, IDB Research Department). They summarised the report's major takeaways, including that trade liberalisation has led to an increase in welfare and economic growth in the LAC region but has not necessarily decreased employment and inequality. LAC governments, they said, needed to implement sound policies that



complemented trade ones, such as labour adjustment and productivity development programmes. This might help the losers from trade to realise gains.

The two discussants, Dr. Justin Ram, Director of Economics of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and Dr. Antonio Alleyne, Temporary Lecturer in the Department of Economics of The UWI, Cave Hill, provided spirited responses to the report. Dr. Ram applauded its inclusion of political economy considerations, in particular the recommendations for mechanisms to trade adjustment. He implored CARICOM policy makers to not only couch trade in a comprehensive development policy, but to use the single economic space for enabling the free movement of labour and capital. While lauding the effort of the authors in comprehensively presenting the Latin American experience, Dr.

Alleyne highlighted the lack of data specific to the Caribbean region. The unfortunate result was that the Caribbean policymaker could not use the report to provide a holistic picture for formulating and implementing reforms resulting from the dislocations caused by trade liberalisation.

A short and lively discussion with the audience concluded the evening. ♦

(left to right) Dr. Jan Yves Remy (SRC Deputy Director), Dr. Ernesto Stein (Principal Technical Leader, Research Department, IDB), Dr. Mauricio Mesquita Moreira (Principal Economic Advisor, Integration and Trade Sector, IDB), Dr. Justin Ram (Director of Economics, Caribbean Development Bank) and Dr. Antonio Alleyne (Temporary Lecturer, Department of Economics, The UWI, Cave Hill)

The Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy and Services is the Caribbean's leading institute for training, outreach and research on international trade and development matters. The centre is based at The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill in Barbados. Further information on our work may be obtained at: www.shridathramphalcentre.com.

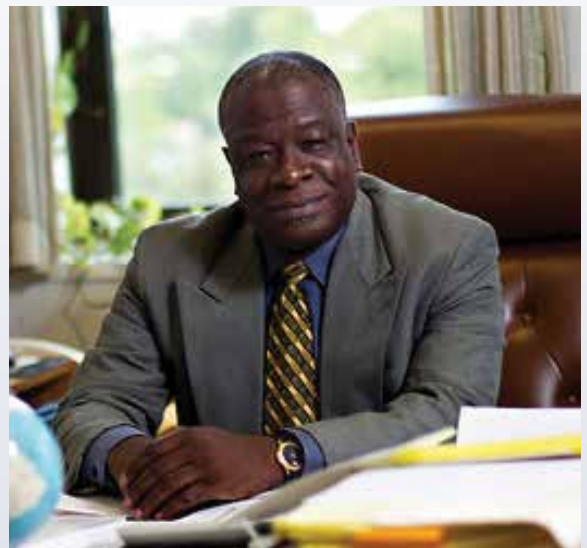




can purchase. Red bricks are for students and will be inscribed for a donation of \$200, a bronze brick for \$500, a silver for \$1,000 and a gold for \$5,000.

Jordan is confident the target is achievable: *"We acknowledge that we're in a post-COVID environment and economies across the region are not doing as well as they were before, but again, we believe with the support of the alumni, staff, individuals and corporations we can achieve this goal."*

Law Faculty to Get SPRUCED UP



Former Chief Justice of Barbados
Sir Marston Gibson

The oldest faculty at the Cave Hill Campus is in line for a BDS\$300,000 facelift. Funds are being raised for improvements to the Faculty of Law that is currently celebrating its 50th anniversary. The initiative was inspired by immediate past President of the Law Society Ashleigh-Ann Dussard.

Under the **Facility Enhancement and Beautification Project**, \$15,000 are earmarked for an outdoor mural, \$14,000 for the student commons ('Pit') mosaic, \$16,000 for the central study terrace, \$132,000 for the law deck, \$63,000 for a donor wall and \$35,000 for other expenses. The project has a built-in contingency of \$25,000.

The faculty formally launched a call for donations during a virtual event last August. At that time, member of the Dean's Council and Cave Hill alumnus, former Chief Justice of Barbados **Sir Marston Gibson** became the first individual to pledge \$10,000. A similar pledge was previously made by the **Insurance Corporation of Barbados Limited (ICBL)** on which Chair of the Dean's Council, Oliver Jordan, serves as Chief Operating Officer.

The contributions will allow Sir Marston and ICBL to have their names placed on a **platinum brick** on the donor wall to be located on the grounds of the faculty. Organisers have said there is no limit to the number of bricks an individual or company

Reflecting on the contributions of the faculty, Sir Marston said it has produced some of the finest legal minds, many of whom have gone on to serve in the highest offices in the region. These include Governor General of Barbados Dame Sandra Mason, Governor General of Antigua Sir Rodney Williams, the President of the Court of Appeal of Jamaica Dennis Morrison, and all but one member on the Trinidad-based Caribbean Court of Justice and the High Court of Barbados. He also noted that the judges on the Court of Appeal in Barbados are also graduates.

"The one thing that the faculty has shown is its ability to produce persons of

quality who continue to enhance not just their individual country but the Caribbean as a whole.

"The idea that we make [the Law Faculty] not just a place of learning but a place of aesthetic appreciation, is important. It certainly would not do to have a faculty of this eminence not give the appearance of eminence."

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor the Most Honourable Eudine Barriteau said the faculty has a legacy that is unparalleled within the region and in the Caribbean diaspora.

"The breadth and scope of this Faculty of Law is like no other in the Caribbean. Whether within the region or in the Caribbean diaspora, the reach of the faculty is unmatched. It has produced illustrious men and women, many of whom owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the taxpayers of this region and their alma mater. And to whom much is given, much is expected. It is imperative that those who have benefitted from the opportunities provided to them by generous tax-paying citizens and the governments of our member countries accept an obligation to give back to society."

The principal added it was imperative that the faculty, having reached its golden anniversary, now conduct a self-assessment to chart the way forward and consider deepening its interdisciplinary approach to teaching and research.

She noted, *"Although the Faculty of Law has been the bedrock of regional jurisprudence, this distinction is not guaranteed into the future, especially given the ongoing challenges that are facing the global higher education sector including legal education. The emergence of the global pandemic has exacerbated some of these difficulties. For example, it has forced students to adapt immediately to new learning methodologies that are themselves challenged by existing resources."*

"Technology has accelerated the growth of the knowledge economy. As the Caribbean seeks to capitalise on earlier gains, it has to take stock of changing national, regional and international priorities. For example, it is critical that our legal education adequately prepare our region to address the emerging and rapidly changing issues that relate to intellectual property, law of the creative economy, consumer protection, the digital or gig economy, artificial intelligence, and other emerging issues whose impact on this region will be determined largely by how prepared we are to adequately deal with them."

The Principal publicly commended outgoing Dean Dr. David Berry, the faculty and students for continuing to ensure that student centredness remains a core value. She said Dean Berry displayed committed leadership during the two terms he served in the position. ♦



A New CAMPUS VIBE

In lockstep with millions of their counterparts around the world, the newest Blackbirds received a virtual welcome to tertiary education this academic year, the first time in Cave Hill's 57-year history that incoming students were unable to mix and mingle with fellow 'freshers' at an in-person matriculation ceremony.

Last year, the annual ceremony was one of the activities the campus had to move entirely online in compliance with national COVID-19 directives which restricted large gatherings.

During the 4 September event, representatives of the university's leadership were clear in their message to students – everything was being done to protect the campus community and visitors without compromising the quality of education offered. To this end, the campus ramped up its hybrid course and programme offerings, combining face-to-face with online classes for the majority of students. Freshers were given preference for in-person teaching to allow them as much campus-life experience as possible.

Mandatory wearing of masks in classes and in the company of others and temperature checks were enforced while students were encouraged to practise frequent hand sanitisation and maintain a safe physical distance from others.

A temporary ban was put on several student-sponsored social events including parties, fetes, beer limes and bar crawls on or off campus. ♦



Race for the Kids Benefits Students Affected by COVID-19

For the first time since inception of the annual **RBC/UWI Race for the Kids**, some of the proceeds from last year's fourth edition were allocated to the **Student Hardship Fund** to assist those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.





Over 1,800 participants turned out for the 8 March 2020 event that was one of the last major in-person activities hosted by the campus before the coronavirus outbreak forced a national lockdown and the initial closure of the campus.

In August, **RBC Royal Bank (Barbados) Limited** handed over the proceeds of the fundraiser when Managing Director Robert de Silva presented a cheque of \$120,000 to the Campus Principal, Professor the Most Honourable Eudine Barriteau. She expressed her gratitude to the financial institution for its support, noting the donation was significant in light of the difficulties posed by the pandemic.

"We are receiving \$120,000 from RBC in this challenging environment,

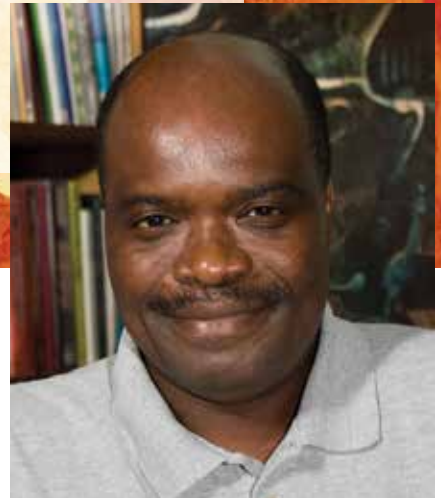
and we are so exceedingly grateful because there are so many things that we are now required to do [for students] that we didn't have to do before," Barriteau said.

Mr. de Silva said RBC was pleased to be able to assist the students through this initiative. "It really is our pleasure to continue this partnership with The UWI, Cave Hill Campus. We consider the continued education of our young people, the development of our young people, so important for the further growth and development of Barbados."

The **RBC/UWI Race for the Kids** in Barbados was first run in 2017. All proceeds go towards the **First Year Experience Mental Health Programme**, the **Cave Hill Campus Scholarship Fund**, and, for the first time last year, the **Student Hardship Fund**. ♦

Pioneering the VIRTUAL VIVA

Almost everyone who has earned a PhD will recall sitting in a room before a panel of examiners and witnesses, demonstrating their mastery of a subject to which they have added new knowledge.



Professor Kahiudi Mabana
Director, School for Graduate Studies
and Research

When COVID-19 struck and shuttered campuses worldwide, it presented a challenge of enabling these research scholars to advance into greater realms of higher learning. With Cave Hill's own closure in March 2020 due to a national lockdown, there was little likelihood of PhD candidates defending their thesis in a face-to-face setting.

The situation called for an innovative solution; and Cave Hill, no stranger to novelty, responded with the online viva, pioneering this development among The UWI family of campuses.

The successful defence of their dissertation in a virtual space has enabled more than a dozen students to earn their PhD over the past year with minimal disruption to their schedule for completion.

Director of the School for Graduate Studies and Research Professor Kahiudi Mabana said

Cave Hill's successful execution of this exercise led to the campus being asked to take the lead in drafting guidelines to govern the implementation of online vivas at all UWI campuses.

Senior Assistant Registrar at the School for Graduate Studies and Research Owen Ellis explained: *"Normally, we'd have the viva in a room with student, examiners, observers and everybody in one space, but we couldn't have it because of the country being closed down; and secondly, [there is] the social distancing requirement. We had to observe the health protocols on campus."*

He noted that Cave Hill collaborated with other UWI campuses and the Pro Vice-Chancellor for Graduate Studies to establish a set of guidelines to govern how the university conducts online examinations.

"We followed the guidelines. We have had all the persons involved at various stations across the

world. In the first online viva, the external examiner was in Canada, the student was in Trinidad, while others were here at Cave Hill; the examiner from Cave Hill and the Chair was from Cave Hill. We were very successful."

As with all successful ventures, preparation was key. Chair of the first online viva Nicole Foster, who is Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Law, said the department left no stone unturned in ensuring that everything was in place before the day of the event.

"In terms of the online environment, there were some extra requirements that you had to put in place to safeguard

the integrity of the process. For example, the candidate was told that there could be nobody else in the room. He had to have his camera on; he had to have the camera set up in a way that we could see his hands at all times; he couldn't have anything on the desk where he was sitting so we could see that he wasn't communicating with anybody; his phone had to be put away so that you could be clear that he wasn't using anything other than his head and his thesis.

"Before the actual viva day, we would have meetings with the student, the supervisor, the examiners and Chair just to make sure everything is as it should be, and then we had the viva on the day and time that it was advertised. The only difference here is that we're now not sitting in one physical space, but we are sitting in one virtual space and doing the same thing as we would normally do it; the same presentations, the same examination questions, the same deliberations and conclusions," she added.

To date, 13 vivas were held via Zoom since the COVID-19 protocols were introduced in March, and Ellis noted that the campus has seen some financial savings from the virtual format by not having to pay for travel and related expenses for any examiners flown in for the exercise.

He praised online vivas as a valuable addition to the campus's armoury of academic options that would enable PhD students to complete their programmes without disrupting their momentum and enable them to graduate within their aspired timeframe. ♦



Steep Rise in Some Operating Costs

Significant technological upgrades were put in place to ensure a smooth start to the semester when the 2020–2021 academic year at Cave Hill began in a hybrid teaching format last 14 September. The upgrades facilitated real-time online teaching that matched all instruction being delivered to students who were physically in classrooms and other teaching spaces on campus.

All in-person teaching complied with government mandated COVID-19 protocols that included mask wearing and adequate physical distancing.

According to Campus Bursar Lisa Alleyne, **Polycom Studio** sound bars were installed at a cost of \$119,000 to outfit 35 undergraduate and nine postgraduate classrooms, and whiteboards and other equipment

necessary for hybrid teaching at a cost of \$34,000.

The campus undertook a \$125,000 electrical upgrade of the **Faculty of Law** to augment its electrical supply to accommodate additional load. It also replaced electrical panels and breakers there.

Additionally, there was a near million-dollar upgrade of the air conditioning system at the **Faculty of Medical Sciences Laboratory & Teaching Complex**, with four of its six commercial units replaced along with the modification of existing ducts to improve airflow and address environmental issues.

Across campus, work was also carried out to improve general lighting and to address a number of environmental issues.

The Bursar noted that these upgrades to maintain an adequate and safe environment for students and staff came at a time when the campus had to endure a 7.6 percent cut to its budget. ♦

Alignment with CETL Fosters Agile Access to Teaching Online

by Carol Williams

Migrating thousands of students into a virtual pedagogical environment was a monumental task that educational institutions across the globe faced when governments forbid large gatherings or enforced lockdowns to curtail spread of the COVID-19 virus.

At Cave Hill, a herculean task for many universities was achieved with relative ease, thanks to its **Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL)** that proved a critical link in the transition from face-to-face to remote teaching and learning.

The centre is responsible for assisting with the development and promotion of best practices in teaching, learning, curriculum implementation, assessment, technology integration, and relevant higher education policy.

As such, when the campus suspended face-to-face teaching on 18 March 2020 in line with the **COVID-19 National Preparedness Plan** of Barbados, the CETL was pressed into action to help ready the teaching staff to deliver instructions online. While this was being done, the centre had to transition its own operations.

Instructional Development Specialist and Head of CETL Dr. Sylvia Henry said it was a considerable undertaking, one they competently delivered with the support of **Campus IT Services**, the **Examinations Section** and other units.

"We did it without a stumble, and I am very proud of that. Our campus went full steam ahead to offer academic continuity," Dr. Henry said.

Training commenced on 16 March



in preparation for the resumption of the second semester on 6 April, the only major challenge being the different levels of technological competencies of the faculty. Graduates of the university's postgraduate **Certificate in University Teaching and Learning (CUTL)** programme, which is offered by CETL, were able to navigate the shift easier than those who had not taken the programme. Some of these graduates were enlisted to assist, among them Dr. Glenda Gay who ended up serving on Cave Hill's 21-member **Campus Continuation Committee for Online Learning** that coordinated the changeover.

Noting that special attention had to be paid to the area of assessments, she said: *"The learning curve was good for many of them and, of course, it took us longer to assist those who were not technologically savvy. The lag was more about what do we do with assessments in the various departments than telling staff what we need to do and when we need to do it."*

"We had about three weeks left in the [first] semester. This meant that assessments were outstanding for courses. Then, we had to determine how we were going to work for the final exam since we couldn't meet students face-to-face."

Dr. Gay created over 20 'how to' videos that covered areas such as how to create an assignment, how to upload my grades, how to check attendance and how to grade my students.

CETL disseminated teaching and preparation tips to help faculty plan their classes, establish a remote workspace and select appropriate technology tools.



Dr. Sylvia Henry
Instructional Development Specialist and
Head of the Centre for Excellence in Teaching
and Learning, The UWI, Cave Hill

The centre then collaborated with CITS and other stakeholders on two classroom teaching simulations that involved both lecturers and students or student actors. This allowed for the troubleshooting of issues related to access, illegible PowerPoint presentations, upload of videos and images, creating and sharing classroom links to access the course, and audio. Those issues were satisfactorily resolved in time for the 6 April return of students and faculty to the virtual classroom. CETL then joined other offices to monitor and support the delivery of instruction from the early morning start of classes until the conclusion of teaching at night.

With the integrity of assessment being a major concern, the centre also conducted two webinars delivered by **Dr. Brian Beatty** of **San Francisco State University**, creator of **HyFlex** innovation for course design and alternative assessment.

Overall, more than 1,100 faculty members benefitted from the sessions conducted by CETL during the three-week period.

"We should not underestimate what we can do at CETL, and we

should never underestimate the value of working together. This situation taught us the value of synergies on campus, allowing technical to support pedagogy. We knew the pedagogical things that should be delivered by faculty, we knew the tools that should be utilised by faculty, but we needed CITS to pull it all together. We must appreciate the value of that collaborative work," Dr. Henry said.

*"I also appreciate that the leadership of the campus had paved the way with the **Smart Campus** initiative, which was the foundation on which we continued to build. I also appreciate that the leadership insisted that new faculty be enrolled in the postgraduate certificate programme because they, and others who graduated from the programme, were able to help their colleagues in the faculty, and they also helped us with workshops and the creation of self-help videos."*

CETL scored high in two surveys conducted by Dr. Dion Greenidge and Professor Justin Robinson in the Faculty of Social Sciences in which staff and students assessed their teaching and learning experiences during the first week of virtual teaching.

Dr. Henry added, *"The campus and the university should continue to support the work of [The UWI] CETLs because without the CETL I believe we would have been floundering. There are many prestigious international universities that have not yet recovered from the onset of COVID-19, and they have not been able to offer the seamless transition that we offered."* ♦

UWIHARP's WINNING FORMULA

Online outreach during the COVID-19 pandemic has proven to be a winning formula for the UWI HIV/AIDS Response Programme (UWIHARP). It was one of the first departments within the campus community to adjust to what quickly became the new normal, delivering its programmes virtually.

In most instances, attendance tripled as UWIHARP capitalised on a captive online audience confined to staying at home with a thirst for information about the evolving virus that most knew nothing about.

The multidisciplinary programme, which uses expertise at The UWI to work with other partners in response to HIV/AIDS, presented **"Sexual Health Online Conversations on COVID-19 (SHOCC)"** and an interactive discussion on sexual health known as the S Files.

In praising the work of his team, Chair of UWIHARP and Lecturer in the Faculty of Medical Sciences Dr. Michael Campbell explained that prior to the lockdown measures,

members delivered packages containing condoms and healthcare material to students who reside on the campus.

"Our programmatic activities moved online immediately. In fact, we'd been talking about making elements of that available online, even before COVID, to help with outreach. Typically, many people can't make our lunchtime sessions for one reason or another, bearing in mind issues of confidentiality.

"The team really did a great job taking the programmes online. With SHOCC, which addressed COVID-related topics, the attendance was great. I was one of the presenters for the sessions. What was interesting was the demand for information. People were asking a lot of questions and there were



Dr. Michael Campbell
Chair of UWIHARP and Lecturer,
Faculty of Medical Sciences,
The UWI, Cave Hill

a lot of people who signed up. Some of the sessions had close to 100 people. On the average day on the campus, we'd be doing well if 20 or 30 people show up."

During April and May, UWIHARP presented webinars on topics that included **"Safe Sex and COVID-19"**, **"Living with Endometriosis and PCOS"**, **"Below the Belt Hygiene and Care Practices for Males and Females"**, **"Pregnancy Wellness & COVID-19"**, **"Womb Wisdom & Indigenous Healing: Addressing Pain, Traumas and Gynecological Complications"** and **"Contraception! Exploring Options and New Trends for Women and Men"**.

"There's something about the content and the delivery of the programmes that met a need that resonated with students, other members of the campus community, and partners such as the HIV/AIDS Commission, Equals [an organisation dedicated to working with and for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex community] and other NGOs," said Dr. Campbell, a psychologist.

"The audience is broader and that is part of UWIHARP's mission across the campuses as well, having national and regional outreach. In some ways, I think the online venue helped us reach interested people who might not, on the average day, be able to come to the campus if they're not already there."

Originally focused on HIV/AIDS education and prevention, the mission of UWIHARP has since evolved to encompass sexual health and wellness grounded in a human rights framework.

Dr. Campbell noted that challenges increase for marginalised groups during public health crises, like the pandemic, including relating to gender-based violence.

Turning attention to the way forward, he said UWIHARP would consider maintaining aspects of its online presence post-COVID.

"One of the things that we have learnt is that there seems to be an appetite for this kind of programme delivery. Having said that, the social scientist in me wonders why this is so. This is still relatively new, and there has been discussion about webinar fatigue and the psychological consequences about spending too much time on Zoom. I think we will learn the pros and cons, much like other organisations, about the delivery via Zoom and how to deliver online programmes that are the most helpful and effective. So our model might change, but I do think that online delivery is going to be part of our future."

The UWIHARP Chair was among a group of psychologists drawn from across the region to work with the **Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)** to develop COVID-related psychological interventions for residents. ♦





Director General of the **Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)** Dr. Didacus Jules believes the COVID-19 pandemic could re-energise the 'lagging' integration movement in the 11-member subgrouping. He offered this forecast while delivering the **15th Patrick Emmanuel Memorial Lecture** on 19 November 2020 entitled **"Post COVID-19 – Reflection on OECS Integration: Challenges, Opportunities & Possibilities"**, hosted by the Department of Government, Sociology, Social Work and Psychology.

During his presentation, Dr. Jules said the pandemic had resulted in a seismic transition with deep implications for the trajectory of the OECS. He characterised the integration process as 'a one step forward, two steps backward vacillation'.

"The commitment of Caribbean countries equivocated between moments of great symbolic flourish and periods of insular withdrawal," he explained. *"The membership of the regional subgrouping has grown in the past years with the addition of Martinique and Guadeloupe as associate members."*

St. Martin had also shown interest, but the

Jules Laments Outmoded Models of Management

agreement that had been reached in principle for it to become an associate member has lapsed", Dr. Jules said.

Currently, the aggregate population of the Anglophone OECS is 687,000 and the Francophone is 850,000. Similarly, the gross domestic product (GDP) of the English-speaking countries amounts to US\$10.7 billion while it stands at US\$21.6 billion for the French-speaking countries.

While he pointed to inherent vulnerabilities associated with the size and scale of members of the subgrouping, the director general said there were positives. He said change would require an all-of-society approach rather than one that is centred solely on government.

"Small size provides ideal conditions for experimentation with innovation at manageable costs for proof of concept before scaling up to larger demographics. A whole-of-society approach makes it possible to establish synergies between and across sectors. It also allows for seamless integration between government, the private sector and civil society with a framework of democratic accountability, efficiency and agility."

“The future belongs to those who ride the digital crest. Businesses that pivot to digital systems can benefit from the efficiencies and, ultimately, the cost savings derived from technology adoption and process redesign. But the benefits from a pivot by an individual enterprise, whether public or private, is nothing compared to that which is to be gained from ecosystemic transformation in which the sum of the whole is exponentially greater than the parts.

*In the broad context of the **OECS Economic Union**, that digital future will necessitate acceleration on the GreenTech, FinTech and HealthTech fronts.”*

The regional administrator who once served as registrar of the **Caribbean Examinations Council** said the current models of management had been rendered obsolete by the existential threat of climate change, and COVID-19 and its associated problems. He said the commission, which is responsible for the administration of the OECS, has not remained unaffected, and though some changes had already taken place, more would be required. Some of the primary

areas of future focus identified for the administrative body were flexibility, agility, engagement, and support to member states to address the most pressing challenges.

Dr. Jules explained that flexibility and agility would mean having the courage to take bold

decisions despite the possibility of failure, while minimising the potential consequences of a worst-case scenario outcome for the organisation. Agility would also mean loosening some of the organisational rigidities and processes in favour of faster modes of decision making.

“To that end, a strategic, many-sided road map is required for the ongoing remaking of our OECS, and undoubtedly, this current concatenation of crises provides us the opportunity to define this road map, accelerate our progress by the embrace of its disruptive opportunities and transform our region.”

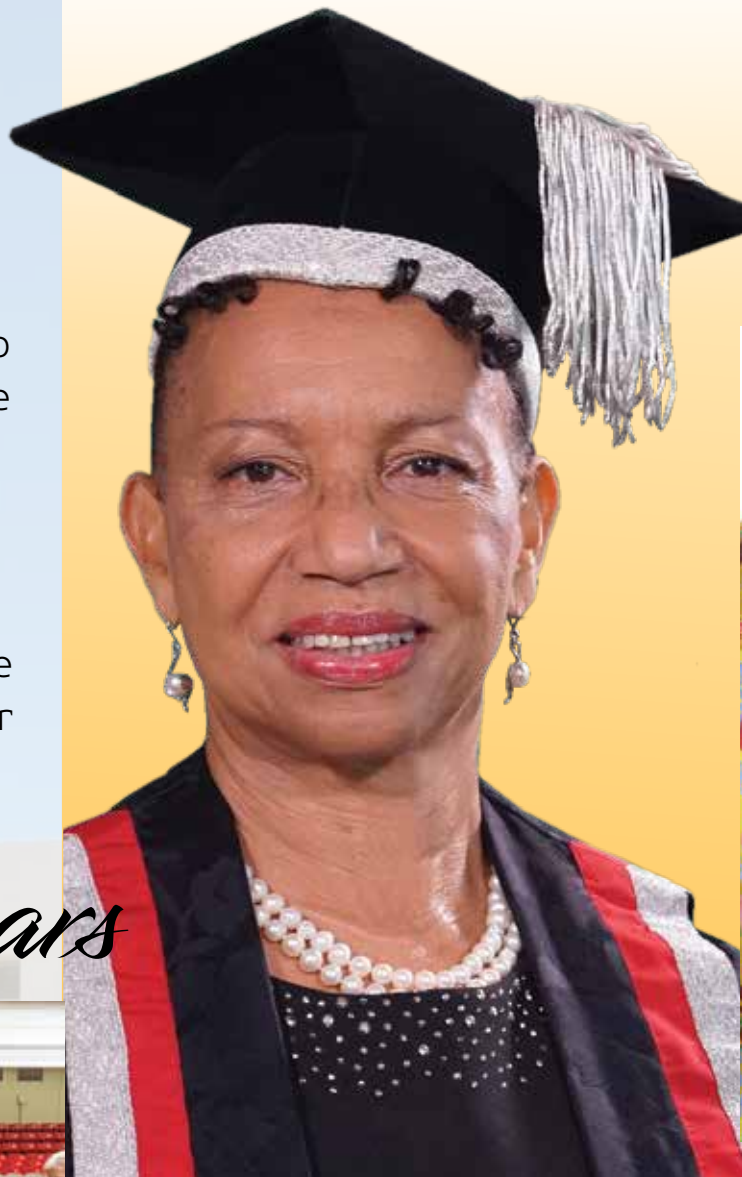
Meantime, Dr. Jules used the occasion to call on The University of the West Indies to posthumously bestow the award of professorship on Patrick Emmanuel for his lifetime of service to institution and the region. He said Emmanuel’s career life was passionately dedicated to the advancement of the small states of the Caribbean and, though it was fitting that the university hosted an annual lecture in his honour, it was not enough.

Aside from functioning as a lecturer and academic researcher, the Grenada-born Emmanuel was a consultant, advisor, and activist. He also served on the Constitution Commission of the **West Indies Associated States**, was foreign policy advisor and ambassador of the People’s Revolutionary Government of Grenada, and advisor to the **Regional Constituent Assembly of the Windward Islands**. ♦



Professor the Most Honourable V. Eudine Barriteau is preparing to say farewell to academe after several decades of working at The UWI. After acceding to a request to extend her years of service with the institution, she is due to take formal leave at the end of the current academic year on 31 July.

Through the Years



Barriteau, a Professor of Gender and Public Policy, became the first female Principal of the Campus on 1 May 2015, and the fifth individual to hold the post. Prior to that she served as Deputy Principal from 2008 to 2014, and later was Principal of **The UWI Open Campus** from August 2014 to April 2015.

Earlier in her career she was also the first head of the **Centre for Gender and Development Studies: Nita Barrow Unit**.

Under her leadership the campus launched the **Faculty of Sport** in 2017, and three years later, the **Faculty of Culture, Creative and Performing Arts**.

Last year, the campus reaped the results of Barriteau's **Smart Campus Initiative** which was launched in 2017, when the institution transitioned to online teaching and assessments following the suspension of face-to-face classes as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. She also steered the critical role that Cave Hill played in Barbados's pandemic response.

In November 2019, Barriteau was awarded Barbados's second highest national honour, the **Order of the Freedom of Barbados**, in recognition of her contribution to tertiary education, pioneering leadership in the development of gender studies and the promotion of gender equality. ♦



Akombo Brings a New Cultural Rhythm

by Marie-Claire Williams

The man at the helm of The UWI's newest faculty has hailed it as a much-needed addition to the Caribbean's premier higher education institution.

Dr. David Akombo believes the faculty, which was launched on 1 August 2020, will serve to expand the knowledge of Cultural Studies and Performing Arts to the scholarship and artistic endeavours of students and faculty at Cave Hill.

"You see, cultural studies is a discipline that develops analytical [skills] and criticism in the social and political context in which culture manifests itself. On the other hand, performing arts provides students with the opportunity to engage their minds, their bodies and their emotions into a collaborative expression that helps them understand the human experience," he said.

Additionally, he reminded of the role of the arts in ancient civilisation in which music had equal prominence as subjects

like mathematics and science.

"In the 21st century, it appears as though a lot of people in the world today are forgetting the significance of culture and how it impacts their well-being as people. And the cultural knowledge, the cultural experience plays a major role in treating humanity as families, as friends, and kind of unites the society," he noted.

The accomplished pianist, who also plays percussion drums, said that music and culture are critical to any higher education institution and pointed to the need to develop individuals' artistic expression.

"People need to move, people need to dance, people need to make music, and so on and so forth. Because all these artistic endeavours are good for the human

body, mind and soul."

The new Dean said he is honoured to be the first person to hold that post in the new faculty and to be a part of The UWI.

"I'm very excited, privileged and honoured to join The University of the West Indies at Cave Hill. And the reason I chose Cave Hill is because it's an outstanding higher education provider in the Caribbean."



"People need to move, people need to dance, people need to make music, and so on and so forth. Because all these artistic endeavours are good for the human body, mind and soul."

Before taking up his post at Cave Hill, Dr. Akombo was a Faculty Fellow and tenured Associate Professor at the **College of Liberal Arts at Jackson State University (JSU)**, one of the largest Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) in the United States. He previously served as Chair of the Department of Music at JSU.

He has given the assurance that in his new role as Dean he will continue to mentor and listen to his students, while holding them to a high standard.

"Students should expect to be engaged in comparative and multidisciplinary understanding of culture, in the arts including all forms of diversity in the education arena," he said.

With regards to his pedagogical approach, Dr. Akombo favours an integrated method rather than a one-size-fits-all approach.

"I support the idea of having an integrated approach to teaching because it's the most effective

one. And I intend to help students understand that this will come from their instructors, their lecturers — a pedagogy that develops independent judgement and critical thinking skills, one that also encourages collaboration, problem-solving skills, and ... utilises technology," he stated.

The Kenyan native has conducted extensive research in the areas of multicultural music education, cultural identity and Afrocentricity issues in choral and instrumental music, as well as music technology and the psychology of music.

"I do a lot of interdisciplinary research on how music impacts the mind of young people in terms of communication [and] in terms of creativity. But also, I go into the interdisciplinary aspects of things like how significant things like music and movement can be to the overall wellness of the individual, not just in the classroom but also outside the classroom."

"So these kinds of research will be significant to our students, especially those who are interested in interdisciplinary research. And because the faculty is basically an interdisciplinary one, a lot of students will enjoy these kinds of scholarship," he explained.

Given the historical and cultural ties between the Caribbean and the African continent, Dr. Akombo plans to encourage students and faculty to explore the African contributors to Caribbean history, culture and the arts.

"Africa is not the only contributor to the Caribbean culture, but it has contributed a lot of the cultural aspects including melodies and rhythm and costume and movement, dance and movement."

"I think those historical nuances are significant for students of culture and performing arts to understand how they are learnt, [and] to the continent of Africa and also to the people of the African diaspora so that when they see a group dancing in Australia, or a group dancing in Russia or Asia, they will definitely decipher some of the movement, some of the melody, some of the instruments and trace their understanding of the historical background and make that connection."

"So that is very important for the students to understand, and also for them to develop their historical research in terms of the language of course, different Caribbean languages; the dialect, the patois have African lineage and also they borrow from the Spanish and other influences. But the idea of connecting Africa and Afrocentricity scholarship to the Caribbean's knowledge of culture and arts is what's important in this aspect of the Faculty of Culture, Creative and Performing Arts."

Dr. Akombo is already looking towards developing new degree programmes, in addition to study abroad and faculty exchange programmes. He also plans to work with other deans and administration officers to promote the faculty regionally and internationally.

"I see us producing graduates who are all-rounded in culture and the performing arts ... and [are] able to make a change in the community and also the global arena," he said. ♦

The hallmark of many academics is their desire to make a difference – in and outside of the classroom. The concept of one person making a difference is also a common creed in politics. So when academia and politics converge in the form of a political scientist, becoming an agent of change may be underpinned by the notion that every vote counts and election outcomes should not be left to chance but based solely on the people's choice.



Hence, when a senior UWI political scientist was asked to travel to Guyana in early 2020 to observe the disputed general and regional elections, at a time when regional citizens were heeding the advice of health and medical officials to hunker down in their homes, she never considered declining. Senior Lecturer in the Department of Government, Sociology, Social Work and Psychology in the Faculty of Social Sciences Cynthia Barrow-Giles not only had to contend with palpable political tension in that country but also the threat of COVID-19 that had started spreading fast throughout the Caribbean.

The disease was no major concern for the political scientist at the time. Uppermost in her mind was ensuring that the will of the people of Guyana was respected and that the election was deemed credible.

"It would have been unacceptable if I did not take up the challenge to go to Guyana to help them resolve the situation. It was not something I questioned."

Barrow-Giles travelled to Guyana on two occasions in connection with the election impasse. She was a member of a high-level CARICOM observer mission that visited the

Barrow-Giles Keeping Political Watch

by Carol Williams

country in March. However, the mission's supervision of the recount of the vote was challenged in court by a political candidate. She returned to Guyana in May as the team leader of a three-member CARICOM observer team.

While she did not have serious concerns about her health and safety, other members of the delegation did about theirs. As a result, they sought and were able to secure specific guarantees from the Government of Guyana prior to their visits. They were also assured that adequate security measures would be in place.

The decision to observe the elections in spite of the major obstacles garnered widespread praise, including from prominent Caribbean diplomat Sir Ronald Sanders.

This personal sacrifice was deemed the pinnacle of her overall contribution to public service at the national, regional, and international levels, and earned

Barrow-Giles the **Principal's Award for Excellence** during the **Annual Retirees and Long Service Awards Ceremony** held in December 2020.

The awardee has a long professional history with the campus. In 1989, she joined the Department of Government, Sociology and Social Work, as it was called then, as an Assistant Lecturer in Political Science and was promoted to Lecturer in 1994, and Senior Lecturer in 2012. She served as Head of the same Department from 2004 to 2006 and Deputy Dean of Outreach in the Faculty of Social Sciences from 2018 to 2020.

During that time, she wrote numerous books, book chapters, and papers in peer-reviewed journals about democracy and elections. She also observed polls in other countries in the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia. Sri Lanka stands out as the first general election she monitored on behalf

of the Commonwealth. This was repeated in 2010. Barrow-Giles was also part of observer teams to Ghana in 2008 and 2012, and The Gambia in 2011. In the Caribbean, she has monitored polls in Jamaica, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Dominica.

While she noted differences in the culture, political systems, and the level of democratic development, she said the regions could learn from each other.

"Very often, with respect to our elections, there are a number of votes which are routinely disqualified for one reason or the other. The result is that we disenfranchise some voters. However, in The Gambia it was unlikely that any voter would be disenfranchised for the simple reason that they voted with marbles and did the counting in the presence of everyone."

She explained that the use of marbles to vote, though it may be viewed as archaic, was not open to questions in comparison to ballots which could be declared spoiled owing to factors such as electors placing their 'X' next to the names of several candidates or parties.

"One of the things I would like to see in the Caribbean is a more open and transparent process of counting the ballots. Too often, we think that this must be done

behind closed doors. I appreciate the African experience in that when they counted the votes it was in an open environment. Both in The Gambia and Ghana the count took place outside a building so that members of a community, if they were so desirous, could watch."

This does not suggest that fraud did not take place, Barrow-Giles noted as she referenced observing minors voting.

"It is very difficult for this to happen in the Caribbean partly because we are very small and almost hawkish in the way we look at our elections."

The academic researcher pointed to another notable difference, this time in Sri Lanka where provisions were made for men and women to vote in different polling stations due to their culture. She noted that she was not suggesting that this be adopted in the Caribbean.

Barrow-Giles also registered concerns about the lack of certain democratic reforms in this part of the world that would ensure greater transparency and credibility of elections.

"It's very disturbing that in the Caribbean, although we have made that transition to democracy well in advance of

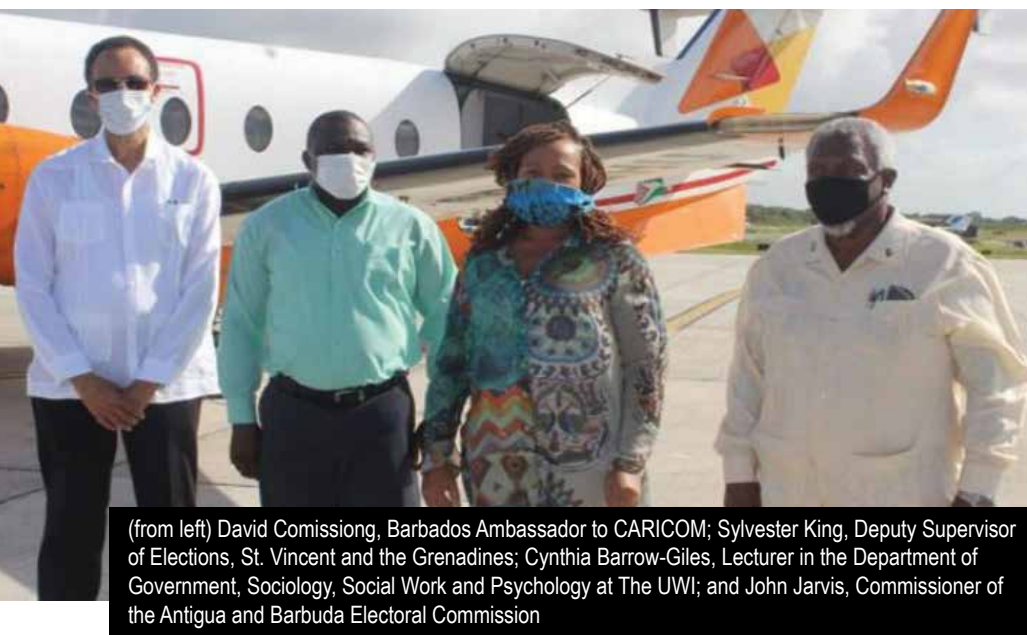
many of those countries outside the Caribbean, we have not, unfortunately, been able to engage in what I call second-generation democratic reforms in the way that some of those countries have been able to make. For example, in some of those countries there are clear laws on election spending and campaigns in a way that we seem not to have embraced in the Caribbean."

Furthermore, she said the models used in the Caribbean to select members of the elections and boundaries commissions do not guarantee autonomy and impartiality.

"All of this was demonstrated in the context of Guyana 2020. Rather than select politicians to be on the elections commission or having representatives of political parties on the commission, what happens in The Gambia, which has a record of political instability and militarism, is that they have a commission that is sort of divorced from the political parties. This is not to say political parties have been excluded from the process. They have organised an interparty commission, which is a body that the elections commission consults with routinely, so they get the buy-in from the main stakeholders."

One of the mandates of election observer missions is the submission of a report, following a poll, in which they note best practices, identify gaps and make recommendations for improvement.

For her political sojourns, therefore, Barrow-Giles is considered by many to be a repository of knowledge about the good and not so good political practices across many jurisdictions. ♦



(from left) David Comissiong, Barbados Ambassador to CARICOM; Sylvester King, Deputy Supervisor of Elections, St. Vincent and the Grenadines; Cynthia Barrow-Giles, Lecturer in the Department of Government, Sociology, Social Work and Psychology at The UWI; and John Jarvis, Commissioner of the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission

After years of following developments in the Caribbean's legal field and The University of the West Indies, Dr. Mohsen al Attar has finally realised his dream of joining the university community.

al Attar's Legal Mission

by Marie-Claire Williams

He took up the post of the new Dean of the Faculty of Law at The UWI, Cave Hill Campus last October, after serving as Associate Professor at the School of Law, University of Warwick in the United Kingdom (UK).

The UWI, Cave Hill is the latest entry on his list of prestigious higher education institutions in his legal pedagogical career, having previously served as Visiting Professor at Monash University Faculty of Law in Prato, Italy, and at McGill University in Montreal, Canada.

Dr. al Attar also held the post of Senior Lecturer at Queen's University Belfast, School of Law in the UK, as well as University of Auckland Faculty of Law in New Zealand.

He said he is honoured to take up this new post as Dean, given Cave Hill's standing as the region's premier higher education institution.

As an educator, he is a firm believer that teaching is the most important mission of any university.

"We can influence the world far more through our teaching than we



Dr. Mohsen al Attar
Dean, Faculty of Law, The UWI, Cave Hill

can through our scholarship," he said.

"One of the most important lessons that I've provided my students, and I continue to provide them, is the importance of what we term meta cognition. It's not just about learning substantively about the subject matter, as important as that is, but also about learning about how we engage in this type of learning. How it is that we engage in our

thinking," he noted.

"What I like for students to do, and they're required to do this in my courses, is to problematise how they're thinking about something. What is the perspective that they're bringing to this discussion? How is their own position influencing ultimately the argument that they're making? What type of argument are they making and why?"

Al Attar was a barrister for

several years before he made the transition to academia. His area of expertise is International Economic Law, which focuses on economic relations between nation states.

"I operate within a theory known as Third World Approaches to International Law and that examines the international legal regime, and whether it is working towards redressing the inequalities that were established during Europe's Colonial Imperial era, or they are primarily there to preserve this unequal status quo."

"And a number of scholars who have come out of both The University of the West Indies and the Caribbean region in general, have contributed greatly to that movement."

As Dean, one of his aims is to increase the campus's ties with higher education institutions in other regions of the world, particularly the African continent.

*"The Caribbean, largely through CARICOM, has been leading in terms of regional integration and it would be interesting to see the African continent at the moment pursuing a similar type of economic integration; they just signed last year with some of the **African Continental FTA [Free Trade Agreement]**, and the aim is to achieve a form of regional integration that is similar to what the Caribbean has through CARICOM, and what Europe has through the European Union."*

"And so my focus is very much going to be – and I'm thinking here of my leadership of the Law Faculty – trying to build ties between The University of the

"We can influence the world far more through our teaching than we can through our scholarship."

West Indies and the number of law faculties across the African continent that are themselves pursuing a number of projects related to economic integration."

He noted that the Caribbean already possesses a wealth of expertise in dealing with the challenges of integrating very disparate economies and societies, and he is looking to pursue similar ties between The UWI and countries of the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)**.

"The University of the West Indies has established a partnership with a couple of Chinese universities, so I'd like to see if we can push that a little bit further, specifically in the Faculty of Law, with other countries such as Malaysia, Singapore and those that have Commonwealth backgrounds and are also facing a different type of challenge in the global economy."

In terms of the overall development of the faculty, there are also plans to expand the scope of programmes offered.

"One of the first things that I would like to explore would be the possibility of an LLB plus ... whether there's an LLB plus politics, LLB plus business, or LLB plus Spanish."

"And [also] in pursuing

partnerships with parallel universities in the region. One example would be an LLB with Spanish, which would involve the necessary three years at [The] UWI but then possibly a fourth year at a law school, whether it happens to be in Colombia or in Mexico or in Argentina ... But because of the important economic and cultural ties between the Caribbean and South America, it would be very interesting for some of our students who hadn't been proficient already in Spanish to learn a little bit about legal practice and possibly to start building themselves greater bridges between those two regions."

At the graduate level, he is hoping that an expansion of programmes offered will help to increase enrolment numbers.

"We have the [Shridath] Ramphal Centre, which is a very important centre in terms of not just international economic law but international commercial law as well. Drawing on that expertise and then develop an LLM in International Commercial Law, one that would appeal not just to individuals within the Caribbean region but also beyond. Especially considering, once again, the important economic ties that we have between the Caribbean region and the UK, between the Caribbean region and the Americas broadly, and also the aspiring ties between the Caribbean region and the African continent."

Outside of the campus, Dr. al Attar said he is looking forward to enjoying the warm Caribbean climate and pursuing his other interests in the areas of music and sports. ♦



Bouncing Forward from Failure

by Carol Williams

Newly minted professor Dwayne Devonish is a stellar example that no one should be written off.

After struggling academically in secondary school, he has attained the height of professional excellence in academia, becoming the second youngest person to achieve professorship at The University of the West Indies, at age 36. The Professor of Management and Organisational Behaviour became one of two academics at Cave Hill to reach this rank last May.

His assessors were impressed with the breadth and depth of his scholarship and noted, *"his research appears in quality outlets and much of it is of direct value to the internal and external communities he serves."*

The recent accomplishments of Professor Devonish contrast sharply

with his academic record during his teenage years.

Between the ages of 12 and 17, he was performing so poorly that a teacher suggested he turn his attention to technical and vocational training, largely viewed then as a last resort for students who were not academically inclined. This was inconsistent with his outstanding performance at the primary school level.

Professor Devonish believes his poor performance was due to a multitude of factors, including distractions that face many teenagers and growing up in a community viewed as high-risk.

He was almost resigned to a fate of acquiring a technical skill and seeking employment in the public service. However, acting on a whim, he applied to the Cave Hill Campus and was accepted. It was there that things turned around for him.

"Once I got that acceptance to The University of the West Indies,

things just clicked. I maintained association and affiliations with persons who were productive minded in terms of academia.

"I could attribute my underperformance in secondary school to the fact [that] I might have been academically immature, probably socially immature, and as people say, 'there are late bloomers' because when I reached 18-19 years of age, I got serious as an undergraduate student."

It was during his latter years as an undergraduate student that his interest in academia deepened, and when approached with an offer, he gladly accepted the role of Research Assistant in the Department of Management Studies.

"Suddenly, I developed this natural appetite to teach and wanted to share information. I assisted a number of students who were in my class in terms of performing as research assistant and other support."

At the age of 21, he graduated with a Diploma in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education along with a BSc in Psychology (First Class Honours) from The UWI.

After brief teaching stints at the university as a research assistant and an assistant lecturer, he successfully applied for a Commonwealth scholarship. He would go on to attain an MSc in Work and Organisational Psychology (with Distinction) and a PhD in Work and Organisational Psychology from the **University of Nottingham** in the United Kingdom (UK).

"I was the only black Caribbean person in the class at age 23 in the United Kingdom, and I remember being called 'professor' as a nickname; I guess [it was] because of the kind of advanced skill and knowledge that I demonstrated in that one-year master's programme. I graduated with a distinction, and I remember the coordinator of the programme saying, 'This is the first time in probably 15 years that we have someone, not just an international student but anyone in the UK do the programme and graduate with a distinction.'"

"All of those things were self-reinforcing. I call them echo chambers meaning everything I did brought a particular outcome which was self-reinforcing. That increased my appetite for things of an academic nature."

Professor Devonish is currently the Chief Coordinator of the MSc International Management programme within the Department of Management Studies, which he recently restructured into an MSc

"... I believe when you reach the top of the ladder, you don't kick it down; you help others up. I would also like to contribute much more heavily to country, especially with what we've gone through with COVID-19 and the disruptions."

International Business programme.

He has also been credited with the development of a comprehensive guide for assessing faculty members' academic performance in the areas of teaching, research, public service and university service.

His written works include 31 journal articles, seven of them single authorships in international scholarly journals. Within the past four years alone, he has published nine scholarly articles and one refereed book.

His key areas of research interests include organisational behaviour, human resource management, stress and workplace wellness, emotional intelligence, and employee performance. Currently, he is working on workplace wellness policies and implementation protocols for health and safety amidst COVID-19.

A guiding force throughout his journey has been his 74-year-old grandmother, Sybil, who, despite failing to complete primary school education, taught him the importance of values.

"My grandmother moulded me in a holistic way, taught me strong morals and gave me good grounding that then set the base for me to develop in all dimensions of life, including academic. My grandmother was not academically inclined because the best she achieved was primary school education. However, she was able, in her special way, to allow me to develop in a socially and morally acceptable way. I had the incentive to believe I could do whatever I put my mind to."

Professor Devonish feels honoured by the promotion and recognition received from The UWI and intends to continue providing encouragement and support to less experienced and junior faculty so they too can reach the rank of professor.

"I believe when you reach the top of the ladder, you don't kick it down; you help others up. I would also like to contribute much more heavily to country, especially with what we've gone through with COVID-19 and the disruptions. A large part of my work is in workplace wellness, so I want to work with the Government and private sector on becoming pandemic resilient in terms of returning to a sense of normalcy. I also intend to continue my scholarly work." ♦

Reading Awakened Appetite for Learning

by Carol Williams

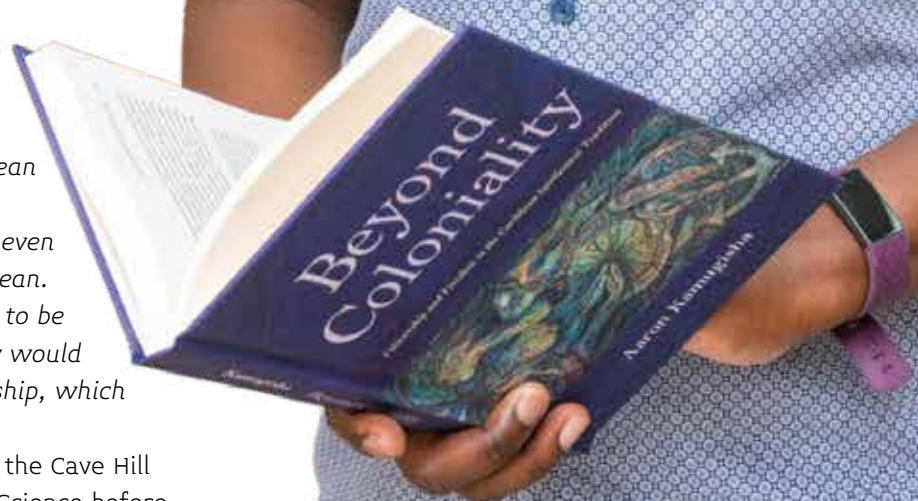
Professor Aaron Kamugisha has his eyes firmly set on distinguishing himself further in the field of **Caribbean and Africana Thought**.

His expertise in the area was acknowledged by The University of the West Indies when he gained promotion to the rank of professor last May. However, he said his work is far from over and he intends to delve deeper into the history of the people of the Caribbean and the African Diaspora.

"I'm still really just a relatively advanced beginner," said the professor who has spoken by invitation at over 27 different universities around the world over his academic career.

"While I know some things about Caribbean and Africana Thought, there is still a huge amount that I do not know anything about, even in my area of greatest speciality, the Caribbean. There's a whole treasure trove of work still to be uncovered. I'm honoured that the university would think that I deserve promotion to professorship, which stimulates me to continue onward."

Professor Kamugisha began his career at the Cave Hill Campus as a temporary lecturer in Political Science before he transitioned to the Cultural Studies programme where



he served as a lecturer, senior lecturer, and now professor.

His scholarly publications include one single-authored book, six edited collections, four special issues of academic journals, 15 journal articles and 13 book chapters.

A recipient of the **Principal's Award for Excellence in Research**,

he holds a BSc in Accounting (1997), an MPhil in Political Science with high commendation (2002) and a PhD in Social and Political Thought from

York University in Toronto. He was a 2007–2008 Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of African–American Studies at **Northwestern University**.

It was along this scholarly journey that his professorial aspirations were fashioned.

"I did a couple of electives in Political Science during the final year of my undergraduate degree, which were highly influential on me. I already had a very strong interest in literature, in history and reading text about black politics.

*I made the decision that I was going to do my MPhil. By the time I finished, I knew I intended to go on to do my PhD. I spent an exchange year at **Berkeley University of California** in 1999–2000 and that was the most important single academic year [because] I definitely knew then I wanted to become a professor; I wanted to do intellectual work*

for the rest of my life, and I wanted to spend the rest of my life reading, doing research, teaching, supervising and collaborating with others."

He has been influenced by some of the most regarded prolific writers and thinkers in the diaspora, among them C.L.R. James, Frantz Fanon, Sylvia Wynter, George Lamming, Austin Clarke, Simone Schwarz–Bart, Angela Davis and Sir Hilary Beckles.

Equally important has been the support of his family, including his grandmother and aunt who were both teachers.

"I had that close family support growing up. I come from a family of readers, which was important because the exposure to ideas comes from simply having a family in which you're encouraged to read, you're encouraged to go to the library or there was simply a book shelf there. Children will do what they see their parents doing ... what [my family] gave me was very powerful, but I also had an interest.

*"You know C.L.R James, in his book **Beyond a Boundary**, had a phrase about finding the thing in which you can give your powers full play. He was talking about cricketers, but it's something that has had an impact on many people. I had a fascination and an interest in reading literature about the Caribbean and the African Diaspora from my late teens. It continued in university; and in university, I felt free of the strictures of schools since there was less allocated class time. I could muck around in the library and find different things to read. I understood that I could*

contribute towards intellectual tradition; I could contribute towards something which had meaning and purpose, and that became the drive for me. I wanted to have conversations with some of the best people within my field. I wanted to make a contribution to the development of students who were younger than me, and I wanted to make a contribution to intellectual decolonisation of the region. I wasn't sure how that contribution was going to emerge, but I knew it was something I had to do in my life. Then a pathway emerged, and I was drawn to people who could help me in that respect."

The professor has numerous projects on his radar, including more work on black transnational intellectual history.

"Writing, for me, has to emerge from inspiration. In other words, I've never written an article that I didn't want to write, that I did not have a great interest and compelling urge to write. That does not mean that the process itself is easy. At the same time, it's also a process of creation and being able to make a mark and make a stamp in the world in a particular way. We write to be able to think further."

Professor Kamugisha also has high expectations for the Faculty of Culture, Creative and Performing Arts that was launched last August. He said despite the challenging times, the new faculty presents infinite opportunities. ♦



T & T President Champions Women's Rights

President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes is no stranger to the Cave Hill Campus.

She graduated from the institution with a Bachelor of Laws degree in 1980 and has returned to attend major events. In recent times, one of these was organised by the **Trinidad and Tobago Students' Association** and another in recognition of **International Women's Day**.

On 6 March 2020, the head of state of the twin-island republic delivered the fifth **International Women's Day Distinguished Lecture** entitled "**Realizing Women's Rights in the English-speaking Caribbean — Mirage or Actuality?**"

The lecture followed a courtesy call on Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor the Most Honourable V. Eudine Barriteau earlier in the day.

Both women are trailblazers — President Weekes is the

first woman to hold the Office of President in Trinidad and Tobago, while Professor Barriteau is the first woman to be appointed Principal at Cave Hill. The latter was also the first woman to be conferred with the **Order of Freedom of Barbados**, receiving the honour during the **2019 Independence National Awards**.

In her examination of women's rights in the Caribbean, President Weekes touched on a myriad of issues such as gender inequalities, sexual harassment and violence against girls and women, women in leadership, education, and gender discrimination through unequal pay.

She drew attention to a 2010 study conducted by the **Inter-American Development Bank** that showed men's earnings surpassed those of women by 14 to 27 percent in Barbados and by eight and 17 percent in Jamaica.

"It, therefore, behoves us to ensure that equality of payment is achieved through, among other measures, legislative and policy guarantees, which among other things, ensure that maternity does not adversely affect earning; school curricula, which from early childhood prepare girls and women to be assertive and confident in all facets of life, including bargaining and negotiating; and continual training for employers on unconscious gender bias."

The prominent jurist lauded all women who have achieved, including those in high-profile offices across the Caribbean.

"The fairer sex has been prominently positioned in the political landscape of our Caribbean region for 50-plus years beginning with Dame Hilda Bynoe, Governor of Grenada from 1967 to 1972. Seventeen women, including Dame Eugenia Charles, former Prime Minister of Dominica; Janet Jagan, former President of Guyana; Portia Simpson-Miller, twice Prime Minister of Jamaica; Kamla Persad-Bissessar, former Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago and I as President; here in Barbados, former Governor General, Dame Nita Barrow and

now, concurrently, Dame Sandra Mason and Prime Minister Mia Mottley all appear to have blown the metaphorical glass ceiling to smithereens.”

But while the Caribbean Community has a far better showing than many jurisdictions throughout the developing world in relation to female advancement, she said critical questions needed to be asked “to examine whether the impressive façade is supported by a solid structure”.

“We have now come to the final appeal of Gender Equality — ensuring women’s equal participation in political life and in decision making in all areas of life. Several Caribbean countries have hit the ‘critical mass’ benchmark of having 30% of their parliamentary seats held by women; for example, Trinidad and Tobago with 30.1%, Antigua — 31.4%, and Grenada — 39.3%.

“There are others which can do better such as St. Vincent —

13.0% and Jamaica — 19.0%. However, no Caribbean country (other than Cuba) has attained 50% — the balance that more accurately reflects the composition of our societies. While 30% is a good initial target, settling for less than 50% is to deny women true equality in the process. Moreover, women’s equal participation must extend to all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life — not only in highly visible portfolios. Let us not rest on our parliamentary laurels, but rather, ensure that in local government, in business, in education, in judiciaries and in the home, there is full participation of women in decision making. It is interesting to note that Guyana has legislated that one-third of political party nominees must be women.”

The Trinidad and Tobago President concluded that while the region is ahead of others in many respects, significant gaps remained.

“We cannot confidently place bold ticks in any of the boxes provided by generation equality.



As individuals, institutions, governments and societies, we must continue to identify both the obvious and subtle inequalities that militate against us fully realising women’s rights, and in so doing, [cause us to be] missing out on our true national potential.

“Only when women become equal partners with men in every sphere of endeavour, would we capture a strategic point from which we Caribbean people can launch an invincible offensive. Let us make a surge to the finish line and rubbish the conclusions of the 2020 Gender Gap Report with its 99.5-year projection.”

The **Global Gender Gap Report 2020** of the **World Economic Forum** concluded that no one who is alive at present would see gender parity in their lifetime.

The President’s lecture was presented by the **Institute for Gender and Development Studies: Nita Barrow Unit** at Cave Hill in partnership with **CIBC FirstCaribbean International Bank**.

Principal Eudine Barriteau makes a presentation to President Paula-Mae Weekes.



Students Explore Careers in

STEM



Students from around 40 primary and secondary schools had an opportunity to explore careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) at the three-day Science and Technology Festival in March 2020.

They were visibly curious and excited about the exhibits held under the 'Graduation Tent', with the display from the Barbados Coast Guard among one of the clear favourites.

"We are actively trying to recruit people, and this was a good opportunity to get people interested, give them an understanding of what we do and how it relates to what they do with the different programmes at the university and other tertiary institutions across Barbados," said acting Sub Lieutenant Chad Calliste, Flotilla Engineer at the Barbados Coast Guard.

Some of the drones on display were built by Calliste's colleague Sub Lieutenant Jamal Crick who is Executive Officer of HMBS Rudyard Lewis, the first vessel to

arrive in Dominica to provide relief following the passage of Hurricane Maria in 2017.

"I've built about 100 model planes through trial and error, but now I can say I'm proficient at building and flying them. In terms of building drones, it usually takes me a day or two to put the hardware together.

"The software can take from two days to a week. Then you have to tweak the drones in terms of their movement left, right, backward and forward because sometimes the settings that come with the flight controller is not always correct, so you have to adjust it. It also depends on what you're doing with it," Crick said.

The Barbados Coast Guard, the maritime arm of the Barbados Defence Force, was among 44 exhibitors at the inaugural festival in 2019. It is organised annually by the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Smart Technology (MIST) in association with Cave Hill's Faculty of Science and Technology.

"Research has pointed to the fact that children make career choices at an early age. It is, therefore, important that capacity building in STEM starts at an early age," Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Smart Technology Charley Browne noted.

But while there is global recognition that the promotion of science and technology is critical to a country's economic and social development, Browne said this cannot happen without building awareness and understanding of its value to development.

"In the next ten years, these students will be business leaders and so the interest



Dr. Colin Depradine
Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology,
The UWI, Cave Hill

in science and technology needs to start from now if that's what we want for the future," said Joanna Edghill, Co-founder and Managing Director of **Megapower Limited**, a company that focuses on promoting the uptake of electric vehicles powered by renewables across Barbados.

Megapower Limited also participated in last year's festival, and this year, two of its vehicles were on display, including a 100 percent electric sports utility vehicle (SUV).

"Year on year, we're seeing that people are more aware of the benefits of electric vehicles. It's also in line with the Government of Barbados's vision 2030 for 100 percent renewable energy," Edghill said.

Organisers of the festival reported an estimated 12 new exhibitors, among them **IGM Stage Lighting**, which is a multi-production, entertainment, technology company that provides staging, lighting, LED screen designs, sound, and special

effects for events.

"We wanted to show students and participants that science, technology, and engineering and mathematic calculations are needed to successfully build a rig, put up an LED screen, or using lighting for a particular reason," said Jamal Cobham, Business Development and Projects Officer.

The **Challenger Creative Arts and Training Centre** also drew scores of curious students with its green energy themed display.

The centre provides care and education to children with varying levels of intellectual and physical disabilities.

Instructor for the sewing, art and craft department of the centre Antje Schoonlim spoke glowingly about their products that were dyed using ingredients such as turmeric, red cabbage, black berries, onion skin and coffee.

"We are doing a lot of recycling at our school, and what we did this year is use natural material and natural ingredients. The students had to do their research and it turned out really fantastic," she said.

Acting Director of the National Council

for Science and Technology Charles Cyrus said the festival not only provided an opportunity for students to apply scientific and technological knowledge but to view the applications by other entities.

Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology Colin Depradine said all players would need to get involved to benefit from the ecosystem that was being created through initiatives like the **Science and Technology Festival**.

"What we have in Barbados is a lot of random small and medium-sized projects with specific objectives. The problem is we are not coordinating. So, if you look at it from the outside, there's a perspective that we are just throwing things on a wall in the hope that something sticks. That is not how it works."

"To grow an ecosystem such as this, you have to be very direct and plan your activities. When you are in the situation that we're in now, you become vulnerable to external forces that try to influence your direction," he said. ♦



Pan in a Major Melody

by Camille Russell

Call it the gift that keeps on giving.

After introducing the melodious steel pan to the world in the 20th century, the Caribbean continues to create global harmony with this instrument, on this occasion through a Cave Hill employee and pan enthusiast who launched the world's inaugural virtual steel pan competition.

As the spread of COVID-19 slowed or halted worldwide economic activity, including travel and live entertainment, Nevin Roach, Programme Assistant, Academy of Sport at Cave Hill, moved musicians across virtual borders when he pioneered **PanoGrama** in April 2020, bringing together pannists from around the world to compete against each other.

The competition, which started

on 24 April 2020, featured 20 pannists from Barbados, Puerto Rico, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Guyana, the US, St. Maarten, and Antigua and Barbuda. When the last notes were played on 3 May 2020, Earl Brooks Jr. of Trinidad and Tobago had emerged victorious with his pan rendition of Michael Jackson's *Thriller*.

Dominica-born Roach believes that growing up in Trinidad and Tobago, the acclaimed home of the steel pan, heavily influenced his love and admiration for the cherished instrument.

"I remember one afternoon, the pan was lying there. I saw it, I picked up the sticks and started to just play around, and the notes I struck sounded a bit like a song I knew, and it turned out to be the national anthem of Trinidad and Tobago. So I continued, and eventually, I was able to figure out, by ear, the first part of the

*country's national anthem. Ever since that day, I fell in love with the instrument. I used it to do my CXC examinations [in music] and in 2006, I was playing in my very first **Panorama** [an annual music competition of steel bands from Trinidad and Tobago] with the **Katzenjammers Steel Orchestra**,"* Roach recalled.

Since then, he has graced six regional steel orchestras, and as recent as 2020, he played with the reigning champions for the national Small Conventional Band category, Tobago-based **Uptown Fascinators**.

Not long after, the music industry worldwide was hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic, with live performance revenue being a major casualty. The effects were particularly felt in the Caribbean, as the region's music industry is directly tied to many cultural festivals, such as **Crop Over** in Barbados and **Carnival** in Trinidad

and Tobago. Like many of his fellow pannists, and other musicians, Nevin started looking for new ways to ply his trade beyond stage performances, and after viewing a bit of live entertainment on social media, the idea for **PanoGrama** was born.

*"Everybody was stuck at home because of COVID and there wasn't a whole lot to do. While I was viewing one of the livestreams on Instagram, I realised it was very entertaining, and I thought to myself that maybe I could tweak this and do something for pan. While there were bands like **BP Renegades** that were putting on live concerts, there wasn't anything, of the magnitude that I envisioned, bringing together the international pan community. It was at that point I got the idea for **PanoGrama**, so I took pen to paper and started writing out the plan to bring this idea to reality."*

on how best to structure such an event. Eventually, he opened the doors to pannists across the world to register for participation in the world's first virtual steel pan competition.

"It was not a very smooth process. In fact, when I made the competition public, [by] opening registration the Thursday of one week, the deadline was scheduled for Friday of the following week. I had seven days to work hard, get people interested and be prepared to get this show on the road. But I was committed to the point where whether I sink, float, or swim beautifully, this event was going to happen," he noted.

Fortunately, his hard work and dedication paid off. Not only did the competition attract 20 entrants by the end of the registration period, sponsors such as **Co-operators General Insurance** in Barbados, **Pan Trinbago**, and **Pan Arts Network**

Grenada, Cayman Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Dominica in addition to those countries from last year. Dubbed **"The World Cup of Steelpan"**, the much-anticipated event begins on 7–9 May with the preliminaries, while the semi-finals and finals are scheduled for 13 and 16 May respectively.

Roach shared that for his second edition of the competition, an educational aspect will be introduced as part of the virtual event with participants benefiting from a **Knowledge for Success** webinar series that will address topics on personal and professional growth, musical development, career guidance, among other areas.

First place is promised a prize of US\$1,000, an all-expenses-paid trip to perform for **Sons of Steel** in Canada, a one-on-one session with a world-renowned pannist, and one **Agustus Peters SteelPans** Chrome Low C Tenor pan package. Second and third place winners will earn US\$800 and US\$500 respectively, along with a one-on-one session with a world-renowned pannist.

Last year, the event made a significant donation to the **Pan Trinbago's Social Prosperity Fund** that aims to assist those facing financial hardship within the steel pan community, and Nevin pledges to continue that tradition.

Roach expressed tremendous pride at what his initiative has achieved in just one year but sees this as just the beginning as he expects **PanoGrama** to continue to grow bigger and get better in each coming year. ♦



While Roach did not expect a rush of pannists clamouring to enter the competition, he was pleasantly surprised by the level of support he received for his novel idea. He first reached out to competition judges who readily offered guidance

also came on board to lend support to the event.

This year, **PanoGrama** has returned with an even more impressive line-up. The 2021 edition has attracted entrants from the United Kingdom, Canada, St. Lucia,

Cricket Reform

More than a year and a half after being elected President of Cricket West Indies (CWI), Richard 'Ricky' Skerritt remains confident in the groundwork being laid to improve the regional side's performance on the field of play.

At the core of his conviction are two initiatives, the **'Cricket First'** philosophy and the **'West Indians First'** policy. The two refer to the revival of West Indies cricket around West Indian talent, culture, and heritage.

Skerritt, a national of St. Kitts and Nevis, gave details of the two initiatives and addressed other issues related to the game during the **20th Annual Frank Worrell Memorial Lecture** held on 16 November 2020. His presentation was entitled **"Reforming Cricket West Indies for Improved On-Field Results"**. From the outset, he invoked the memory of Sir Frank, whom he credited with providing guidance and inspiration, as a cricketer, to gifted young West Indians and laying the foundation for the success of other cricket leaders and teams that followed.

However, he lamented inconsistent performances and drastic decline in the fortune that

the team has experienced in recent years. To support his point, the CWI President submitted data that showed the poor performance of the team in all three formats of the game — Test, One-Day Internationals (ODIs) and Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is) — over the past 20 years. Of the 194 Test matches played, the team lost 104. In the same period, it won 32% of the 434 ODIs and 45% of the 124 T20Is played at home and abroad.

In the same 20 years, more than 150 individual players and 18 different captains were selected to represent the West Indies. Despite this, the team fell near the bottom of the **International Cricket Council (ICC)** rankings ladder in all three formats of the game.

Despite this, CWI's expenditure on personnel increased more than 600%, with US\$250 million going towards players, coaches and full-time staff. This did not include the cost of travel, sustenance, and

housing.

"The poor win/loss ratios, the numerous panicky team selection changes, the extremely high turnover of coaches, and the long list of team captains tell a sorry story of poor returns on investment by CWI. It also suggests that West Indies cricket administrators need to be more strategic and comprehensive in addressing the growing need for us to change the way we operate and the decisions we make – as producers of the West Indian cricket products," Skerritt said.

*"The rebuilding will not happen overnight, but it is already happening. Just in the past year alone we have undertaken several internal studies and reviews, including a **Team Selection System Review**, which has delivered the first ever documented and transparent selection policy, and*



Richard Skerritt
President of Cricket West Indies

includes unique approaches to men's and women's cricket. That review has also resulted in the appointment of the first ever female as a lead selector. We have also conducted a **Business Situation Assessment and Financial Operations Review**, also known as the PKF report. Although it was not a forensic study, it pointed towards several procurement and financial operational concerns and opened our eyes to the need for closer risk management. Our CEO and his team have also put together an **HR Development Plan**, a **Coaching Education Plan** and a **Pandemic Safety Protocols Master Plan**. With other cricket-centric plans underway, these reviews have provided us with a number of consequential recommendations and options, most of which are already being implemented."

Skerritt said the report submitted by a task force on corporate governance reform, which was chaired by Senator Don Wehby, is another step towards positive change. While he anticipated obstacles from board members, he insisted that it should not become another political football.

"...simultaneously, the board, executive management and all staff must significantly improve the transparency, accountability and quality of CWI's operations and decision making. The big challenge is to get all concerned to understand that it can no longer be business as usual — that reacting to losses and disappointments on the field by taking knee-jerk or short-term decisions off the field, is not a sustainable strategy."

The five essentials for the '**West Indians First**' policy are:

- proper reference to the cricket teams as West Indies and not Windies in recognition of the rich West Indian history and cricket legacy;
- development and optimum use of expert skill and knowledge of Caribbean origin;
- utilising an employment recruitment quota to ensure that a majority of coaching, professional support staff and full-time CWI employees are of West Indian heritage;
- ensuring a succession plan that facilitates a transfer of skills to regional personnel in instances where CWI is forced to hire the best international expertise because of an unavailability of regional talent; and
- giving preference to regional goods and services through a competitive, regional bidding process and procurement system that turns to non-Caribbean vendors and suppliers as a last resort.

"This very recent '**West Indians First**' policy will only be effective if it is properly and consistently implemented. The CWI Executive Management must therefore take ownership of this call to action, while the CWI Board takes responsibility for its utilization as a critically important policy. It is a necessary and timely policy which should make a major difference to the quality of the future output of West Indies cricket."

The goals of the '**Cricket First**' philosophy include: focusing on physical fitness, physical skills, mental skills, and strategic thinking to improve on-field performance; designing, implementing, and monitoring performance improvement practices and programmes between tours; and developing a sustainable and justifiable governance structure and system off the field that affects behaviour and performance on the field.

Coaches and players will be given a "contract of expectations" to help them understand what is expected of them.

The CWI President believes that adherence to the '**Cricket First**' philosophy and implementing the '**West Indians First**' policy would yield transformational benefit and positive results within the next two to ten years. ♦





Cricketer Emmanuel Stewart

Striking the right balance between studying full time and pursuing a career in sports is no easy feat. Yet, that is exactly what cricketer Emmanuel Stewart has been able to do.

As a student in the Faculty of Sport at the Cave Hill Campus, he has maintained a grade point average of 3.0 in his programme of choice, the BSc. Sports Sciences. The right-hand batsman has also caught the attention of national, regional and international selectors with his prowess on the cricket field.

Stewart's Balancing Act

2018 when he earned a scholarship to study at Cave Hill.

He has represented Grenada in cricket in the Under 15, Under 19 and the senior levels. At age 15, he was named the second youngest player to represent the country's senior cricket team. At the regional level, he has represented the Windward Islands Under-15, Under-17, Under-19 and senior cricket teams. He has captained at all levels except the senior for both the Windward Islands and Grenada. Internationally, the young cricketer has played for West Indies in two Under-19 World Cups in 2016 and 2018, performing as captain in the latter year.

Though he has received numerous prizes and accolades, Stewart said being named **Sportsman of the Year** holds special significance.

"Even if I didn't win the award, being one of the nominees was something massive for me. Winning the award is just icing on the cake."

Stewart was rewarded for his outstanding performance by The UWI on 4 November 2020 when he was named the **Vice Chancellor's Sportsman of the Year**. Shamera Sterling, a netballer from the Mona Campus, emerged as **Sportswoman of the Year**.

"I feel very elated. Oftentimes, society pins stereotypes on you because you're on a sports scholarship and are doing well in cricket. Some believe that you're at the university just for cricket. Those things motivate me to change the script," Stewart said.

"The award was a testament to the hard work that I've been putting in. Sometimes people work hard and aren't rewarded for it.

I've never been discouraged. I know once I work hard, it's just a matter of time until things start happening for me. I believe in myself ultimately and try to impact other people who are trying to make something out of life."

Stewart hails from Carriacou that is one of Grenada's two island dependencies and has a population of around 10,000 people. His interest in cricket started at the age of seven, coincidentally the same year his father passed away. When he was 16 years old, he received a scholarship from the Government of Grenada and left his mother and four older female siblings to attend sixth form at the Combermere School in Barbados. Over the years, he continued his sterling performance in cricket and that dedication again paid off in

"The UWI is well known for academics, being the top university in the Caribbean and ranked among the best in the world. But what is probably not as well known outside of the region is that we are also the top sports university in the region."

Even other finalists were in the running for the top awards that were established to develop and identify exemplary student athletes. They were Esther Ward from the Open Campus (football), Amir Jangoo from the St. Augustine Campus (cricket), Dillon Johnson from the Open Campus (basketball), Nicholas Kirton from the Cave Hill Campus (cricket), Ryi Maryat from Cave Hill Campus (football), Romaine Morris from the Mona Campus (cricket) and Khesean Ottley from the St.

Augustine Campus (cricket).

Stewart spoke candidly about some of the challenges he has faced, including sometimes finding it difficult to settle down to do schoolwork and periods of uncertainty about his life. However, he said friendships developed at school and support from lecturers have contributed to his success.

He is also intent on making his mother and late father proud, saying: *"It is really about repaying my mother and making my dad proud; that is what keeps me going on the days when I don't feel like doing anything. I just think about my dad, knowing my success will ultimately make him happy, and the sacrifices my mother has made and that gives me the energy to keep going."*

In his comments during the virtual ceremony, Vice-Chancellor Sir Hilary Beckles said the Caribbean has a brand for excellence that The UWI is committed to moulding and promoting.

"We are a sporting culture that is rich in first-class global results. But is it enough? Is it sufficient? Do we not have to transition into other areas of sport? Not only manufacturing and industrialisation,

but global sport management.

Do we have representation that is commensurate with our field performance? The UWI is invested in all of these conversations."

Remarks were also delivered by Dean of the Faculty of Sport Dr. Akshai Mansingh and High Performance Sports Expert Amanda Reifer.

Dr. Mansingh said the Faculty of Sport is committed to ensuring that students perform well academically while supporting sports in the region: *"The university is relied upon to provide sport policy and facilities for the top sportspersons in the region. It possesses the top sports labs, sports medicine clinic and was consulted in this unique year for new areas such as sports bubbles – how to create, manage and execute them."*

He added, *"The UWI is well known for academics, being the top university in the Caribbean and ranked among the best in the world. But what is probably not as well known outside of the region is that we are also the top sports university in the region."*

The finalists and winners were congratulated by West Indies cricket legends Courtney Walsh and Michael Holding, and President of the Americas Federation of Netball Associations Marva Bernard.

In the meantime, the Cave Hill awardee said he is focused on improving his cricket statistics in the hope of being selected to play for the **West Indies Senior Men's Team**. He has also set his sights on the **Caribbean Premier League**.

Academically, Stewart is giving serious consideration to specialising in sports psychology or sports nutrition. ♦

Emmanuel Stewart in the field of play





Sport as a Vehicle for Change

Two years after the launch of the Faculty of Sport in 2017, one of its students embarked on a mission to raise the profile of sport as an academic discipline. And his efforts have already gained international recognition.

In 2019, Vice President of the Cave Hill Guild of Students Taahir Bulbulia founded the **Sports Science Society**, a student-based organisation that promotes the holistic benefits of sport and mentors at-risk youth on mental health, sports law and drug prevention. It was born out of a desire for greater representation of students in what was then the campus's newest faculty.

The launch of the society in October that year was attended by the then Minister of Creative Economy, Culture and Sports, John King and the then Head of the Academy of Sport, Amanda Reifer.

"The idea came about in 2014 with Trey Hart, a past student.

He tried to start it on campus, but obviously, the Sport Sciences degree was still under the social sciences. So while going about my campaigning, I really saw the need for something [in which] the students in the Sport Faculty [could] participate and feel like they are part of campus life.

"... [located] down the hill, we're by the Usain Bolt Complex so we don't get to feel the real vibe, the energy of campus life since we're away from everyone. So I just wanted to provide opportunities for students to learn and grow and develop through sport, and then we went from there," Taahir said.

Since its launch, the society has trained 30 volunteers across 10 organisations and reached 500 young people in the region.

"We provided internships and mentorships for our students where we mentored them on various topics ... for instance mental health, dealing with personal development for at-risk youth; personal development encompassing life skills, public speaking, different areas for youth so that when they go into the field, when they go into an organisation, when they go into a club, they're not just pushing sport but showing the holistic benefit of sport and sport development to a community and to a nation on a whole."

Bulbulia was recently named among 20 finalists for the **Commonwealth Youth Awards** that recognised outstanding young people whose projects are transforming lives in their communities and



Taahir Bulbulia

of Trinidad and Tobago, through which students from Cave Hill obtained internships.

"We're just trying to grow the project and continue developing sport," Bulbulia said.

Bulbulia credits the diversity of the Cave Hill Campus for the programme's success so far.

"We are probably the most diverse campus in the Caribbean. We have persons [from] Jamaica, Trinidad, St. Lucia, Grenada, and Guyana all at the Cave Hill Campus. So when they would get the opportunity here they would then go back to their community, in Trinidad, for example, or St. Lucia where one student participated, and they get to pass it on to their community over there."

He said the society laid the foundation for success early on and he is looking forward to continued growth even after he graduates from Cave Hill.



Taahir Bulbulia (fourth from right) with then Minister of Sport John King (fourth from left), Head of the Academy of Sport Dr. Rudolph Alleyne (left), former head of the Academy of Sport Amanda Reifer (centre), and members of the Guild of Students at the launch of the Sports Science Society

helping to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

He described the nomination for his work on **SDG 4 — Quality Education** as humbling. SDG 4 is to *"ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all"*.

"I didn't just see it as a way for myself or as a way for the society or for the Faculty of Sport. I saw it as a way for the entire sporting fraternity in the Caribbean because sport is not often seen as a form of development or as a form of excellence in the Caribbean."

"But what the Commonwealth did is see the importance of sport and a sport for development project as a way of excellence. And the mere fact that we only started just over a year ago, the impact we made was truly humbling for me and I just want to continue trying to make an impact for people out there and the youth out there," he noted.

One of the society's early successes was the signing of a five-year memorandum of understanding with the **Cunupia Football Club**

"My vision is just to help out wherever I can in whatever way I can, even though I may not be a student any longer, or maybe in a different capacity; I would like the society to just continue growing, [to] continue putting the interest of the students at heart, and putting the development of sport on a whole at heart because we are now leading the charge for sport and sport science and sport development in the Caribbean, because they never had a production of sport academics at this level in the Caribbean to date."

Bulbulia is currently serving as Barbados's ambassador to the **International University Sports Federation** for the period 2020–2022. Now in his final semester, he has set his sights on pursuing a Master's in Sports Management and Tourism.

"I just want to continue providing opportunities, and most importantly, making an impact in Barbados, in the region and making a change in the world through sport." ♦

Sir Everton Laid to Rest alongside Former Teammates



Sir Everton Weekes, who passed away on 1 July, was interred at **The UWI Cave Hill's 3Ws Oval** following a funeral service at **Kensington Oval**. **Sir Frank Worrell** and **Sir Clyde Walcott** are also buried on the grounds.

Members of the local, regional and international cricket fraternity were joined by Barbados Governor General Dame Sandra Mason, Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley, and other dignitaries to bid farewell to the late master batsman.

In his eulogy, UWI Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles told the audience that Sir Everton's life is best understood as a study in courage, confidence, commitment and consciousness.

"We know of the performance statistics that defined his cricket; the proof that constitutes

his phenomenal, prophetic achievements. They are etched in an architecture that holds and preserves many resilient records, standing in bold defiance of the corrosion of time; evidence of a West Indian monument forged in the fire of an audacious mind," Sir Hilary said.

Sir Everton made his first-class debut for Barbados against Trinidad and Tobago at **Queen's Park Oval** in 1945, and he made his Test debut for the West Indies against England in 1948 at **Kensington Oval**. He also played in the **Lancashire League** for **Bacup Cricket Club** for seven seasons.

The last surviving member of the legendary Barbados and West Indies cricketing trio, the 3Ws, has been laid to rest in proximity to his former teammates.



"His humble beginnings and rise to world prominence were demonstrative of the fact that there was no barrier preventing young Barbadians from attaining any major achievement either at home or on the world stage."

Between 1948 and 1958, Sir Everton scored 4,455 Test runs at an average of 58.61. He also scored 15 Test centuries with the highest being 207.

"We know that twice, in 1950 and 1956, the pundits and peer reviewers deemed him the best batsman in the universe. We know that with his brothers in batsmanship, Sir Frank Worrell

and Sir Clyde Walcott, he laid the cornerstone for the West Indies to rise to global greatness.

*"But we also know that such data represent but a distillation of the truth that defined the destination; the thousand steps in the journey of a foot soldier, Lance Corporal Weekes of the **Barbados Defence Force**,"* Sir Hilary said, referring to Sir Everton's service in this entity from 1943–1947.

Sir Everton continued to influence the game of cricket long after his retirement in 1962. He served as cricket coach and an executive member of the **Barbados Cricket Association (BCA)**. He was appointed a referee at the **International Cricket Council (ICC)** in 1994. He was also a founding member of the **Cricket Legends of Barbados**.

Among the accolades bestowed upon the beloved batsman were an honorary doctorate from the Cave Hill Campus in 2003 and his induction into the **ICC Cricket Hall of Fame in 2008**. He was also named a patron of the **3Ws Oval** and a stand at **Kensington Oval** is named after the 3Ws.

The BCA named its Schools' Under-13 Competition after him, with the finals being played at his

(from left) Sir Hilary Beckles, Prime Minister of Barbados Mia Amor Mottley and Senior Sports Administrator Adrian Donovan at Sir Everton's graveside.

... Continued on page 98

... Continued from page 97



Church officials precede pallbearers with Sir Everton's body through a guard of honour, to his final resting place.

home club, the **Empire Cricket Club**, each year.

President of the BCA Conde Riley paid tribute to Sir Everton, recalling his exemplary performance.

"Sir Everton has ended his vigil just five years shy of a century that the world would have loved to celebrate with him. However, we will comfort each other with the joy of having experienced him and the excellence of his example." he told the congregation.

For President of the **Empire Cricket Club**, Adrian King, Sir Everton was the embodiment of the history of the club.

"His humble beginnings and rise to world prominence were

demonstrative of the fact that there was no barrier preventing young Barbadians from attaining any major achievement either at home or on the world stage," King said.

Director of Cricket West Indies Akshai Mansingh extended condolences on behalf of its President, Ricky Skeritt, and remembered Sir Everton as "a proud son of Barbados who was co-owned by the entire region.

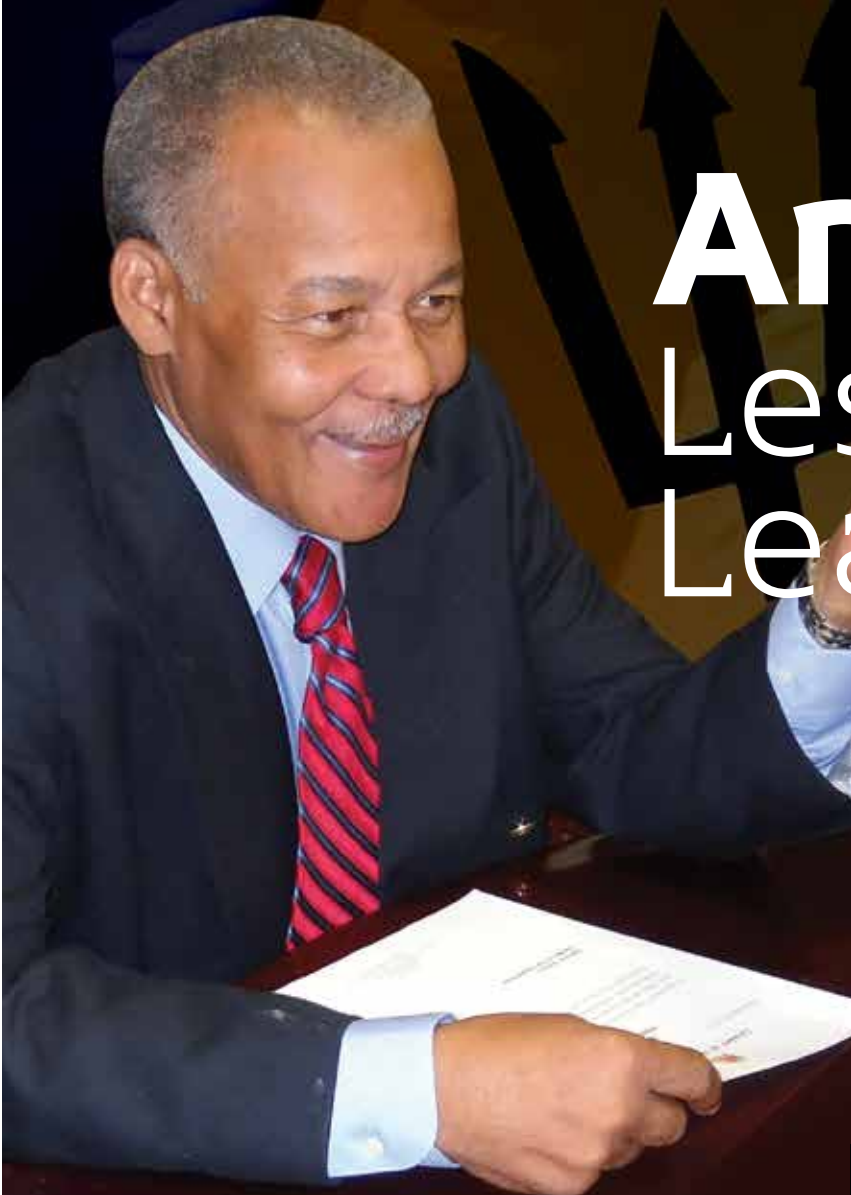
"For Cricket West Indies, we see today's tremendous outpouring of love and respect for Sir Everton as a powerful reminder of the role of cricket in keeping West Indian people glued together."

Sir Everton Weekes will be remembered as an elder statesman of the local and regional game.

Sir Hillary said, "There is no greater gift a man can give his society than that of the highest standards. In this regard, Sir Everton was eternal in his giving. Our communities from Kingston to Georgetown were enlarged by his giving and seemed more sophisticated with his presence.

"Cricket was his craft, but art defined his contribution. The demonstration of gentleness and greatness at the intersection vision and victory was the evidence of his art not as a performance but as a way of life and being," ♦

Arthur- Lessons in Leadership



Former Prime Minister of Barbados the Right Honourable Owen Arthur has been eulogised for imparting admirable lessons in leadership.

Arthur, who had been serving as a UWI Professor of Practice at the time of his passing, died at the **Queen Elizabeth Hospital** last 27 July and was laid to rest in August following a moving funeral service at St. Peter's Parish Church.

Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley led the nation in saying a final goodbye to her former party leader before he was taken to his final resting place at **Mount Pleasant Memorial Gardens** in St. Peter, a parish



Prime Minister of Barbados Mia Amor Mottley

which he served as a parliamentary representative for nearly 30 years. In her eulogy, Mottley remembered her predecessor as a man of large intellect who was consumed by politics and policy.

"His love of politics was anchored by a strong love of country and a keen sense of duty. His list of achievements was vast, but no single one was perhaps as great domestically, or as consequential to the average Barbadian, as the leadership he displayed in wrestling unemployment from over 25 percent to under seven percent.

"Early on, as he faced down the US Government in defence of our sovereignty on the now infamous Shiprider Agreement, he demonstrated that he understood and embraced fully the Barbadian tradition of courageous leadership in the international arena. He spoke truth to power, fought for fairness of treatment and stood firm on principle."

... Continued on page 100

... Continued from page 99

She added that Arthur's advocacy for rights and interests extended beyond Barbados to embrace small states everywhere.

"This was perhaps best exemplified in the way he responded head-on to the unwarranted OECD challenge to our financial services sector. Instinctively and strategically, he knew when and where and how loud to raise his voice, and to this day, his peers in the cause still remember him with admiration for leading the charge on their behalf."

Mottley held several Cabinet positions in the Arthur administration that resulted in them working closely on several initiatives, including the **CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME)** in 2006 and the establishment of the **Caribbean Court of Justice**.



(from left) former CARICOM leaders PJ Patterson (Jamaica), Perry Christie (The Bahamas), and Owen Arthur (Barbados)

"Few can fully appreciate the intricacies involved in the revising of the Treaty of Chaguaramas and in activating its provisions to bring the CSME into force. Few can know the joys and frustrations of that incomplete journey to which Owen devoted so much of his

time and energy. His genius was to see the big picture and to distil the issues with absolute clarity," Mottley told the congregation.

"And now, more than ever, we, his successors in regional leadership, have a solemn duty to the memory of Owen Arthur to build upon and finish the task he helped to start."

Speaking on the theme **Lessons in Leadership**, she also highlighted the late Prime Minister's understanding of the power of creating strategic alliances as a leader.

*"Rising above the smallness and the pettiness that have claimed so many leaders, he was able to reach out to appoint the wife of one of his primary political rivals. And it was that decision that drove the success, not just locally but internationally, when Dr. Carol Jacobs became the Chair of the **UN Global Fund for AIDS**."*

"All noted that when only large countries were contributing to the Global Fund, Owen broke new ground and insisted that Barbados must pay and contribute to this global struggle. For it was not only our advocacy that mattered but our commitment. For as he would often say, it takes cash to

care. And he and [now Ambassador] Liz Thompson will forever be remembered for their early and wise decision of providing all pregnant women with AZT to reduce the mother-to-child transmission of HIV."

Arthur's love of history influenced his decisions to introduce legislation for the formal recognition of **Emancipation Day** and **National Heroes Day**, as well as the identification of the island's 10 National Heroes.

"He instinctively understood that this was necessary for moving our people to the next stage of national development – the recognition of the need for sacrifice in pursuit of a greater cause, and the preparation and perfection of all that we do to attain excellence."



Owen Arthur with Barbados's National Hero, The Right Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers



Owen Arthur with the late former Cuban leader Fidel Castro

As an individual, Arthur eschewed the notion of honours or accolades.

According to Mottley, the two medals that adorned his body as he lay in state spoke to the liberation struggles of Barbados and the region: the **Order of José Martí**, which is the highest honour bestowed upon a foreign dignitary by the Government of Cuba and the **Henry Sylvester Williams Award of Excellence** from the **Emancipation Support Committee of Trinidad and Tobago**.

Notwithstanding his many accomplishments in the political arena, it was his ability to communicate with all sections of society that endeared him to Barbadians.

"Owen Arthur was a story teller. He was a teacher. This skill was built upon a finely crafted, dry wit and a natural ability to impart knowledge, seemingly without effort. It was very often accompanied by a mischievous smile and a confident tone that underscored a recognition on

his part that he had just scored a boundary. He made the most complex economic subjects seem as simple as ABC to many watching on," Mottley said.

As Barbados bade farewell to their longest serving Prime Minister, Mottley remembered him fondly as a complex individual.

"That was what made him such a forceful personality. He had a passion for the public causes he adopted. He loved simplicity and privacy but yet required and defended form, pomp and ceremony as critical elements of nation building.

"He loved the countryside and relished being described as a country boy. And the country boy loved cooking — from pepperpot and wilts to sorrel."

And as she said her final goodbye, Mottley said an emotional thank you to the man who helped shape her political career.

"Thank you Owen for allowing me to grow. Thank you for challenging me constantly, for pushing me hard, and for toughening me for this journey in these extremely challenging times."

Arthur leaves to mourn his wife Julie, daughters Leah and Sabrina, granddaughter Isabella, and siblings Valmay and Richard. ♦



Online Rapture GRADUATION 2020

The past year was one of many firsts for The University of the West Indies, and on Saturday, 27 March, the Cave Hill Campus wrote another chapter in its history when it hosted its inaugural virtual graduation ceremony.



Professor Sir Hilary Beckles
Vice-Chancellor, The UWI

It was a celebration of the perseverance and resilience of the Class of 2020 which was forced to pivot almost overnight to online learning as a result of the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles joined in the students' "moment of triumph" to praise their resilience during the past year.

"They have been tested, not only by their professors but by a pandemic. And in their triumph in academic year 2020, they have risen above this COVID-19. They have been resilient, resourceful, and they have risen above all the circumstances that they have encountered," he said.

Sir Hilary noted that the Class of 2020 graduated with the university's reputation at its highest, pointing to its "Triple Firsts" global ranking by the **Times Higher Education** as a testament.

"We have been ranked the number one university in the wider Caribbean from a field of over 150 fine universities. We have been ranked in the top one percent of the finest universities in Latin America and the Caribbean from a field of over 5,000 fine universities. And we have been ranked in the top one percent of the finest universities in the world within our age cohort, the Golden Age universities, those between 50 and 100 years of age."



**Professor the Most Honourable
V. Eudine Barriteau**
Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal
The UWI, Cave Hill Campus

Principal, Professor the Most Honourable Eudine Barriteau lauded the students for staying the course in the midst of a global crisis, and reminded them that Cave Hill will not be defined by any adverse circumstances it faces.

"Even when those circumstances prevent us from providing you with the accustomed ceremonial pomp and splendour that you richly deserve," she said. "We have now found creative and innovative alternatives such as this inaugural online ceremony to celebrate your achievements."

In light of their experience over the past year, Barriteau urged the graduates to continue to embrace change and challenges as they embark on their new journey.

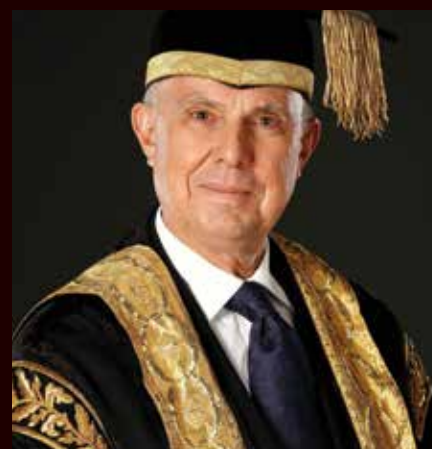
"Always be willing to try new things and accept the reality that as you grow older, your range of interest and acquisition of skills will evolve. In other words, do not limit yourself to the confines of what you believe are the dictates of your current degree."

"You have been instilled with a particular set of skills, but we have also tried to nurture within you the skills of critical thinking and the belief you can conquer any challenge," she said.

The outgoing principal also applauded the hundreds of students who volunteered for **The UWI-Government of Barbados COVID-19 Evaluation and Testing Project**, known as **'Operation Seek and Save'**.

"These UWI, Cave Hill students, whom we affectionately call our Blackbirds, all represent a band of Cave Hill heroes and civic-minded individuals who are all deserving of our highest praise," she noted.

University Chancellor Robert Bermudez told the ceremony that while the pandemic has exposed the inequalities in the Caribbean society and the weaknesses in the economic systems, it has also highlighted the work of the region's heroes and heroines whose dedication to service may never have been recognised without it. He therefore reminded the graduating class to demonstrate a sense of responsibility through service to country.



Robert Bermudez
Chancellor, The UWI

"You will be needed in the days and months ahead as the region builds its new reality. Our collective capacity to respond to global challenges begins with knowledge, creativity and innovation. You are now part of that process going forward, and I urge you to become agents of change in your chosen fields and in your communities."

He commended **The UWI COVID-19 Task Force** for its sterling work in helping the region contain and respond to the pandemic. However, he said there is still much work to be done.

"I urge you to build the civic spirit, the social solidarity and the sharing of technical expertise that has already been demonstrated."

Bermudez's advice to the Class of 2020 was to look towards the future beyond COVID-19.

"Be active and engaged citizens. Be engaged alumni. Contribute to The University of the West Indies in any way in which you are comfortable. Continue to pursue your knowledge. Indulge your creativity and innovativeness. Build a better future for yourselves and for your communities."

... Continued on page 104

... Continued from page 103



Thacher Loutin
Valedictorian and President of the Guild of
Students, The UWI, Cave Hill

Valedictorian and President of the Guild of Students Thacher Loutin appealed to her peers to challenge Caribbean leaders to do more to ensure excellence in the region.

"We must use our voices to inspire regional scholars and experts to occupy spaces of global influence. And we must use this degree not just for yourselves but for the benefit of others because that is what the Caribbean needs."

"Many regional leaders walked through these very halls and sat in the same lecture rooms. And when it is our turn to lead, remember that we must be honest leaders bringing positive change, innovators who create for the welfare of the people, and dreamers who make a positive impact in the lives of all."

Honorary graduate and cancer biologist Professor Juliet Daniel, who was awarded a Doctor of Science degree in recognition of

her work in cancer research, encouraged the students to embrace the opportunity to be innovators and change-makers in the post-COVID world and to pursue their dreams with passion and purpose. This advice was included in a list of what she called 'breadfruit tips' that she shared with the Class of 2020 as they began the new chapter in their lives.

Professor Daniel reminded them that as they achieve their goals they should also reach back and help others realise theirs.

"Leave that path wider than you found it so that others can achieve their goals and excel."

She told the students they should "play their own game" and try to be the best version of themselves.

"Don't be afraid to take risks or fail. Hold fast to your core values, but be willing to flex and pivot if needs be so that you don't snap under pressure."

"Don't focus on getting promotions or accolades; those will come naturally if you live your life in a way that causes others to thrive and excel. In other words, pay it forward. Be a servant leader. And during those times when you feel completely lost and unsure if you're on the right path, if your dream seems so unattainable, just remember to play your game."

Honorary degrees were also conferred on Sonita Alleyne, who received a Doctor of Letters for her contribution to entrepreneurship and journalism, while Dr. Julio Frenk, President of the University of Miami, was awarded a Doctor of Science degree for his work in medicine. ♦



Professor Juliet Daniel
Honorary Graduate



Sonita Alleyne
Honorary Graduate



Dr. Julio Frenk
Honorary Graduate



THE UNIVERSITY
OF THE
WEST INDIES
CAVE HILL CAMPUS, BARBADOS



BECOME A MENTOR OR OFFER AN INTERNSHIP TODAY

The UWI Cave Hill Campus is looking for...

Mentors

Alumni and partners to volunteer and provide career-related information to currently enrolled students.

Internships

Several Cave Hill students are seeking to supplement their classroom learning with practical experiences.

Internship opportunities can be crafted to satisfy your organisation's needs.

Contact the Office of Student Services for more information:

Email: osscares@cavehill.uwi.edu

Phone: (246) 417-4168



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
CAVE HILL CAMPUS, BARBADOS, WEST INDIES

**Pursue Your Degree at our
ACCREDITED UNIVERSITY**



APPLY NOW
www.cavehill.uwi.edu/admissions