

Principal's Welcome Remarks

Dinner in honour of Honorary Graduands 2016

October 14, 2016

Mrs. Christianne Walcott, Mistress of Ceremonies, The Hon. Sir Marston Gibson, Chief Justice of Barbados; the Hon. Ronald Jones, Minister of Education, Science Technology and Innovation, the Honourable John Boyce and Mrs Boyce, Minister of Health, Senator, the Honourable Maxine McClean, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chancellor, Sir George Alleyne, and Lady Alleyne, Vice-Chancellor, Professor, Sir Hilary Beckles, Chair of the Cave Hill Campus Council, Sir Paul Altman, our distinguished honorary Graduands, Dr Sir Trevor Carmichael, Dr Carissa Etienne, Mr Anthony Best, Senator Dr Carol Lady Haynes and of course their spouses, Lady Carmichael, and Mr Joseph Gregoire, members of the Diplomatic corps, Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal of the Open Campus, Dr Luz Longworth, University Registrar Mr. William Iton, Pro Vice Chancellors and other senior University officials, Deputy Campus

Principal, Professor Clive Landis and other members of the senior management team, members of the Campus Community; distinguished ladies and gentlemen, members of the media, good evening and a brilliant, magnificent welcome to you. Welcome to the UWI Cave Hill Campus's dinner in celebration of our Honorary Graduands.

Once again, we are gathered in this most elegant of settings for our annual celebration of excellence. We look back on the past year with gratitude and look forward with anticipation and excitement. Before I provide you with a profile of our honourees and a synopsis of our past year, do allow me to extend a most gracious and grateful welcome to our corporate sponsors, Mr Andrew Rollins of Sol Caribbean Ltd, Mr Ralph Bizzy Williams, of Williams Industries, Mr Alfredo Weatherhead of Sun Group Inc. and Dr Patricia Downes-Grant of SAGICOR. We commend the civic mindedness of these companies and their leaders for enabling The UWI Cave Hill Campus to honour four unique Caribbean citizens who are blazing bright trails of accomplishment across our Caribbean region and

internationally. We are thrilled that in Barbados' golden year of jubilee we can rejoice in the singular achievements of these four remarkable Barbadian\Caribbean men and women. So who are they?

For over four decades, journalist **Tony Best**, a Barbadian resident in the USA, has been the consistent, authentic journalistic voice from North America, providing information and analysis on issues affecting Caribbean countries and Caribbean citizens in the diaspora.

He has served as a communications consultant for the International Planned Parenthood Federation/Western Hemisphere Region, the United Nations Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Caribbean Family Planning Affiliation and the Inter American Parliamentary Group on Population and Development. His feature articles on Black History in the US have been widely cited in the U.S Congressional record by members of the U.S House of Representatives.

Dr. Carissa Etienne, Medical Doctor, is a Cave Hill campus trained public health official who graduated from the Faculty of Medical

Sciences, Mona campus in 1976. A Dominican, Dr. Etienne was elected Director of the Pan American Health Organisation in 2012 and has also served as Assistant Director of PAHO with responsibility for five technical areas: Health systems and services; healthcare and research; health surveillance and disease management; family and community health; sustainable development and environmental health; and technology.

During her tenure at the World Health Organisation and PAHO, Dr. Etienne led efforts to renew primary health care and to strengthen health systems promoting integration and improved functioning of health systems. She has also spearheaded policy directions for reducing health inequalities and advancing health for all through universal coverage, people centred care and inclusive and participatory health leadership.

Jamaican born, **Senator, Dr. Carol Lady Haynes**, Medical Doctor is a graduate of the University of the West Indies, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Mona, who gained her early experience at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital from 1969-1978. Serving on the AIDS Task Force of the

Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners in 1988, Dr. Jacobs also functioned as Chair of the National Advisory Committee on AIDS under the aegis of the Ministry of Health. Lady Haynes was responsible for the early development of Barbados's multi-sectoral Programme and advocacy efforts including the free provision of AZT to HIV-pregnant mothers. Through this Programme , not one HIV positive child had been born to an HIV positive mother in the last seven years.

Dr. Jacobs has also represented the Caribbean on the Board of the World Health Organisation's Global Programme on AIDS, a precursor to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board. She represented Latin America and the Caribbean on the Board of the Global Fund and was unanimously elected to the Chair of the Board of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, becoming the first Caribbean person and the first woman to hold this high international office. Dr. Jacobs received the UNAIDS Gold Medal of Achievement in 2005. She also directed the Barbados National Strategic Plan for HIV Prevention

and Control 2008 -2013, which was approved by cabinet and laid in the Barbados parliament.

Barbadian, **Dr. Sir Trevor Carmichael**, Attorney-in-Law, is a member of the Legal Affairs and Properties Committee of the International Council of Museums, of the Canadian Bar Association and the International Tax Planning Association. He is also one of the founders of the Faculty of Law's Caribbean Commercial Law Workshop and his firm has also supported the workshop on a yearly basis from its inception. Sir Trevor is a trustee of the University's Endowment Committee, and has been appointed one of eight Organization of American States experts responsible for drafting the new OAS Convention on International Contracts. He is Founder Chairman of the Barbados Youth Business Trust and a panel member of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes of the World Bank in Washington, he has authored more than 100 articles and monographs in the areas of law, economics and public policy.

This year Barbados celebrates its golden jubilee and the Cave Hill Campus congratulates the people and Government of Barbados on achieving this significant milestone as an independent nation.

Operating for fifty three years in this national space, the Cave Hill Campus fulfills the regional mission of the UWI and has become an intrinsic aspect of the social and economic fabric of Barbadian society.

The Campus continues to face many challenges, but these challenges are bringing out the best in the campus and its wider community. The campus has refused to be defined by the current adverse climate, instead we remain focused on building a world class university grounded in Caribbean realities, yet dedicated to adding value to the life of Caribbean citizens.

Over the past year, the campus has been vibrant, energized and abuzz with scholarly activity. Our students and staff continue to excel, while our strategic partners are providing critical support for the campus. We thank them all for their commitment.

Here is a summary of Campus Achievements 2015-2016

- The Cave Hill Campus took the lead in helping to devise regional strategies to deal with **the Sargassum seaweed phenomenon** which invaded Caribbean beaches and threatened economic sectors. The campus hosted a one-day Sargassum Symposium which included some of the university's top scientific researchers, tourism, fisheries and other strategic partners in the Caribbean. The Campus has circulated to all CARICOM governments a management brief prepared by the conference organisers, of the best practices to manage the Sargassum threat. In a clear example of the type of **spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation being nurtured at Cave Hill**, graduate Student Tiffany Husbands made a breakthrough that could help transform the way the seaweed is regarded and utilized when she created appealing and fragrant cosmetics using a by-product of the algae.

- **Students joining the culture of research:** Launch of Chrysallis – Masters and PhD students across the UWI are sharing their research experiences with the rest of the world via the internet with the launch of Chrysallis Research Magazine, an online publication spearheaded by the postgraduate students at the UWI Cave Hill Campus.
- **Five Cave Hill students** won the first prize in the Inter-American Development Bank BRIDGE Competition in Sustainable Energy and Information and Communication Technologies project. “Lighting with Science” was the title of their submission. They were led by Dr. Thomas Rogers, lecturer in renewable energy.
- Last year **10 Barbados Scholarship and Exhibition winners** selected the Cave Hill Campus to pursue their university education and we thank them for their wise selection.
- **In our ongoing internationalization thrust, a group of 50 Ecuadorian teachers pursued** a seven month program in English

as a Second Language (ESL). The ESL program also welcomed 39 pre-University students from Panama for a four-month period.

- Students and staff of the Errol Barrow Centre for Creative Imagination excelled in the 2015 Barbados National Independence Festival of Creative Arts. Jason Russell, Clish Gittens and Yannick Hooper made their mark in the country's video and filmmaking industry.
- **The UWI 101 programme hosted by the Faculty of Humanities and Education**, enables secondary school students to experience university life for six enjoyable days that involved studying too.
- **The Sagikor UWI Cricket team claimed the top tier competition** titles for the 2015 cricket season - the Sagikor General T20 trophy, the Elite Division 3-day crown and the Sagikor General Super Cup.
- **The Blackbirds Netball team captured three titles** in the Barbados Netball Association 2016 domestic competitions. The team defended their Senior Knockout Title, lifted the Intermediate 2

knockout title and ended in the season playing undefeated (10-0) in the Division One League competition.

- The Blackbird footballers were equally impressive during the Barbados Football Association's Digicel Premier League, claiming their first ever major championship title.
- **The Cave Hill Campus' one year old Confucius Institute** gained approval as the only Caribbean Chinese proficiency testing centre for Mandarin. The campus through its Confucius Institute from next month, will begin to award the only officially recognized certification in proficiency in the Chinese language.
- Andre Greenidge, a PhD student of the Chronic Disease Research Centre won the David Picou Young Investigator Award of the Caribbean Public Health Association for his work on the Barbados Diabetes Reversal Study. Greenidge's Paper, "Reversing Type 2 Diabetes in the Caribbean: Preliminary Findings from a Feasibility Study in Barbados", sought to discover whether obese individuals

with type 2 diabetes could have their condition reversed through diet alone.

- Cave Hill Master's student, Juann Ward received the Exceptional Merit Award from the American Medical Technologists for outstanding activities and services. Ward's research is primarily focused on the subtypes of the Human Papilloma-virus (HPV)

- And I end our year of review on a research high - Marijuana Symposium – Following on the heels of a panel discussion on medical marijuana the Cave Hill campus hosted a two day research symposium on marijuana for research purposes. There continues to be heated public reaction and debate. As a University dedicated to creating knowledge and as philosopher George Lamming reminds us, putting knowledge at the service of social practice, we intend to stay engaged with this research within the legal boundaries. To those who say that Cave Hill should intensify its research in agriculture, we are quite adept at multitasking. The facts are that,

while not seeking to replicate what is taking place in the faculty of Agriculture at St Augustine we have some new projects incubating in the Centre for Food Security and Entrepreneurship (CFSE). They will add value through innovative research on regional crops such as arrow root, and the training of personnel as gourmet chocolatiers.

Ladies and gentlemen, in summary, I assure you that the Cave Hill campus continues to be a standard bearer in UWI's tradition of excellence. My colleagues and I are energized around being catalysts for Caribbean development. We are proud Guardians of UWI's Heritage and firm craftsmen and women of our fate.

I Thank you for gracing us with your presence, thank you for agreeing to celebrate with us, the brilliance and shining examples of the extraordinary achievements of our 2016 honorary Graduands, Welcome.