

**REMARKS**  
**POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS' ORIENTATION**  
**TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2016 at 5:30 PM**  
**ROY MARSHALL TEACHING COMPLEX**

Campus Coordinator, Professor Sean Carrington, Senior Assistant Registrar (Graduate Studies & Research), Mrs. Gail Carter-Payne, Members of the Media, all new and returning postgraduate students, a very good evening to you.

I wish to extend a very warm Caribbean greeting to those of you who are visiting from outside the region, offer an equally sincere Barbadian welcome, if you are a neighbouring resident joining us from beyond these shores, a welcome home to all Barbadian students, and a most heartfelt Cave Hill shout out to all - international, regional and national citizens alike all of you - now proud members of the Cave Hill community.

Whether you are new to Cave Hill, or you are a returning member of the campus community who is transitioning from the undergraduate level to do your Master's or even rejoining us to complete a second postgraduate degree, whether an MPhil or PhD, we are delighted to have you here, and we will do all, within our power to make your stay with us a mutually satisfying, enjoyable and productive one.

You are embarking on this aspect of your academic journey at an exciting time. Led by Vice Chancellor Beckles, The University of the West Indies has initiated a strategy to enhance its profile on the global stage. Through MOUs and other

agreements, our inter-collegiate collaborations on a global scale are growing rapidly. As part of that internationalisation strategy, The UWI has placed renewed emphasis on graduate studies, especially graduate research, as one of the factors that will help to distinguish us in the global academic community. The best known universities throughout the world have earned their reputation because of the high quality of their research and the way that that research has contributed to, or affected human development and civilization.

The research on which you are setting out or continuing is, therefore, very meaningful. Research helps to unearth knowledge, find solutions to societal problems and can create employment and civic opportunities to drive the well-being of our regional economies and societies. Our scientific research, perhaps best exemplified by the work of CDRC and CERMES, has gained worldwide recognition. Our social science research provides the basis for the formulation of much regional policy. Recently, our research into the Sargassum phenomenon produced findings which will enable the region to turn what would otherwise be regarded as an annual natural disaster, into a much anticipated economic opportunity for the region. Already graduate student Tiffany Husbands, working under the guidance of Lecturer in Analytical Chemistry, Dr. Srinivasa Popuri, has developed a lavender lotion and lipstick balm using the algae from the Sargassum. Next year, I would like to highlight your research breakthrough.

Scholarly research is costly. Take for example the extensive range of research activities at Harvard University in which scholars are engaged in expanding knowledge. They do so through analysis, innovation, and insight – all to the tune of more than US \$800 million each year. I am sure that an examination of research funding at other US research universities such as Stanford, Berkeley, Princeton and Yale – of which we have an ongoing programme in eye research with the latter – will show similar multiple millions of dollars being spent on their research institutions and serving to incentivise their own graduate students incubated there.

Here at the Cave Hill Campus, we are seeking assiduously to grow the numbers of our graduate students. We want to see an explosive growth in enrolment at this level, because of what this would mean to finding new approaches to tackling recurring challenges. Already, we provide a world-class education at all levels. Becoming more research-intensive and globally-engaged require deepening involvement in graduate research to solve the social, economic and environmental challenges facing Caribbean communities.

Graduate education is identified universally as one of the major factors that help to fuel economic development and The UWI administration is engaged in a drive on several fronts to secure funds for graduate education and research that would fuel regional economic and social development. University research is undertaken primarily at the graduate level. Even our taught Masters which represent a significant percentage of our graduate degrees often contain a research component. We know that expanding graduate education will

contribute in significant measure to the economic competitiveness of our region.

At the start of this month, The UWI hosted inaugural Global Giving Week - August 1 to 7 - to raise funds from benefactors and alumni, in a drive for greater institutional self-sufficiency. The objective of what we intend to be an annual event, is to cultivate widespread support for The UWI and engage alumni to give back to their alma mater. I am very happy to state that many Barbadians have responded to our call to support your education. Some of the funds raised will help to fund UWI research so you may reasonably expect to be the beneficiaries of some of the monies raised in that initiative. By giving generously to the UWI, donors will enable the institution to continue to play an integral role in regional development through education and research. Again I want to publicly thank all the donors who have answered our call. We will also have a proper recognition ceremony for them in due course.

Students, we are well aware that graduate studies is an individual, often lonely journey, especially graduate research. This can and should see you spending long hours in the library or laboratory with only your books or required instruments for company.

In an attempt to make your experience as comfortable as possible, our graduate facilities at Paradise Park will remain accessible to you 24/7. You will gain access to the facilities at any time of the day or night. The facilities have

been outfitted with several amenities to meet your needs, including a refrigerator, microwaves and 24-hour security.

In the Sidney Martin Library, you will also find we have reserved a special section for graduate students so that you do not have to jostle with your undergraduate counterparts for study space and solitude.

I want you to use that space to hone your writing skills in order to share your research with the public. With your new findings, you can make critical contributions to knowledge. You may publish these, as well as assist faculty in conducting joint research and undertake joint publishing.

On that note, I wish to state for the record that I felt enormous pride to witness the launch of the publication **Chrysalis** by our graduate students, last November. It is an online publication spearheaded by the postgraduate students at The UWI Cave Hill. It shares the projects and work of research students from all the campuses of The UWI.

The theme of the first issue was “Awakening a Passion: Transitioning to a Research Culture.” I eagerly look forward to further editions, and of course, to your own contributions to that magazine.

In closing, I wish to urge to take your graduate studies seriously, especially your research undertakings. The well-being of the Caribbean may well rest on the new knowledge which you unearth, especially that which is unique to our Caribbean environment.

I thank all of you for choosing the Cave Hill Campus...once again I welcome you into the Cave Hill graduate community, I wish you a most enjoyable period of engagement but most of all I look forward to your successful graduation.

Eudine Barriteau, PhD, GCM

August 30, 2016