

**The University of the West Indies
Cave Hill Campus**

Ceremony to honour the University's 70 Outstanding Graduates

October 10, 2018

Protocol...

A very good morning to everyone. Welcome back to the Cave Hill Campus and welcome to our special ceremony in this historic and iconic space to honour seventy of the most accomplished alumni of The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus.

I chose the adjectives **historic** and **iconic** deliberately for some among us will remember well that this location hosted the campus's first ever graduation ceremony in 1968. Over the years, as the size of successive graduation classes outgrew this space, this Quadrangle has become the embodiment of our ancestral heartland, reminding us daily of the University's mission to educate and train future generations in critical thinking and analytical engagement in whatever they pursue.

To add to the Quadrangle distinguished status, a commemorative plaque laid by our first Chancellor HRH Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, is mounted to my right on the wall of the Cynthia Wilson Arts Lecture Theatre. I will not trouble you with its Latin inscription on this occasion, but I invite the curious among you to see me afterwards when I will be quite happy to share the English translation.***

By now, the campus, and the wider local and regional communities are well aware that from January this year, The University of the West Indies

embarked on a year-long journey of celebration to mark The UWI's 70th year of existence. At the Cave Hill Campus, we may be a little younger than two of our sister campuses, but we have been no less committed in our resolve to celebrate this achievement in every forum and through every discipline, and in every parish of this great country.

It is no coincidence that we have chosen today, officially recognized as University Day, to honour these special alumni on the occasion of our 70th anniversary. After all, we are an academy of higher learning first and foremost. In fact, according to the Times Higher Education Survey, we are first in the region and ranked among the top 5 % of the best universities in the world. Our alumni epitomize all that we hold significant in producing the ideal UWI graduate. Their work and their social worth are valuable gifts to our societies.

Ladies and gentlemen, selecting this group of persons must have been an emotional and painstaking exercise for those who have been closely involved in the process. This final list of seventy is by no means an indication that the UWI believes these persons to be the only outstanding graduates emerging from this hallowed hill. We are proud of and value ALL of our graduates. We know that they are located in spaces where they have made, and continue to make, impactful contributions to their households, their neighbourhoods and communities, their countries, and indeed to this region and the world. We are extremely pleased to have many of our graduates making positive interventions in the international arena. They are standing on platforms where they are not only ambassadors of their respective home countries, but poised as ambassadors of the UWI and the Caribbean. Among them are Prime Ministers, Governors General, judges,

educators, trade unionists, clerics, musicians, medics, artists, and activists.

But make no mistake, our graduates also reach deep into the social fabric of this country and this region. We meet Cave Hill Campus graduates as your personal banker, the shift manager at your favourite hotel or restaurant, your travel agent, your child's P.E. teacher, and sometimes, they are your airline agent at the Airport check in counter. We expect each one of them to give of their best, every day, in every way, whatever their occupation.

This morning we are fortunate to have many of our honorees and their families joining us. Indeed, we rejoice in the contributions of the living, as well as the departed – and we recognize those persons posthumously for their seminal works and contributions in their chosen fields. Such legacies endure beyond life itself, and it is both our honour and our duty to ensure that this is chronicled for the ages.

I want to take this opportunity, to thank Dr. Henderson Carter, Chair of the Cave Hill 70th Anniversary Committee for his tireless and selfless work throughout the year in ensuring our celebration of how the University built the post independent Caribbean transcended the Hill and penetrated rural and urban communities. He did not do it alone. He worked with a dedicated committee including Dr. Don Marshall and the **“70 at 70” sub-committee**. They understood the importance of such an initiative and brought this concept to this morning's fruition.

Such an undertaking cannot be successfully pursued without mobilizing the minds, memories, and insight of past stalwarts of the campus. For this, we thank persons such as Mr. Andrew Lewis, former Campus Registrar, Sir Woodville Marshall, and many other key individuals who are

veritable embodiments of the institution's history. They represent our institutional memory and I call them the men and women of UWI. The Cave Hill Campus has been very fortunate to be served by these dedicated academic, administrative, technical and professional staff, including an Association called the UWI Seniors. Collectively they guard the Cave Hill commitment to high standards. We thank all of you.

As we sit here this morning, there are classes in session all around us. Minds and spirits are being nurtured and prepared for the next round of leadership and service whether they know it or not. We know not what is to come, but you can be sure that The University of the West Indies, and indeed the Cave Hill Campus, will be here to train minds, find solutions, and unleash the rich potential of all those students in all those classrooms throughout the Campus. And we intend to do this for generations to come.

Ladies and gentlemen, as we mount these beautifully carved, mahogany plaques, we have left space to etch the names of those to follow. Help us to ensure that the Cave Hill Campus will always be able to educate our young people so that we may to advance learning, create knowledge and foster innovation for the positive transformation of the Caribbean and the wider world. But today, we pause and celebrate the lives and work of those of you who have paved the way.

To our seventy at 70, I say thank you, for all you have done and all you continue to do in service to community and country. Congratulations on this illustrious recognition by your alma mater, and the UWI Cave Hill Campus salutes you!

***ENGLISH TRANSLATION:

January 1966

This stone was laid by our Chancellor HRH Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, in commemoration of the founding of this campus (lit. college) of The University of the West Indies, and a vital part of our university, in the month of October 1963.

Professor V. Eudine Barriteau

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