Principal’s Welcome Remarks

2019 Dinner
In Celebration
Of the
Honorary Graduands
October 18, 2019

Master of Ceremonies; Chief Justice of Barbados Sir Marston Gibson; Members of Cabinet; Chancellor of The University of the West Indies, Mr. Robert Bermudez and Ms. Rani Usha (Oosha) Maraj; Vice-Chancellor, Sir Hilary Beckles; Chair of Campus Council, Sir Paul Altman and Lady Altman; Honorary Graduands and their families; Leader of the Opposition, Bishop Joseph Atherley and Mrs. Atherley; Members of the Diplomatic Corps; Members of the University’s Executive Management Team; Members of the Senate; Members of the Alumni; Distinguished Guests; Ladies and Gentlemen; Members of the Media. Good evening and a brilliant, magnificent welcome to you. Welcome to the UWI Cave Hill Campus’ dinner in celebration of our Honourary Graduands, Mr. Stedson Wiltshire, Ms. Maxine Williams and Mr. Alan Emtage. Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to our beautiful campus by the sea, welcome to the enchantment of Cave Hill by night and to our
Annual Dinner in celebration of our illustrious Honorary Graduands of 2019.

Once again, we find ourselves in a spellbinding atmosphere, this time an enchanted garden in the transformed Walcott/Warner Theatre of the Errol Barrow Centre for Creative Imagination. Our purpose, is to reflect on the achievements of the past year, to anticipate what awaits us in the year to come, and most appropriately, to celebrate Cave Hill’s latest installation into The UWI’s Honour Roll of Honorary Graduates.

The Cave Hill Campus embodies the University of the West Indies’ dedication to fully serving the communities which support and sustain us, and we do so while epitomizing continuity and change. We welcome to the executive leadership of the University, Dr. Maurice Smith as University Registrar.

The evening’s celebration would not be possible without the kind support of our corporate sponsors, many of whom have consistently stood with us throughout the years, in times of their plenty and our need. I acknowledge all of our donors and
sponsors, some of whom are with us this evening, as well as those who are unable to join us.

I extend a most gracious welcome to our corporate supporters, WIBISCO, The UWI Credit Union and stalwart Sir Trevor Carmichael of Chancery Chambers. They are joined this evening by our Chancellor, Robert Bermudez, who, with his corporate hat, supports his academic institution. We thank all of you for your faith and commitment to the Campus’ vision of renewing its facilities in science and technology, and I encourage others to join them in offering your support to providing a premier Faculty of Science and Technology to serve Barbados and the Caribbean. This annual dinner remains one of the signal events that I have had the pleasure of hosting during my tenure as Principal. This year, The Cave Hill Campus honours two exceptional Barbadian/Caribbean men and a brilliant Trinidadian/Caribbean woman. Collectively, they define regional and international leadership, service and a commitment to excellence in their respective fields. I am honoured to introduce:

**Stedson Wiltshire, Red Plastic Bag:** Ladies and gentlemen, something is happening and it is so exciting! I feel like dancing
because UWI is honouring the King of Ragga Soca, Red Plastic Bag. The Bag is one of Barbados’ and the Caribbean’s most talented and professional entertainers and lyricists, with over 40 years’ experience in making our bodies move, even as he also forced us to reflect on social issues.

In 1982, at 21 years, he became the youngest calypsonian to win the National Pic’ o’ de Crop Calypso Competition, and went on to win the national competition an unprecedented ten times. The ‘Bag’ has thrilled audiences across the Caribbean, North and South America, Europe and South Africa. He has received numerous national, regional and international awards and recognition for a body of work that continues to be timeless, even as Mr. Wiltshire continuously refreshes it.

He is a founding member and current director of COSCAP (Copyright Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers), former member of the Barbados Copyright Tribunal and Board of the Barbados Cultural Industries Agency. He is also an Ambassador for the National Tourism Host Programme, and a Cultural Ambassador of Barbados.
Mr. Wiltshire has appeared in two movies, has written a foreword to the book, “The Mighty Sparrow Calypso King of the World” and stays involved in community cricket, even as his signature anthem, ‘Ragga Ragga’, has been translated into seven languages and played at an NBA Finals in Chicago.

**Maxine Williams:** As Global Director of Diversity of Facebook, Ms Maxine Williams is not afraid to deal with issues of historical inequality and correcting imbalances. As we know, Facebook is the world’s most powerful social media, online platform and provider of social networking services. The company has 1.4 billion current users. As Global Director of Diversity, Ms. Williams is charged with making Facebook’s workforce better reflect the demographics of its users. Her work supports the company in its quest to lay the foundation to support new users in growth markets of the future.

When she first joined the company in 2013, it was an admission by Facebook that its engineers, creators, its multiple teams of producers, needed to reflect the diversity of its global users.
In selecting Ms. Williams, they could not have made a better choice. They chose a Global Director who is a Rhodes Scholar with a first class honours degree in Law from Oxford, a Yale graduate, a Caribbean actress and an exceptionally talented woman who is Trini to de Bone.

Prior to joining Facebook, Ms. Williams was the Director of Diversity for a global law firm which operated with a focus on cross-border expertise, particularly in international arbitration, project finance, banking and anti-trust. She was responsible for developing and implementing a diversity plan for this multi-national law firm comprising almost 2000 attorneys with clients in 115 countries. As an attorney, Ms. Williams has represented clients in criminal, civil and industrial courts in both Trinidad and in the U.K. before the Privy Council. Ms. Williams has worked with multiple international organisations on Caribbean human rights issues and maintained a parallel career as a broadcast journalist, actress and an on-air presenter.

**Alan Emtage: Mr** Alan Emtage is a scientist, inventor, a pioneer in information technology and a Barbadian/Caribbean man who inspires us with such pride with his incredible achievements.
Mr. Emtage was part of the brilliant team who in 1986, brought the first Internet link to Eastern Canada (and only the second link in the country). As a graduate student at McGill University in 1989, he conceived of and implemented ‘Archie’, the world’s first internet search engine for locating material in public FTP archives.

In creating ‘Archie’, Mr. Emtage pioneered many of the techniques which subsequent public search engines rely on today. His creation came while he worked as a Systems Administrator for the School of Computer Science at McGill University. ‘Archie’, the world’s first Internet search engine, started a line which leads directly to today’s Altavista, Yahoo and Google, and of course that line started right here on the Rock.

As a founding member of the Internet Society, Mr. Emtage’s creativity continued, and he chaired several groups at the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), the standard-setting body for the Internet. Working with other pioneers, he co-chaired
the Uniform Resource Identifier working group which created the standard for Uniform Resource Locators (URLs).

To record for posterity, his historic and exceptional contribution, Mr. Emtage was inducted into the Internet Hall of Fame in 2017, becoming, to date, the first and only Caribbean person and person of African descent to have received this honour.

And now I present some highlights of the Campus’s achievements over the past year. Cave Hill continues to make its presence felt in Barbados and the wider Caribbean. We continue to manage our scarce resources to satisfy quality assurance and accreditation standards in our teaching, research and outstanding public service, and we have been very successful in that regard.

- **We are expanding access to a University education.**

  **Student enrolment has increased** for the second time in six years. There is now a total of 6,000 students, 5,212 undergraduates and 788 post graduates, an 11.5% increase over last year’s figures. This is the second increase since the Government of Barbados has resumed paying tuition fees
for Barbadian students. 34% of the student body are men, with women at 66%. We thank the Government for developing the human resources of Barbados.

- **Our programmes are meeting accreditation standards, our research earns commendations and our graduates excel in their respective fields.** The Faculty of Medical Sciences has fully satisfied all the criteria for reaccreditation from the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) of the US government, but more significantly, its output both in terms of medical research and the education of young doctors has been stellar. John Ross Clarke, a Cave Hill medical graduate named intern of the year at the Yale New Haven Health Bridgeport Hospital is fulsome in his praise about his UWI, Cave Hill education. Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences Dr. Peter Adams just received one of the Vice Chancellor Awards for Excellence for his international medical collaboration – the ECHORN research project with Yale University – all accomplishments that burnish The UWI’s reputation globally.
Yesterday, the media queried UWI’s efforts to help the region exploit the emerging medical marijuana industry. I reminded them of the path-breaking initiative, led by Dr. Sylvia Henry, of the Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) and Dr. Kenneth Connell, Faculty of Medical Sciences, where our colleagues, in collaboration with Barbados’ Ministry of Health and Wellness, hosted three inaugural workshops for over 100 doctors, pharmacists and others, to facilitate training in the prescription of medical marijuana. And when the laws of Barbados are changed the Campus stands ready to deepen our research intervention.

- **Our alignment with the corporate, governmental and NGO sector grows stronger.** The third installment of the annual UWI/RBC Race for the Kids attracted the largest participation to date. Twenty-two hundred persons participated in the six-kilometre event. We expect over 3000 runners and walkers in March next year. We will encourage participation under the national “2020 We Gatherin’ Campaign”. RBC Royal Bank provided us with $125,000 from the race and on behalf of the students and
development initiatives they continue to invest in, we thank
them sincerely.

- **We intend to house a growth in regional and**
  
  **international students.** In May, the Campus broke
ground towards constructing a 100 room dormitory at the
Keith Hunte Halls Complex. This will be built under a
public\private partnership with the expert guidance of
the Caribbean Development Bank.

- **We are committed to renewing the Infrastructure of**
  
  **the Faculty of Science and Technology.** In September,
MindBloom consultants presented recommendations that
addressed programmatic and infrastructural needs. They
recommended, the introduction of a commercial
analytical laboratory, a centre for data science, but very
critically new buildings which include a beautiful open
garden causeway with construction to be completed in
phases. The next phase is funding and I am confident my
Cave Hill colleagues will ensure the Campus sources the
financing to ensure a science faculty befitting a twenty-
first century university.
• **Smart Campus Initiative.** In keeping with our commitment to become a Smart Campus, **we have upgraded our ICT Infrastructure. And we** now operate our suite of software programmes and Office 365 live and in the Cloud. We are the only UWI Campus with these capabilities. During this academic year, students will use electronic check-in for examinations and, as a result, the Campus will no longer print examination cards, ensuring significant savings and real time monitoring of at risk students. We have **introduced a digital payment platform** through Mmoney merchant solutions and this is already in use in the Campus bookstore.

• **The Campus has successfully overseen the retrofitting and Repurposing of the SAGICOR\Mutual Building** into a multipurpose training facility and technology hub which has been funded by the Global Institute in Software Technology, Suzhou, China, and undertaken by ChinaDos under the UWI China Institute. The Vice Chancellor has secured from the Caribbean Development Bank funding of US$500,000 to complete the ICT upgrades necessary to make the building
fully operational. The National Cultural Foundation is using the ground floor as part of its exhibition space for NIFCA this year.

I am very pleased to state that the Cave Hill Campus has acquired the prime ministerial papers of the Right Excellent, Errol Walton Barrow, father of Independent Barbados. This represents an incredible addition to an already exceptional specialist collection of the papers of outstanding Caribbean women and men.

- **We renamed the Faculty of Social Sciences Building the Wendell A. McClean Building** in honour of the late Alfred Wendell McClean, its first Dean and a colleague, who fought tirelessly and successfully for the creation of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the Campus, now our biggest Faculty.

- **Institutional Reaccreditation:** These innovations happened in a context in which the Campus was thoroughly assessed and reaccredited for seven years, the maximum period allowed for institutional reaccreditation. *This means that our programmes, infrastructural development and operational procedures have received the highest stamp of approval.*
Ladies and gentlemen, the magnificence which you see around you is a reflection of how we see the future of the Cave Hill campus unfolding. I am forever indebted to my hard working colleagues for their tireless efforts to keep the Cave Hill reputation burnished in concert with the regional efforts of all my UWI colleagues to keep ablaze this **Light Arising in the West.**

I thank you for joining us this evening to celebrate our Honorary Graduands and I urge you to join me in wishing them a wonderful evening and a most enjoyable Graduation Day tomorrow. I thank you.
Ladies and Gentlemen, please join me in raising a toast to Mr. Stedson Wiltshire, RPB, King of Ragga Soca, professional entertainer and master lyricist. To Ms. Maxine Williams, Global Director of Diversity at Facebook, human rights activist, media personality, writer and seeker and to Mr. Alan Emtage, scientist, pioneer and acclaimed inventor of ‘Archie’, the world’s first Internet search engine. To our distinguished honorary graduands! Thank you!