

The University of the West Indies

Cave Hill Campus

**A Smart Campus for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

**Renewal and Revitalization: Look at You Now**

**Matriculation Address**

**September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017**

Vice Chancellor of the University of the West Indies, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, Chair of the Cave Hill Campus Council, Sir Paul Altman, Pro Vice Chancellor, Board for Undergraduate Studies, Professor Alan Cobley, Deputy Principal of the Cave Hill Campus, Professor Clive Landis, guest speaker, Mr Rashad Brathwaite, Ag Campus Registrar, Mr Rommel Carter, Campus Bursar, Ms Lisa Alleyne, Campus Coordinator, School for Graduate Studies and Research, Professor Eddy Ventose, Deans and Deputy Deans of the Faculties, President of the Guild of Students, Mr Kai Bridgewater and members of the Guild Council, President of the Barbados Chapter of Alumni, Dr Leroy McClean, members of the academic

community, especially our new faculty and staff, members of the media, ladies and gentlemen, but most of all our students, national, regional and international, a blessed good evening to all, and welcome to our 2017 matriculation ceremony. I extend to our new students a very warm welcome to the University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus. I am very pleased that as of August 31, 1164 of you, 132 new graduate and 1032 undergraduate have decided to keep faith with what has long been a dream and a goal of Caribbean people and invest in your higher education. Look at you now! The total number of students registered is 4,203; 317 graduate and 3,886 undergraduate. We have reason to believe that we have now bottomed out and our numbers will again rise albeit gradually.

I applaud your determination to make the decision to hone your skills and burnish your talents now. Even though this is an extremely challenging time for individuals, families, businesses, institutions, and countries, like you, the Cave Hill Campus continues to be determined to move beyond these testing times. Your presence tells me, that like reggae artiste Nesbeth, you are focused on realizing your dreams, that not only are you preparing

yourself to be more competitive in the job market but that you are readying yourself to be part of the solutions for the myriad social and economic trials we are experiencing. It is clear you understand that a university education, especially in an increasingly competitive environment and rapidly changing labour markets, is a necessity for making the most of opportunities that await you. Do you know that sitting next to you are scholars, judges, scientists, software engineers, doctors, prime ministers, entrepreneurs, CEOs and top athletes? And of course you are one of them. You are the class of 2020 and it seems you already possess perfect, 20\20 vision because you have entrusted the Cave Hill Campus to be the gateway to achieving your educational and career dreams. I know Deputy Principal, Professor Clive Landis, and all my colleagues and staff think you couldn't have chosen a better University and Campus. We are committed to making your experience an enriching and memorable one.

When you graduate in 2020, The UWI would be past the halfway mark in our new Triple A, 2017-2022 Strategic Plan dedicated to revitalizing Caribbean development. The Plan pursues the goals of

access, alignment and agility. We will do so through prioritizing the goals of expanded Access so that many more of you, whether from Connell Town, Castries or Canada, can gain a UWI, Cave Hill education. We are achieving even greater Alignment of the goals of becoming more entrepreneurial and financially self-reliant, through working cohesively with corporate partners, governments and civil society to provide revenue earning services for our expansion and growth. We are greatly improving our internal operating processes through the services we provide to you and other clients and so demonstrate the third goal, increasing our Agility. Cave Hill is pursuing the Triple A goals in the context of rolling out our reconceptualised model for the delivery of higher education to meet Barbadian and regional human resources needs. The goals serve as guiding principles and measurable targets as we transform Cave Hill into a Smart Campus for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century by harnessing information technology to serve every academic and administrative dimension of the Campus' operations.

The Smart Campus initiative is our model for enhancing the delivery of higher education to support national and regional development. It involves:

- Transforming Campus facilities and class room resources (Agility).
- Enhancing and expanding services to students, governments, the private sector, regional and international institutions, national communities and Caribbean societies (Alignment).
- Comprehensively embracing online learning and real time or recorded digitized delivery of all programmes (Access).
- Expanding Revenue earning strategies.

We analysed the cumulative changes in our internal and external environment and designed the Smart Campus Initiative to ensure that we will meet your educational needs throughout the 21<sup>st</sup> century. During your time with us, you will experience many innovations and reorientations of processes which the Smart Campus initiative introduces in the context of remaining ahead of changing human resource needs.

Here are a few. You are part of the very first cohort of UWI students to have a Faculty of Sport. It is the first faculty to be created in 47 years and at Cave Hill the Academy of Sport is part of our new faculty. At Cave Hill students have already graduated with Bsc and double MSc degrees in Sport Sciences, receiving degrees from both UWI and the University of New Brunswick at the masters' level. Under the leadership of Dean of the Faculty of Sport, Dr Askai Mansingh, ably assisted by Head of the Cave Hill Academy, Mrs Amanda Reifer, we anticipate the expansion of a range of academic programmes and even more outstanding athletic achievements.

We are very pleased to admit the second cohort of students in the Bsc in Software Engineering Mobile Applications Technology. These students study for two years at Cave Hill and two years in China under the auspices of the Global Institute in Software Technology, GIST. This programme is one of the initiatives that the University is offering to prepare you and the region for the coming revolution in labour markets because of the global impact of artificial intelligence. We intend to educate, advise, train and assist future

workers and employers with this 21<sup>st</sup> century revolution of the workplace and life as we know it.

The Campus has reorganized and streamlined services and administration in two key areas. We did this by realigning existing personnel and without creating any new positions. We established a Student Enrolment and Retention Unit, SERU under the experienced leadership of Mrs Patricia Atherley. SERU is designed to improve your experience from enrolment through to graduation, and you will be so satisfied, that you will join our dedicated, donating pool of alumni. SERU will also greatly improve our recruitment of international students thus concretizing our vision to be a global university rooted in a Caribbean world.

We have created a Centre for English as a Second Language in the Faculty of Humanities and Education as a way of formalizing the excellent work that has been done in our ESL programme. The Campus is happy to welcome yet another cohort of 20 persons from Columbia for the ESL immersion programme in mid-September. Along with learning English they will be pursuing a Sustainable Destination Management Course. When you meet them, practice

your Spanish and encourage them to speak English to you, but also establish contacts. You may need to practice law or do business in Columbia. The possibilities are endless.

Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education, Professor Evelyn O'Callaghan informed me that in response to demand from students and the public, the Faculty will be rolling out a minor in Creative Writing and then a Masters in Fine Arts, Creative Writing. Courses will be open to the public at the Certificate\Diploma Level or for continuing education enrichment.

If you didn't think you could have fun while you learn in the Faculty of Science and Technology, Dean of the Faculty, Dr Colin Depradine and his Colleagues will invite you to embrace your inner Nerd on Campus Nerd Day in November. I cannot wait. This is to attract you to receiving guidance and training about science entrepreneurship.

The Faculty will use a modified form of the University of Miami's 'Launchpad Initiative' which the Dean observed when he visited in July.

For those of you are entering the Faculty of Law, the Faculty is working on internationalization and outreach with universities in

China and Germany. I would advise you to take some courses in Mandarin at the Confucius Institute, they are free for Cave Hill students. You will need it if you want to be part of the international mooting competition between students of China University of Political Science and Law and the UWI, Cave Hill Campus. This year Dean of the Faculty, Dr David Berry and his colleagues successfully mounted the inaugural, international China-Caribbean Mooting competition here. The Chinese students were the overall winners, but Ms Brittney Elliot-Williams of Cave Hill won the best oralist. Next year the competition is in China and on your behalf, I challenged them and told them, as I know you would want me to do, that we are journeying to Beijing to collect our trophy. Learn some Mandarin, please. Our panel of Judges, including, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Barbados, Sir Marston Gibson and Justice Winston Anderson of the Caribbean Court of Justice were all impressed that the Chinese students presented in flawless English. Oh, I forgot to tell you. I promised that in ten years' time, Cave Hill students will compete in Mandarin. Tell your little brothers and sisters to start learning Mandarin.

The Faculty of Social Sciences initiated a Summer Institute in June 2017. Dean, Dr Justin Robinson and his colleagues offered the Institute as part of the Campus's Continuing Professional Education Initiative. It provided opportunities for current students and the wider community to allow persons to retool, upgrade and acquire new skills. The courses offered include Electronic Marketing, Business Intelligence, Data Analytics, Service Quality for Hospitality Management and Diplomacy for Professionals. Demand has been so great that an expanded suite of programmes will be offered in 2018.

The Faculty of Medical Sciences is pioneering the introduction of an educational software support programme, Firecracker focuses on enhancing individualized student learning and retention so that more accurate formative assessments of your medical knowledge can be obtained. Each student's experience of Firecracker will be different because it will help you to identify your strengths and weaknesses on particular medical topics. As your performance improves you graduate to other topics. First year medical students you have to wait. We are starting with Year 2 students and with the

course, Cardiovascular system. My heart feels stronger already. You should know that UWI takes institutional accreditation and quality assurance in medicine and all our disciplines very seriously. In fact we have successfully completed our midterm institutional accreditation review in March. We are very proud that the Faculty of Medical Sciences at Cave Hill has double accreditation, from the Caribbean's regional accrediting body in Medicine, CAAM-HP and from the United States, Department of Education. The Faculty is also piloting online teaching in anatomy between Cave Hill and Mona during the coming semester.

Deputy Principal Professor Clive Landis with the Academic Advisement Committee launched the Faculty Advising Handbook setting very clear guidelines of what is expected in the advisor\advisee relationship. We are dedicated to the best practice of appreciative advising in which we gain your trust and help you establish your goals.

This is a vibrant, internationally recognised and sought after Campus. In the recent CARIFESTA 13 celebrations we cohosted the CARIFESTA 13 Cultural Symposium. In October the Campus will

co-host with York University of Toronto the first Caribbean Conductors Symposium dedicated to improving the quality of teaching, conducting and performance of wind bands. Working under the leadership of Professor Bill Thomas, Chair of the Department of Music of the School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design of the University of York, the symposium intends to provide training in ensemble conducting, rehearsal techniques, and repertoire selections to music teachers and other interested musicians. We will welcome participants from the Barbados Community College, Erdiston Teachers College, Schools' music teachers and interested musicians across the country as well as of course, the Barbados Defence Force Band, the Barbados Cadet Corps Band and the Barbados National Youth Orchestra. The Royal Barbados Police Force Band will serve as the featured demonstration ensemble. Do not be surprised to hear about a developing BFA programme in music at the EBCCI next year.

Colleagues and students, these are all examples of expanding access, operationalizing smart campus initiatives, deepening alignments and enhancing our agility to cater to you and our

various publics. There is more. In an upcoming press conference I will speak to the entrepreneurial innovative work of the Centre for Food Security and Entrepreneurship. The Cave Hill Campus is at the vanguard of educational renewal and revitalization. A UWI education is relevant and required more than ever. Welcome to Cave Hill.

Eudine Barriteau

August 31, 2017