Good evening and welcome to The UWI Cave Hill Campus and welcome to what will be the first for the new academic year, of a series of informed lectures, symposia and workshops as the Cave Hill Campus continues its practice of sharing its expertise with our communities and publics.

We are very pleased so many of you have decided to join us this evening. Mr Arthur’s lecture should be an insightful, informative and thought-provoking discourse on the International Monetary Fund, and its relationship with the Caribbean region. Mr Arthur has recently given public lectures on the IMF in Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago, and tonight’s public reasoning is quite timely. The IMF and its relations with Caribbean countries is a subject that has already generated some - although not enough - debate among the citizens of this country. Therefore, I know that by the end of this evening, the Cave Hill campus would have set the stage to enhance the quality of discussion and analysis about our current economic trajectory and the economic viability of Barbados and the region, and to do this against the backdrop of IMF involvement.

Ladies and gentlemen, our hosting of tonight’s lecture not only satisfies a public expectation for informed discourse, it also aligns well, with our mandate as an institution of higher learning, to foster public engagement and public enlightenment. Universities should engage in a range of activities that help to improve the quality of public discourse. Through civic engagement, such as
tonight’s public lecture, we play a vital role in providing the conditions under which various ideas and opinions contend. It is true that a diversity of views often emerges within these scholarly environments, as they should. However, it is equally true, that those opinions which are best substantiated and which flourish can often help to form the basis of rational, evidence-based governance, thereby underscoring the critical role of scholarship in public discourse.

It is against this background, that we welcome tonight’s scholarly contribution from someone who has spent many decades engaged in the economic study of this region. Former Prime Minister Arthur is no stranger to academia and to The University of the West Indies. He has a longstanding history of engagement with the Cave Hill Campus. I remember in the early 1980s working alongside of him in the then Institute of Social and Economic Research. Of course then I was very much a junior research fellow, so we shared the same building, not job titles. He currently occupies the position of Fellow in Residence at this campus. This is in keeping with established university wide policy to provide offices and facilities to former prime ministers, if they so wish. As such, he is not the first Prime Minister to be a Fellow in Residence at the Cave Hill Campus and we certainly intend that he will not be the last.

Ladies and gentlemen, in this regard it gives me great pleasure to announce tonight that Mr. Arthur has generously donated his papers to the Cave Hill campus. These include all the documents which he possessed during his 14 years as Prime Minister of Barbados. I have officially received the Deed of Gift and the documents which will be housed at Cave Hill campus and which will significantly add to our Special Collections. Thank you, Mr Arthur. The Special Collections is a valuable treasure trove of documents which the Cave Hill Campus has been steadily building. It comprises the papers of exceptional Barbadian, Caribbean and international citizens. This Special Collections currently includes the Papers of Dame Nita Barrow, first female Governor General of Barbados, Dame Eugenia Charles, first female Prime Minister in the
Commonwealth Caribbean, Professor George Lamming, international author and philosopher, Professor Keith Patchett, First UWI Dean of Law, and a lead advisor in Barbados’ Independence negotiations, Mr Richard B Moore, An African-Caribbean Civil Rights activist and very critically, the Special Collections includes the archives of The West Indies Federation. In January 2018, we obtained the documents of the Peoples’ Revolutionary Government of Grenada Documents and Microfiche Guide. These documents attract regional and international researchers and are of course available to local students and scholars. They enhance the reputation of the Campus and the country as a place for serious scholarly research in a wide range of disciplines.

As the campus of Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, Cave Hill looks forward to receiving the papers of other Prime Ministers of Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. I am calling on the estates of past prime ministers to make their papers available to become a permanent part of this collection. And although I would be long gone from the leadership of the Cave Hill Campus, I look forward to the Campus receiving the papers of the first female Prime Minister of Barbados, and I have already indicated this to the honourable Mia Amor Mottley.

As I indicated in my opening remarks, tonight’s lecture is the first of a series of high level informed, public forums in which the Campus will bring its expertise to bear on analyzing a range of regional and global issues and the impact they will have on regional development, as well as on security and other contemporary concerns. On September 19th, in collaboration with the Barbados Chamber of Commerce and Industry, under the leadership of tonight’s chair, Professor Winston Moore, the Campus will mount a one-day symposium to examine Caribbean economies and businesses 10 years since the start of the 2008 Global Financial Crisis and world economic recession. That analysis will also look at lessons learned and how this region may adopt measures to mitigate against similar future occurrence.
In January 2019, the Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies, SALISES in collaboration with the Confucius Institute will mount the first Caribbean symposium to assess the major foreign policy plank of the People’s Republic of China, The Belt and Road Initiative. There are others, but tonight belongs to Mr Arthur’s lecture.

In closing, ladies and gentlemen, it is well known that governments in this region are increasingly hard pressed to provide the necessary financial support to meet our countries’ needs in health, education and many other social services. I have given a brief outline of the tremendous value of this university in fostering civic engagement. Yet, in spite of its immense social value, The UWI faces serious financial challenges.

Many outstanding universities across the globe owe their continued survival and existence to generous endowments. In this context, we invite many of our regional corporate entities, private citizens and other benefactors to reexamine their show of appreciation for The UWI and seek to increase their level of support in tangible ways that help to foster a philosophy of giving back and to strengthen a greater West Indian culture of philanthropy; by a sharing of our time, our talents and our financial resources.

Indeed, this is a theme in which I also look forward to much public engagement, as we move forward.

Again, I welcome you and look forward to your full participation in a stimulating discussion ahead.

I thank you.

Professor V. Eudine Barriteau

September 10, 2018