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We welcome your comments and
feedback which can be directed
to janet.caroo@cavehill.uwi.edu
or **Chill** c/o Marketing Office,
UWI, Cave Hill Campus,
Bridgetown BB11000
Barbados
Tel: (246) 417-4057 / (246) 231-8430

CO-EDITORS:
Chelston Lovell
Janet Caroo

CONSULTANT EDITOR:
Korah Belgrave

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT:
Lisa Yarde

CONTRIBUTORS

Prof. Sir Hilary Beckles	Nicola Hunte
DeCarla Applewaite	Sonia Johnson
Bernard Babb	Roy Morris
Renette Dimmott	Maria Pena
Margaret Gill	Ashford Reyes
Ronald Gordon	Aundrea Wharton
Carmel Haynes	Dr. David Berry

PHOTOGRAPHY:

Cover Image – David Marshall
William Cummings
EBCCI
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration (NOAA)
Bernard Babb
Vice Chancellor's Office
Office of Planning and Development,
Cave Hill

**Cover: Chess Champion Martyn Del
Castilho, see page 4.**

Contents

DISCOURSE

- 2 Responsible Government

NEWS

- 3 Education Issues
4 Chess Champion
5 Research Exhibit
6 In Honour of a Regional Titan
7 Medical Faculty
8 A Magical Opportunity
9 The Alleyne Papers
10 Dim Prospects for AIDS Cure

OPINION

- 11 Raising the Bar
12 Lamming's Lamentation
13 Chinese Connection

PARTNERSHIP

- 14 Generating Income
16 UWI/CDEMA sign MOU
17 The Knowledge Economy

EDUCATION ISSUES

- 18 CXC Takes a Global Aim
19 Moving Education Forward
20 Measuring Quality
21 Education for Life

SPORTS

- 23 CCC Call Up
24 New Ground Rules
25 Hurdler Paid Soaring Tribute
25 International Netballers

STUDENT CENTERED

- 26 Arguably among the Best
27 Spanish Exchange

AWARDS

- 28 Honorary Graduands
29 Mahon Gets VC Award
29 Best Case Analysis Prize

PEOPLE

- 30 Amilton Wilson
31 Jennifer Hurley
33 A Dedicated Trio
33 Key notes with Chalkdust

ARTS

- 34 Pantomime Review

FOCUS ON HIV/AIDS

- 36 Regional Policy on AIDS
37 Protecting the Unborn
38 Risky Behaviour
39 Confronting Discrimination
40 Researching HIV/AIDS
40 Conference Calls for Reform
41 HIV link to violence

RESEARCH

- 42 Focus on Teenage Pregnancy
42 Medical Predictions
43 Patient Satisfaction at QEH
45 Incisive Surgeons
46 Hi-tech Info Management
47 Diabetes Breakthrough
48 Wisdom Weather Data

Responsible Government

We have said it before; universities are established and maintained to serve nations-broadly defined as organized communities with discernible identities and interests. Universities are not expected to serve themselves or to position themselves in relations of conflict with their nations. Sacred within this thinking, however, is the concept of academic freedom which promotes the idea that within the nation there are multiple views and opinions about what constitutes the national interests. Sometimes the knowledge and wisdom emanating from the academy differ from those of the government. This is a natural occurrence since the government and the nation are not the same thing and the purpose of democratic elections is to assure their alignment.

At Cave Hill we have witnessed in the past year an affirmation of the alignment of the campus with the development vision and strategies of the government. This is arguably the ideal environment within which the affairs of a university can be managed and mobilized to serve the community that funds it. Prime Minister David Thompson has visited with the academy on several occasions and has shown in his dialogue an acute appreciation of the role the campus is expected to play in sustaining the development of the country and region. He has indicated his awareness of the constraints faced by the campus with respect to its finances and has urged that it becomes more innovative, creative, and aggressive in finding solutions to the main challenges facing the nation.

Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Senator Darcy Boyce, in assessing our budgetary requirements, has demonstrated by his critical insights that while hard choices have to be made in a difficult fiscal environment, the university can deliver upon its mandate only when a reasonable degree of fiscal stability is attained. This ministerial engagement has shown that there is a common vision which can be sustained when the university consistently demonstrates greater research output, teaching excellence, and commitment to community stimulation through the outreach sector. We have rolled out for the minister a Faculty-based strategy for research expansion and innovation crafted around the key elements of the economy and social sectors, designed to promote economic growth and social development in the short to long term. The dialogue has been intense and expressive of mutual trust.

These discourses have taken place under the keen intellectual guidance of Minister Ronald Jones, whose leadership of the education sector provides clear signposts in the hectic race to radically transform and upgrade the national human resource as the core asset in development strategies. His emphasis upon



Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, Pro-Vice-Chancellor & Principal, Cave Hill Campus

growth with quality, and efficiency with expansion, connects to the dialogue that focuses on the need for coherent planning and future-based conceptions within the education sector, particularly at the tertiary level. The recent Education Summit in which government and campus partnered provided the context within which these exchanges came together to prepare the country for significant initiatives in education reform.

At the end of this road, then, what we have found is proof of 'responsible government', a concept that speaks to the state sector's commitment to making rational choices that are rooted in reliable research and strategic thinking. What we now have is a framework within which government and university are working together in order to serve the national interest in an effective and efficient manner.

"Prime Minister David Thompson ... has shown in his dialogue an acute appreciation of the role the campus is expected to play in sustaining the development of the country and region."

The June 23-25, 2009 Biennial Conference of the three Schools of Education of The University of the West Indies, titled **Quality Education for All: Exploring Realities – Considering Options**, was given a ringing endorsement by Barbados' Minister of Education, Ronald Jones.

When taken in conjunction with the National Education Summit, organised and hosted by the Cave Hill Campus on April 30, 2009, Jones said, the contribution of UWI to the development of education in Barbados could not be ignored.

"The University of the West Indies at Cave Hill must be lauded for hosting the National Summit on Education in April this year... Such a forum provided an excellent opportunity for education administrators and practitioners to collaborate on real issues in education and examine options for improvement of the entire system.

In the Ministry we have taken it a step further by inviting all our primary school principals to a summit ... at which we will examine the tone and quality of education at the primary level in Barbados. This will be followed by conversations with our secondary principals as we seek to maximise greater quality output, which will help to inform the programmes and the quality of students across the world," Jones declared.

In an hour-long, wide-ranging speech at the opening ceremony, Jones told participants that the subjects chosen for discussion in June were critical to education planners and policy makers in Barbados.

He said the conference deliberations would provide valuable information, noting it proposed to address issues including: the rapid pace of technological innovation, innovation in the academic functions of research, the shifting dynamics of teaching the organisational adjustments which are necessary given the diversification and demands on tertiary education, and the financial constraints that impact on tertiary education.

In addition, he pointed out there were individual topics for discussion that were of concern to his ministry such as inclusive education for all, promoting lifelong learning, children at risk, quality teaching and learning, quality education and teacher preparation, making a difference through leadership, teacher preparation programmes, licensing and quality assurance, technical/vocational education, new technologies in educational management and learning, global realities and their implications for Caribbean educational systems, assessment in education, and diversity and multi-culturalism.

In a portion of his address directed specifically to school principals, Jones urged them to place greater effort on ensuring that their charges are given every possible opportunity to advance themselves.

"We have to struggle to make the best out of the meagre resources. We have to maximise the ability of every child, regardless of race, income grouping of the families, etc, because

the child left behind is a danger to our society – a fundamental danger. We cannot sit at the top of our totem poles and look down on all others and believe we are safe up there.

We harm people when we marginalize them; when we don't give them the maximum that we can. One phrase that frightens me, even more than all the other stuff which I am hearing too much from some of our principals is – 'Based on what we get, we are doing enough!'

What are you talking about? What do you get? If a child enters any level of our school system at 'A' and that child leaves still at 'A', who has failed? It is not the child who has failed; it is those who teach and those who lead. No child should enter the system at 'A' and leave at 'A'. So it is of grave concern!"

The Minister praised the teacher training institutions in the region but said they were to be blamed for some of the problems that now present themselves in education.

He said: "The Schools of Education, Erdiston

Teacher Training College, and all of the other teacher training institutions in the region are doing some things well — pedagogical approaches, methodology and content — but there is an element missing, that is why we are getting these phrases. The affective domain is possibly the most important element of teacher preparation. This is what helps people understand that emotion must be a principal ingredient of what we offer, and helps develop the attitude that says, I must reach into the belly, into the heart and soul of those before me, regardless of their age, and bring about a change – make a difference – in their lives."

Jones lamented, "This is a serious element missing from teacher preparation and training in the region..." and suggested, "Teacher institutions and schools of education now have to look at crafting the soul for the delivery of education."



Minister of Education, Ronald Jones

Higher Education: Examining the issues

**Read more in depth on EDUCATION
ISSUES starting on Page 18**

Chess Champion

Martyn Del Castillo, a second year Accounting major at Cave Hill Campus, has created history by becoming the first junior in over twenty years to win the Barbados National Chess Championships

Del Castillo turned back some stern challenges along the way to secure the senior national title with a crucial draw against fellow UWI-teammate, Shamel Howell, in his final round match.

The new champion had entered the final round of the tournament with a perfect 10 out of 10 score, a single point lead over closest rival, FIDE Master and former champion, Dr. Phillip Corbin.

In the make or break last round, Del Castillo blazed to an early positional advantage against Howell and quickly went into shut down mode which forced the draw and secured his title. Howell also finished well, tying for third place.

From the outset, the 2009 tournament was filled with intrigue and speculation and by the second round the leaders had dropped from sixth to fourth place. By round five it was clear that the race for the title would be between Martyn Del Castillo and the in-form Dr. Corbin and this set the stage for the much anticipated showdown between the two leaders in Round 7.

Fully aware that the title and his place in history hinged on this critical game, Del Castillo executed his game plan to perfection as he neutralised the highly tactical Corbin. He further developed his advantage and eventually secured victory, while also registering his best game of the tournament.

Del Castillo remained unbeaten for the next three rounds and in lifting the title, emerged as one of the most accomplished juniors in Barbados and the wider Caribbean.

"I came pretty close two years ago and I'm happy that I was able to win it this time. I'm looking forward to international competition at the 2010 Olympiad in Russia and also to defending my national title later next year," said Del Castillo.

Over the past three years, Del Castillo was consistently among the top three contenders for the national senior title and recognised as a genuine threat by the top ranked players.

The former Lodge School student was selected for Barbados Olympiad Chess Teams which played in 2004 in Spain and 2008 in Germany, and also represented the country in several regional and hemispheric tournaments.

In junior competition, Del Castillo has won the prestigious Sagcor Open Junior Title in 2004, 2005 and 2006, joining Delisle Warner as the only two players to win it three times.

He was also an outstanding school-boy Board 1 player, leading The Lodge School to six successive overall titles in the United Insurance Inter-School Chess Championships between 2003 and 2008.



National champion Martyn Del Castillo (right) during a practice match with fellow UWI-teammate Shamel Howell while chess administrator, Dr. David Jordan, looks on.



Members of the Cave Hill Team, standing L – R: Douglas Doeman, Craig Clairmond, Amilton Wilson, Kyle Walkes; kneeling L – R: Martyn Del Castillo, Shamel Howell

THE largest ever exhibition of scientific, legal, social and other academic research to be staged within Barbados goes on display in January 2010 when Cave Hill Campus throws open its doors to share with the public some of its academic explorations designed to assist national and regional development.

Hundreds are expected to flock to the two-day event – January 19 and 20 – to hear researchers talk about their work as The University of the West Indies intensifies its mission of forging a world class research agenda which connects with national and regional economies. Attendees will be exposed to the academy's research through experiments, poster displays, lectures and discussions, as well as a menu of cultural activities.

Age of Discovery

Principal Sir Hilary Beckles says: "Our undergraduate enrolment should reach critical mass in a few years – about 12 000 by the year 2015 – and while that is an important accomplishment, the more meaningful way in which a university makes its mark on humanity is through discovery and problem solving.

"We have to embark on the transformation of Cave Hill as a problem-solving institution that addresses issues of development and as an enterprise driven by innovation and entrepreneurship."

Deputy Principal Professor Eudine Barriteau delivered a similar message when she gave an update in August to The University of

ResearchExhibit

the West Indies' senior management on Cave Hill's progress in implementing the UWI Strategic Plan 2007-2012: "To respond effectively to economic and social challenges, the University must enhance the skills set and problem solving capacities of its post graduate students. The extensive strategies implemented under teaching and learning, maintaining quality assurance, expanding the physical infrastructure and growing the research capacity of the Campus redounds to the benefit of graduate students. At Cave Hill we have moved aggressively to do so."

Among the list of invitees to view the displays, organisers plan to include representatives of government, the private sector, Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), the Diplomatic Corps, major regional and international funding agencies and institutions, students from secondary and tertiary institutions, local and regional media, as well as the general public.

"We are hoping that the event will serve to attract new funding for existing and proposed research projects, as well as be a means for recruiting high quality graduate research students to work with our faculty," says lead organiser and Coordinator of the Cave Hill School of Graduate Studies, Professor Alan Cobley.

Educational research, in particular, is of interest to Cobley. He says: "The School of Education has been doing some soul-searching in the last year or so. We are looking at establishing research teams, using our current Master's and MPhil/PhD students to target them at particular issues that have been raised (in discussion) and to look at potential solutions... to use that research in a way that will directly impact on the education system.

Apart from enhancing its research profile, the Campus continues to place greater emphasis on graduate teaching in response to the needs of the business communities which it serves. Starting next January, students can begin studying for four new taught Masters' programmes: an MSc degree in Management, with optional specialisation, a Master's in Building and Construction Management, a Master's in Investments and Wealth Management, and a Master's in the Creative Arts.

In addition, the Campus has secured Government funding for full-time graduate research and established 25 scholarships for such undertakings. It has intensified its search for graduate research funding from international donors, all in an effort to ensure that regional policymakers continue to benefit significantly from UWI research initiatives.

Through a recycling initiative spearheaded by the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), Cave Hill launched a campus-wide effort in April 2009 to become a more environmentally-friendly institution. Months later, the completion of an energy audit helped the Campus to formulate more energy-saving strategies the implementation of which should result in major cost saving and a more eco-friendly University.

The UWI recycling initiative began in 2004 when CERMES implemented recycling of plastics, glass, paper and printer cartridges within its department. Staff and students quickly engaged in and embraced the



recycling effort to such an extent that "recyclables" from home usage were brought into CERMES for collection by recycling companies – B's Bottles, Ace Recycling and the Ink Link. Additionally, the student cafeteria got involved.

In June 2008 the Solid Waste Project Unit initiated the **Development of a recycling programme at the UWI** with a meeting held to inform the UWI about recycling. A UWI core group decided that plans for

such a programme should be implemented and a two-level approach to recycling incorporating open-use areas and UWI departments was envisioned. The proposed initiative was endorsed by the Campus community and steps towards implementing the programme were initiated in October 2008.

The UWI has committed over BDS \$100,000 towards this recycling initiative.

In Honour of a Regional Titan



A new building earmarked to house a Centre for Integration Studies, and currently hosting the Federal Archives and other symbols of regional identity, has been renamed in honour of a distinguished Caribbean citizen and renowned regional advocate for Caribbean integration.

The recognition was given to former Secretary General of CARICOM and UWI Vice Chancellor Emeritus Sir Alister McIntyre on October 22, 2009 when the Alister McIntyre Building located within the Caribbean Research Park at the Cave Hill Campus was unveiled. In a more than two hour ceremony, speakers paid glowing to the former academic and diplomat



L-R: Sir Shridath Ramphal and Sir Alister McIntyre at the naming ceremony

for his invaluable contribution towards regional integration.

"When the full history of Caribbean integration is written, one name that is sure to feature among the pantheon of its economic and intellectual architects is Meredith Alister McIntyre," said Secretary-General of CARICOM, Dr. Edwin Carrington. "You have served this region with distinction, intellectual rigour and exemplary commitment, whether at the CARICOM Secretariat, UWI or the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery."

Principal Sir Hilary Beckles who served as Pro-Vice Chancellor of the Board for Undergraduate Studies (BUS) under Sir Alister credited him with having saved the regional institution in a period of financial difficulty saying, he "restructured our budget systems, reorganised our governance patterns, re-energised our faculties and researchers, inspired our students, and critically, went into the global arena and found millions and millions of dollars to rebuild and refurbish our university."

Tributes were also delivered by President of the Barbados Senate, Senator Branford Taitt and on behalf of UWI Chancellor, Sir George Alleyne and Vice Chancellor, Professor E. Nigel Harris.

In reply Sir Alister stressed the need for a Caribbean community "not bound by any legislative parchment or any decision of a council, assembly or other inter-government organ, but bound firmly together by our own understanding of from whence we have come, for what we are experiencing here, and the uniqueness of that experience, and for what we owe to this generation and invariably the region."

TWO ITEMS of historical records which have extraordinary value, and which are both housed at Cave Hill Campus, were added to UNESCO's prestigious Memory of the World Register in July 2009.

They are the Federal Archives *fonds* and the Nita Barrow Collection which were among 35 items of documentary heritage of exceptional value included in the international register, bringing the total number of inscriptions since 1997 to 193. The Federal Archives *fonds* comprises the entire body of records of the West Indies Federation (1958–1962), including some pre-Federal records (1945–1958) and post-Federal records (1962–1966). It provides sound evidence of the move by the British Government to grant independence to one of its most valuable colonial dependencies, the Anglophone West Indies, which signalled

A World Treasure within

the beginning of a new era of decolonisation for the West Indies in the post-World War II period.

The Nita Barrow Collection showcases the work of Barbados' late Governor-General Dame Nita Barrow as someone who demonstrated exemplary service and leadership to the region and earned a stellar reputation as a diplomat. She enjoyed an illustrious career in public health and health education, gaining an appointment in 1964 as Nursing Adviser to the World Health Organisation (WHO) and subsequently to the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) which enabled her to serve the region as principal adviser to sixteen Caribbean governments.

She was granted the Caribbean Prize for Peace Through Struggle For Justice, the Dame of St. Andrew and the Dame Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George. From 1986 to 1990 she functioned as Ambassador and Permanent Representative

of Barbados to the UN, a prelude to her appointment as Governor-General of Barbados from 1990–1995.

In setting out the background and purpose of the Memory of the World Programme, the United Nations states: "Documentary heritage reflects the diversity of languages, peoples and cultures. It is the mirror of the world and its memory. But this memory is fragile. Every day, irreplaceable parts of this memory disappear forever. UNESCO has launched the Memory of the World Programme to guard against collective amnesia, calling upon the preservation of the valuable archive holdings and library collections all over the world ensuring their wide dissemination."

It adds: "The vision of the Memory of the World Programme is that the world's documentary heritage belongs to all, should be fully preserved and protected for all and, with due recognition of cultural mores and practicalities, should be permanently accessible to all without hindrance."

The programme was established in 1992.

The creation of a Faculty of Medical Sciences at the Cave Hill Campus of The University of the West Indies is being seen as one of the most significant developments for the improvement in public health care delivery in Barbados and the wider Caribbean.

With a new state-of-the-art, multi-million-dollar complex to house the Faculty opened on October 22, 2009, Dean of the Faculty, Professor Henry Fraser, expects that research into the diseases, illnesses and lifestyle habits that adversely affect the health of Barbadians will get a renewed impetus.

"It's a full teaching complex," Fraser said. "It comprises a teaching lab, which we describe as ... multi-modal ... for teaching all the practical aspects of the business of the basic sciences.

Secondly, it contains an auditorium because with three successive basic science years we will be having multiple lectures; it will be filled all the time with lectures of one class or another.

Thirdly, there will be a research lab, because basic medical sciences will be doing research on things like medicinal plants and other molecular biology that's relevant to medicine.

And it is built next to Pure and Applied Sciences, especially Biology because of the synergies and collaboration with the biological sciences, which will strengthen the University's research."

Reflecting on the medical faculty's first year of operation and the acquisition of its own building, Fraser said: "Its significance is tremendous because UWI began with a medical Faculty in 1948. Medical teaching in Barbados began in 1967, but between 1967 and now we have been only a clinical school, with most of the teaching taking place at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH), which is a teaching hospital as well as a service hospital.

So the new programme means that the student can now start here and do all five years in Barbados and students can come from the region or anywhere in the world and attend Cave Hill for a full medical training programme."

Fraser went on to explain, "A full medical faculty is usually one of the flagship programmes that boost the international quality and reputation of a university, so

Barbados has waited a long time for this and everyone is excited about it."

Noting that the contribution of the University to the QEH and the health of Barbadians over the past four decades had been significant, he explained that with the new facility this contribution should increase even more, limited only by the hospital's capacity to handle the larger number of medical students and young doctors.

"For four decades the QEH has been known to be quite possibly the highest quality hospital in the English-speaking Caribbean, and a great deal of that is related to the fact that it is a teaching hospital and 85 per cent of the medical staff are UWI graduates. That's significant! Seventy five per cent of consultants and 90 per cent of junior doctors are UWI graduates, most of them from Cave Hill.



Medical Faculty

A Boon to Health Care and Research

In a sense this is a dream come true because it will allow the QEH to strengthen its training programmes at all levels. This means we will be able to attract medical students from the rest of the Caribbean. We will strengthen our post-graduate programmes, which will train the specialists we need in areas like cardiology and psychiatry and orthopaedics.... This will allow us to fulfill the vision of Barbados to serve as a medical centre of excellence to treat patients profitably from other parts of the Caribbean, South America and our tourist destinations up north such as Canada. It all ties into the same programme of making the QEH a centre of excellence as an internationally recognised training facility," Professor Fraser said.

"We were accustomed to having 25 students in each of the last two years of the programme, so that the QEH usually has around 50 students along with visiting international students.... With the new programme, we admitted 40 students last year and 65 this year; we are projecting modest further expansion over the next two to three years as considered appropriate for the QEH's carrying capacity. This will be reviewed as we go along in conjunction with the QEH and the Ministry of Health," Fraser explained further.

Apart from the fillip the QEH will get from the establishment of the Faculty, Professor Fraser expects research into a number of areas of health concern to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean will also directly benefit.

"The new Medical Faculty will boost research in areas such as diabetes, high blood pressure, glaucoma, ageing, cancer and excessive use of salts because of the collaborations that will be possible between the experts in the basic sciences here such as biochemists and pharmacologists, working with scientists at The Chronic Disease Research Centre (CDRC)... For example, we have a project that is being developed between the basic science department, CDRC and some of our own graduates who are currently doing further training at Kings College in London.

"We have the same interest in controlling high blood pressure, reducing salt in the diet and understanding how our people respond to extra salt in the diet, which pushes blood pressure up. These are fundamental issues that we are able to tackle by this collaboration. Having the basic science department and strengthening the research capacity which will produce results of great value to Barbados and the Caribbean, with a direct impact on health care."

A Magical Opportunity

The Cave Hill Campus has created an unmatched opportunity for its tourism and hospitality students by becoming the first university in the English-speaking Caribbean to establish a partnership with the Walt Disney World International College Programme.

The initiative, which allows students in hospitality management, business, marketing and the creative disciplines to get university credits while participating in the competitive six-month training programme, was led by Director of the International Office at Cave Hill, Dr. Anthony Fisher.

The first batch of students, who could number as many as 40, should be leaving Barbados for Florida next May, once they are in good academic standing and meet the recruitment standards of Disney. Each participant can obtain at least 15 credits from the programme through Central Michigan University to count toward their graduation requirements.

In addition to being exposed to the standards and training of one of the world's leaders in the hospitality field, participants will be paid by Disney, while being treated to exceptional work, study and accommodation facilities.

Fisher recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding to govern the programme with officials of Central Michigan University, which oversees the academic component for Disney.

Director of Cave Hill's Hospitality Management Programme, Dr. Sherma Roberts, who visited Disney recently to audit their programme said: "Disney has a fantastic set up where they recruit students from all over the world to come and work in Disney for six months; as part of that fieldwork the students also receive about six hours of classroom instruction a week. The students can do anything from HR Management to courses like Advanced Hospitality Studies, Marketing, Corporate Leadership etc..."

The benefits of this partnership are tremendous. It allows students to grow as persons, as students and as future tourism professionals. It gives them that big international perspective. A lot of universities

are now moving toward internationalisation of their students, where the student goes away with a world view. It really is recognition that we are operating in a global village.

The student is able to interact with, understand and share in different cultures, different managerial perspectives, and different ideas about how tourism and hospitality are done. And I don't think it can get better than Disney. Disney is seen as best practice in terms of attractions operations."

She added: "We saw it as a great opportunity, and that it would be really remiss of us at UWI if we missed this chance to partner with an enterprise like Disney through Central Michigan University."

Roberts explained that after doing two years at the Barbados Community College and one year at Cave Hill, the selected students would move to Disney between May and January and then return to Cave Hill to complete their graduation requirements.

"A student could either choose to carry more courses before (leaving on the programme), do some courses in the summer or they can choose to extend their time of study here by another semester. It is entirely up to the student how he or she wants to proceed," she added.

In explaining how she thinks the University will benefit from the partnership, Dr. Roberts said: "I believe that given the level of competition from itinerant universities in the region who are poaching our students, this type of engagement or partnership gives the University a definite competitive advantage in offering this type of hands-on, experiential learning.

The tourism and hospitality industry in Barbados also benefits because the student comes back understanding best practice, and what international service quality standards demand. They understand people from different cultures and, for example, how to service and engage with people from Europe vis-à-vis people from America.

Furthermore, the classroom becomes a better and more interactive space because the student is able to bring that whole Disney

experience to the classroom to inform theoretical ideas they would have been taught during their semester overseas. Everybody benefits..."

Meanwhile, officials are still working out the "financing model" for the internship programme, which is expected to cost approximately BDS \$4,000 per student for the six months.

Officials at Cave Hill anticipate that sometime in January 2010, administrators from Disney will visit the Campus "to begin to sensitise students for the recruitment stage".

Dr. Roberts explained that the Disney initiative was just the start of a new approach: "We will be looking to do a lot more of these types of international internship programmes. From my experience as someone who taught in the UK, the student comes back a more mature student, a more aware student. You put them in the workplace and they are able to function optimally."

Principal of the Cave Hill Campus, Sir Hilary Beckles, described the partnership with Disney and Central Michigan University as "a core element in the development of an international network of strategic partner institutions, where Cave Hill students will be able to get first rate experience to increase their competitive advantage in the global marketplace."



Dr Sherma Roberts



Dr Anthony Fisher

CLR James Research Centre receives Alleyne's papers



Perusing some of Alleyne's papers are L-R: Lisa Alleyne (sister), Dr. Yolanda Alleyne (widow), Sir Hilary Beckles and lawyer/friend Philip Nicholls.

The CLR James Research Centre at Cave Hill Campus received a major enhancement to its library resources when the cricket papers of the late Stephen Alleyne, former Chief Executive Officer of World Cup Barbados Inc (2007) were handed over to The University of the West Indies. The presentation took place on Friday, June 26, 2009.

The papers comprising thousands of documents which were saved over more than a decade, including part of the Cricket World Cup legacy, will be used to assist students in their research in the development of Barbados and West Indies cricket.

Alleyne died at age 47, in October 2007, months after the final of the tournament was played at Kensington Oval, Barbados.

Prized Feedback

As it redefines its image as an institution of world class research and innovation, the Cave Hill Campus will be relying heavily on feedback from its many graduates to help chart the way forward.

Deputy Principal, Professor Eudine Barriteau, gave this indication in a brief address to winners of prizes of the 2008 graduate tracer study, on August 12, 2009 at the 3Ws Pavilion.

"The completion of this survey is very important in the long term planning and projections of the Campus," Barriteau said. "It is clear that graduate planning and graduate studies are critical to the future of the University and the region.

"In fact," she went on, "Cave Hill is repositioning itself as the premier institution among the campuses in terms of graduate planning. Your completion of this survey enables us to undertake [more effective] planning through feedback on what we can design, where we can improve – how we can produce graduates who will not only be available to us for development but also to the entire Caribbean region."

She noted that while it was easy for everyone to see the tremendous quantitative changes that were occurring at Cave Hill by way of physical expansion, the significant work that was going into qualitative improvements and expansion was not so obvious.

The cooperation of graduates who took part in the tracer study was critical to the successful outcome of the University's planning, she added, while thanking all who participated.

Alison Williams, who won the grand prize of \$2,000, was among four Barbadians who received prizes. The other three were Wendy Lorde, Deborah Walrond and Delores Dottin, who each received \$500. Absent from the presentation were Kenneth Millette of Anguilla and Alexandria Newbold of the Bahamas, who also won \$500 each.

The graduate tracer survey was developed by the University's lead planning office, the Office of Planning and Development at St. Augustine Campus in Trinidad, with input from Mona in Jamaica and Cave Hill. Each campus is mandated to conduct a survey annually,

within 12 to 18 months after graduation.

Annually, first-degree graduates of the previous year are targeted to:

- obtain feedback on their experience in the job market since leaving UWI. This category examines areas such as employment rates by area of study, employment earnings, employment by sectors, compatibility of degree earned to employment, level of underemployment and names of employers and occupational types;
- gain insight on how undergraduate education at UWI prepared them for the world of work and the extent of UWI's contribution toward their professional and personal development; and
- determine the number of graduates engaged in further studies, particularly the percentage of graduates enrolled in post-graduate studies immediately after graduation, types of programmes, relationship to first degree field, institutions they are attending and the intention of those not currently pursuing post-graduate studies to do so in the near future.

The 2008 survey targeted 2007 first-degree graduates and each respondent who answered all of the questions and submitted the questionnaire on time became eligible to win one of the prizes.



L-R: Deputy Principal, Professor Eudine Barriteau presenting a prize to Deborah Walrond

Despite the tens of millions spent over the past two decades on HIV/AIDS research, and the significant advances in detection and infection treatment, the world appears to be still a long way from a cure.

That's the view of two of the world's most respected and recognised HIV/AIDS researchers who were in St. Kitts last August for a major international conference that is jointly organised by The University of the West Indies and a number of governmental and non-governmental agencies.

Professor George Janossy of the Royal Free and University College Medical School in London delivered a lecture on "The Natural History of HIV Infection", while Dr. Philip Goulder of Peter Medawar Centre for Pathogen Research at Oxford University answered the question "Are There Prospects for an HIV Vaccine?" at the sixth annual Caribbean Cytometry and Analytical Society (CCAS) Workshop and the Joint Meeting of CCAS, Caribbean HIV/AIDS Regional Training Network (CHART) and the United States Centres of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In a very technical presentation, Goulder, who is still conducting major research around the world, including in Africa and Barbados, looked at the most significant vaccine development projects, noting that to date, none had matured into credible prospects. Meanwhile, 33 million people worldwide continued to be infected with the virus.

Following his presentation to some of the region's leading scientists and medical personnel involved in HIV/AIDS work, Janossy said: "I am genuinely unable to even guess how far we are away from an HIV vaccine, but what I would say is that the current world approach of trying to develop a pharmaceutical industry-supported vaccine with very high overheads and trying it out on very large numbers of people will not lead to fast results. I believe there should be smaller

Dim Prospects for AIDS Cure

"Develop(ing) a pharmaceutical industry-supported vaccine with very high overheads and trying it out on very large numbers of people will not lead to fast results..."

groups, more local interest and more adventurous immunisation techniques employed..."

He suggested that a larger slice of the millions provided by public and private funding agencies in North America and Europe, including the Bill Gates Foundation and the Vatican, be directed to national health systems.

"Then I would use some of this, together with the medical schools, to train up young doctors and technicians who would be uniformly using ... protocols in a given country.

"At the moment what is done is very fragmented. If you have grant money coming it goes to a laboratory or hospital that often is not linked to the health service, and this serves to take away talent from the nationally funded programmes, which then end up with very little money and fewer talented people. I predict that in five years time the current system of research will be proven a failure, and we should therefore stop and take another look at what we are doing."

"This is very important because when you look at what is happening in Africa, South and Central America and the Caribbean, the people involved in HIV work are more interested, they are more disciplined, they are more eager to learn, and when they have a good lab it is so good that it beats the European laboratories. There is no

evidence that in these countries the people are not as good as those in the United States or Europe...

The Caribbean HIV network is as good as any anywhere in the world. People are talking to each other. They actually like each other. There are no racial differences impacting how people work together, I have seen no religious problems. They have to be given the trust and support for what they have been able to achieve so far. Of course it would be very nice to have more collaborations with South Africa, but I understand the challenges of not having direct air links."

Professor Janossy also suggested that the world would be better off if more financial support was offered to the "home-grown" research methods being employed in developing countries, rather than forcing researchers to use complicated and expensive approaches developed in the United States, that often don't suit the environments in which they are deployed.



**Read more in depth in Chill's
FOCUS ON HIV/AIDS starting
on Page 36**

Raising the Bar

Lawyer argues that legal studies, history and literature are key building blocks in the foundation of good grammar and critical thought

Former Dean of the Faculty of Law and Professor of Jurisprudence, Simeon McIntosh, believes that faculty can play a pivotal role in helping The University of the West Indies achieve its objective of producing graduates who write well and think critically.

In a paper titled "Rethinking Legal Education at UWI", he argued that as the leading tertiary institution in the Commonwealth Caribbean, UWI "has a special obligation to take the lead in educating the region's citizens and to bring the habits of critical thought and practical reason to bear in addressing the problems we face in every conceivable area of West Indian life."

Professor McIntosh added: "The central question informing the University's Strategic Plan is about the kind of graduate it hopes to produce by the year 2012. My answer to that question is 'an individual who writes and speaks well, and thinks critically'. This, to my view, is the individual, whether trained in theology and the humanities; the social or natural sciences; agriculture, law or medicine, who is most capable of helping to solve the region's problems and enriching the lives of its people. Law, along with literature and history, I should wish to propose, if taught well, is one of the best disciplines in the academy for cultivating the arts of writing well and thinking critically.

"But we would not be successful in achieving our ambition unless we were to address the writing problem in the Faculty of Law and throughout the University. For the student's facility with language is the indispensable requisite to his/her mastery of any academic discipline; and law in particular."

He added: "As the Columbia University humanities professor, Jacques Barzun, reminds

us in his book **The House of Intellect**, 'Law is a model of intellectual work. It is a work of words. It is an attempt of the *esprit de finesse* to mould coherent conceptions of

the true and the just on the restless multiplicity of human life....' Law therefore requires a certain facility with language if the judgments of our courts, for example, are to achieve that level of articulateness and exactitude required for the just resolution of human conflicts."

According to McIntosh, it was therefore "absolutely necessary" that the Faculty of Law address "the critical problem of poor writing from which so many of our students suffer, as an essential aspect of its new Strategic Plan", if it is to achieve its goal of being recognized for world-class standards.

"This is indispensable to a good legal education if the Faculty of Law is to discharge its central mission of producing the kind of graduate capable of making a substantial contribution to the intellectual life of the region and helping solve the legal problems of its people," he added. "Put differently, addressing the writing problem in the Faculty of Law is critical if legal education at the UWI is to achieve the ideal of cultivating in its students the skills of practical reason in the discipline's prescribed methods of thought, in its distinctive



Prof. Simeon McIntosh

grammar and forms of arguments."

Additionally, McIntosh stressed the need for legal education to always recognise the nexus with "every other university discipline, whether in the arts or the sciences, 'the capacity to reason about justifiable ends, to create purposes, to define good and evil, excellence and error'."

He suggested that a good legal education must be informed by an exposure to certain other academic disciplines, such as literature and philosophy, history, economics, sociology and psychology, to name a few; "disciplines to which law bears a special kinship.

"Moreover, legal education must take cognizance of the fact that law is one of the critical cultural practices of a society. As such, legal education would hardly discharge the full measure of its educative office if it were to ignore the fact that law carries social, political and moral consequences for people whose lives it regulates. The study of law in the academy must therefore be informed by the conceptual tools from the related disciplines," he added.

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GEORGE LAMMING PEDAGOGICAL CENTRE

CARICOM has described him as “poet, novelist, essay writer, orator, lecturer, teacher, editor and tireless activist for a new world order.” On June 23, 2009 prominent Caribbean citizen George Lamming took upon himself another role, that of chiding the region’s political leaders.

In a wide-ranging, matter-of-fact address that was tied together with a theme that emphasised the importance of “preserving a society’s archives”, Lamming lectured the leaders on the harm they were doing to the region by their narrow thinking, and warned them there was a very real danger that their approach could lead to the destruction of the regional integration movement.

Lamming, who had The Order of the Caribbean Community conferred on him in 2008, was speaking at the Cave Hill Campus of The University of the West Indies just moments before a new facility in the Errol Barrow Centre for Creative Imagination was officially dubbed The George Lamming Pedagogical Centre.

Referring to an earlier speech to students and teachers of a primary school in St. Michael that also bears his name, Lamming told guests who included Cave Hill Principal Sir Hilary Beckles, Barbados’ CARICOM ambassador Dennis Kellman MP, and President of the Senate Branford Taitt:

“What I am saying to you was influenced by what I had to say to the school. I was telling them, as I am telling you now, that in happier times, the year 2008 would have been, and should have been, the 50th anniversary of a genuinely sovereign West Indian nation. That is what we should have been celebrating in 2008. But after four years of petty insular disputes and recriminations, the experiment [West Indies Federation] was abandoned and that moment was lost.

We have avoided calling this event by its real name, but it was the trick of a people by a



Lamming's Lamentation

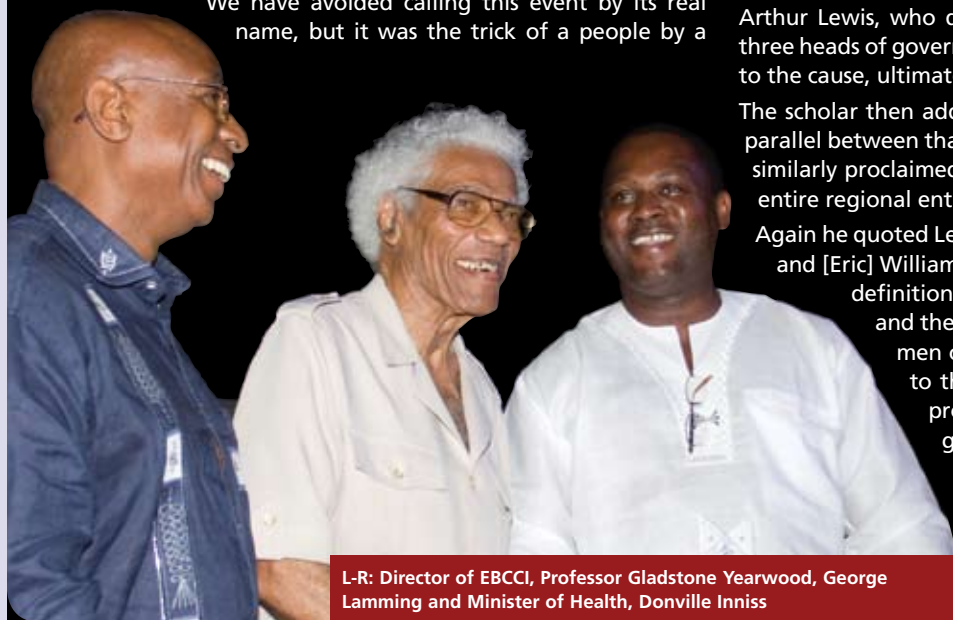
political elite that comprised the brightest and most distinguished products of our colonial education... We have never recovered from that failure. And two generations later, it now appears we are about to repeat it.”

Lamming then drew reference to the comments of the late Sir Arthur Lewis, who described that failure as “odd” since “these three heads of government, despite their unquestioned allegiance to the cause, ultimately wrecked the Federation”.

The scholar then added: “I want you for a moment to draw the parallel between that moment and two generations later when a similarly proclaimed allegiance to a cause is about to wreck the entire regional enterprise.”

Again he quoted Lewis: “[Sir Grantley] Adams, [Norman] Manley and [Eric] Williams were all men of the highest quality, by any definition of the word. Their talents were outstanding and their education the envy of mankind. They were men of immaculate integrity and selfless devotion to the public service. Each was at the top of his profession before entering public service and gained neither prestige nor money from entering politics. Each would have been recognised in any country of the world as a public servant of the highest calibre”.

Lamming continued: “I want you



L-R: Director of EBCCI, Professor Gladstone Yearwood, George Lamming and Minister of Health, Donville Inniss

Continued on P13

Continued from P12

now to draw another parallel between that moment and those men and our contemporary situation. For the last 20 years or so, the political leadership — that is, the prime ministers and their technocrats — from Jamaica to Barbados have been the products of The University of the West Indies... Is that not therefore an institutional failure? For we are not at Oxford now; we are on home ground.... These are not the casualties of Oxford. They are... of The University of the West Indies and we must consider the meaning of that question."

In expanding his speech, Lamming declared: "There are two words used every day by politicians [that] are now subject to a consensus of abuse... one is culture and the other is development. Every day I hear this word and then when one listens to the various media stations, one realises that culture is reduced [exclusively to] ... popular entertainment. Speakers are not always aware that they insult large elements of young people by regarding them as incapable of any intellectual activity beyond Reggae On The Hill.

"It is a bold perception that has allowed the market to kidnap the society; convert the society into a service station and evaluate every human activity as a commodity for sale. [It is within this context that I] speak of the dysfunctional nature of our political culture. The most toxic force, which alienates political thought, is the party — the political party. A generation will have to reflect seriously on democratic ways of removing the party from the electoral process; making it a constitutional requirement that no citizen could contest a national election as a member of a political party. You are quite mistaken if you think that that system is the only system that will allow democratic practice in the area of politics.

What I was telling the teachers and students... I was trying to communicate to them... that what they now know as independent Barbados, and independent St. Lucia and independent Guyana would have been, and could have been, a family of islands sharing the same national past. And it would have been a more triumphant cultural and political achievement than anything we have so far."

Chinese Connection

by Margaret D. Kawamuinyo Gill

A couple of weeks ago, the exact time is not important, I saw a newspaper headline **story about Barbados seeking greater ties with China. It was said that The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus was expecting to play a role in this by establishing a centre for Chinese studies. Having lived a month in Hong Kong and China I thought, boy, official Chinese policy on culture is no different inside China/Hong Kong than it is outside of that two system country (as the Chinese government refers to its state), and neither is Barbadian culture policy.**

I declare my biases up front, as I said, I was only there for one month, but as I was invited and paid by the Hong Kong government and people to live there for that time as a worker, honoured though I was, I learned much. My other bias is that I have been involved in culture since, as we say in Barbados, I know myself. Culture was in me and with me since I was a child reciting the poems and watching my brothers and sisters engage in the plays written by my mother and others in the little Pentecostal church in Bridge Gap, Black Rock. I am an awarded and published poet since I was fourteen years old and was invited by the Hong Kong Baptist University as a Visiting Writer in its International Writers Workshop. By *culture* I therefore mean the performing and literate arts for the moment.

So what of these culture policies, or my perceptions of such?

My attempts at learning about Chinese Hong Kong culture involved watching a lot of television. There, streamed constantly were examples of traditional Chinese theatre, including dress, traditional Chinese music and the instruments used to derive it. Apart from the television, I went to a culture centre in downtown Hong Kong where I read notices of many artistic performances coming and having come to town, both Chinese and others from mainly around the industrialised world. I was also fortunate to stumble into a room where an artist gave lessons to

Barbadian lecturer who visited China calls for greater cultural exchange.

whoever wanted in traditional Chinese art. The organizers gave me several books of work, which I was happy to receive as I am an admirer of traditional Chinese; I was too timid about art to try. There is a Hong Kong journal of the literary arts. You should check out the Barbadian poet in Chinese.

My knowledge of the performing and literate arts in Barbados is that they happen everywhere by the people, some traditional but because the people are dynamic, mostly the evolving arts. Governments of Barbados over the years have expressed an interest in preserving traditional arts, but because the people are such a powerful force in promoting the arts, the evolving gets more airplay than the traditional. The Government has in some ways even taken on the people's attitude, in that its Central Bank's Frank Collymore stage and Grande Salle (we could rename that?) is the place of its most vigorous evolving genre of activities, and the streets the most vigorous site of the theatre government promotes.

I connected with one young Chinese student in Hong Kong who had his hair in dreads but was shocked that in the hometown of Confucius they stared at me and followed me from store to store so that I got annoyed and went back to my hotel. I should not have, they knew nothing of me or my dreadlocked self and were merely curious.

I think there is need for a serious exchange of policies in these scenarios, in how Chinese Hong Kong and Barbados governments treat culture internally and how they treat it externally. I think the young demand it. But then, I had been invited by the Hong Kong Baptist University from all the way in Barbados, at the same time that six Pulitzer prize-winners had been similarly invited. And in Barbados we want to build a grounded place for the study of Chinese culture. Maybe the change and exchange is coming. I wish for more equal exchange as it does.

Generating Income



Sonia Johnson

UWI, Cave Hill, along with its sister campuses at Mona and St. Augustine, and the Open Campus, will collaborate with eight universities from the Caribbean, the United Kingdom and the South Pacific in a major new project funded by the European Union aimed at building the universities' capacity for financial sustainability.

The main aim of the project, launched on May 22, 2009, is to help create a shift from traditional

- Philanthropy and Resource Mobilisation in Higher Education
- Commercialisation of Research
- Business Development in a University Context
- Introduction to Grantsmanship

sources of funding in the participating universities by teaching academic and administrative staff how to generate revenue through four key activities: philanthropy, grantsmanship, commercialization of research, and business development. Apart from the UWI, the other universities benefiting from the project are: The University of Technology, Jamaica, the University of Mauritius, the University of Suriname, the University of Guyana, the University of Belize, the University of the South Pacific and the University of Warwick.

"One of the key results of this project will be a comprehensive training programme in resource mobilisation designed specifically to address the unique challenges of the participating universities. The programme is being developed with the assistance of an outstanding team of experts from Warwick, one of the most successful entrepreneurial universities in the United Kingdom," explained Cave Hill Campus' Business Development Officer, Sonia Johnson, who participated in the first face-to-face meeting of the Inter-University Project Management Team, which took place from June 29 to July 3, 2009 at the St. Augustine Campus. Resource persons from the University of Warwick will include Ian Rowley, Director of Strategy, Communication and Alumni Relations, Dr. Ederyn Williams, Director of Warwick Ventures, Paul Stephenson, Director of HR and Commercial Services and Dr. Peter Hedges, Director of Research Support Services. The five training modules are:

- An Introduction to Resource Generation and Entrepreneurialism in Higher Education

"We are in the process of developing materials for the four modules of the training programme, including case studies from the participating universities. A minimum of 18 persons in the nine universities will be trained to deliver the course on an ongoing basis, including two – Dr. Francis Lopez, Research Fellow in Sports Agronomy in the Biological and Chemical Sciences Department and I from Cave Hill. The programme will provide over 100 hours of training to participants face-to-face and online and will use a variety of teaching methodologies including interactive lectures, podcasts, group work and role play. The *Train the Trainers Workshop* will take place in early January 2010 and the training programme will be rolled out in all the institutions in June 2010. By the end of the project, a minimum of 70 academic and administrative staff are expected to have been trained (at least 10 of these from Cave Hill)," observed Johnson. The overall goal is to increase the number of funding proposals submitted for donor support by the end of the project.

The Business Development Office at the St. Augustine Campus is the overall project coordinator. The project is funded by a grant of 450,000 Euros through the *EduLink* programme, a competitive grant programme, which provides financial support to cooperative projects between higher education institutions in the African, Caribbean and Pacific group of states and the 15 member states that are signatories to the 9th European Development Fund.

Portraying Service Excellence

The Cave Hill Campus has embarked on a programme aimed at achieving a culture of service excellence throughout the organisation.

"The Service Quality Programme is designed around a phased, sustainable, and results-oriented approach to facilitate a number of outcomes of great benefit to all of the University's internal and external customers," explained May Hinds, the leader of the consulting team, commissioned to develop, design and implement the programme.

"We are targeting the full complement of 350 line workers and 50 supervisors in the administrative and technical staff level across both academic and administrative units," Hinds said. Among the achievements of the two-year programme to date are: the establishment of a Service Quality Review Circle, comprising 13 senior administrative staff and 14 administrative and technical staff; the conduct of a corporate culture survey; the definition of a pilot "service transaction chain" that includes telephone reception, arrival and welcome, property ambience, and eight departments (University Bookshop, the Office of Student Services, Student Affairs Admissions, the Main Library, the Campus Bursary, Campus Information Technology Services, the Human Resources Section, the Faculty of Medical Sciences and the Business Development Office); the identification of service leaders in these departments; and the pilot of a mystery shopping programme, in which a mystery shopper visited or telephoned contact points in the service chain anonymously, posing as a regular customer to experience and evaluate the level of customer service provided.

People development and training are core components of the programme. The training is designed to promote service excellence as a major focus and improve

Continued on P15



L-R: CEO Martin DaSilva and Principal, Sir Hilary Beckles signing the Innotech MOU.

Constructive Partners

to a new level of excellence could only be achieved with the support of private sector companies such as Innotech. Sir Hilary thanked the company for its donation, describing it as a demonstration of Innotech's commitment to the academic development of future generations of Barbadians.

Chief Executive Officer of Innotech Services Ltd., Martin DaSilva, in explaining the reasons for the new relationship with the Cave Hill, said: "We suffer from not having the support of local human resources, and over the past decade or so we've seen Innotech and other construction companies bring unqualified people to our local and regional construction projects. It's against this backdrop that we feel we need to develop our local human resources to support the construction industry now and in the future."

He bemoaned that the industry had also been forced to employ untrained personnel to manage large construction projects and added: "We have a lot of non-nationals managing our construction projects, which does not enhance the development of our people to support our industry. In the areas where we have construction projects that cannot afford non-national support, we are using local resources that in most cases are not experienced or trained in the specific aspects of construction management."

"What we have are construction projects that are not administered properly. Within any construction project there is a level of administration, proper construction scheduling, safety, quality assurance measures, cost assurance and cost management. These are the areas in which we recognise we need support."

Thanks to a partnership between one of Barbados' leading construction companies and Cave Hill Campus, the regional construction industry will soon be equipped with a cadre of workers to better serve that sector.

On April 9, 2009, Innotech Services Limited signed a memorandum of understanding with the Campus to provide the institution with \$1 million to, among other things, set up a Centre for Construction Management at Cave Hill.

One of the principal planks of this initiative will be the introduction of a MSc. degree in Construction Management at Cave Hill from January 2010, which Principal Sir Hilary Beckles described as part of the University's response to the needs of the construction sector in the region.

According to Sir Hilary, "construction management has always been very important to the advancement of all our Caribbean societies and with the development of a Centre for Construction Management, we will now be in a position to say to the sector and to the society at large that we are now going to produce some of the finest resources required in Barbados, in the Caribbean, to enable your sector to grow ... with quality".

He noted too that the University's goal of building its research capacity

Continued from P14

the employees' ability to provide excellent service to customers. Twenty-six supervisors from across the Campus recently successfully completed a three-day programme comprising three modules: *People Development for Managers*; *Principles of Service Excellence*; and *How to Manage and Supervise the Service Function*. Expressing satisfaction at the level of enthusiasm demonstrated by those who have participated in the various sessions so

far, Hinds indicated that the research and the training had yielded a rich collection of issues, ideas and other feedback, which will be addressed in a special retreat.

A recognition and rewards event is also planned to celebrate those members of staff who have performed well, including staffers in the Business Development Office, the Office of Student Services and Faculty of Medical Sciences who gained the highest scores in the mystery shopping exercise, exceeding

the customer's expectations. Karma Henry-Millington, a security officer has already received her reward for her "friendly yet professional manner, anticipating customer needs and offering a positive memorable service experience" to the lead consultant when she conducted her familiarisation tour of the Campus. Henry-Millington and her mother recently dined with celebrities at the AAA 5 Diamond Sandy Lane Country Club, compliments May Hinds Consulting Inc.

The University of The West Indies has repositioned itself to offer major assistance in the management of regional disasters. This came through the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the UWI and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency, now renamed the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), at Cave Hill Campus on April 2, 2009.

Vice Chancellor Professor E Nigel Harris who initialled the agreement on behalf of UWI said the educational institution was keen to renew its partnership with CDEMA and noted that its responsibilities were "much larger than just educating undergraduate students".

"...That is an important task of the University, but in a larger context mature universities such as ours have to be able to respond in more comprehensive ways to challenges that exist within our societies. And one of the major challenges that we face is that of natural hazards," he asserted.

"I thought it would be important for us as the major institution of learning within the Caribbean to assemble the capacity that we had to respond to a danger that ... will be always present in increasing ways within our society. We have, as I understand it, more than 100 academics in more than 30 sectors that would be relevant to response in the event of a natural hazard and that I think is tremendous capacity."

Coordinator of CDEMA, Jeremy Collymore, said the signing represents a commitment to re-establish, strengthen and formalize a partnership of engagement between the UWI and the CDEMA disaster management community towards building resilient communities.

"[The] CDEMA/UWI MOU also reflects our commitment to building strategic alliances with regional organisations and institutions around the goal of the Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy and Programme whose purpose is to strengthen regional, national and community level capacity for mitigation, management and coordinated response to natural and technological hazards and the effects of climate change," he added.

UWI Leadership in Disaster Management



L-R: Andrea Grosvenor, Technical Manager Preparedness and Country Support, CDEMA; Deputy Principal, Professor Eudene Barribeau; Coordinator, CDEMA, Jeremy Collymore; UWI Vice-Chancellor, Professor E. Nigel Harris and Pro-Vice Chancellor Research, Professor Wayne Hunte.

The UWI's Disaster Risk Reduction Centre, headquartered at Mona Campus, will play a key role in developing the infrastructure that will deliver disaster related knowledge training, education, and research and policy design to respond to the institutional capacity needs of the CDEMA participating states. Other key aspects to be advanced by this partnership include: collaborating with other regional educational and research institutions to develop a region wide network of disaster risk reduction centres of excellence, and the standardisation of disaster risk reduction training, delivery and certification.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Wayne Hunte said there was "significant scope" now that UWI had the right organisational framework to help the regional bodies professionalise

and retain their disaster management staff.

"[With] the establishment of our Disaster Risk Reduction Centre, which was guided through close collaboration with CDEMA, one of the principle mandates is that we now have a focal point with the responsibility for communicating with CDEMA, (and) through that process identifying what CDEMA sees as the key training needs for persons who are staffing the disaster offices," he said.

"And once that is established, (it can be used) for pulling on the expertise across the University to create the training programmes, ... short term training programmes not full length courses for degrees, which will be done in a two-week period as a workshop or seminar specifically geared to meeting those needs identified by CDEMA."

The Cave Hill Campus now stands at the centre of a major diasporic research project that straddles the region and reaches into four major cities of North America and Europe, with tremendous potential for enhancing the Caribbean's economic prospects.

A memorandum of understanding to govern the project entitled **Strategic Opportunities in Caribbean Migration: Brain Circulation and Diasporic Tourism** was signed on April 14, 2009 by Principal of the Campus Sir Hilary Beckles, Director of the Shridath Ramphal Centre which is conducting the research, Dr. Keith Nurse, and David Malone, President of the International Development Research Centre of Canada, the funding agency.

Nurse explained that the original aim of the project was to examine various aspects of the impact of remittances associated with migration, but researchers saw the opportunity to identify specific opportunities "that have become eminent because of the migration process in the Caribbean".

"It is well known that the Caribbean not only ranks in the top ten recipients of remittances per capita in the world," he said at the official signing ceremony, but "the Caribbean also has the highest brain drain in the world. In many respects the migration has had both positive and negative effects. This project focuses on converting something negative like brain drain into something positive like brain circulation. We will look at the possibilities for return migration...".

Another aspect of migration is diasporic tourism. Tourism is the main industry in the Caribbean and some of the data we have already collected show that in some territories the percentage of tourism that is diasporic is quite high. This is an area that is largely untapped and in many cases not properly aligned with the tourism strategies of the region. So we felt that these areas were really important in moving forward with Caribbean migration.

It also relates to the larger project within which this project is located. At Cave Hill we are pursuing a Caribbean knowledge economy programme and this is one of the first projects being commissioned. In many respects you cannot think about the region building a knowledge economy without



L-R: Principal of the Cave Hill Campus, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles and Mr. David Malone, President, International Development Research Centre of Canada.

linking the Caribbean diaspora. In that regard we are targeting people involved in the field of financial services, ICT people with respect to technologies, and we are also looking at education and health professionals. These four specific areas have been targeted for the brain circulation element of the project."

Nurse explained that in relation to diasporic tourism, researchers would target four Caribbean territories and four international cities where the diasporic communities play a significant role.

For the Dominican Republic we will focus on New York; for Guyana, Toronto; Jamaica, London; and for Suriname, Amsterdam. In many respects, not only is the project multi-sectoral and multi-country but it takes into account a whole range of new disciplines...."

Malone, IDRC's president, explained: "This project at Cave Hill is exciting for us because Canada has a long-standing relationship with the Commonwealth Caribbean and we have not supported a Caribbean project of this nature for quite a long time... The knowledge economy is tremendously important to the Caribbean because there is just not much manufacturing in Caribbean countries and agriculture is not what it used to be at the national level...."

The knowledge economy, in a sense by default, looms very, very large on the horizon for the Caribbean, and the provision of services through electronic means is also going to be important in the region. It was only recently in Canada that we experimented successfully with wide-scale provision of government services by electronic means. If you deal with the Canadian revenue agency for your taxes you mostly do it online. If you want to renew your licence plate you do that online. It's good for government – they grab your cash without having to pay a lot of salaries — and

Exploiting the Knowledge Economy

it's great for the customer because you more or less get the service immediately... So in jurisdictions that are small, in an area that is very cut up, the provision of electronic services across a number of countries by a single provider would make a great deal of sense if governments could be convinced this is the way to go, as they were ultimately in Canada after some jurisdictional wrangling".

"People in the Caribbean are great migrants, but the Caribbean, except through remittances has not benefited as much as it should have from this migration," Malone continued, "so this project will look at how the Caribbean countries can benefit more widely if individuals in the diaspora can be convinced to locate some of their economic activity back home. It is going on all over Asia so it is not a novel idea, just that it has not been practised very much in this region. But I am sure you will get there ... because the quality of life is so high in this region that given any good reason to spend more time here, people will want to. So developing the rationales on which that project will be founded is very important ...".

Sir Hilary deemed the project a significant undertaking for the University, which is "determined to establish the Shridath Ramphal Centre as a research centre of excellence...." He also noted that as a historian he was particularly interested in the project as it related to migration and would be watching its development very closely.



Registrar of the Barbados-based Caribbean Examinations Council, Dr. Didacus Jules, used the occasion of June 23 to 25, The University of the West Indies Schools of Education Biennial Conference, to make one of the most significant announcements in the history of the regional academic testing agency.

Dr. Jules told more than 200 participants gathered at Accra Beach Hotel and Resort in Christ Church from across the region and the world that CXC was in the advanced stages of discussions with universities in the United Kingdom to offer a number of Caribbean designed and centred courses for students with West Indian roots.

While delivering a keynote address on Day One of the conference titled **Quality Education for All** before an audience that included Minister of Education and Human Resource Development, Ronald Jones, the CXC boss said:

"CXC will be moving into the international arena as a world-class examination board. Our initial foray is to reach out to the Caribbean Diaspora, offering Caribbean-centric subjects (Caribbean History, Caribbean Studies) to second generation Caribbeans – if not for the certification, then for identity formation purposes. Discussions are already in the advanced stage with a black college in the UK on this."

While pointing regional education policy makers, planners and practitioners to the phenomenal growth of education as a tradeable commodity and the billions of

dollars being made by developed countries, Jules added: "There is a craze for Caribbean music sweeping the Asian region in particular. Who best to offer A-level (CAPE) modules in Reggae, Calypso, Soca and Pan Music than CXC in partnership with our leading musical associations? We must package new and existing options to respond to the educational needs of our artists and sports persons."

Speaking to the future of his organisation in response to the continued globalisation of education, Jules said: "In many respects our fundamental challenge, although politically and organisationally complex, is ideologically simple. We can subordinate ourselves to the global currents and become once again passive consumers of other people's products or we can assert our own considerable intellectual capacity to offer as much as we receive.

I asserted earlier in this presentation that ultimately many of these issues are reduced to a question of power. At CXC we have been confronted with this in the form of intellectual protectionism having been advised by a leading UK university that they have changed their admissions policy in the face of high international demand to accept only British A-level certification; notwithstanding the fact that NARIC – the national accreditation authority which determines equivalence of certification – has highly rated CAPE.

In light of all these challenges, we have set the new mission of CXC to be that of assuring the global intellectual competitiveness of the Caribbean through world class syllabuses, examinations and certification. Our strategic

interventions to execute this mission include:

- Comprehensive review of all syllabuses and exams to ensure that critical thinking competencies are embedded; and that the knowledge base is current and comparable to international standards
- Re-engagement of our educators in the Diaspora to input into our processes as subject experts, teacher trainers, resource persons and as examiners.
- Bringing all subjects into alignment with the knowledge and competence requirements of the real world of work and opportunity. We will do this by establishing partnerships with leading practitioners and organisations in industries related to the knowledge domain. To date we have secured agreements with the leading fashion and design houses in the region to help us reshape **CSEC Clothing & Textiles** into **CSEC Fashion & Design** taking account of the real requirements of the nascent and niche Caribbean fashion industry. This also includes provision of opportunity to showcase top student designs in their regional and international shows and provide internships in their design houses. Equally important are partnerships with the Caribbean Assembly of National Olympic Associations to re-align our **CSEC Physical Education & Sports** offering towards Olympic standards and with the CARICOM Cluster of Agricultural agencies to do likewise for **Agricultural Science**.
- Upgrading to a new generation website which will feature a virtual art gallery to showcase and auction the best student visual artwork with the proceeds from the sale going to the student artist. This website will incorporate the communication and social networking technologies – push to text (study tips), RSS feeds (exam notices), instantaneous online delivery of exam results.
- Broadening our examinations beyond purely academic considerations to reflect a better assessment of the total person. Our School Based Assessments will need to reflect application of the knowledge of the particular subject or entrepreneurial ability or civic responsibility. If you are doing a history SBA, your challenge can be to find a centenarian or World War II veteran and to document (multimedia accepted) his or her life story."



Prof. Alan Cobley, Director of the School of Education at Cave Hill Campus

Key issues in the design, delivery and management of education in Barbados took centre stage on April 30 when The University of the West Indies, in association with the Ministry of Education, brought together key stakeholders for the first Barbados National Summit on Education.

The day-long event, held at the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Conference Centre, began with addresses by Minister of Education, Ronald Jones, Principal of the Cave Hill Campus, Sir Hilary Beckles, Director of the School of Education at Cave Hill, Professor Alan Cobley and President of the Barbados Association of Principals of Public Secondary Schools, Jeff Broomes during the official opening ceremony. However, it was the presentation by Deputy Chief Education Officer, Dr Idamay Denny, who looked at the performance of students in the Barbados Secondary Schools' Entrance Examination (more commonly known as the 11-Plus Exam) between 2004 and 2008 that ignited participants and set the tone for the day's deliberations. She presented telling exam statistics in maths and English to demonstrate that "children do not have the level of development in those critical-thinking and problem-solving skills that we would want them to have...".

Following Dr Denny's presentation and others by Anthony Haynes of CXC, Dr. Joyce Stewart of UWI's Faculty of Humanities and Education, Dr Tane Ray of the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences, teachers, school administrators and other stakeholders met in breakout groups to look at specific issues concerning English, mathematics, science and education at the primary school level generally. They formulated a number of proposals for improvements in education delivery which included:

PROPOSALS TO MOVE EDUCATION FORWARD

English

- Develop flexible programmes that consider the various learning styles of students;
- Devote more time to actual teaching (fewer competing events during school hours);
- Develop more diagnostic testing programmes;
- Implement more teacher training (continuous education);
- Encourage teachers to research and publish their research;
- Encourage closer links between the UWI School of Education and classroom practitioners;
- Expose teachers to more special-needs training;
- Make better teaching resources available to schools;
- Reduce the volume of work done by English teachers.

Mathematics

- Resolve the problem of the examination "tail" wagging the instruction "dog" (teaching that is determined only by the need to pass an exam);
- Teach children to think critically;
- Review the scope of the mathematics curriculum;
- Revive the Mathematics Association;
- Employ specialist teachers to teach mathematics in primary schools (too many maths teachers in primary schools who are not qualified in the subject and do not even like it);
- Implement continual training of maths teachers;
- Make technology (often available in schools) accessible to the teachers and students;
- Provide adequate (more) time for the teaching of mathematics;
- Make maths relevant to every-day life;
- Pay greater attention to issues of indiscipline in the classroom.

Science

- Expose teachers and students to the many career opportunities a science education presents;
- Highlight the linkages between science and entrepreneurship;
- Expose students to the scientists in the Caribbean in order to show the practicality of a science education;

- Adopt a more hands-on approach to classroom teaching;
- Establish an interactive science museum in Barbados;
- Streamline the School Based Assessment (SBA) component of CXC examinations to make them less burdensome, especially when students are doing more than one science exam;
- Streamline the system of subject choices by students so they are not forced to choose (and drop science subjects) early in their secondary school life;
- Improve teacher training in the teaching of science;
- Increase the time given for the teaching of science, especially at the fourth and fifth form levels;
- Encourage students to use technology for recreational/entertainment purposes as a way of encouraging them to utilise these same tools for education;
- Teach the students time-management skills.

Primary School Education

- Make teacher training mandatory for teachers entering the teaching service;
- Re-examine the role and approaches of Erdiston Teacher Training College ;
- Make retraining after ten years mandatory;
- Introduce mentorship programmes for teachers at all levels, including principals;
- Provide equal facilities at all schools;
- Examine gender issues in relation to teaching;
- Encourage teachers to see children as persons who can achieve;
- Appoint counsellors to primary schools and speech and language therapists to the Ministry of Education;
- Allow teachers access to the research findings of The University of the West Indies;
- Determine and establish minimum standards of competence for teachers and put a programme in place to assist those who do not meet the standard;
- Use more interactive technology to enhance students' learning experiences.

Errol Miller, Professor
Emeritus of Education
UWI Mona Campus



Despite the phenomenal achievements of the region's education system – serviced by teachers who are constantly called on to “do more with less” – educators willingly accept blame for supposedly not delivering quality in an environment where the goal posts shift each time they are about to score.

That's the view of Errol Miller, Professor Emeritus of Education at the UWI Mona Campus who made the argument and expressed amazement at this development while delivering a keynote address on Day One of the three-day UWI Schools of Education Biennial Conference in June.

In a speech closely tied to the theme of the conference, Quality Education for All: Exploring Realities – Considering Options, Miller dealt extensively with the changes that have occurred in trying to define quality education over the centuries.

Measuring Quality No Easy Task

He said: “Commonwealth Caribbean countries can claim with some justification that the goal of universal primary education has been achieved since the 1960s. Further, of the 18 Commonwealth Caribbean countries, 14 have already achieved universal secondary education, and [the others] ... are getting there.”

He added that while substantial provisions have been made throughout the region to ensure that children with various disabilities are included in “all”, in some countries the expression “all” excludes the children of parents living illegally.

The history of education for all still has pages to be added in the journey of the inclusion of everyone in “all”. But if we are to use the building industry's construct of practical completion, meaning that 95 per cent of the job has been done, then we can move on to consider the dimension of quality.”

He added that however quality education was defined, invariably there would be the inclusion of arbitrary “elements in the definition and therefore difficulties in its measurement, especially as these elements change over time....”

Measurements shifting

“A well-used device in measuring quality has been literacy.... When literacy was first measured, it was the ability to spell simple words like one's name – essentially word recognition. The measurement changed to the ability to comprehend what was written. More recently, the measurement has included the ability to fill out [everyday] forms, and to use the dictionary and the telephone directory — the so-called operational standard. And as the measurement of literacy has shifted from the basic to the functional to the operational, some of those previously judged to be literate have again become illiterate.”

Miller said another illustration of the shifting definition of quality can be taken from the measurement of successful completion of high school, and he traced how this has changed over time with the introduction of Junior and Senior Cambridge Examinations to General Certificate of Education (GCE) and now Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC), the latter of which he suggested is harder than its predecessor.

“The emerging standard that everybody is now espousing is five passes, including English,” he said. “In a nutshell, the achievement of quality primary and secondary education has proven to be an elusive goal. Every time the goal seems close to being achieved the goal posts are shifted, leading to renewed efforts to attempt to score, as the elements of measurement have changed.

Although quality education has proven difficult to define and elusive to achieve, there is no doubt that it is in great demand in the Commonwealth Caribbean.... The imperative in this demand comes from at least four areas: In the last 60 years education has replaced race and colour as the arbiter of upward social mobility; secondary education has become widely accessible instead of being restricted to a few who were able to pay; educational credentials are now standard requirements for employment in all types of jobs in our local labour markets; Caribbean education has been integrated into the international labour market and our citizens use the credentials gained in education to negotiate advancement ... and therefore require examinations no matter what educators may say about them; and then most recently in the globalising world and the emerging knowledge economy the profile of education has been raised as its importance for wealth creation is recognised and everybody aspires to even higher goals.

Continued on P21



Continued from P20

Driven by these imperatives, this constant demand for quality has no doubt contributed to the willingness to ignore the definitional difficulties in completely specifying what is meant by quality and also the continued escalation in the standards to define quality and success."

Miller added: "The most amazing aspect of this continued escalation in the criteria has been the willingness of educators to embrace the new specifications and accept blame for the newly defined poor standards. What kicks in then is a fresh round of innovative practices, research directed to the development of new approaches and techniques, more pressure on teachers and students to raise performance levels. To properly situate these cycles of repeated redefinition of quality, the embrace of new standards, acceptance of blame by educators, innovative practices, additional research, increased pressure on students, we must mention that invariably these ideals have taken place in environments of shrinking resources. Teachers and students are required to do better with less."

"It is this Commonwealth Caribbean practice of doing more with less that explains the fact that however quality has been defined, Caribbean countries have found ways to match comparable levels with the industrialised ... countries. It is for this reason that most Caribbean countries, led by Barbados, rank high on the United Nations Development Index; and the products of our schools systems hold their own in the academies across the world... and at the same time we blame the education system for poor quality..." Miller explained.

He went on to posit, "In discussing the notion of quality, Caribbean educators need not be defensive. Rather, based on our experience, it is necessary to adopt a critical, even sceptical approach."



OPINION



Rennette M. Dimmott – Lecturer

In today's competitive world, educating oneself is absolutely imperative, especially if one keeps in mind that it is a commodity of lifelong value. Many researchers have studied education and the positive impact it has on development and on an individual's life. It is clear that it will assist in economic, social and personal endeavours that would allow one to improve one's standard of living. Considering this, it is a very good option for improving the quality of one's life. Education in this context does not only mean obtaining a university degree for a particular job, but it also entails the application of knowledge, skills, and intellectual reasoning to everyday decision making. The ability to articulate, learn new skills and knowledge could serve as a guarantee of prudent choices and open the door for success when opportunities arise.

Education could be viewed from several perspectives. Having been exposed to education over the years, I view it as the cornerstone for the transforming of the mind. It consists of a systematic ongoing process of intellectual development, self-development, social development, psychological development, and creativity. Education is grounded in knowledge and skill based components with the view of preparing individuals for lifelong learning. It is the enrichment of the mind, body and soul. When you educate individuals; you empower minds, permit behavioural change and enable personal advancement for life.

A Conscious Decision

To educate self is to make a conscious decision to invest in self for future growth and development. Through education one would gain valuable skills, resources, maturity, experience, knowledge, training for the well paying job, and ultimately, be prepared to function in any of the globalised economies throughout the world. Therefore, any form of education is greatly encouraged. The ability of the educated to transfer knowledge in various environments and encounters demonstrates the value of education. One must always remember that the value of education is seen when one is able to function efficiently and effectively in any working environment after developing the appropriate skills and knowledge.

Continued on P22

Continued from P21

A university setting is the kind of environment where students can share and express ideas and develop new critical thinking competencies, get involved in research, ask questions, listen to lecturers who are experts in their field of study and interact positively with fellow students and lecturers. Ultimately, these individuals will be able to exercise education as a public good by making a meaningful contribution to society through the application of knowledge, skills and expertise in any and every working environment. In order to expedite this process, institutions of learning must be able to adjust their educational environment to meet the educational needs of students and lecturers.

Every Student Benefits

Institutions of learning need to change their belief, culture, philosophy, and more importantly, the curriculum to meet the educational desires of the students and help alleviate inequalities. The emphasis should therefore be on creating an educational environment that fosters quality education and a greater opportunity for all to advance in. It should also be to ensure that every student benefits and strives at what he or she is strongest at because the idea is to make it our business that no student is left behind. Lecturers need to embrace the talent that exists in students even if that talent is different from a personal or institutional desire. They should also be enthusiastic, willing and eager to help students develop. It is natural to change a major or a career path as one grows and develops intellectually because over time students tend to develop as they become exposed to new information and knowledge through their university experience. If students are interested in traditional non-academic pursuits such as sports, music, visual arts, or fine arts, institutions should encourage them in these domains by providing the necessary skilled staff and infrastructure to support them.

Modifying The Curriculum

At The University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus, Principal Sir Hilary Beckles has been very instrumental in modifying the curriculum and creating an atmosphere where the sport of cricket is viewed differently. He has added a Master of Science degree in Cricket Studies to the curriculum. If a student is interested in pursuing a career in the management and administration of the sport of cricket, the curriculum has already been prepared to facilitate such an interest. Additionally, there is the Cricket Research Library that is separate and distinct from the Main Library of the Campus. Clearly, the environment, the culture, and the curriculum have been transformed to meet this vision for current and prospective students. Having knowledge that the curriculum encompasses a sport or skill of this nature and that is different, would pique the interest of students who are inclined to study in this area, and could assist in shaping and developing their ideas for future endeavours. It is also interesting to note that Cave Hill Campus is the only university in the world that offers a cricket studies programme that includes a MSc. in Cricket Studies. In time, I am hopeful that a MSc. in Sports Psychology will be added to the list of programmes at Cave Hill Campus.

New Skills Exploited

The modification of the institutionally driven learning experience should be supported by lecturers' self-evaluation. Lecturers should be examining the quality of their output on a daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly basis. To help them enhance and achieve quality output, their behaviour in the classroom should be guided by the following sentiments. First and foremost, the lecturer should be knowledgeable of his or her subject area and be able to explain it thoroughly with the goal of achieving a level of understanding in the classroom. The integration of visual technological advances should also be a part of the classroom

activity. New skills and the incorporation of field trips that would allow the students to have a better understanding, appreciation, or connection to the course and the subject matter should be utilized. Lecturers should assess, evaluate and create learning that is geared towards greater efficiency. They should also be cognizant of the function of the psychomotor and cognitive domains of students in the preparation and evaluation of academic work. The school and the classroom environment should therefore be conducive to the promotion, enhancement, and facilitation of learning in all regards.

Lecturers Need To Be Passionate

It is interesting to note that in order to be dynamic in one's delivery, the subject matter needs to be current, while at the same time amenable in the attempt to meet international standards. Lecturers need to be passionate regarding their domain and "hungry" about the delivery of education to the extent that they seek to fill that desire. They need to conduct ongoing research and training in their field of expertise even after they have obtained high levels of educational achievement. They also need to attend conferences in their field, and keep abreast of current research and development. This allows them to learn of new challenges, gain new knowledge, and generate new ideas. The notions of blended learning; electronic learning, and any other form of external learning opportunity need to be incorporated into the syllabus to assist with this goal. Lecturers need to have a structured lesson plan with objectives and goals that are clearly defined for every class.

Every learning environment has the potential for offering something new to learn. Each day, one learns and develops along one's life span. It is imperative to encourage students to take advantage of education regardless of the level it is at because one never knows the doors that it will unlock. Therefore, I greatly encourage you to educate yourself to the best of your ability.



Floyd Reifer

CCC Call Up

Captain of the West Indies Cricket Team, Floyd Reifer, has deemed it an honour for himself and fellow team-mates from the Cave Hill-based Combined Campuses and Colleges (CCC) cricket team, to represent the region at a time of crisis in recent international matches at home and in South Africa.

Called up to captain West Indies in the test and one-day series against Bangladesh in the Caribbean in July, Reifer also retained the captaincy for the ICC Champions Limited Overs competition in South Africa from September 22 to October 5.

The West Indies Cricket Board turned to the 37-year-old lefthander, while also including several players from the CCC squad, after the established players pulled out in a contracts dispute with the Board.

Other CCC players selected for international duty were wicketkeeper Chadwick Walton, batsman Omar Phillips, off-spinner Ryan Austin and fast bowler Kevin McClean.

Barbadian Reifer, CCC player/coach, became the 33rd captain of the West Indies team when he led the regional side against Bangladesh. He went into the job with strong credentials after playing a major mentorship role for young players in the UWI programme and scoring 1,002 runs in the regional four-day competition at an average of 47.71.

"It is always an honour to play for West Indies in any capacity and represent all the people of the Caribbean. I felt honoured to be chosen as captain," he said.

Reifer, like several observers and his fellow teammates from the CCC programme, believed that the cricket programme

based at the Cave Hill Campus helped to prepare them for the task and though they were defeated, they were not disgraced.

"The call to represent West Indies was quite sudden for all of us and we had to fast-track ourselves and make the jump to the next level. In the circumstances, I thought the guys handled it pretty well. We put our best foot forward and tried to represent the region as best we could," said Reifer.

The left-hander, who had earlier made his debut for West Indies in 1997 against Sri Lanka, further suggested that the structure of the CCC had served the players in good stead and in many respects prepared them for the rigours of first-class cricket.

"It is a very disciplined and rounded programme. Along with cricket skills, we do a lot of work on mental preparation and building confidence," he said.

Reifer has now played six tests for West Indies. In addition, he played limited overs matches for Scotland as an overseas player in county cricket in 2004.

"It must also be said that international cricket is not easy. We all learned a lot and I think the experience will serve the younger players very well for the future," Reifer added.



Chadwick Walton



Omar Phillips



Ryan Austin



Kevin McClean



UWI Cave Hill were the winners of the 2009 Barbados Tertiary Premier League Chess tournament, adding to the Campus' success on the boards this year.

The team, led by national players Martyn Del Castillo and Shamel Howell, also included Douglas Doman, Craig Clairmond, Kyle Walkes and Amilton Wilson. They dismissed all comers to secure the title in June.



Top female player Corinne Howard competing against Dr. David Jordan

Administrator / coach of the UWI programme, Dr. David Jordan said the team performed well and their success, and that of Del Castillo, should inspire others to join the Chess club.

Dr. Jordan has urged all chess players on Campus, and those interested in learning to play, to visit the Students Guild on Thursdays between 6 and 9 pm and on Fridays from 4.30 pm to 7 p.m.

Dr. Jordan also reported that the leading female player on Campus, Corinne Howard, a junior national and a major in Mathematics, was also enjoying a good year and was leader in the Ladies National Championships in the first week of October.

Up to that point, Howard had won full points in five matches and was in range of taking the national title. Howard eventually placed 2nd, winning 7 out of 9 games.

New Ground Rules



New football field at Lazaretto

A new sporting era is being ushered in at Cave Hill with the completion of modern artificial turf facilities for two major sporting disciplines – **football** and **hockey**.

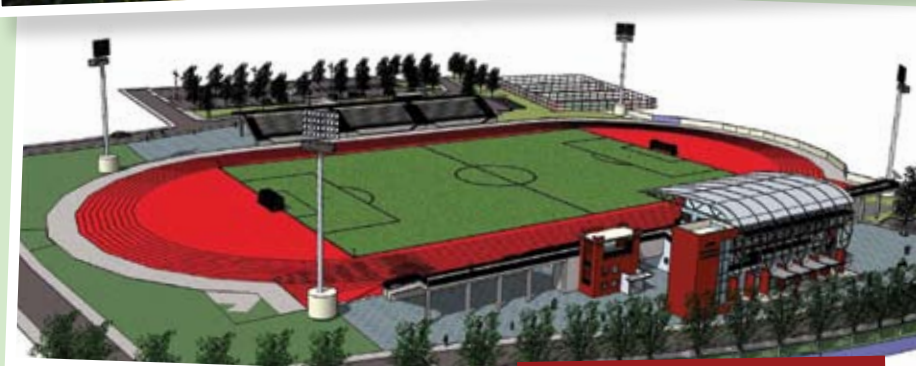
A state-of-the-art FIFA-certified football field has been installed at the Lazaretto grounds and currently caters not only to students but also the wider community, while hockey enthusiasts expect their sport to get a new lease on life when their facility is laid by year-end.

Half of the former natural grass football field, located to the south of the 3Ws Oval, is being converted into an international standard hockey facility to cater to the sport's increasing popularity among students. The remainder of the former football field has already been turned into an additional car park, also to meet growing demand for parking facilities. The new car park and artificial hockey turf facility form part of a \$1.3m project.

The artificial hockey turf is being installed by Field Turf Tarkett of Montreal, Canada, who successfully supplied and installed the artificial football turf at Lazaretto.

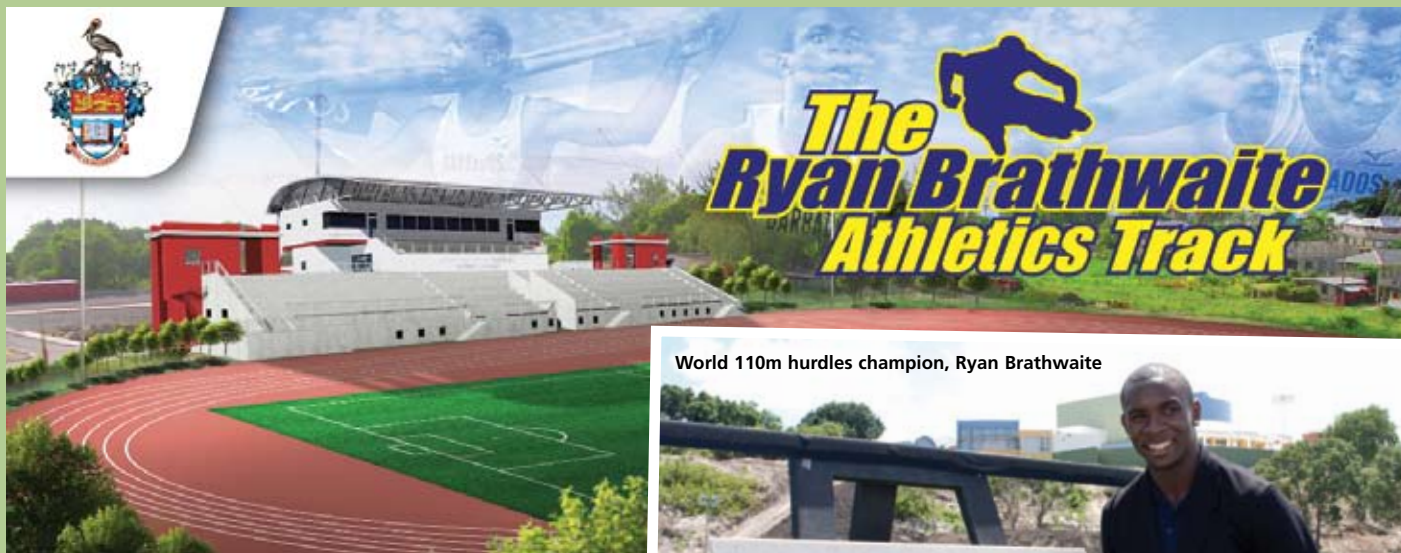


Artist's impression of proposed hockey field



Artist's impression of new stadium at Lazaretto

Hurdler Paid Soaring Tribute



World 110m hurdles champion, Ryan Brathwaite

The spanking new 400m track earmarked for the recently acquired Lazaretto lands will be officially named the Ryan Brathwaite Athletics Track.

This is one of the many honours being bestowed on the World 110m hurdles champion as the University community joined the rest of the country in recognising the stellar achievement of the 21-year-old Barbadian at the Berlin World Championships in August.

Brathwaite, also named an Ambassador by the Government of Barbados, took the gold medal at the prestigious games in 13.14 seconds, ahead of American rivals Terrence Tramell and David Payne in a photo finish.

In a ceremony held on September 30, 2009 at the Lazaretto site, which will also accommodate a new multi-sport facility, Campus administrators and staff joined Government Ministers, representatives of the sporting fraternity, friends and supporters in paying tribute to the young athlete.

The project at the Lazaretto site, which is also hosting a FIFA-approved international standard soccer field, is projected to cost around \$5m and is part of the expanded UWI sports programme designed to create an Institute of Sport at Cave Hill.



UWI Netballers on the International Stage

Cave Hill students Shakira Springer and Faye Sealy represented Barbados at the 2009 Under-21 World Youth Netball Championships in the Cook Islands in August.

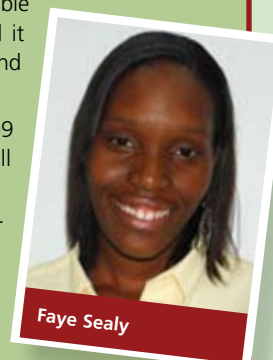
Springer, a defensive player, was captain of the team which placed 12th in the international tournament and registered Barbados' best ever showing at that level.

Sealy, a goal shooter, described her experience as enjoyable and unforgettable while captain Springer, who played out of her preferred position, said it was an important learning experience in her career to be able to play and lead the team at that level.

Both players displayed good skills and played significant roles in the 2009 UWI Games while representing Cave Hill, which placed 2nd in the netball competition.

The UWI Games served as part of their preparation for the tougher challenge of international competition and the young ladies have now set their target on further strengthening UWI Netball, especially through the knowledge and experience gained at the tournament.

The Office of Student Services / Sports congratulates Shakira and Faye and wishes them continued success.



Arguably among the Best

Law students René Gayle, Kamille Adair and Allia Leith are the latest in a growing list of young lawyers who have brought glory to the Faculty of Law with outstanding performances in international moot court competitions.

The three UWI third-year law students participated in the *Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition* last May in Washington D.C. and walked away with the *Best Oralist in English* (Gayle) and *Winning English Memorial* (Adair and Leith) prizes. The fourth Cave Hill participant was fellow third-year student Tecla Duncan.

In addition to having won the overall competition in 2004 as a result of spectacular performances by Ky-Ann Lee and Conway Blake, the Faculty of Law has been recognised for other outstanding performances:

- **2008:**
Best Oralist in English,
Alecia Johns;
- **2006:**
Best Oralist in English,
Prince Neto Waite;
- **2003:**
Winning English Memorial,
Westmin James and Maurice Tomlinson;
Best Oralist in English,
Dale Staple;
- **2002:**
Winning English Memorial,
Natasha Kelshall and John Heath; and
Best Oralist in English,
Natasha Kelshall;

The 2009 Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition took place at the world-renowned Washington College of Law of American University in the United States capital. The university is recognised for its work in human rights law, and its Centre for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, with special



L-R: Law lecturer and coach Dr. David Berry, Allia Leith, Kamille Adair, 2009 Valedictorian René Gayle, Tecla Duncan and temporary law lecturer and co-coach Dr. Caleb Pilgrim.

expertise in Inter-American human rights law.

Proceedings at the moot are translated simultaneously in three languages – English, Spanish and Portuguese – a procedure that challenges the concentration of participants as they present or defend their cases.

In explaining the benefit of such moot courts in preparing students for life after college, law lecturer, Dr. David Berry said: “Moot court competitions are like mock court hearings (at the appellate or international level), involving written and oral submissions and governed by detailed rules of procedure.

“They are judged by lawyers, academics and judges and are treated as real cases, very seriously, by all participants. A strong moot student, in addition to being good on (his or) her feet (as with debating), must also know in detail the law related to the competition area. This requires significant and painstaking research, often in areas not covered by courses in the Faculty of Law.”

Cave Hill second-year law students, Safiya Moore, Kyle Prescod, Jermaine Case and Shermaine Desnoes, while not winning any prizes, brought honour to UWI with top quality performances at what is described as the world’s leading moot court competition, the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, also held in Washington in March.

It is organised by the International Law Students Association and each year includes participants from universities across the globe, including Australia, Singapore, Austria, Argentina, Kenya, India, Latvia, United States, Canada, Korea, South Africa, Poland, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Puerto Rico, Germany, Brazil, Greece, Georgia, Egypt, Philippines, China, Russia, France, Azerbaijan, United Kingdom, Uganda and the Dominican Republic. All moot rounds are held in English and no translation is provided.

Spanish Exchange

Thanks to the Cave Hill Campus of The University of the West Indies, six Colombian professionals are now much more proficient in the use of English, and as a bonus also have very intimate knowledge of Barbados' landscape, history and culture.

Six participants

– Carlos Miñana Blasco, Alvaro Mauricio Montenegro Díaz, Carlos Mario Perea Restrepo, Anibal Herrera Arévalo, Vicente Javier Ortega Muñoz, and Lida Cecilia López Valencia – graduated from the 2009 course, during a special ceremony at Cave Hill on August 7, 2009.

Programme coordinator and lecturer in Spanish, Amparo McWatt, noted that the immersion programme had provided the opportunity for 157 persons to move between Barbados and Colombia since its inception nine years ago.

"It has afforded the Cave Hill Campus students of Spanish and the members of staff from the Universidad Nacional the opportunity to improve their proficiency in the Spanish and English languages respectively, and also has provided the Spanish students with the opportunity to get acquainted with the Barbadian culture," McWatt said during the graduation ceremony, noting that since the programme coincided with the Crop-Over Festival, it allowed participants the added benefit of being involved in a major cultural event.

She added that this year eight Cave Hill students were in Bogota along with two Barbadian teaching assistants of English in Colombia assigned to the Universidad de Monteria and the Universidad de Valledupar."

While celebrating the success of the 2009 Colombian participants, McWatt noted that it would not have been possible without the "unswerving support" of Principal Sir Hilary Beckles, course tutors Cyralene McCarthy-Walker and Jacqueline Jones-Miller, and the faculties of Law, Social Sciences and Humanities and Education, and support staff.

"It is important to draw to your attention that this



Back L-R: Carlos Miñana, Carlos Perea, Alvaro Montano, Lida López, Cyralene Walker, Coordinator ELS Programme & Dean of Humanities and Education, Pedro Welch. Front Row L-R: Vicente Ortega, Jacqueline Miller, Programme Coordinator Amparo McWatt.

programme's reputation has extended to other parts of the region. A case in point is the Petroleos de Venezuela, SA (PDVSA) programme which teaches English to professionals of the state oil company. These programmes are good examples of the role our Department can play in internationalising the Cave Hill Campus.

"I have received another request for similar courses, but as much as we would love to undertake these projects, there is always the issue of resources. This request will have to be considered very carefully," she added.

Giving an overview of the course, McCarthy-Walker explained that it was designed around the communicative approach to language learning, with an emphasis on oral communication. "The content not only encompassed the four main language skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking, but also language function and cultural literacy.

The goal of the course was to promote English language competency for personal, social and academic purposes."

McCarthy-Walker said while the six participants were unofficially assessed throughout the programme, they were formally assessed at two stages through integrative tests that included language structure, reading and listening comprehension, and written and oral expression.

Celebrating Excellence

Former Prime Minister of Barbados and ambassador designate to the People's Republic of China Sir Lloyd Erskine Sandiford was among four persons who received honorary doctorates when The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus held its annual graduation ceremonies on October 24.

The University conferred 16 honorary degrees at the annual graduation ceremonies of its four campuses, of which three others were awarded at Cave Hill to Governor General of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Sir Frederick Ballantyne, Barbadian entrepreneur Paul Altman, and Belizean writer/novelist Professor Zelma Edgell.



L-R: Vice Chancellor, Professor E. Nigel Harris, Chancellor, Sir George Alleyne with honorary graduands Sir Frederick Ballantyne and Professor Zelma Edgell.

Honorary Graduands Sir Lloyd Erskine Sandiford (left) and Mr. Paul Altman sharing a light moment with Principal, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles.

Sir Lloyd, a scholar who wears several hats including statesman, author, educator, diplomat and politician, and served as the fourth Prime Minister of Barbados received an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree. He contributed over 32 years of unbroken and devoted service to Parliament, and holds the record of the longest serving Minister of Education in Barbados. He served The University as President of the Guild (1968) and was a member of numerous University councils. An advocate of tertiary education, he also held posts as a part-time lecturer and distinguished fellow, and established The Barbados Community College and the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic during his tenure as Minister of Education.

Sir Lloyd is also known for his commitment to Caribbean integration, as he was influential in both the formation of the Caribbean Examinations Council and in the Heads of Government Meeting which made the decision to institute the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM).

Sir Frederick who received an Honorary Doctor of Sciences degree has held his current office since September 2, 2002, and was knighted in November. He has had a long and distinguished career as a medical doctor, educator and administrator. He has also been a successful entrepreneur in St. Vincent and the Grenadines with several business enterprises, including real estate, marina operations, pharmaceuticals and operations in the hospitality industry.

Professor Edgell, a native of Belize and accomplished novelist, who began her career as a reporter for the Jamaica Gleaner, received a Doctor of Letters degree. Having completed a Masters in Liberal Studies, she serves as Professor at Kent State University, Ohio, USA. She has struggled to advance the position of women in society, serving as the Director of both the Women's Bureau in the Government of Belize, and the Department of Women's Affairs.

2009 Honorary Doctorates

Mr. Altman who was honoured with a Doctor of Letters degree has prospered as a leader in tourism development and heritage conservation in the Caribbean for over 30 years. He currently serves as the Managing Director of Altman Real Estate, the Caribbean's leading real estate agency. An avid supporter of The UWI, he has devoted his time and resources in the role of Chairman of the Barbados Board of Trustees for the Endowment Fund and has served as a member of the Campus Council. He was inducted into the Chancellor's Circle in 2008. For his evident dedication to his work, he was awarded the Centennial Honour (2000) and the Gold Crown of Merit in 2007 by the Government of Barbados. Mr. Altman also serves his community as a Justice of the Peace.



Prof. Robin Mahon

Mahon Gets VC Award

Professor Robin Mahon, Director of the UWI Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) at the Cave Hill Campus, is one of this year's five recipients of the University's highest accolade, the Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence. He joins three other academics from Mona and one from St. Augustine who will be honoured in a ceremony on Thursday, November 5, 2009 at the Mona Campus.

Professor Mahon is a highly regarded researcher on marine ecosystems and has considerable experience and expertise in the governance and management of marine resources. He has collaborated with several regional and international environmental bodies, including UNESCO, The Global Environmental Fund and the Lighthouse Foundation in an interconnected research programme linking emerging global thinking with Caribbean needs, while developing and promoting an

integrated regional approach to living marine resource governance. He is being honoured for *all-round excellent performance in research accomplishment and contribution to public service*.

Other awardees are **Dr Michael Ponnambalam**, Lecturer in Physics in the Department of Physics, Mona Campus, for excellence in *Teaching*; **Professor Clément Imbert**, Professor of Mechanical Engineering in the Department of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering, St Augustine Campus, for *Public Service*; and **Professor Affette McCaw-Binns**, Professor of Reproductive Health Epidemiology in the Department of Community Health & Psychiatry, Mona, for *all-round excellent performance in research accomplishment and contribution to public service*. The award for all-round performance in a combination of two or more areas was awarded to **Professor Anthony Harriott**, Director of The Institute of Public Safety and Justice at Mona, for *all-round performance in research accomplishment and contribution to public service*.

The Vice-Chancellor's Award, now in its 17th year, was established in 1993 by former Vice Chancellor Sir Alister McIntyre to recognise high achievement by academic as well as senior administrative staff. Each award is valued at US\$5,000.

The Cave Hill Campus team put in a strong performance at the 2009 FirstCaribbean International Bank Case Analysis Competition held at the Mona Campus on June 2, 2009 and came away with the FirstCaribbean Chairman's prize for Best Analysis.

They were edged out by the Mona Campus team into second place overall in a tightly contested event. The team, led by Faculty Advisor and Lecturer in Accounting, Donley Carrington, comprised Donrick Slocombe, final year, BSc. Accounting (Grenadian); Phillip Beechan, final year, BSc. Banking and Finance (Guyanese); Kechewia L.O. Charles, final year, B.Sc. Banking and Finance (Vincentian); and Shenique Joseph, final year, B.Sc. Banking and Finance (Antiguan).

The annual competition targets undergraduate business students and seeks to build their skills in applying classroom theory to practical business problems in the Caribbean business environment by having them analyse and present solutions to real business challenges to a panel of expert judges. The 2009 competition was extended to five teams to include the University of Technology in Jamaica and the University of the Southern Caribbean in Trinidad competing against teams from UWI Mona, St. Augustine and Cave Hill.

This year the challenge was presented in the case "CIBC-Barclays: Accounting for their

Cave Hill Wins Best Case Analysis Prize

Merger", which was written in 2004 by UWI lecturers Archibald Campbell and Noel Reynolds as part of the Case Study Development Project funded by FirstCaribbean to document the merger between the two heritage banks. The teams were required to put themselves in the place of executives of the two banks in 2001 and use the information provided to make recommendations for consolidating the accounting and financial systems of the two banking and financial operations in the Caribbean, including decisions about what vehicle to use for effecting the merger transaction, the choice of information system, the treatment of goodwill and the position of minority stockholders.

Each team was given 20 minutes to present their findings. At the end of the Cave Hill presentation, the judges indicated that their presentation had been excellent. The judging panel comprised five finance and accounting executives. The teams were able to hone their public speaking and presentation skills in a workshop presented by Suzanne King, FirstCaribbean's Regional Training Manager,

the day prior to the event. On the day following the event, participants and their advisors visited the Bank's headquarters in Kingston where they were able to quiz members of the senior management team, including Managing Director Clovis Metcalfe, on issues related to the merger and the Bank's response to the current global financial situation. The students were also treated to a visit to the old pirate city of Port Royal later in the day, where they enjoyed themselves immensely in the "Giddy House", the old artillery storehouse ruin created by the 1907 earthquake.

The Mona team, which completed a hat trick as overall winners for the third straight year, also won the prize for the Most Original Team overall, a reward for their video introduction using the format of the television programme *The Apprentice*. The St. Augustine team took third place overall. Donrick Slocombe was selected by his fellow team members from Cave Hill for the Team Spirit prize for his role in building the spirit of the team.

How can a university degree in computer science bolster the business of an enterprising young farmer?

That question may stump many but there's a simple, straightforward answer for Amilton Wilson, a final-year student at the Cave Hill Campus of The University of the West Indies.

Having mixed full-time academics with vending at Cheapside Market in Bridgetown since he was in primary school, he has some ideas about how his two worlds might blend to successful effect.

"I believe an area in which science and technology will be important to the future development of agriculture in Barbados is in the collection and dissemination of important information to farmers, sellers and consumers," reasoned the entrepreneur who has followed his parents' passion for farming.

"Every now and then you check the newspaper and you see that in St. Lucy some farmer has so many onions he does not know what to do to, and in some other part of the island people are looking for onions. I believe that database technology and the Internet could be of critical importance to farmers; information technology can play a major role."

There are other areas in which this 23-year-old is convinced that science may play an influential role in the development of the local agricultural sector.

"In a country like Barbados, where the weather conditions can be harsh, growing food under controlled environments – such as greenhouses – will become more critical. Additionally, we will have to move toward greater automated labour, as opposed to manual labour, in order to attract more young people to farming," he contended.

Who better would know about youth being lured into getting their hands dirty, literally, than someone who can boast of first dabbling in agriculture as an eight-year-old at St. Patrick's Primary School in Christ Church. At that time, he used to assist his self-employed mother, Claudia Wilson, in selling her produce at the market. That habit continued in secondary school days at Ellerslie until he eventually branched out on his own, specialising in the sale of herbs, including thyme, parsley, marjoram – "no illegal stuff," Wilson emphasised.

"At the time we had some land at the back of the house and we would grow herbs, which we would sell and I would get to keep some as pocket money, for school. I did quite well selling herbs and I started planting some on

my own and that went toward school, books and clothes.

"At one point I got the opportunity to get my own stall and I branched out some more. I increased quantities and took on a few wholesale customers, like restaurants. Pretty soon, what little I was planting was not enough and I turned to buying wholesale and selling. Since then we lost the half acre of land when we moved. I still manage to plant a little at home and a little at my sister's house but most of what I sell is bought wholesale."

The undergraduate, whose father is a deputy principal in St. Vincent who also engages in farming, disclosed that he has not done "too badly" from his exploits, netting a daily turnover of about \$500.

"The profits have been enough to put me through school and cover what I want – books and other university expenses."

Cave Hill's market vendor explained that given the "cohabblopot of cultures and personalities" on the Campus today, fitting in was absolutely no problem despite his unique lifestyle which sees his studies sandwiched between farming early in the mornings and after sunset. In fact, his determination to meet his own needs has been a source of inspiration to fellow students.

"Coming through secondary school all of my classmates would have known that I sell in the market. Some would have passed me and some would have heard and it was never a problem. I got the impression some people admired it and others felt more like it's okay, whatever.

"It's the same on Campus today. In fact, some people ask me how they can get into things like that. I find a lot of people on Campus are trying to sell whatever they can get their hands on to

The Cyber Age Farmer



Amilton Wilson

help pay their way – music, DVDs, clothing, whatever. I find a lot more students are leaning more towards being self-employed. A lot of colleagues tell me they are planning to get a job for the first couple years for the experience, but eventually they plan to work for themselves."

The Lower Estate, St. George resident started out at UWI studying maths and physics. However, when his preferred option of transferring to St. Augustine to study civil engineering did not materialise, he switched to a degree in computer science. It turned out to be a blessing. By remaining in Barbados he was able to better prepare for a life in self-employment when Cave Hill unveiled its Student Entrepreneurial Empowerment Development (SEED) project last year. In April, he became one of SEED's first graduates.

"It is a good programme. I have done other youth development programmes, but the advantage of this one is that it is more seminar-like – more interactive, more friendly and conducive to getting help than a classroom setting would have been.

"The programme is great. It made me aware of the number of organisations and Government

Continued on P29

Continued from P28

agencies there are willing to help young entrepreneurs. A lot of outcomes in life are based on decisions you make, so I believe that as the programme develops a key role of SEED could be mentorship for entrepreneurs – guide people in the right direction through consultancies. This should be a step beyond where SEED is now,” said the easy-going Wilson.

“It’s the kind of set up that allows students, prospective entrepreneurs, to feel comfortable talking about their ideas and plans without worrying that someone will steal them. I believe a lot of the information was well received because the participants had confidence in the lecturers and other people who presented.”

Now – with his industrious spirit, a portfolio of business tools provided by SEED, a wealth of computer-science knowledge and a healthy supply of ambition – Wilson is ready to move

on. In a few months from now, he’ll have a degree to his name and who knows what opportunities on his horizon.

One thing is for sure – the land will never be too far from his fingertips.

“My love for farming is in my blood, and I want to be self-employed someday. No matter what direction I go in I will always be close to farming.”

Jennifer *la première*

Jennifer Hurley’s road to becoming Cave Hill’s first ever Doctor of Philosophy in French may be characterised as one of “grabbed opportunities” by someone who remain guided by “teachers who inspired”.

Hurley, shy and soft-spoken, avoids the limelight with passion, but one would be mistaken to equate her quiet disposition with that of a laid back persona. In fact, you only need to spend a few minutes with this administrative assistant at CERMES to recognise that her ambition runs as deeply as her serenity.

The paradox of Hurley’s life, however, must be that for this resident of Deacons Road, St. Michael her academic pursuit and career path have remained strangely divergent for her entire adult life.

As a student of The St. Michael’s Girls’ School, now The St. Michael School, she had an inspiring association with a French teacher, whom she respectfully knew only as Mrs. Blackman. “She taught me well and I really enjoyed learning French with her,” Hurley revealed.

Yet, when it became time to pursue an education that would facilitate and propel her career as a young school leaver, Hurley chose to enter the Barbados Community College (BCC) to obtain a private secretary’s certificate, which she achieved with the distinction, in 1982, of being the graduate with the second highest score in the Caribbean.

By this time, Hurley was already a familiar face at the Cave Hill Campus of The University of the West Indies, having joined the staff in 1989 as a temporary secretary in the Department of Economics. Her mind was settled: her career would be in office administration. In fact, so determined was she that after graduating from BCC, she completed an administrative



Dr. Jennifer Hurley

secretary’s course at the UWI’s School of Continuing Studies.

Then a strange thing happened. Having decided that working at UWI provided an opportunity for further education that should not be missed, Hurley signed up to pursue a degree, not in administration, but in

French. Ironically, by this time she had already started to move up the ladder at UWI, having been appointed to the full-time staff as a Grade 1 Administrative Assistant.

However, her latent love for French could not be snuffed out, and again the benefits of having inspiring teachers shone through. Hurley remembers fondly the classes and inviting teaching styles of Dr. Anthea Morrison and Jai Jabod Singh, which further enhanced her love for French.

Still, not even the glee and satisfaction of the scroll (with distinction) tucked neatly under her arm on Graduation Day in 1995, could influence a career change. At the same time, however, the French fire continued to burn deep inside and Hurley took advantage of a UWI immersion programme that allows students of French to spend time in a francophone environment. She lived and taught English in France for one year. Jennifer explained how she came to read for a PhD in French as follows:

“When I came back to work I said, ‘Look Jennifer, the opportunity is there and you are not studying — why not apply to do the Master’s. So I did. Then while doing the Master’s I asked myself, ‘Why not go all the way and do the PhD?’ So I asked my supervisor if I could

apply for an upgrade ... I applied and I was accepted.”

Hurley elaborated: “Just for clarity, what I did was more French literature than language, so I am not all that fluent in speaking the language, but when it comes to literature that is another matter. I just liked it and pursued it... the initial thought was perhaps to become a lecturer, but then when I first came to work at UWI and saw how hard the lecturers have to work in terms of getting tenure, always having to write and publish, that thought did not last very long.

Although I would love the teaching, I certainly don’t want to be constantly doing research and writing at that level. Somewhere along the line when I was doing my first degree I realised that there was no way I was going to be a lecturer.”

In spite of the distinction of being Cave Hill’s first French doctor, Hurley is not about to abandon her administrative career stream. However, if the opportunity presents itself, she will gladly add to her duties the chance to work more closely with students in the areas of guidance and mentoring.

“I can say that mentorship played a major role in my success. You come across teachers and others you really like and their approach can propel you so far... . You cannot discount the impact of a lecturer who inspires you to continue onward... ,” Hurley reflected, “I have not thought a lot about the future... . I like what I do here at CERMES in the area of administration and I would love to remain in the administrative stream. Moving forward for me really depends a lot on what is available here in the area of administration, especially when you consider that as you move up the tighter things become in terms of opportunities.

She mused, “I will stay in the administrative stream for sure, and I want to stay closely connected to students. I believe that is where my strength is... I will definitely look to see if there is any role I can play in the UWI mentorship programme...”



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Applications are invited for admission in August 2010 to graduate degree programmes at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados. Applications are open to all persons who satisfy the University's matriculation requirements for Higher Degrees.

HOW TO APPLY

Note the list of documents required at:
www.cavehill.uwi.edu/gradstudies/documentsrequired.htm

Note that applications are not processed until all supporting documentation has been received.

On-line

Go to www.cavehill.uwi.edu/admissions, select the campus, the programme level (Graduate) and the programme you wish to pursue from the drop down list.

On Paper

Download an application form, instruction sheet and referee report forms from www.cavehill.uwi.edu/gradstudies/documentlibrary.htm. Paper application forms are also available at any of the Admissions Offices on all Campuses, including the Open Campus, throughout the region.

DEADLINE DATES

Applications to Cave Hill graduate programmes must be submitted by December 31, 2009. For deadline dates for the Mona Campus visit <http://www.mona.uwi.edu> and for St. Augustine, visit <http://www.sta.uwi.edu>.

APPLICATION FEES

All persons applying on-line are exempt from paying the application fee.

Fees for Caribbean nationals applying on paper are: BDS\$30.00, TT\$90.00, JM\$900.00 or the equivalent in your local currency.

Fees for International applicants applying on paper are US\$30.00.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Persons who need information not available at www.cavehill.uwi.edu/gradstudies should email us at gradstudies@cavehill.uwi.edu or call (246) 417-4131 or (246) 417-4156.

PROGRAMMES OFFERED FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2010-2011

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Diploma/LL.M. Legislative Drafting
Diploma/LL.M. Public Law

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MSc. Natural Resource and Environmental Management

CAVE HILL SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

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Executive MBA
International MBA
Masters in International Events Management

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES & EDUCATION

Diploma in Education (Secondary)
MA Creative Arts, MA Cultural Studies
MA French Language and African & Caribbean Literatures in French
MA Heritage Studies

MA History, MA Linguistics
MA Post-Colonial Literatures in English
MA Spanish Language and Literature
MA Theology
Master in Education (MEd)

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DM Anaesthesia and Intensive Care
MSc. Emergency Medicine
Diploma, MSc. DM Family Medicine
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DM Ophthalmology
DM Paediatrics
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MSc. Integration Studies
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JOIN THE TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

Farewell to a Dedicated Trio

The academic community lost three stalwarts, who all passed away within a three-month period this year. They were Professor Richard Allsopp, who died on June 3, Kathleen Drayton, who departed on July 6, and Sir John Stanley Goddard, on August 15.

Professor Richard Allsopp, born in 1923, was noted for his distinctly Caribbean work. He joined what was then the College of Arts and Sciences as a lecturer in 1963, developed the Campus' first Use of English course, was instrumental in establishing a linguistics programme and was Cave Hill's first Public Orator. He launched the Caribbean Lexicography Project and became its first Director and Coordinator. The product of this

project, his landmark *Dictionary of Caribbean English Usage* (1996) was the culmination of more than 20 years of dedicated effort with limited resources.

Kathleen Drayton, who died at the age of 78, joined Cave Hill in 1973 as a lecturer in the Faculty of Humanities and Education and began an association with UWI which remained unbroken until her retirement in 1991 as a senior lecturer. She was a co-founder of the Women and Development Studies programme, which later evolved into the UWI Institute of Gender and Development Studies.

Sir John Goddard has been known across Barbados as the consummate, successful Barbadian businessman, who as an

independent member of the Barbados Senate demonstrated a reputation for his soft-spoken but uncompromising firmness on issues of national importance.

At Cave Hill, his name will always be associated with the teaching of management studies, having been a founding member (in 1991) of the Centre for Management Development, now the Cave Hill School of Business.

In 1990 he was awarded the national honour Gold Crown of Merit and three years later the Knight of St Andrew was conferred on him for his contribution to commerce and the community. Sir John spent most of his life working with the group of companies launched by his grandfather Joseph Nathaniel Goddard. He died at the age of 77.

Key notes with Chalkdust

The Errol Barrow Centre for Creative Imagination (EBCCI) continues to impact on the region's cultural development and artistic training. In September, the EBCCI hosted renowned calypsonian and Trinidad's reigning Calypso Monarch, Dr. Hollis "Chalkdust" Liverpool, Professor of Ethnomusicology and current Research Fellow at the University of Trinidad and Tobago.

Dr. Liverpool was invited to be a key facilitator of the Centre's Songwriting and Arranging Workshop series, a programme held jointly with the Ministry of Community Development and Culture and the National Cultural Foundation. The workshop series was designed to promote creativity and innovation in the elements of songwriting and music composition in local themes of music.

Chalkdust commenced the series with a public lecture entitled *Crime, Calypso and Criminal Justice* on September 18 at the Walcott Warner Theatre. In a lively

interactive two-hour session, he engaged the audience with the role of the calypsonian as social commentator in matters of crime, "crimenalization" of acts, crime prevention techniques and criminal justice with sung examples from fellow calypsonians including Sparrow, Bomber and Duke interspersed throughout.

The two-day workshop which followed was well attended and was as interactive as his lecture. Dr. Liverpool discussed with participants the history of calypso, the five rules of calypso, its judging, the characteristics, use of language, basic arranging considerations and calypso composition. Participants were encouraged then to write and share their compositions and to attend the following formal arrangers' course with Roger Gittens.

The workshop concluded with a songwriters' workshop for children with Barbados' reigning calypso monarch, Red Plastic Bag, on October 19 and 20.



Drama tours Open Campus

Dramaworks (Barbados) Ltd., the new theatrical company founded in 2008 by the well-known actor and director Patrick Foster, is reaching new heights with its upcoming tour of Caribbean islands.

Its production of the acclaimed **Derek Walcott** play "Pantomime" was such a critical success during its Barbados run in March 2009 that the idea of taking it on a regional tour was presented to and instantly accepted by The University of the West Indies, Open Campus. Originally produced in collaboration with the University's Cave Hill Theatre workshop, the regional tour was negotiated by Principal of the Open Campus Professor Hazel Simmonds-McDonald and warmly accepted by many islands.

The tour begun on *September 25 and 26* at The University of the West Indies **Open Campus in Antigua**, goes to the Open Campus in Anguilla in November 2009, then to Trinidad in time for the **Derek Walcott Symposium at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus**, January 15-17th, 2010. Visits to Grenada and St. Vincent are still in the planning stages. The tour ends in St. Lucia in time for the annual **Derek Walcott** Celebrations in the Nobel Laureate's home island at the end of January 2010; appropriately, as **Derek Walcott** was quoted as saying, after attending the Gala opening in Barbados on March 9, that it was one of the finest productions of his play that he had seen.

Starring charismatic actor Patrick Foster as the redoubtable English expatriate Harry Trewe and the mesmerizing young actor Simon Alleyne as his Man Friday, the play is set in 1976, in and around a gazebo on the edge of a cliff at the crumbling Castaways Guest House in Tobago. Directed by Rob Leyshon of the Cave Hill Theatre workshop, the play received **rave reviews** during its Barbados run.

As the **Director Rob Leyshon** has said "Pantomime is the funniest, most abrasive and yet at the same time the most tender of Walcott's theatrical works."

Artistic Director Patrick Foster tells us "I chose *Pantomime* for our first production not only for its great entertainment value, but also for its multi-layered text and its examination of acting on multiple levels. The casting of older and younger generations is a demonstration of sharing and exchanging skills, learning from each other, while giving both perspectives to a Caribbean classic."



Pantomime

A Review by Nicola Hunte

Pantomime, a two-act, two-hander is a study in symmetry and timing in terms of scripting as well as performance.

This intelligently crafted presentation of the tension between two former performers 'trapped' into playing parts scripted by social forces is a delicate balancing act between humour and gravity, simplicity and complexity.

The small, intimate stage provided by the Frank Collymore Hall convincingly delineated the setting of an isolated, deserted beachside hotel and presented the uncluttered environment required for the soul-baring exchanges between these two apparently unlikely confidantes.

Walcott's words and stage directions were faithfully presented under the thoughtful direction of Rob Leyshon of the Cave Hill Theatre Workshop and performed by Dramawork's Patrick Foster and Simon Alleyne. These actors made full use of the stage and props and were certainly not afraid of physical contact which goes a long way toward investing the action with emotionally genuine moments. Written in the late 1970s, Pantomime reads like a treatment on colonialism and race for a recently independent Caribbean nation with a nod towards the undervalued role of art in a developing society. However, with a contemporary audience the attention may tend to be less on consequences of imperialism and more so on Caribbean society's neglect of art – conventional theater in particular, as evinced by the sparse attendance of the second Sunday night performance of this play. There is also the impression that the action, even though with clear political implications, is pre-eminently personal and individual, especially with regard to the character played by Patrick Foster – Harry Trewe.

The action centres ostensibly on the conflict between hotel manager and ex-music hall actor, Trewe and his employee, an early retiree from calypso competition, Jackson Philip, over the staging of 'a little pantomime' to entertain European tourists. Faithful to the detailed map of the playwright's creation, Leyshon nonetheless tinkers with the blueprint ever so slightly to take greater advantage of the on-stage dynamic created by the age difference between Foster and Alleyne. This small detail, which is not part of Walcott's character sketch, further heightens the opposition between these figures already established along lines of race and culture. Consequently, Foster's portrayal of Trewe as an arrogant, 'over-the-hill' singer/actor of the British stage and Alleyne's depiction of Jackson's self-possessed irreverence

and grassroots ingenuity also carries shades of a generational clash.

Act I seems to move slowly: this could be because if there are a few moments without dialogue or because some of the speaking parts come across as pointed speeches, without the rhythm of a natural exchange. This lag tends to be compensated for by moments of spectacle, like the physical confrontation

between Trewe and Jackson that captures the opposition/dependency. The unwilling intimacy that characterises this relationship and the commitment displayed by Foster and Alleyne during these moments is important and effective. Their see-saw of mastery is epitomised in Jackson's pursuit of Trewe all about the stage, enacting an uncontrollable shadow that provides a crash course on the dangers of imperialism. Alleyne's Jackson switches seamlessly from docile to dangerous and back again, upsetting Trewe's efforts to choreograph their relationship. Foster communicates Trewe's discomfort and growing distress with Jackson's sinister servitude in several ways – the nervous smoothing of his hair, the constant touching of his face as he hesitates with the dawning realization that his claims to control are not absolute. Simple, but loaded, gestures such as these populate the exchanges between the would-be/still-are actors offering an emotional and intellectual charge to the action.

In Act II, both actors have engaged in their fair share of masquerading, cavorting, story-telling and power-brokering. However, the culmination of these efforts occurs with Jackson's gender switching to effect Trewe's catharsis. He plays the part of a jilted wife, complete with exaggerated effeminate gestures, guaranteed to remind the audience that he is performing but Trewe is meant to buy into the act so that he may exorcise his personal demons over a broken family.

Both Foster and Alleyne are comfortable and confident on-stage which translates to a sense of familiarity with the audience. Because the play is written to be both intimate and social, their ability to connect immediately with the audience is crucial. The only improvement to their performance would have been a larger audience that could have fed their obvious energies, which they were only too happy to share with those who came to witness the spectacle of Derek Walcott's Pantomime.



Photos of Pantomime by William Cummings

Regional Policy on AIDS



Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis,
Dr. Denzil Douglas

The University of the West Indies played a key role in advancing a regional programme with a multi-disciplinary approach to push back the effects of HIV/AIDS on Caribbean people through its leadership of a major conference in St. Kitts in August.

In his feature address at the opening of the conference, Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis, Dr. Denzil Douglas, urged academics and professionals who mostly comprised the audience not to lose sight of the importance of their work to the future well being of Caribbean economies and people, given the potentially huge negative impact if the pandemic is not brought under control.

He was speaking at the sixth annual Caribbean Cytometry and Analytical Society (CCAS) Workshop and the Joint Meeting of CCAS, Caribbean HIV/AIDS Regional Training Network (CHART) and the United States Centres of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

During the official opening on Sunday, August 23 at the St. Kitts Marriott Resort, Professor Clive Landis of the Edmund Cohen Laboratory for Vascular Research at the Cave Hill Campus stressed the importance of such gatherings of regional professionals, adding:

"The best approach and the best [results] ... will only be achieved when you combine messages of tolerance and prevention with seamless integration of diagnostic and clinical

care, supported by community and mental health approaches...."

St. Kitts' Minister of Health, Rupert Herbert, agreed, stating: "It is our view that the response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic cannot be adequately dealt with solely by any one entity thus, we have adopted a multi-sectoral response"

He revealed that between the identification of the first case in St. Kitts in 1984 and 2007, the island had recorded 290 cases. The Federation has a population of less than 50,000.

While emphasising that the region still had much to do, Prime Minister Douglas said: "Since the emergence of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in the Caribbean region, I believe that substantial progress has been made in several areas, including diagnosis and treatment.

There has been a long and committed process that has brought us to the position we are at today and I wish to commend all our partners who have brought us to this point. It has been a truly collaborative approach, involving national and regional organisations and governments, but still there is much to be done. There is much learning and improvement to occur — a lot more research and methodologies to be implemented, and the effort to change human behaviour is still the one that is most challenging."

He continued, "This pandemic, with all its economic and social ramifications, is one that we must consistently approach with a sense of urgency. In more recent times one can't help but notice the decreased coverage by the media as other events and situations have taken prime focus. This is not to say that the media in the region have not been playing their part to disseminate information to the general public, but it is worth emphasising to the public that the spread of HIV continues to be a real and existing threat to our health ...

I ask you to be steadfast in your own belief that the work that you do is of utmost important in every Caribbean nation. Let us move forward with vigour and confidence that together we can achieve greater success in the fight against the spread of HIV."

While delivering the CCAS "distinguished lecture" at the official start of the conference on the Sunday, internationally recognised researcher, Professor George Janossy, who has the distinction of a Hero In Medicine Award for his life-long work in the fight against HIV/AIDS, advised regional participants to trust their own approaches as they develop strategies to combat the spread of the diseases.

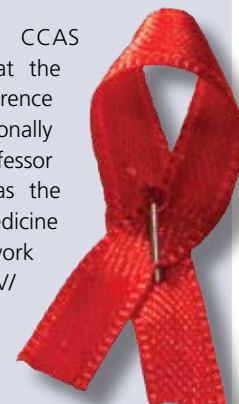
This, he added, was important when they take into consideration that the United States' medical system was the most expensive but the least efficient; European governments promise large sums for medicine but never deliver on 90 per cent of it; Africa was

"This pandemic, with all its economic and social ramifications, is one that we must consistently approach with a sense of urgency."

afflicted by corruption and dubious channels of funding; and western corporations' major influence was guaranteed increased levels of profit for shareholders. Cooperation between regional partners was also critical.

The professor at London's Royal Free and University Medical College noted that a silver lining from the dark cloud that HIV presents, which has been embraced by the Caribbean approach, is the holistic approach to medicine rather than a blind focus on the disease itself.

"It is very important to recognise this thinking ... because when you examine the past you will see that quite a lot of HIV physicians have been concentrating, foolishly I think, on the disease and they have not shown much interest in other areas, but here there are talking about holistic medicine....," he added.





The success of Barbados' national programme to treat pregnant women who are HIV positive to prevent infection of unborn babies received high praise recently during a major international meeting on HIV/AIDS in St. Kitts.

Dr. Anne St. John, a pediatrician at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, who has been playing a lead role in efforts to prevent the spread of HIV from pregnant women to their unborn children, gave a full report on Barbados' programme and disclosed that in the past two years there had been no new cases of a child being infected by its mother.

This drew commendation from delegates at the sixth annual Caribbean Cytometry and Analytical Society (CCAS) Workshop and the Joint Meeting of CCAS, Caribbean HIV/AIDS Regional Training Network (CHART) and the United States Centre of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) held in St. Kitts in August.

Barbados now records one of the lowest rates of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in the region, and its decision to implement re-testing of expectant mothers in their third trimester was viewed as forward thinking by Dr. Carmen Zorilla of the University of Puerto Rico.

According to Dr. St. John, the prevalence of HIV at the end of 2007 was reported at about 1.8 per cent in adults, with transmission being primarily through heterosexual contact. In pregnant women the prevalence rate was 0.6 per cent and these figures have been steady for almost a decade.

"We started a national surveillance programme for pediatric cases of HIV/AIDS in 1984," St. John said, noting that was also the year in which the first case of HIV was diagnosed in Barbados in an adult.

"The first paediatric case was diagnosed in 1985 – a four-year-old child who was presented with recurrent infections (weight-loss, failure to thrive, opportunistic infections) and we thought he had a congenital immune deficiency. He was sent to Canada at great expense for further investigations of immune deficiencies, and he came back without a diagnosis, but weeks later we got a result from Canada saying ... he was [HIV]

Protecting the Unborn

positive. So the penny dropped. In less than a year he was dead.

"Following this we started a surveillance programme with a high index of suspicion.... Cases were investigated mostly after the children were presented with clinical illnesses and in that way we also diagnosed the parents, because once the children were diagnosed the parents were then tested and found to be HIV positive. As more cases were diagnosed, policies were developed and instituted and education of medical and allied staff on the island was upgraded..."

Dr. St. John said voluntary counselling and testing in pregnant women was expanded, increasing from 20 per cent testing in 1990 to 98 per cent during the last five years.

She explained, "In 1995 we started a structured programme to prevent mother-to-child transmission... We have promoted increased disclosure, partner testing in pregnant and non-pregnant woman and rapid testing of women in labour who have had an unknown status. After birth, babies were followed in the general paediatric clinic and we also provided a dedicated public health nurse-midwife at the Ladymeade Unit who worked with me to track all the defaulters – women who don't meet follow up treatment appointments."

Dr. St. John, giving specific details of Barbados performance over the last 14 years, explained that the country started off with relatively small numbers of HIV infected women becoming pregnant, "but alarmingly in the mid-2000s" the numbers rose. One year we had 34 women and two years ago we had 37 women who were infected and who delivered babies.

"The prevalence of HIV in pregnant women has decreased from 0.9 per cent in the late 1990s to 0.6 per cent in 2007.... In this first study, which was conducted



between 1996 and 2000, we looked at 151 HIV-positive women who delivered 152 infants.

The Government of Barbados obtained a World Bank loan, a dedicated centre was built ... with a state-of-the art lab ... and anti-retroviral drugs were provided free to all infected individuals since 2002. This intervention was critical ... and our national statistics improved significantly.

"We noted an overall 40 per cent reduction in hospital admissions in adults and a 50 per cent reduction in mortality. Between 2002 and 2006, there were 16,000 live births in Barbados, including 119 live births to infected women, with three infected infants, giving a 2.5 per cent transmission rate, with no deaths," St. John noted.

An examination of the data showed that the reason for three children being infected in the last four years included two mothers who went untested in 2004, while in 2006, there was a mother on Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Treatment (HAART) medication who failed to follow doctor's instructions.

"Our successes have included a reduction in transmission to zero new cases in the last two years... and of that we are proud," St. John added



After undertaking extensive research in association with UNICEF to determine who are the most at-risk groups for HIV and AIDS in Barbados and the wider Caribbean, The University of the West Indies has embarked on an even more detailed project in three territories to determine why certain risky behaviours persist.

"It is very clear to us coming out of what we know ... from the baseline studies, that we need a much deeper understanding of sexual identity and culture, a deeper understanding of gender inequality, a much deeper understanding of why risky sexual behaviour persists," explained chairman of the UWI HIV/AIDS Response Programme (UWIHARP), Professor Christine Barrow.

She disclosed details of the research project, which will be undertaken in Barbados, Trinidad and Suriname while making a presentation on a Barbados case study titled Adolescent Girls' Sexual Culture and Vulnerability to HIV during a country consultation at the Cave Hill Campus on May 28, 2009.

"We know that in Barbados adolescent girls are more than twice as likely to be HIV positive than their male counterparts. However, we must also recognise that girls and women are more likely to access medical care and testing than their male counterparts. So we don't want to rush to conclusions about the feminisation of HIV, as others have done.

"However, the gender imbalance is clear, and in other countries of the Caribbean and particularly in several countries in Africa, the disparities in HIV infection rates between young girls and young boys are in the ratio of more than six to one," she added, pointing out that this suggested where we may end up if appropriate action is not taken.

She explained: "The overall project seeks to unravel the complex inter-linkages between sexuality, sexual cultures, gender relations and the transmission of HIV in the wider Caribbean... The project is premised on the assumption that unequal gender relations are central to explaining the transmission of HIV in the Caribbean... We already know a number of things about the context of adolescent girls within Barbados, and indeed the wider Caribbean..."

While providing background to representatives of stakeholder organisations that included the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the National HIV/AIDS Commission of Barbados, Ministry of Education, Caribbean

Researchers probe risky behaviour



Prof. Christine Barrow

Broadcast Media Partnership on HIV/AIDS, the National Council on Substance Abuse and the Institute of Gender and Development Studies at Cave Hill Barrow said studies confirmed that girls were being initiated into sexual activity much earlier, having short-term relationships – both serial and concurrent – and casual one-night stands.

"This research builds on earlier research in Barbados which revealed a cultural context in which girls are receiving contradictory messages from different sources, which adds to their confusion... On the one hand, through popular culture, male sexual pressure and peer groups they are receiving messages that encourage active, at-risk, assertive sexual behaviour.

"On the other hand, we have the formal social institutions such as the church, the family and the school offering diametrically opposite messages, essentially denying or not sanctioning sexuality and suppressing any evidence of sexual behaviour in young girls, in particular.

"We also know that adolescent girls in Barbados are a heterogeneous population. Let us not make the mistake of saying they all behave the same way ... but within that group there is a minority of girls, clearly a minority, that has bought into a subculture centred on an active and assertive female sexual role – the so-called bashment subculture, which exposes young girls to very high risk. This subculture actually promotes active and assertive sexuality but in a context within which these young girls have very little power to negotiate condom use or say no to sex.

Several variables ... combine to position adolescent girls as one of the most at-risk populations in Barbados ... hence our research focus on that particular group."

Researchers will use semi-structured focus groups and individual interviews in selected schools "and other youth contexts

in concert with students, teachers and guidance counsellors, youth leaders and child psychologists". Interviews and participant observation will also be conducted in other formal and informal youth settings. The study population will include adolescent girls and boys and adult males 20 years and older.

The research is centred on four primary questions:

1. What provokes risky sexual and social identities, behaviours and relationships in some adolescent girls? (What makes the difference? Why do some girls/boys present a certain image of themselves? Why do some start having sex early, while others postpone? Why do some have unsafe sex while others use condoms?)
2. What is the impact of sexual cultures, unequal gender relations (male power and pressure) on girls' sexual vulnerability?
3. How does the wider socio-cultural environment promote the sexual (and physical) vulnerability or resilience of adolescent girls?
4. What policy interventions would be effective in promoting sexual agency, social protection and human rights among adolescent girls?

Barrow assured stakeholders that researchers would follow established ethical protocols and procedures "in terms of consent, transparency, confidentiality, secure storage of tapes and research data and other standards". In fact, she revealed that in addition to the Research Ethics and Protocols of UWI, they would employ the standards of York University in Canada, while working with the Ethics Board.

Additionally, Regional Programme Director of UNIFEM, Roberta Clarke, stressed that the project was not about research for the sake of research, but about gathering information that could impact on the development of effective policies to fight HIV and AIDS in the region.

Confronting Discrimination

A young Barbadian woman brought a conference room filled with medical and support personnel involved in the HIV fight to absolute silence when she spoke of the discrimination she has suffered since being diagnosed with the virus.

She noted that while she was comfortable talking about her life with HIV while attending the sixth annual Caribbean Cytometry and Analytical Society (CCAS) Workshop and the Joint Meeting of CCAS, Caribbean HIV/AIDS Regional Training Network (CHART) and the United States Centres of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at the St. Kitts Marriott Resort, she would not even consider it in Barbados given the level of discrimination that exists.

The mother of a teenage boy, who noted that she only disclosed her status to her son when he was 12 years old, was responding to a suggestion from a conference delegate that the cause of people living with HIV might be further advanced if more of the infected persons were willing to disclose their status.

"I can speak specifically of Barbados — stigma and discrimination are the biggest challenges we face. The medication works, people with HIV are living longer and in Barbados the death rate and hospitalisation have dropped tremendously, but discrimination persists, even in the home.

"Living with HIV is not easy, and in our small Caribbean nations there is always somebody who knows somebody who is living with HIV.... There are people who have had to leave Barbados and go to the United States, England and Canada and even Trinidad for treatment. Why do they have to do that if we have such a good health care system? Why do people living with HIV run from our country?"

"I would never do what I am doing here in Barbados... Who would protect my son from all the darts people would throw at him? Who would protect me? You really don't understand it until you have walked in my shoes."

She added: "What I find in Barbados

when I do outreach education programmes, is that a lot of people, but especially married ladies, say 'Not me, I'm happily married!' But I have to remind them that they are here with me, but 'You don't know where your partner is'. In Barbados there is a lot of 'afternoon delight' – the afternoon sex that so many people like to engage in [after lunch]. Don't say 'It can't be me; I don't want to hear about HIV'."

She explained that she did not go out and conduct some immoral act that ended with HIV, but that she had contracted the virus from her husband who died more than a decade ago.

In a prepared statement read to the conference, the Barbadian woman said: "I cannot be responsible for someone I cannot change. I must be responsible for [me] and the things I say and do... Only you have the power to change the things you do to yourself. If you accept personal responsibility for our own behaviour, and I accept responsibility for my own personal behaviour, then together we would influence others around us to accept the same responsibility. Each of us must take personal responsibility for how we protect ourselves and others from and treat others with the disease of HIV/AIDS, which threatens our Caribbean."

She was supported by Christopher Dorsett, head of the Caribbean Regional Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS, who spoke of a consistent pattern of stigmatisation and discrimination across the 33 islands that make up the network.

Even in the health sector, he added, doctors still put physical distance between themselves and people living with HIV when they are treating them, while in many instances nurses have turned out to be the biggest

impediment to maintaining confidentiality.

He lamented the fact that people still have to exist in societies with no laws to protect against discrimination. Employers will insist on HIV testing as a pre-condition to employment and dismissals follow in many instances six months after the results come back positive for HIV. Insurance is still denied to people living with HIV and isolation from family and friends haunts many.

Advocate for people living with HIV in St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Kevin Ferrara, spoke of the weaknesses of the national HIV programmes in the region:

"I am going to take us back to last evening [Sunday, August 23, 2009] when the Prime Minister [of St. Kitts, Dr. Denzil Douglas] mentioned in his speech [what] we have achieved here where people have total access to treatment.... Theoretically, he's right! In reality he's not! And we all know this. This is something that we all need to start challenging, that we all need to start facing up to – we are not reaching everybody. I hate to put it this way, but we are really reaching people who are confident they have not done anything promiscuous in the last six months. We are not reaching the people who are most at risk.... We are reaching people who are identified as a result of ailment. We are not reaching them through the prevention programmes we have set up."

He went on to explain, "St. Kitts is a small country of 49,000 people... and everybody knows everybody: So I ask the question – how do you design and implement prevention programmes to a community of people who thrive on gossip...? That's what we need to be looking at."





Researching HIV/AIDS

A new academic publication is available that could help policy makers reshape the way this region tackles the scourge of HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean.

The book is titled *Sexuality, Social Inclusion and Human Rights — Vulnerability in the Caribbean Context of HIV* and, according to Christine Barrow, professorial fellow of the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES), it takes a new approach to the challenge.

The work by a diverse group of regional and international scholars was jointly edited by Barrow, Marjan de Bruin, director of the Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication (CARIMAC) at the Mona Campus in Jamaica and Robert Carr, a senior lecturer and coordinator of CARIMAC's Graduate Unit. It includes sections on "Human Rights", "Rethinking Communications", "Reconceptualising Sex" and "Policy and Macro Perspectives". Contributors include Tracy Robinson, Marcus Day, Rose-Marie Antoine, Andil Gosine, David Murray, Robert Vincent, Makmala Kempadoo, Gloria Wekker, David Plimmer, R. Anthony Lewis, Philip Nanton, Roger McClean, Karl Theodore, Caroline Allen and Martin Grantlin.

One of the primary aims of the authors, explained Barrow, was to provide research information that would help to reshape HIV/AIDS responses by recognising always that policy should be evidence based.

Additionally, she noted that they operated against the background that while there had been some success with approaches which suggested that people were rational and if they knew the risks involved they would modify their behaviour, it was now very clear this had not gone far enough.

"There is absolutely no doubt that there is a huge disconnect between what people know about HIV/AIDS and how they behave," Barrow added. "Knowledge is not being translated into change...."

The result is that the book "has sought to move beyond the ABC message" (abstain, be faithful, condomise), and to use research

to steer policy makers toward a vulnerability concept approach.

Barrow felt the approach targeting those at risk was necessary and effective but has taken us only so far. Lives were being saved and prolonged but HIV infection continued to rise. It was time, therefore, to rethink policies and interventions and to centre prevention and behaviour change to stem the tide of HIV.



"This volume of articles shifts the conversation around HIV from risk to vulnerability – focusing on social vulnerability without losing sight of risk behaviours. It recognises the wider structural, social and gender issues that set the context for behaviour. It

recognises the complexity of sexual relationships; the fact that they are embedded in and are products of social gender inequities, economic dependency and unequal power.

"It calls for different approaches to 'most-at-risk populations' and the elimination of the stigma and discrimination based on the flawed assumption that only they – sex workers, men who have sex with men, the promiscuous young people, the so-called outcasts – are at risk, while the rest of us are safe," Barrow elaborated.

In addition to influencing the decisions of policy makers, she pointed out, it was hoped that the book would inform the activities of NGOs, help to focus the work of researchers in the future and catch the attention of donor agencies.

"But it is also directed toward vulnerable groups and people living with HIV and we hope that it will be used by students in the university setting," Barrow added. "It has a wide appeal."

One of the major strengths of the book is the fact that it "provides a unique perspective and analysis of the Caribbean response and how the inclusion of many different sectors in society and an interdisciplinary, rather than segregated multi-disciplinary approach, can effectively address the spread of HIV and AIDS in the region".

Barrow disclosed that discussion had already begun on additional works on the subject that would be of significant benefit to the region.

Conference calls for reform

A major research project examining the connection between HIV/AIDS and violence against women is recommending that "marital rape" be made a criminal offence, and that arrest should be possible the moment someone reports a case of domestic violence.

The study, which was led by Dr. Caroline Allen, under the aegis of the Institute of Gender and Development Studies and UWIHARP at Cave Hill, was sponsored by the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM/OAS) and formed the basis of two days of discussion during a special workshop at the 3Ws Pavilion in September.

The workshop titled, *Study to enable the preparation of pilot interventions to address intersections between HIV/AIDS and violence against women in Barbados and Dominica*, also recommended that discrimination against someone on the basis of their HIV status should be made illegal.

Under the heading Recommendations for Legal Reform, Dr. Allen suggested:

- including an arrest clause in domestic violence legislation, making it possible to arrest someone as soon as violence is reported. Provision also needs to be made to authorise police to remove one of the partners in a domestic violence situation;
- the need for a batterer intervention programme, along with a place to take the perpetrator before conviction;
- that the age of sexual consent and the age of maturity, when people can give consent to medical attention, be made the same in Barbados. (Currently sexual consent can be given at 16, but medical consent only from 18 years);
- that there be mandatory reporting to police of child sexual abuse cases known to health care workers and teachers.

On the issue of strengthening services in the areas of HIV and violence against women (VAW), the report recommended that a standardised system of screening and referral be introduced to link HIV and VAW services.

Having identified a paucity of services to women who experience violence, it also recommended "more counsellors and physical

Continued on P41



HIV link to violence against women

The University of the West Indies has partnered with a number of regional and international institutions to determine the extent of the link between domestic violence and the spread of HIV in the region and to assist governments in responding to the situation.

A major step in this initiative was taken at the Cave Hill Campus on September 7 and 8 when the Institute of Gender and Development Studies, the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM/OAS), and UNAIDS Caribbean Office came together at the 3Ws Pavilion for major discussions.

The event titled **Workshop on the Study to Enable the Preparation of Pilot Interventions to Address Intersections between HIV/AIDS and Violence Against Women (VAW) in Barbados and Dominica** was officially opened by Parliamentary Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office, Senator Irene Sandiford-Garner, who stressed that the exercise had Government's support.

"Let me reiterate Government's support of these efforts as we have stated in our manifesto a commitment to developing programmes and policies to eliminate domestic violence," she said.

"To demonstrate this, in our first 18 months of office we have commissioned a survey on domestic violence to better inform us on the prevalence and demographic characteristics of this scourge."

Sandiford-Garner also drew attention to the recently launched initiative involving UNIFEM and the Bureau of Gender Affairs to "integrate gender into HIV programming and their targeting of the health and education sectors".

"This is through a collective acceptance that the vulnerabilities and the responses to the HIV pandemic demand approaches that take the sex of the target groups into consideration," she added.

"I have no doubt that the gender analysis will also be a pivotal perspective in addressing the intersection between HIV and violence against women and together these two initiatives will complement Government's efforts at addressing these issues that until now have been targeted separately and without all their dynamics being taken into full consideration."

In explaining the path to the workshop, one of its principal organisers and specialist with CIM/OAS, Yasmin Solitahe Odum, said: "In October 2008, CIM/OAS embarked on [an] important partnership. We wanted to be assured that the work which we undertook in our pilot countries

reflected the needs of these countries.

"We had very definite views about what pilot interventions we thought may be best to implement in each country. However, we were aware that for successful execution of this project we needed to have a very intimate and grounded approach so that the stakeholders in Barbados and Dominica would not only have a say, but also that they would be encouraged to take ownership of this initiative.

"With this in mind, we knew that research was needed on the ground to chart our way forward. We entered into partnership therefore, with the academic community as represented by the UWI for this phase of our project entitled: **Capacity Building for integrating Services on HIV and Violence Against Women in the Caribbean...**

We collaborated with UWIHARP to prepare the study entitled **Study to Enable the Preparation of Pilot Interventions to Address Intersections between HIV/AIDS and VAW in Barbados and Dominica**.

We deeply appreciate the work done by Dr. Caroline Allen, who undertook the study under the expert guidance of Professor Christine Barrow and Project Officer Monique Springer of UWIHARP. Their teamwork was excellent — at times beyond the call of duty — and we applaud the document which Dr. Allen produced for CIM/OAS."

In the executive summary of her Final Report, Dr. Allen stated under the heading Recommendations from the epidemiological review: "The picture that emerges from [the] data from Barbados and Dominica is that the percentages of female HIV cases are somewhat lower than the Caribbean average (though nevertheless high in global terms), and that attention should be paid to young women and the early sexual initiation or child abuse among girls in these two countries."

"The quality of ... data on VAW is poor but important new initiatives are being undertaken currently by UNIFEM and the Bureau of Gender Affairs in Barbados... These nation-wide initiatives demonstrate a growing awareness of the importance of measuring the scale of the problem. It is recommended that a pilot project team follow up on these efforts to gather the latest and most accurate prevalence measures."

Under the heading **Recommendations from the literature review**, Dr. Allen added: "There are a number of studies linking VAW and child abuse with risky sexual practices and sexually transmitted illnesses. These studies do suggest a link between VAW and HIV, but there is no doubt that the evidence base could be stronger with research designed explicitly to find out whether HIV prevalence is higher among women who have experienced violence."

She added: "The review revealed that sexual violence is more frequently experienced by women, but a major recent study showed that there are no significant differences between men and women in intimate relationships with regard to having experienced or perpetrated acts of physical violence or psychological aggression."



Senator Irene Sandiford-Garner, Parliamentary Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office.

Continued from P40

facilities, especially to provide long-term refuge both to women who have experienced violence and to women living with HIV.

"There is a need for more education of the public on gender and violence, particularly as part of HIV education. Innovative strategies should be devised to reach key populations in need, such as tapping into new information technologies for young people, and 'going door-to-door' to reach people who may not be able to attend public sensitisation meetings," the researchers recommended.

Medics Focus on Teenage Pregnancy & Elderly Depression

Issues surrounding teenage pregnancies and depression among the elderly came under the microscope on 17 July when the Faculty of Medical Sciences and the Cave Hill Campus of The University of the West Indies and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital staged the 2009 Professor ER Walrond Scientific Symposium.

Dr. Felix Gittens, while making a presentation on research he shared with Dr. Gayle Reece-Walcott, revealed that since 2005 teen pregnancies remained relatively constant at approximately 16 per cent of all pregnancies annually, while abortions by teenagers had risen annually since 2005, with only a slight drop in 2007.

"Generally there has been a percentage increase in abortions among teenagers over the past four years... and ... the majority of the abortions were in the 16 to 19 age group," Dr. Gittens said.

He added: "The general trend in the 16 to 19 age group is that as they get older abortion seems to be the method of contraception they choose."

Dr. Gittens pointed out, however, that his termination statistics were gathered from the records of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) and did not include abortions performed at private facilities.

Stressing that there was a significant need for education, he said it was amazing that some teenagers still believe today that certain sexual positions or drinking hot Guinness would prevent them from becoming pregnant.

He said too it had become clear that poverty was a factor in teen pregnancies, with "those of the lower economic status ... increasingly becoming pregnant".

"Sometimes they have sexual intercourse for money or they

have sexual intercourse because to them there is no other way of feeling valued or important," he added.

The doctor also noted that peer pressure was contributing to the situation and explained that "a lot of young boys are being pressured into having sex at an early age and as a result they are becoming teenage fathers as well."

Another participant, Dr. Jo-Anne Brathwaite-Drummond, of the Department of Psychiatry at the QEH explained that because of a number of common misconceptions about aging, depression among older Barbadians tended to be higher than it should be. Among the misconceptions she listed were:

- Feeling down is a part of normal aging
- Older people need less sleep
- Slowing down is a part of aging

- Loss of interest in activities is usual as one grows older
- Marked loss of libido is normal with older age.

Dr. Brathwaite-Drummond explained that she conducted a study at the St. Michael Geriatric Hospital and the St. Philip District Hospital in July 2008 to, among other things, "determine the prevalence of depression in the over 65 population in the district hospitals" and "assess the degree to which depression is under-diagnosed by staff in the study setting".

Researchers found a 9.2 per cent rate of mild depression. Significant depression symptoms were present in 15.3 per cent of cases. Additionally, the study found that 66 per cent of cases had been missed by hospital staff. Dr. Brathwaite-Drummond recommended a depression screening tool to be used with all patients upon admission, that patients with significant depressive symptoms be re-screened within three months; and that all patients be screened at least once per year.



Bright Prognosis

Barbados' Minister of Health Donville Inniss is predicting that the E.R. Walrond Scientific Symposium, now in its ninth year, will launch "some of the world's most brilliant medical researchers."

Delivering the feature address at the opening of this year's symposium, he told participants: "Future generations of Barbadians and other persons using healthcare services here and within the Caribbean will attain tremendous benefit from your research endeavours. I dare say that from a medical standpoint the future of Barbados looks bright and promising."

Inniss pointed to the support which Government has given to the Chronic Disease Research Centre, stating: "[The] ultimate goal ... is the development of a world-class research unit with particular relevance to the Caribbean. The CDRC has completed significant research relative to the Barbados Eye Studies, Barbados National Cancer Study and the Wound Healing Study in Diabetes. The Barbados National Registry for Chronic non-communicable diseases is also in progress and ultimately this will culminate in the CDRC operating the Caribbean's first integrated register of chronic diseases whose evidence-based results will be used by my Ministry to good effect.

"I am using the CDRC'S success story to impress upon [researchers] the importance of their efforts to the future of medical science. That original research, interesting case study or clinical data you have analysed could be the basis of some ground breaking research evolving over the next decade or even earlier. I need to underscore the need for more persons to get involved in research activity, particularly at the primary care level, because of its intrinsic importance to the society in which we live."



Examining Patient Satisfaction and Cost Efficiency of Cancellations at QEH

Patients attending the Queen Elizabeth Hospital are generally less satisfied with the level of service they receive today than they were ten years ago, according to survey results presented recently by Dr. Keisha Carrington.

Carrington made the presentation on July 17 at the QEH during the ninth annual Professor ER Walrond Scientific Symposium, organised by the Faculty of Medical Sciences of the Cave Hill Campus of The University of the West Indies and the Hospital.

The survey was a ten-year follow up to one done in 1998 which aimed at providing support to the board of management of the QEH for the purpose of bringing about improvements. Dr. Carrington noted that the survey closely resembled the 1998 exercise to allow for proper comparisons and included more than 800 structured interviews within the hospital by students of the Cave Hill Campus.

The most recent survey found that 78.6 per cent of respondents were satisfied, while 11.2 per cent were dissatisfied with their overall experience; while under the specific heading of "medical treatment" 85.6 per cent expressed satisfaction and 6.2 per cent dissatisfaction. It found too that the older the patient the more likely the person was to express satisfaction.

When compared with 1998, however, the results showed that patients generally were more satisfied with service delivered by the various categories of staff in 1998 than in 2007, with one notable exception – the dispensary staff, who recorded a higher level of satisfaction in the more recent survey.

When the results, that included categories such as respect, visiting hours, opportunity to ask questions freely, privacy, explanations, and meals in 2008, were compared to 1998, and again," Dr. Carrington said, "patient satisfaction showed a decline." However, in the areas of cleanliness and waiting areas satisfaction increased.

"Most notable," Dr. Carrington added, "was that when the 'dissatisfaction' results were examined more closely, they found nursing, records, and Accident and Emergency staff stood out the most."

Some of the comments made by respondents were:

"Some nurses are nice but others are disgusting"; "nurses and staff do the best they can with what they have which is sometimes minimal"; "doctors are rude"; "beds are very uncomfortable"; "food was always late"; and "the hospital needs to be run like a hotel with a clear and defined management structure without political interference".

Another highlight of the symposium was the finding by Dr. K. Odle-Cummins of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the QEH that the cancellations by patients scheduled for elective surgeries was possibly costing that institution nearly half a million dollars per year.

After a careful examination of the records of 2008, Dr. Odle-Cummins found that of just over 1,000 scheduled elective surgeries that year, 214 were cancelled, including 175 major operations.

While highlighting the various reasons identified in the records, she found more than 17 per cent of persons scheduled for surgery did not arrive at the operating theatre after receiving pre-operative preparation, consultation and admission forms. Additionally, they never notified the hospital they were not going to be present.

Another significant figure provided by Dr. Odle-Cummins was that 15 per cent of cancellations were due to unavailability of nursing staff, while in a small number of cases cancellations were caused by lack of clean linen, not enough surgical equipment, and one case in which a patient "got tired fasting and determined that she just had to eat".

Odle-Cummins said these 214 cancellations amounted to an estimated 193 hours of operating time being lost, at estimated costs of between \$112,200 and \$477,588 per year.

Researchers from the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, have taken the lead role in developing a first-of-its-kind underwater geographical and ecosystems map of the Grenadine Islands in the Eastern Caribbean.

underwater heritage site

Lead researcher on this project is Kim Baldwin, a PhD student in the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) at The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus. In August 2009, Baldwin led a three-week cruise expedition through the Grenadines, conducting an underwater survey of the Grenada Bank located between the main islands of Grenada and St. Vincent. The Grenadines island chain is unique in that three quarters of the Grenada Bank is shallower than 50 m and supports the most extensive coral reefs and related habitats in the south-eastern Caribbean.

Baldwin's project – the Marine Resource and Space-use Information System (MarSIS) Project – is also unique because it brings together data from many sources (including local knowledge) in the development of a transboundary marine space-use information system. It marks a major collaboration effort between multiple organizations across the countries of Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

During the cruise, which was manned by Baldwin, Renata Goodridge, the senior marine/lab technician at CERMES, two Grenadines fishers, a marine park ranger from the Tobago Cays Marine Park, and a local boat captain; critical marine resources such as reefs, seagrasses, and mangroves were identified and mapped. This was achieved through a combination of SCUBA diving in the shallower coastal waters and the deployment of a live-action drop camera off the stern of the catamaran in deeper waters up to 250 ft.

The 3-D baseline marine habitat map of the Grenada Bank that is being developed through the project is expected to aid planning and management in the Grenadines marine environment in order to preserve it for future generations. Furthermore, this research and development of the MarSIS is also expected to lay the foundation for, and aid the designation of the area as a World Heritage Site.

Describing the cruise as a "complete success", Baldwin said the crew was pleased to find that the "ground truthing" proved that the habitat and in-shore maps created through the use of satellite imagery and local knowledge had an extremely high overall accuracy of 85%. She added that they were pleasantly surprised at the extent of coral reef habitat across the deeper waters of the Grenada Bank, with coral cover visible at some 200 ft. deep, which she said boded well for the marine biodiversity and the fisheries in the area because more reefs equals more fish habitat.

The cruise was sponsored by The Moorings, Lighthouse Foundation/ Sustainable Grenadines, Mustique Company, Tobago Cays MarinePark, CERMES-UWI & PADI AWARE Foundation.



L-R: Kim Baldwin (CERMES PhD student) reviewing underwater video footage with two local fishers (Albert Hanson and Kester Douglas)



The next phase will see Baldwin return to the Grenadines in November for a series of workshops wherein the public can get a hands-on look at the information for the first time. A website with the map and other pertinent information is scheduled for launch in early 2010.

Incisive Surgeons

The cutting edge of heart surgery returned to Barbados for four days in May when the Cave Hill Campus of The University of the West Indies hosted the International Medical "Outcomes" conference for the third time at Accra Beach Hotel. Teams of surgeons, anaesthetists, and critical care physicians from around the world gathered to discuss ways to improve patient management during and after heart surgery.

The conference is a prestigious international event with its origins in Key West, Florida where it was held annually from 1997 to 2006. Since 2007, however, explained co-organiser, UWI Professor Clive Landis from the Chronic Disease Research Centre (CDRC), the meeting found a new home in Barbados after he invited colleagues to try the hospitality and facilities of the island.

The conference is jointly sponsored by UWI, the University of Western Ontario in Canada and Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Winston Salem, North Carolina in the United States. Barbados and the UWI are assured further international recognition with the conference proceedings to be published in the Heart Surgery Forum.

Landis explained that the prestige of hosting the conference, coupled with the exceptional research work being done here, had served to raise Barbados' profile in the international medical research community.

"The conference has done a lot for the image of UWI, Cave Hill," Landis said. "When I first moved to UWI in Barbados and attended meetings abroad people used to ask: 'Where have you gone?' People don't ask that any more. They now ask: 'When is the next meeting, and can I come too?' So it really has put us on the map in international circles. The fact is we have invited so many of the world's top opinion leaders here that they all know who we are."

He added: "Here's what's unusual about this conference... A heart surgical team consists of a heart surgeon, an anaesthetist, a perfusionist ..., and various specialist nurses. Usually, each of these disciplines has its own meeting. For example, I am going to the American Society for Extracorporeal Technology — that's where all the perfusionists go, and seldom would you see a surgeon there. But our conference

is unusual because it is deliberately multi-disciplinary; and we don't try to invite the world, we try to invite the leaders in their disciplines and we try to advance new ideas, because we feel that other meetings serve the specialist nuts and bolts needs of each discipline very well. But sometimes the ideas stagnate. We are all governed by these clinical governance regulations and sometimes people forget to stop and think, and so this meeting is an ideas-generating meeting, which has always been tremendously successful in this regard."

During the conference, Barbadian researchers from the CDRC presented their work. Landis reported on work he is leading on behalf of the International Consortium for Evidence-Based Perfusion (ICEBP) to produce evidence-based guidelines to limit the systemic inflammatory response to heart surgery, a life-threatening complication of this type of surgery. He also led discussion to update the Consensus Statement from last year's Outcomes XII symposium, published in the renowned Heart Surgery Forum.

Explaining the importance of this research, Professor Landis said: "The pharmaceutical interventions to limit the complications of heart surgery have failed in the last 20 years. We know that we can fix the heart, that's not the problem. The problem is that in fixing the heart sometimes we can cause problems in the brain and sometimes we cause problems in all sorts of organs due to this nebulous but very serious side effect called systemic inflammatory response."

As he explained, "If there were a major theme that came out in the last three years it is that pharmaceutical interventions have really failed and that we need to redefine the systemic inflammatory response. We need to say first of all that we have made many mistakes in how we have researched it. What we did last year was to come up with a consensus statement of experts on how to conduct research on systemic inflammatory response and that was published in the heart surgery forum.

This year we updated it, making it more practical and we hope to publish it in specialists journals. I have been leading that work... I have also led the work on behalf of the International Consortium for Evidence-based Perfusion on Pharmaceutical Inhibition of the Inflammatory Response.... It is surprising really.

We talk about the evidence base all the time, but there existed no evidence-based review in the literature after 20 years of trying this approach... An international effort has now produced the first guidelines."

According to Landis, "UWI is proud to be at the forefront of such international initiatives which are intended to strengthen the evidence base of clinical decision making". Such initiatives fit well with the stated objective of UWI, Cave Hill to become a leading Postgraduate Research Campus, serving society through the application of research.

Apart from the specialist training offered at the Accra Hotel, two UWI satellite lectures brought the expertise from visiting experts to a more general audience. The first was a lecture organised by Professors Ramesh and Landis at QEH surgical rounds on May 27 given by Professor John Hammon, entitled: **"How research improves our patients lives"**. Professor Hammon, whose visit was sponsored by a UWI Public Lecture Series grant, is a surgeon from the Bowman Gray Medical School in North Carolina, whose research has changed surgical practice, thus indeed improving patient's lives.

The second public lecture on May 28 at the Central Bank of Barbados was open to the general public and was hosted by Anne Matz from the UWI Open Campus as part of its UWI in the Community Lunch-Time lecture series. The lecture was delivered by Professor Dougald "Mac" Monroe, from the University of North Carolina, one of the world's leading blood coagulation gurus who enthralled his audience with a masterful talk on **"Blood clots and blood thinners: how they work in heart attack and stroke"**. Professor Monroe's lecture was followed by an animated panel discussion including QEH neurologist Dr. David Corbin. Dr. Corbin is a clinical director of the flagship Barbados National Registry (BNR) for Heart Attack and Stroke, established at the UWI Chronic Disease Research Centre on behalf of the Ministry of Health, the first such national surveillance registries established in the English-speaking Caribbean.



Professor Clive Landis



Dr. Ian Hambleton

Hi-tech Info Management

“Researchers will be able to use [the system] once they have completed a few tutorials. They will be able to log on from wherever they are and use it to enter their data and store it securely.”

Faculty and student researchers at the Cave Hill Campus of The University of the West Indies should soon have access to a robust and secure, locally designed research data management and storage facility with the capacity to open new business opportunities for the country.

Not long afterwards, individuals and operators of any business enterprise outside the Campus community will also be afforded access to the facility for a fee.

The venture, referred to through its developmental stages simply as the Research Clinic, is the brainchild of mathematician and statistician, Dr. Ian Hambleton, and is taking place under the auspices of the Chronic Disease Research Centre of the UWI, where it is located.

The clinic was started out of the need for the CDRC to have top notch data handling, storage, and management facilities that conform to rigorous international standards in an environment where research can be extremely complex and can go on for many years.

Explaining the path of the project to date, Dr. Hambleton said: “I was at the Mona Campus for a long time before coming to Cave Hill and for all of that time I have been, on an informal basis, offering research design and data management and statistical advice to

students doing mainly masters and doctoral programmes, as well as to colleagues in the medical faculty. That has been going on for some time.

Out of this, it struck me that there are two main barriers to doing research, the first being that there is the issue of knowing how to go about doing the research, which in many ways is not the most difficult. Often the big challenge is that there is no resource, or very limited resources, especially in the area of software with which a researcher can facilitate his work.”

According to Hambleton, for complex research projects a researcher needs a computer programme from which he can control all aspects of the project, and regular off-the-shelf versions such as Excel do not provide this facility.

“What I have done since I came to CDRC three years ago,” Hambleton added, “has been to bring the place up to speed technologically. The idea was for us to move from epidemiology, as we learnt more and more, to intervention... Interventions are a very different kettle of fish when it comes to research. They have far more regulations to follow. So part of my role since I have been here has been bringing the data management up to a level that can support medical trials. That has meant developing an IT infrastructure and implementing different types of software. As part of that I have implemented “OpenClinica”, a database software programme that offers features that allow you to control your project.... It is web-based and that is important. Even more attractive is the fact that it is totally free, which is ideal for Barbados. And because it is web-based, the facility exists to offer it to a much wider audience.”

Hambleton went on to explain, “The idea now, working with the IT Centre at Cave Hill, is to offer the web address within the University community first. This will be the formalisation of the research clinic. As part of this I will be offering a weekly [training session] for persons who want research and project management advice. Researchers will be able to use it once they have completed a few tutorials. They will be able to log on from wherever they are and use it to enter their data and store it securely.”

Phase 2 of the project will be the upgrading of the website to a cutting-edge one with all the bells and whistles that will facilitate the needs of all clients.

“We implemented it first for CDRC for clinical trials, which are very sensitive to data security. Along with the IT Centre at Cave Hill, we have put in place a number of measures which guarantee the highest level of security and we are still adding more security on top of that. All the data will be resident in servers based here at CDRC. Data will be encrypted with industry standard encryption and unless you know the pass phrases to get those data out, it will be virtually impossible to access the information. What it means is you can steal the server, but you can’t get the data. However, we have also established substantial physical security measures at the CDRC building,” he stated.

Dr. Hambleton assured that the online security associated with the Research Clinic was of a similar standard to that employed by credit card companies. Additionally, he noted, persons using the facility would also have the comfort of knowing that the security of the

Continued on P47

Continued from P46

servers was audited by a certified external auditing agency.

"The future looks bright for this initiative. More and more we are being approached by clinical trial companies or their representatives who are looking to do studies in Barbados," Hambleton said. "Assuming they meet all the ethical standards Barbados might set for them, all of these companies are going to look for these kinds of controlled data management environments in which to do their work. This is one way I see the facility as a venture beyond Cave Hill."

Meanwhile, the Clinic has received the blessings of internationally recognised medical researcher, Dr. Clive Landis, who along with colleagues from the CDRC, has been involved in ground-breaking research with the capacity to change the way the world treats chronic diseases such as diabetes.

Dr. Landis explained: "When you do research on patients you are required to go through a lot of governance procedures to make sure you've got the right ethics – that you are not exploiting patients in any way. We have that in place here. But something we didn't really have was the computer infrastructure to capture data and to do so in a paperless way...."

We have invested a lot of time, in association with the IT Department here at Cave Hill. They have set up the parallel servers, the secure room, the secure IP address, the twin air conditioning systems, the soft shutdown of the computers; daily back-ups that go into different safes – the works!"

Landis elaborated, "Everything is there for a paperless data storage facility and we want to advertise that fact so that other people doing research will know. The way we are setting up, people doing research can have their little electronic notebooks on which they can type in their findings from a patient, or if you are doing market research it might be a questionnaire, and those can then be safely sent to our servers. The data is entered directly. There is no paper. And there is double data entry so if you don't enter it correctly twice, the system will ask: Did you really mean 1,000 or was it to be 10,000? We want to make people in the University community aware, and also companies out there that might want to use our services for a fee, that we have the facilities with the expertise and help of the UWI IT department."



Prof. Anselm Hennis

States to facilitate the next stage. Later this year the world will be brought up to date on the research at an international conference in Barcelona.

Diabetes Breakthrough

Years of careful, painstaking research on the treatment of chronic diseases in Barbados by scientists and clinicians appears set to change the way the rest of the developing world confronts challenges such as diabetes.

In fact, researchers at the Cave Hill Campus of The University of the West Indies have developed the prototype for a new "low-cost, non-invasive scanner" that could make the world of difference to medical decisions about amputations brought on by complications of diabetes.

So advanced is the work, revealed Professor Clive Landis of Cave Hill's Chronic Research Disease Centre (CDRC), that the developers have submitted a funding request to the Gates Foundation in the United

Officially called the Light Guide Spectrophotometer, but described by Landis as "a tissue oxygen scanner", the prototype was the result of a collaborative effort that also involved Professor Anselm Hennis of CDRC, David Harrison and Mike Drinnan of Durham University, and Landis' research assistant Andre Greenidge.

The pen-like device will reflect light when pointed at the skin which will tell doctors whether the limbs of someone suffering with diabetes are being properly oxygenated by the blood and should provide valuable information to help doctors determine whether an amputation is necessary.

"That is a pretty big deal..." Landis enthused. "We are also very interested in seeing if it can guide toe amputations. It is sometimes quite tricky to figure out whether we should be amputating a toe or not. The Gates Foundation is very interested in investing in the developing world and this device offers a tremendous niche opportunity. Besides helping assess limbs in diabetic patients, it can also guide diagnoses in lower limb traumatic injuries that often result from conflict or accidents. With it you can do limb viability assessment with just a little field hand-held scanner... We have this. What we develop here has bearing for the rest of the developing world.

So confident is the team about the outcome, said Landis, that "quite honestly, we have already made the decision that even if we are not funded we will press ahead and make an inexpensive prototype that we can then evaluate".

Much research has been done on strokes, heart attacks and diabetes in the developed world, but these findings do not actually apply to us in the developing world..." Landis went on to explain. On the other hand, Hennis' seminal papers, which have all been studied and published in the best medical journals, now provide the opportunity for developing countries to offer treatment responses based on research that is more applicable to their circumstances.

"This is a tremendous niche that Barbados and all the clinical and surgical community here have. What we find out here will inform response to the chronic disease epidemic that is just breaking over the developing world. The WHO estimation is that chronic diseases will be a pandemic across the world by 2030. " According to Barbados' Minister of Health, Donville Inniss, 60 per cent of the ministry's budget, plus 60 per cent of what the Barbados Drug Service spends goes toward chronic diseases. And this is true for the entire developing world. If we pioneer a practical, low-cost solution that will have a market in the developing world, we would have made a tremendous contribution to the improvement of human life all over the world."

"We feel we can make it very cheaply and if Gates does fund us we are confident that it can be a solution for the developing world. We have evaluated a prototype with some colleagues from the University of Durham and were encouraged enough to believe it will work on dark skin ... considering that on pigmented skin you have two challenges – it has to penetrate the skin when you shine the light and it has to reflect back (in the right manner). But we have shown that it is feasible in a small pilot study and now we want to prove it."

The accuracy and effectiveness of computer models used to forecast the intensity and tracks of developing tropical cyclones has improved following the launch of the Weather In-Situ Deployment Optimization Method (WISDOM) project in September of 2008 (<http://wisdom.noaa.gov/>).

The project, which is spearheaded and managed by Dr. Justyna Nicinska of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and co-financed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, aims to gather critical weather information from data sparse regions through which a hurricane is likely to transit. This data will be combined with more traditional data used to initialize Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) models. It is expected that increasing the density of data across the region will improve the precision of the forecast models. Various academic institutions, including the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) which is an affiliate of The University of the West Indies (UWI), collaborated with NOAA in this crucial project.

In keeping with its mission of fostering research in the field of Meteorology, CIMH recommended two students to NOAA to be funded to travel to Miami to attend the launch of the WISDOM project and receive specialized training to support the project. These students formed part of a rapid deployment team that included their peers from the University of Miami. The training provided was specifically geared at preparing the participants for the WISDOM pilot projects in October and November of 2008 which examined the effectiveness of the programme and measured the outcome against the major goals of the project. For the 2008 North Atlantic Hurricane Season, the goal was to launch up to 65 helium inflated balloons 4 to 7 days before two impending major hurricanes. These balloons were to drift at altitudes of 12000 ft and 26000 ft for up to 2 to 10 days. For these tests, only information on winds and position would be gathered. This data would be relayed to a base station in Colorado via the ETC RFID tag 100 gram payload attached to the balloons.

Each WISDOM balloon was inflated in an enclosed area where the temperature, relative humidity and pressure were continuously monitored so as to precisely calculate the mass of the inflated balloon in order to allow the balloon to remain at a constant altitude. The Barbados arm of the WISDOM project was



L-R: CIMH/UWI students Ronald Gordon and Ashford Reyes among participants at WISDOM training session in Miami, Florida. (Photo Courtesy: NOAA)

supported by Chickmont Foods, Animal Flower Cave, Simpson Motors and the Intellicomp Store. In the October simulation, the balloons were launched simultaneously from four sites: Mississippi, Miami, Puerto Rico and Barbados. The CIMH/UWI students spearheaded the launches in Barbados which were quite successful as the balloons stayed afloat for up to 14 days. The November launches were more reflective of a real case scenario due to the presence of Hurricane Paloma over the Western Caribbean. During this launch a total of 16 WISDOM balloons were launched at the Animal Flower Cave in St. Lucy, Barbados. Similar to the October simulation, balloons were launched simultaneously at the above-mentioned sites.

This test was also successful. Overall, for the 2008 North Atlantic Hurricane Season, a total of 78 WISDOM balloons were launched, several of which transmitted data for over 2 weeks. In addition, several additional CIMH students came out to support the launches.

With the 2009 hurricane season ongoing, all eyes are on the Atlantic and Caribbean to see what weather systems will be spawned. In terms of the WISDOM project, the plan is to equip the payloads with improved data gathering capabilities to provide measurements of other meteorological parameters such as temperature, pressure and relative humidity. The ultimate objectives of the project are to improve hurricane track and intensity forecasts accuracy by 20 percent for Days 1 through 5 by the year 2013 and to extend the lead time for hurricane forecast to 7 days. This is all aimed at enhanced disaster mitigation through the



provision of timely advisories and warnings to residents in harm's way. Moreover, being able to predict the area of expected landfall more precisely may translate into substantial savings by reducing costly and often unnecessary evacuations. Hurricane forecasting will perhaps never be an exact science, but with the WISDOM project, residents in disaster prone areas can rest assured that forecasters have one new weapon in their arsenal to assist them in their never-ending endeavour of trying to improve hurricane predictions.

Ronald Gordon, UWI, Cave Hill, Barbados
Ashford Reyes, CIMH, Barbados



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