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news

ISSUE 13 March 2012

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CAVE HILL CAMPUS, BARBADOS

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Producing Global Citizens



Professor Sir Hilary Beckles

Preparing university students to be competitive in a global workforce means they must not only be nurtured on academic excellence but nourished in an environment that offers an international experience. The latter is critical for students to benchmark their skills and knowledge against any academic gold standard.

Adequate tutelage by competent and dedicated faculty can contribute to the nurturing that is needed. Acquiring international experience, however, even in a world-class learning environment, may prove more challenging as this may require that students be exposed to multicultural rather than “monocultural” perspectives.

At The UWI, Cave Hill, through strategic transformation of the learning environment to offer our students an international education, we have long embarked on the process being referred to as internationalization in the higher education discourse. Our staff recruitment and student enrollment are derived from sufficiently diverse backgrounds as to make the Cave Hill academic journey a much sought after intercultural experience.

In addition, dozens of university partnership agreements, many of them initialed since the creation of our International Office in August 2008, currently facilitate student exchanges around the world. Apart from the traditional areas of Europe, the UK, the United States and Canada, Cave Hill students now have the option to study in China, Brazil, Morocco, Portugal, Finland, Sweden, Argentina and increasingly points beyond while students from across the globe are queuing up to visit our shores for their Cave Hill encounter. The exchange is an enriching experience for all involved.

Our staff recruitment and student enrollment are derived from sufficiently diverse backgrounds as to make the Cave Hill academic journey a much sought after intercultural experience.

One significance consequence of this growing influx of international students is the emergence of a burgeoning educational tourism sector. Cave Hill has become a major contributor in the economic development of its host country, not only through the applied knowledge of its graduates, but also the expenditure of an expanding cohort of fee-paying students and their visiting friends and relatives. It is a pleasing development which amply demonstrates symbiosis between the academy and its funding stakeholders as the university pursues its traditional role of teaching and research. While searching for solutions to existing social and economic problems, our demonstrated ability to meet our mandate and contribute to our own upkeep by adding revenue to the state coffers is a notable achievement.

We also believe it is a lesson in self-reliance worthy of emulation by our graduates in whom we aim to dissolve the state dependency syndrome and imbue with a culture of innovation and confidence as they venture into the global job market. ■



Right - Renata Goodrich (L) and Glendon Pile from the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences inspect the UWI Photovoltaic panels

Inset - Glendon Pile gives a demonstration to Afi Farrell

Powering our way into the future

Aiming to transform Barbados into a resource efficient green economy, The University of the West Indies at Cave Hill has positioned itself to be a model example of renewable energy use — embarking on critical international collaborations to help the island achieve its goal.

It is currently transforming the Campus into a Renewable Energy Technology Demonstration Centre, thus seeking to help lower the island's import bills which are adversely affected by the high cost of fuel imports. Spearheading several research and practical initiatives to reduce expenditure on fossil energy, Cave Hill is eyeing the production of environmentally friendly biofuels for long-term economic sustainability.

This follows Prime Minister Freundel Stuart's announcement of March 2011 that his Cabinet had agreed to Cave Hill Campus being a "technical partner" in the first phase — **Green Economy Scoping**

Study — of a collaboration between the government of Barbados and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Stuart defined a green economy in the Barbadian context as "an integrated production, distribution, and waste assimilation system that, at its core, reflects the fragility of our small island ecosystems," adding that a green economy offers a multi-pronged response to the crises in climate, fuel, food, water and the financial system.

Cave Hill's objectives of establishing strategic international partnerships to foster more applied research programmes and create new science-

based careers, received a major boost through agreements negotiated by Dr. Anthony Fisher, Cave Hill's Director of External Relations, which will build capacity at the Campus to conduct biofuels research.



Dr. Anthony Fisher

One such agreement between the Cave Hill Campus and BioJet International (www.biojetcorp.com) establishes a biosciences research and commercial partnership. BioJet International is a global leader across the supply chain in renewable (bio) jet fuel and related co-products, including green diesel for the aviation and related commercial transportation sectors. The firm's operations span the entire biofuel

Continued on Page 4

Continued from Page 3

chain, including the generation of feedstock, technology, refining, logistics, sustainability certification and distribution and eventual end use by the aviation sector worldwide. BioJet is also the first Alternative Fuels Strategic Partner of the International Air Transport Association.

The partnership is intended to develop UWI-Cave Hill's capacity for research into renewable energy technologies, whether from plant, waste biomass or algae, as well as new graduate careers in energy biosciences, and those pertinent to the logistics and supply chain management of biofuel distribution. As part of the agreement, BioJet will fund the creation of the UWI/BioJet International Biofuel Research Institute at Cave Hill, leading to discoveries and commercialization of biofuel. The two parties will share equally in any intellectual property derived from research into microalgae for the production of biofuels and derivatives.

Principal of UWI, Cave Hill Campus, Sir Hilary Beckles, observed that *"this agreement is one of the cornerstone science and technology projects that will undergird the transformation of our Campus and the Region with new career options, and serve as a knowledge-based platform for the creation of wealth through bioenergy research"*.

CEO of BioJet, Mitch Hawkins, said: *"We operate throughout the entire biofuel value chain and research is key to all aspects of our global competitiveness. The Caribbean is a major area of interest for our*

company and we see UWI-Cave Hill as a valuable partner in the future success of our operations. The July 1, 2011 approval of ASTM International allowing 50 percent blends of aviation biofuel derived from feedstocks such as camelina, jatropha and microalgae is a game-changing decision for the worldwide transportation industry and opens up tremendous opportunities for both UWI and BioJet International."

The United Nations Environmental Programme defines a green economy as:

a system of economic activities related to the production, distribution and consumption of goods and services that result in improved human wellbeing over the long term, while not exposing future generations to significant environmental risks and ecological scarcities

This biofuels initiative is a major departure for the Campus and a first for the University, one that requires the collaboration of a host of other international research partners.

Another MOU with the Scottish firm Xanthella (www.xanthella.com) will allow Cave Hill to test their photo-bioreactors under tropical conditions. Photo-bioreactors are essential instruments in the growth of microalgae and a key enabler in



(L-R) President of the Congress of Trade Unions and Staff Associations of Barbados (CTUSAB) Cedric Murrell; Prime Minister of Barbados, Hon. Freundel Stuart and Prof Sir Hilary Beckles at the launch of the Greening Scoping Study

being able to upgrade to commercial production of biofuels.

Similarly, the world renowned J. Craig Venter Institute (www.jcv.org) has agreed to partner with UWI in providing students and researchers with experience in synthetic biology, bioenergy and genomics research.

Agreements under discussion will create a research partnership with the University of South Florida Polytechnic, South Dakota State University and the West Indies Central Sugar Cane Breeding Station (www.wicscbs.org), to focus on production of butanol from fuelcane — an alternative to sugar cane — which when genetically modified to produce high-fibre cellulose, is a superior source of biomass for the production of biofuels.

Pending signature, a recent agreement with SOL Petroleum, a Barbadian energy multinational, will build the 'Simpson Energy Research Laboratory', as well as provide graduate scholarships to support graduate research programs in the biosciences. ■

UWI teams up with Yale in chronic disease study

Medical scientists at The University of The West Indies are partnering with counterparts at Yale School of Medicine, the University of Puerto Rico and the University of the Virgin Islands to study the risk factors and prevalence of heart disease, cancer and diabetes in the Eastern Caribbean.

The collaboration is funded by a US \$5.3 million federal grant and will involve the establishment of the Eastern Caribbean Health Outcomes Research Network (ECHORN) whose coordinating centre will be based at Yale.

UWI researchers Dr. Peter Adams of the Cave Hill Campus and Dr. Rohan Maharaj of the St. Augustine Campus have been named among the principal investigators in a five-year longitudinal study

which began on September 1, 2011 and is expected to conclude by August 31, 2016.

The aim of the study, led by Professor Marcella Nunez Smith, assistant professor of general internal medicine and assistant director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars Programme, is to help improve health outcomes across the Caribbean region by establishing a cross-island surveillance partnership. The study is also expected to increase research capacity and infrastructure within the Caribbean.

Barbados will be one of the sites for coordinating the community-based recruitment of study participants and the data collection. ■



Dr. Peter Adams



Toussaint's Way

A man whose bravery paved the way for the rise of freedom among Blacks and who has come to be widely regarded as the **Forefather of Freedom**, had his memory perpetuated at Cave Hill with a major walkway being named in his honour.

The concourse of the **Errol Barrow Centre for Creative Imagination (EBCCI)** was named the **Toussaint L'Ouverture Way** to celebrate the preeminent figure of the Haitian Revolution who became known as the Liberator of Haiti. The commemoration took place in a ceremony in April 2011, which climaxed with the unveiling of a bronze plaque and the unveiling of a mural painted by Cuban artist **Kadir Lopez Nieves**. The mural bordering the walk highlights the beauty of Haiti.



EBCCI Director, Professor Gladstone Yearwood looks on as Professor George Lamming and Professor Sir Hilary Beckles unveil the mural by Lopez Nieves



Writing Barbados into History

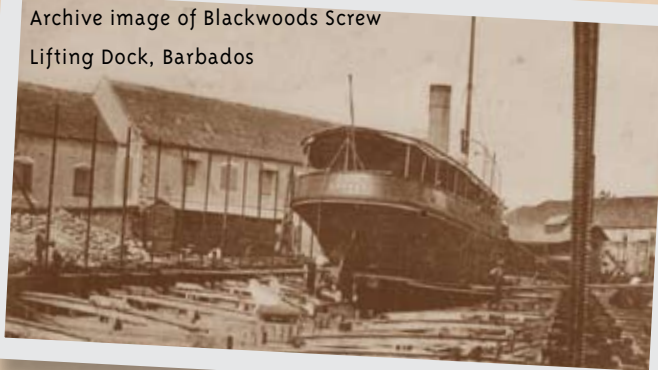
By Tara Inniss PhD

On Saturday, June 25, 2011, Barbadians woke to the news that their capital city was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List at the 35th Meeting of the World Heritage Committee in Paris, France at the UNESCO Headquarters.

Historic Bridgetown and its Garrison was one of the 25 properties inscribed on the prestigious World Heritage List this year and it is only the second cultural heritage property to be inscribed in the English-speaking Caribbean since the inception of the World Heritage Convention in 1972. This was truly a landmark announcement as the region's cultural and natural heritage has continually been under-represented on the World Heritage List. Out of the 936 properties inscribed on the World Heritage List, fewer than 20 are found in the Caribbean sub-region and many of these represent Spanish colonization and settlement.

Historic Bridgetown and its Garrison was established in 1628 as one of the earliest fortified port towns in the Caribbean network of military and maritime-mercantile outposts in the British Atlantic. It quickly became an entrepôt for the export of the tropical staple sugar and other goods as well as for the trafficking of enslaved Africans in the trans-Atlantic slave trade.

Archive image of Blackwoods Screw Lifting Dock, Barbados



Noted for its distinctive 17th century organic street layout resembling English market towns, which is not found in any other Caribbean territory or in the English Americas, *Historic Bridgetown* has continued to support the development and transformation of creolized forms of Caribbean architecture. The town's fortified port spaces remain inextricably linked along the Bay Street corridor from the historic town centre to St. Ann's Garrison, circling around Carlisle Bay, which provided safe harbour for the many ships which made Bridgetown the first port of call after the grueling trans-Atlantic journey.

The property was inscribed because of its retention and evolution of administrative, commercial, cultural

Photos courtesy of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society

Richard P. Browne Jr. Seminar Room

CAVE HILL SALUTES A BENEFACTOR

American lawyer, Richard P. Browne whose generosity to Cave Hill through the years has facilitated several health initiatives has been honoured by the campus. A seminar room at the Chronic Disease Research Centre (CDRC) located at Jemmotts Lane now bears his name.

Browne has donated close to half a million dollars over the past decade to support various health-related projects. ■

From L-R: Richard Browne, Campus Principal Sir Hilary Beckles, former Director of CDRC, Professor Henry Fraser and his successor Professor Anselm Hennis

and residential functions within the colonial and post-colonial urban space. Its cosmopolitan culture, drawn largely from Africa and Europe, produced outstanding examples of architecture, including St. Ann's Garrison, colonial warehouses and dock facilities, including the Bridgetown Dry or "Screw" Dock (the only such facility remaining in the world).

Researchers in the Department of History and Philosophy at Cave Hill Campus played a major role in compiling the historical information for the property's nomination dossier and worked strategically with partners in government, the Barbados Museum and Historical Society and private researchers. The Department's research team included Professor Pedro Welch, a well-known historian on Bridgetown and its maritime heritage, and Dr. Tara Inniss, a Barbados social historian and technical advisor for UNESCO in Barbados, as well as several graduate students.

UWI has been involved in the World Heritage process from the very beginning of the Government's discussions with stakeholders regarding the selection of sites for submission to World Heritage Tentative List and the preparation of nomination dossiers. Over the last four years, research was intensified and the nomination dossier was finally submitted to the World Heritage Centre in 2010. It then went through a rigorous evaluation by World Heritage advisory bodies and the international World Heritage Committee.

A particular strength of the dossier was the body of scholarship on Barbados that supported the nomination. The high-quality research that has been produced on (and for) this 'rock' is enviable. The dossier was driven by the work of scholars like Barry Higman, Hilary Beckles, Jerome Handler, Pedro Welch, Karl Watson and others.

UWI continues to be an integral member of the Barbados World Heritage Committee, which is the governmental body charged with oversight of our new World Heritage property and all other World Heritage matters. The remit of UWI on this committee involves education, research and capacity-building to promote and preserve the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. Members of the Department of History and Philosophy are working hard to leverage the new inscription to promote history teaching and learning at all levels of Barbadian society as well as to build capacity for our graduates, so they can be deployed into the job opportunities that will result in heritage tourism and development. ■



Professor Pedro Welch (L) and Dr. Tara Inniss

Archive image of Hawkers in Bridgetown



Archive image of Men loading lighters in the Careenage



Researchers in the Department of History and Philosophy at Cave Hill Campus played a major role in compiling the historical information for the property's nomination dossier and worked strategically with partners in government, the Barbados Museum and Historical Society and private researchers.

Graduation Class 2011 witnessed a further strengthening of the growing academic and cultural ties between the Caribbean and Africa with the conferral of an honorary degree on a leading South African educator.

Professor Kwesi Prah was among a list of five eminent world citizens on whom the UWI, Cave Hill conferred honorary degrees. Others included Bishop of Barbados and Archbishop of the West Indies **Reverend Dr John Holder**, **Professor Emeritus Compton Bourne** and Canada-based Barbadians **Dr Shirley Brathwaite** and **Professor Keith Sandiford**.

Professor Prah, the featured speaker at an October 22 evening ceremony, used his first visit to the region to propose that the development of African languages as an educational tool was the only way of culturally empowering the masses of African society.

"It is the one way we can remove the cultural cleavage between the elite and mass society," he said, arguing

that in post-colonial Asia, local languages have become the main instrument for the development of Asian societies.

He rejected arguments that favour instruction in colonial languages because there were too many African languages as *"fanciful and scientifically baseless,"* stating: *"In Europe, in spite of the wide knowledge and usage of English, practically each European country uses its own language or languages for education and at all levels in wider social intercourse."*

Prah added: *"It is a question of the inertia or hesitation of the authorities and elites to accede to the use of African languages. Indeed, an important part of the instrumental qualities of elite status,*

Education for Development



Professor Kwesi Prah

power and influence in post-colonial or neo-colonial Africa is precisely the command and use of the erstwhile colonial languages."

UWI Chancellor **Sir George Alleyne** also touched on the theme of education for development, lauding governmental support for tertiary education.

"Tertiary education . . . reduces the degree of inequality in society. It levels the playing field and allows those who are intellectually gifted but financially challenged to play on that same field. Tertiary education in universities is necessary for the creation, dissemination and application of knowledge and ... innovation. Countries that do not have and do not use this capacity are destined for the dust bins of history...," he said.

More than 1200 students graduated comprising 80 with first class honours and 260 postgraduates including 17 postgraduates who earned research degrees. ■



Left : L-R: Prof. Prah, Prof. Compton Bourne, Rev. Dr. John Holder, Dr. Shirley Brathwaite and Prof. Keith Sandiford

Chancellor's Medal Bestowed on Sir Shridath



Chancellor Sir George Alleyne (L) presents medal to Sir Shridath Ramphal

It is a unique and exclusive club to which only the most dedicated and distinguished are admitted – and now there's a new name among its members.

On October 20, 2011, celebrated regional statesman and Chancellor Emeritus of UWI, **Sir Shridath Ramphal**, joined the list of luminaries who have received the coveted Chancellor's Medal: a special award of distinction to a person who has made a signal, substantial and lasting contribution to the welfare and development of The University of the West Indies, or has enabled the University to access significant resources for the achievement of its mission of unlocking the region's potential through delivering quality higher education through teaching, outreach, service and research.

In a ceremony at Cave Hill Campus, the former Commonwealth Secretary-General humbly accepted the medal from UWI Chancellor, **Sir George Alleyne**, and took his place alongside the likes of **Sir Philip Sherlock**, **Sir Alister McIntyre**, **the Most Honourable P. J. Patterson** and most recently, **Vice-Chancellor Emeritus**, **the late Professor Rex Nettleford**, as a recipient of this impressive honour.

"This institution is rich in its traditions. One of the traditions that is enriching us more and more is the tradition of recognising excellence; recognising those from among us who have demonstrated that excellence and it is in that spirit that The University of the West Indies recognises Sir Shridath Ramphal," said Sir George, in presenting the medal.

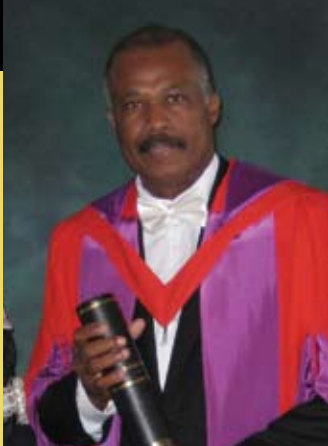
Described as the *"quintessential Caribbean person"* and *"a much sought-after negotiator"* who has served on several international commissions to consider global issues, Guyana-born Sir Shridath was his country's first Attorney General and later Minister of Foreign Affairs and Justice. He also chaired the West Indies Commission, set up in the early 1990s to chart the course for West Indies integration and he was later appointed Chief Negotiator for CARICOM on international economic negotiations.

In accepting the medal, Sir Shridath expressed profound gratitude to and appreciation for the University.

"To join the company of such icons of the University... is beyond my expectations. Mere thanks are inadequate, but I assure you that it comes from a full heart," he told those attending the ceremony. ■

Proud Legacy of Achievement

The stellar contributions and accomplishments of The University of the West Indies academics continue to be applauded and rewarded regionally and internationally, bringing further distinction to the institution. CHILL congratulates the latest honourees and takes this opportunity to capsulize their accomplishments.



CAVE HILL CAMPUS, PRINCIPAL – PROFESSOR SIR HILARY BECKLES

The University of Glasgow in Scotland conferred the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters on **Sir Hilary Beckles** at its graduation on June 29, 2011. It was his third honorary doctorate. He received similar honour from the University of Hull in England, his alma mater, and the Kwame Nkrumah University in Ghana.

Stating that this award recognises persons “who have achieved great distinction in their field”, the university noted that Sir Hilary had met this standard in respect of his “*academic research into the transatlantic slave trade and plantation slavery.*”

Sir Hilary has published seven books on various aspects of Caribbean history and more than a hundred academic essays, most of them innovative and pioneering, and opening new areas of study for younger scholars. Responding to this latest accolade, he said: “It is a great honour for The University of the West Indies, the community of historians especially, and all of my students who have engaged me in critical discussion and reflection for the better part of three decades.

“I am particularly pleased because the University of Glasgow is an historic academy with an outstanding legacy of brilliant scholarship. To be invited to be a part of this tradition is a double delight.” ■

CAVE HILL CAMPUS, DEPUTY PRINCIPAL – PROFESSOR EUDINE BARRITEAU

Professor Eudine Barriteau received the 10th Caribbean Community Triennial Award for Women, the region’s highest honour for women. Conferment took place in St. Kitts in June, during the formal opening of the 32nd meeting of Caribbean Heads of Government, for what the CARICOM Secretariat said was “her remarkable contribution to the field of gender and development and her role as a powerful exemplar of self-respect, self-discipline, vision and leadership”.

The Triennial Award for Women was introduced in 1983 to recognise and honour Caribbean women who have made significant contributions to socio-economic development at the national and regional levels.

Professor Barriteau has served as a regional educator for nearly 40 years and the Caricom Secretariat said her illustrious career was underpinned by an equally impressive academic sojourn.

In her acceptance speech, the former Head of the Nita Barrow Unit, Centre for Gender and Development Studies at Cave Hill, said her award was one for all women of the Caribbean, and called on regional governments and policymakers to remain committed to gender justice and the right of each Caribbean woman to self determination, as well as economic, political and social autonomy. ■



Eudine Barriteau receiving her medal from P.M. of St Kitts & Nevis, Dr. Denzil Douglas



VICE CHANCELLOR – PROFESSOR E. NIGEL HARRIS

An internationally-renowned rheumatologist, **Professor E. Nigel Harris** was honoured by his homeland, Guyana, with the conferment of that country's third-highest national award — the Cacique Crown of Honour (CCH).

This accolade, which he received during celebrations marking Guyana's 45th anniversary of independence in May 2011, was given in recognition of Harris' contribution to education. UWI Vice Chancellor since 2004, he is also currently chairman of the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC), the Epidemiology Research Centre (CAREC) and the UWI Institute of International Relations. He was recently elected chairman of the London-based Association of Commonwealth Universities. ■

ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS, PRINCIPAL – PROFESSOR CLEMENT SANKAT

Guyana's 45th anniversary of Independence was also memorable for **Professor Clement Sankat** who received his country's third-highest national award — The Cacique Crown of Honour (CCH) — for his contribution to education.

The St. Augustine Principal, who has been engaged in departmental faculty for more than 30 years, chaired the Vision 2020 Sub-committee on Science, Technology and Innovation for Trinidad and Tobago and was the lead author of the Committee's final report. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Metal Industries Company Ltd. (MIC), Caribbean Industrial Research Institute (CARIRI) and is Chair of the Board of Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business (ALJGSB) and the UWI School of Business and Applied Studies Limited (ROYTEC). ■



OPEN CAMPUS, PRINCIPAL – PROFESSOR HAZEL SIMMONS-McDONALD

Professor Hazel Simmons-McDonald was proclaimed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List of June 2011 for her service and contribution to education.

Prof. Simmons-McDonald, who served as Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education at Cave Hill, has had a 40-year career in academia, beginning in 1970 as a teacher of language and literature at St. Joseph's Covent Secondary School in her native St. Lucia.

In 2008, this well-published author was appointed the first Principal of the UWI Open Campus, a primarily virtual campus. Prof. Simmons-McDonald has done extensive research on reading and literacy in Grenada, St. Lucia and Barbados and has written primary school texts and resource material in English and Kweyol. She has produced a significant body of work which is part of the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) syllabus and the new Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Harmonized Language Arts Curriculum and Teachers' Guides. ■

AWARDS

Five highly deserving employees at Cave Hill campus have joined the honour roll of distinguished winners of the *Principal's Award for Excellence*. The latest recipients of the coveted prize were maintenance worker, Wilbur Barrow; administrative assistants, Natasha Corbin and Kay Browne; and lecturers, Dr. Eddy Ventose and Professor Jane Bryce.

HIGH FIVE

Abiding by the motto, *"I come to the job in peace and I shall leave in peace,"* **Wilbur Barrow** has drawn constant paean for dwelling in industrious harmony with the people and plants he lives among; departmental colleagues and the foliage he fawns over as he attends to his duties meticulously.

Renown for carrying out his gardening and maintenance duties with skill, efficiency and pride since joining the university community

in 1979, Barrow's work ethic over the past 32 years has attracted lavish praise in an environment where the encomiums frequently fall on academic pursuit. He, along with administrative assistants, Natasha Corbin and Kay Browne; and faculty members, Professor Jane Bryce and Dr. Eddy Ventose, was the envy of colleagues across the campus community when the five earned a coveted place in the annual honour roll of distinguished winners of the *Principal's Award for Excellence*.



Wilbur Barrow

Natasha Corbin



Natasha Corbin, deemed efficient, keen and eager to undertake projects within or outside her stated job description, is regarded as an energetic powerhouse with an exceptional ability to plan and manage projects. Since joining the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences seven years ago, she has become intimately involved in several facets of its work whether

administrative, outreach or research. She is responsible for liaising with UWI colleagues in the development and implementation of workshops, career fairs, graduate fairs and Research Day activities; she manages the Faculty Consultancy Funds, and provides support in arranging visiting lecturer seminars and related educational events.

Also considered a lifeline in that Faculty is **Kay Browne** who, since becoming Administrative Assistant to the Dean in 2001, is involved in every aspect of the faculty's daily business. Revered for her enviable rapport with lecturers and students, this faculty expert on all aspects of Banner, the university's comprehensive computer information system, has been closely associated with its integration into both Departmental and Faculty operations. She often works well beyond the call of duty to ensure all tasks are properly completed.



Kay Browne

Dr. Eddy Ventose



Dr. Eddy Ventose has been a senior lecturer in law since 2006 and has made a significant contribution to faculty and university life; lecturing in Intellectual Property law, Administrative Law and the Law of Corporate Finance in the LLB Programme, as well as in Insurance Law and the Law of Corporate Management. He has also produced an enormous amount of scholarly work of such high quality that his publications are regularly cited by leading scholars in journals of international repute.

Professor Jane Bryce's name is synonymous with African Literature and Cinema as academic disciplines at Cave Hill campus. A lecturer in the Department of Language, Linguistics and Literature, her career at Cave Hill has been distinguished by her outstanding and pioneering work not only in African Literary and Cinematic Studies (her primary area of expertise) but also in Caribbean literature and culture – specifically the promotion and development of creative writing through formal courses, outreach workshops and the annual publication of *Poui: Cave Hill Journal of Creative Writing*. ■



Prof. Jane Bryce

SPORTING EXPERIENCE THRILLS FOREIGN STUDENTS

Canadians, Americans and other international students mixed with their Caribbean peers to represent Cave Hill Campus in the 2011 Inter-Campus UWI Games last year.

The global melting pot of athletic talent was most evident on the Blackbirds' women's football team which boasted four international members. They all agreed it was perfect timing that their studies in Barbados coincided with the Campus' hosting of the biennial multi-sport event, providing an added dimension to their exchange experience.

Nicole Bates from Queen's University in Ontario, Canada, who spent a semester at Cave Hill, said the opportunity to participate in the games widened her perspective of the Caribbean.

"During the exchange programme we just spent time with the (other) foreign students, but during the games I got to spend time with many people from all over the region.

I came in thinking that everyone from the Caribbean was the same and I've learned how different each island is from the other. It was so cool meeting people from all over the Caribbean and bonding with my women's football teammates. I didn't feel like an exchange (student). None of us (non-Caribbean students) did. We just felt like part of the team."

Amanda Reed, from Rutgers University, USA, described the UWI Games as a mini-Olympics and she too was thrilled to interact with persons of various nationalities. Her biggest lessons were being pushed to adapt and understand other cultures and realizing that everyone is different while sharing certain things in common.

"I just loved hanging out with everyone," she declared. "Oh, and we love the Blackbirds!"



Reflecting on the differences between students at Cave Hill and those back at her home school, Reed said: "I found that people here actually want to learn and not

just get good grades. Plus, with all the activities and the friendly atmosphere, it's pretty hard to get stressed out."

Biology major from University of California, Berkeley **Jenny Zhang** acknowledged the games as one of the highlights of her four months at Cave Hill. She was particularly impressed with the emphasis on and promotion of sport.

"We really appreciated being able to participate in this event, even though we are North Americans," she said. "It shows us how open to diversity this school is."

Lindsey Ryan from Haverford College in Pennsylvania also spoke highly of her games experience, saying it was unforgettable and that she will always remember Cave Hill fondly and will hold the institution in high regard. ■



Cave Hill - Home of 'Blackbirds' Champions



Athletes and fans in photo session at a celebratory ceremony after the games

The Cave Hill Blackbirds had the last chirp. Seizing full home-turf advantage, athletes representing the Cave Hill Campus wrested the **2011 Inter-Campus UWI Games** title from defending champions Mona Campus last May.



The hosts romped to victory in style, amassing 108 points to 72 points by sister campuses Mona and St. Augustine, who tied for second place. Almost 400 athletes and officials participated in 84 matches over eight days of competition.

While Mona retained their track and field dominance, Cave Hill won six of the ten contested disciplines – lawn tennis, hockey, volleyball, basketball, cricket and netball – to emerge triumphant overall. Table tennis, swimming and football completed the roster of events staged.

During the final men's basketball game between the Blackbirds and the Mona Pelicans, an altercation involving players from both teams interrupted the game with 3 mins 39 secs of play left. Cave Hill was eventually declared the winners.

Chair of the Local Organising Committee, **Professor Eudine Barriteau**, deemed the games a success, noting the conduct of athletes, whether on-field, at the athletes' village or elsewhere was highly commendable and exemplified the camaraderie among the campuses. She also praised the conduct of the scores of passionate fans who supported the teams and the level of the organisation and smooth running of the games over its eight day staging. Barriteau — the Deputy Principal of Cave Hill Campus — hailed the games as "a proud moment for Cave Hill and UWI".

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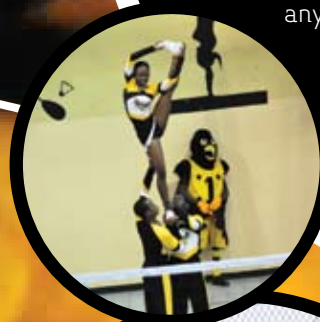


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Noting that Cave Hill established five of the six new records set at the games, in gaining its fifth UWI Games title, Barriteau said Cave Hill looked forward to defending its championship when the next Games are hosted in Jamaica by Mona in 2013.

Dalton Myers, acting Director of Sports at Mona Campus and his St. Augustine counterpart **Lystra Francia** echoed Barriteau's sentiments about the athletes' conduct, praised the games' organisation and said it was a resounding success in demonstrating regional unity. Both said the basketball incident did not mar the overall spirit of the games and added that social interaction among players from Mona and Cave Hill basketball team at the closing ceremony did not suggest any strain or fracture in relations between the teams, the campuses or any regional nations involved.

Last year's Inter-Campus UWI Games saw the introduction of anti-doping testing which, Barriteau noted, bolstered the calibre of the event. ■



Cave Hill mascot Chilli celebrates!



UWI

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Join the tradition of excellence

Athletes on the Pro Track

The Academy of Sport's evolution into an elite, international multi-sport centre is well under way. This state-of-the-art enterprise will cater to students wanting to pursue careers as professional athletes as Cave Hill Campus further combines academics and sport.



Amanda Reifer

According to Sport Promotion Coordinator, **Amanda Reifer**, the next step in this merger will be the introduction of a BSc and MSc in sport science.

"This is necessary to allow greater research in sport as well as to ensure more qualified professionals graduate from the programme and contribute to the development of sport at a national and regional level," she elaborated, noting that the Academy has forged relationships with professors from the UK, USA, Canada and Europe who will assist in developing the curricula for these degree programmes.

Reifer noted that construction of various phases of the Academy is progressing well and that other sport disciplines will soon have a home at UWI.

"We currently have the world class 3Ws Oval (for cricket), a hockey astroturf and a modern football field. Paradise Park will be transformed into a modern sporting complex with an indoor gymnasium, tennis courts and Olympic-size pool," she outlined.

"The Ryan Brathwaite Athletic Track will be laid later this year. Not only will these facilities generate revenue to sustain our programmes, but they will launch Cave Hill onto the world scene as the top sporting university in the region. Regional and international tournaments will be hosted at Cave Hill, thereby raising the profile of

the Campus."

The Academy will also be hiring expert coaches from across the region to work with the elite athletes, tailoring programmes to meet each athlete's requirements. This specialized training will be supplemented by a student-athlete mentorship programme, which is already in place, to help students balance their sporting and academic commitments.

"Counselling is also available to guide athletes in developing good study habits, in selecting courses, and in adopting healthy lifestyles," said Reifer.

"Our ultimate goal is for our elite athletes to develop the skills and best practices necessary to compete at the highest level in their sport. Those who don't reach this level will still be able to make valuable contributions to their society."

Cave Hill's focus on sport development is already bearing fruit as evidenced by a number of enviable sporting achievements in recent years. In 2011, the Cave Hill Blackbirds won the UWI Inter-Campus Games, the cricketers were crowned champions of the Barbados Cricket Association's Division One competition for the third consecutive year and its netballers gained promotion from Division Three to Division Two in the national league. ■

"Our ultimate goal is for our elite athletes to develop the skills and best practices necessary to compete at the highest level in their sport. Those who don't reach this level will still be able to make valuable contributions to their society."

QUALITY REVOLUTION AT CAVE HILL

Could the pursuit of excellence really be achieved in a mere eight steps?

Koelle Boyce, Quality Assurance Coordinator in the Campus Quality Assurance Office (CQAO), admits that that would be too good to be true. Undaunted though, she insists that a simple framework can, at least, help to bring the goal within reach. Admitting that it is a work in progress, she offers a straightforward model that guides her decision-making on everyday tasks and major initiatives alike — **Eight Steps to Excellence**.

For the moment, Eight Steps remains an internal quality assurance tool, being trialled and tweaked in the course of the work of the CQAO. This work ranges from conducting research on stakeholders' needs, expectations and levels of satisfaction, through coordinating activities to enhance administrative, academic and service excellence, to monitoring academic standards as a member of the Academic Quality Assurance Committee and Academic Board. Significantly, CQAO is also responsible for developing and implementing campus-level policies and procedures for assurance and enhancement of the quality of the student experience at UWI, Cave Hill. So, Eight Steps may well enjoy wider relevance.

At its humble beginnings, what is it all about? Boyce explains that the

framework is one possible tool for operationalising excellence. Establishing and sustaining a reputation as a centre of excellence for learning, research, sport and creative activity means that everything that happens at UWI Cave Hill must contribute to its overarching aim of developing people and knowledge for the benefit of West Indian society. This means that students must leave fully-qualified to make a contribution to society in their respective fields. Likewise, the University's contribution to the body of knowledge, through research and innovation, should be as substantial as that of any other institution of higher learning.

To ensure that students and scholars attain their full potential means that the institution has a responsibility to not only set the bar and provide support in achieving excellence, but also to refrain from doing anything that undermines the effort to excel. That, in a nutshell, describes total quality management at Cave Hill — just what the framework attempts to achieve by providing a handy checklist for ensuring that any project or task achieves its intended outcomes in the best possible way. It draws on some basic principles for effective

Eight Steps to Excellence

1. **Contributing** to the achievement of the University's strategic goals and mission.
2. Understanding and accounting for **stakeholders' needs**, both in terms of end results and in terms of the means employed to achieve them.
3. Understanding which **resources** are required for successful implementation and checking that they are available.
4. **Optimising** the use of resources (financial and non-financial).
5. Keeping stakeholders **apprised and advised** and encouraging their feedback.
6. **Establishing measures** of successful implementation and checking them.
7. **Checking** that the quality of other aspects of students' educational experience is not adversely affected.
8. **Ensuring** that the benefits of the initiative can be sustained into the future.



planning and management, and sets these within the context of UWI's mission and strategic goals.

As a working document, the Eight Steps to Excellence framework takes shape as a one-page, quick-to-complete form. Noting that the order of the steps is not fixed, Boyce gives the example of applying Eight Steps to a recent CQAO project — the New Student Survey (NSS).

The NSS is an online survey conducted among students who joined UWI Cave Hill for the first time in August/September 2011. It examined their levels of satisfaction with the

Koelle Boyce joined UWI Cave Hill as the Quality Assurance Coordinator in June 2011. Before this, she was the Market Research & Intelligence Officer at King's College, London. A native of Trinidad, she has also worked as the manager and customer service and manager, marketing at First Citizens Bank, Trinidad and Tobago.

information, services, amenities and support provided during the processes of application, orientation and registration, in order to enable departments to plan and implement improvements to better meet the needs of future student cohorts.

At Step 2 (stakeholder needs), apart from the obvious result of identifying areas for commendation and opportunities for improvement in the support provided during orientation, the framework teased out needs related to the way the research would be conducted. Students, for example, would want to engage with a feedback process (the survey) that was as straightforward as possible. They were also likely to have a strong interest in finding out what response or action resulted from their feedback. The other main stakeholders — internal departments at Cave Hill — would want to ensure that the survey was not an exercise in 'scapegoating', and that their resource constraints and current methods of operating were understood first, even as they welcomed valuable insights on how they could improve these operations. The Quality Assurance Coordinator was able to gauge these both informally (through conversations with Guild representatives and heads of department across Campus) and more formally through scheduled meetings and email correspondence with heads of departments. These Step 2 considerations resulted in a commitment to publicly report the results of the survey and to get participating departments to indicate how they intended to use

its findings, in order to satisfy students' need for information. Similarly, special care was taken to circulate a draft questionnaire to all departments which would be assessed and to get in touch with them to develop a clear understanding of their operations before the final instrument was prepared.

Major initiatives aside, Eight Steps can apply equally to everyday tasks or routine customer service encounters. Imagine that you are a cashier at the Bursary tasked with processing students' payment of fees. Imagine spending five minutes at the start of the day to remember how your role contributes to the University's goals of delivering a positive learning experience on Campus and developing a more people-centred administrative culture (Step 1 — contributing to the mission). At Step 2 (stakeholder needs), understanding what the students needs from you (not least of all, no additional stress in their busy study day) would prompt you, for example: to ensure that you were familiar with all of the processes for the transaction at hand, to be prepared to clearly explain how things work, which fees apply, and so on; and, if you were really committed, to warmly wish him a productive day at the end of the encounter.

As a quality assurance tool, Boyce does not pretend that applying the framework removes all challenges. With the New Student Survey, for



example, despite her prior recognition of the fact that the need to get input from colleagues across the campus would take them away from pressing tasks at registration time (Step 7 of the framework: external effects), and despite consequent effort to ensure flexibility on the part of the CQAO and to stretch lead times for responses to the CQAO's requests for reviews as far as possible, disruption to their other work was inevitable. Nevertheless, she's quite sure that the follow up process will avoid this pitfall by starting much earlier. So, even if quality cannot always be guaranteed the first time around in a mere eight steps, at the very least, the framework helps to highlight one or two strategies that will enhance quality of outcomes and processes the next time around. ■

Want to find out more about the Eight Steps to Excellence Framework or about how the Campus Quality Assurance Office supports departments at Cave Hill in the pursuit of excellence? Email the Quality Assurance Coordinator at campusquality@cavehill.uwi.edu

Special Students: Special Needs

An often inaccurate assumption is that all students arrive at university with adequate functional capacity to reap the benefits offered in a higher education environment. The reality is that frequently university classes may include students with disabilities that require special attention if their educational desires are to be met.

With an aim to provide an “environment that supports excellence,” including adequate nurturing for those with visible or non-visible disabilities, The University of the West Indies seeks to sensitize those delivering education on its behalf with the special skills or knowledge they require for the job.

To make lecturers more aware of the often unique needs of such tertiary level students, a consultant psychologist **Beverly Drakes** joined the Instructional Development Unit at Cave Hill to engage lecturers on the topic: *The Effective Lecturer- Teaching Students with Special Needs*.

She disclosed that while visible disabilities such as blindness, visual impairment and mobile challenges are easily discernable, hidden or non-visible ones that affect hearing or many medical conditions that influence concentration, focus and processing, whether temporary or permanent, can also be deleterious to students’ ability to learn.

Lecturers of the postgraduate Certificate in University Teaching and Learning (CUTL) programme heard from Drakes that many of these students if undiagnosed or, diagnosed and left to deal with university life alone, will become frustrated and may drop out of class. The key, as she reported, is for lecturers to be aware of the signs of learning disabilities and challenges and for the university to address accessibility issues in the classroom and around the institution. She introduced lecturers to the following disabilities or challenges which may affect teaching and learning and suggested some ways to address them. ■

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder - ADHD

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a neurological disorder, which involves a deficit in *executive function*. The student’s level of *executive function* determines his/her effectiveness at planning, organizing, recognizing errors, and utilizing working memory.

Symptoms of dysfunction include:

- ✗ Difficulty organizing materials and academic work
- ✗ Forgetting instructions
- ✗ Difficulty getting started and finishing work
- ✗ Difficulty memorizing facts and calculating problems
- ✗ Difficulty writing essays or reports

What can lecturers do?

- ✓ Provide extra assistance with the development of study skills, time management and organization (*keeping a checklist of tasks helps*).
- ✓ Provide clear and concise instructions for academic assignments.

Asperger’s Syndrome

Asperger’s Syndrome (AS) is a developmental disorder that is characterized by limited interests in things which the lecturer may view as important or by an unusual preoccupation with a particular subject such as horses, cars or movies to the exclusion of other activities. It is a part of the Autism spectrum of disorders.

What can lecturers do?

- ✓ Be aware that depression and anxiety disorders are often comorbid with AS.
- ✓ Facilitate social interaction with others through careful group placement.
- ✓ Help the student to develop a list of routine practices, for example, where lectures will be held, what the library and class rules are, etc.
- ✓ Repeat instructions and material when possible particularly when you digress to make a point. AS students cannot differentiate between asides or humour and the significant content of the lecture.

Visual Processing Disorder

Visual processing or perceptual disorder refers to a hindered ability to make sense of information taken in through the eyes. This is different from problems involving sight, for example, loss of vision or reduced sharpness of vision. Difficulties with visual processing affect how visual information is interpreted or processed by the brain.

What can lecturers do?

- ✓ Be aware and monitor progress of the student's skills and abilities in order to make the necessary accommodations in classroom structure and/or materials.
- ✓ Use varying modes of transmission of information.

Working Memory Capacity Problems

According to Baddeley (1992), the term working memory refers to a brain system that provides temporary storage and manipulation of the information necessary for such complex cognitive tasks as language comprehension, learning, and reasoning. This definition has evolved from the concept of a unitary short-term memory system. Working memory has been found to require the simultaneous storage and processing of information.

Difficulties experienced by persons with working memory problems include:

- ✗ Difficulties following instructions
- ✗ Problems with learning activities that require both storage and processing
- ✗ Place-keeping challenges
- ✗ Inattention, short attention span

What can lecturers do?

- ✓ Use a topical story, scenario, movie clip, song or cartoon as a "hook" to activate prior knowledge about the subject to be introduced. This will allow students to connect the new information to existing knowledge in their mental memory network in a meaningful way.
- ✓ Encourage the memorization of facts and knowledge through the use of mnemonics and other memory devices to provide the scaffolding for higher order thinking.
- ✓ Teach note taking strategies that can enhance memory

The University of the West Indies seeks to sensitize those delivering education on its behalf with the special skills or knowledge they require for the job ...

Dyslexia

According to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Strokes, dyslexia is a brain-based type of learning disability that specifically impairs a person's ability to read. When displayed by students, they may typically read at levels significantly lower than expected despite having normal intelligence. Although the disorder will vary from student to student, common characteristics include difficulty with phonological processing (the manipulation of sounds), spelling, and/or rapid visual-verbal responding.

What can lecturers do?

- ✓ Encourage good organizational skills through the use of folders and dividers to keep work easily accessible and in an orderly fashion.
- ✓ Break tasks down into small easily remembered pieces of information.
- ✓ If visual memory is poor, copying must be kept to a minimum. Notes, handouts or the recording of lectures are far more useful.
- ✓ Provide the dyslexic student with advance warning and pre-selected reading material if you require him/her to read aloud in class.
- ✓ Encourage your dyslexic students, since they may have a poor self-esteem. Let them know that having dyslexia does not mean that they are lacking in intelligence or ability.
- ✓ Alternative ways of recording should be given as options for those students who need to hear your lecture over and over in order to process it.
- ✓ More time should be allocated for completion of work because of the extra time a dyslexic student needs for reading, planning, rewriting and proofreading written work. This allocation of extra time is often necessary during examinations when the student is under pressure to function.

-- Trailblazer Saluted --

The legacy and contribution of retired lecturer *Professor Emeritus Henry Fraser* have been fittingly acknowledged with the naming of the auditorium in the Faculty of Medical Sciences in his honour.

Family, colleagues and friends gathered in the auditorium during March 2011 to toast the multi-talented Barbadian doctor and to witness the Minister of Education and Human Resource Development, Ronald Jones, unveil a plaque commemorating the tribute to a humbled and grateful Fraser.

Vice Chancellor Professor E. Nigel Harris testified to Fraser's pedigree, both professionally and personally, noting that such heroes who have "blazed a trail" deserve to be celebrated.

In his feature address, Jones elaborated on Fraser's extensive curriculum vitae, confessing that he was in awe that the professor had sufficient time to accomplish his many achievements.

"He was either working hard, studying, writing some paper, contributing to some journal, being part of some institution of some body, chairing something, writing

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Naming ceremony of the Henry Fraser Lecture Theatre: (L-R) Dr Paul Altman, Chairman, Cave Hill Campus Council; Prof Sir Hilary Beckles, Principal; the Hon Ronald Jones, Minister of Education; Prof Henry Fraser and Prof E. Nigel Harris, Vice-Chancellor.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN FOCUS

When the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) held a historic first-ever meeting in the English-speaking Caribbean last October, UWI Cave Hill had the distinction of hosting two panel discussions and a roundtable symposium on day two of the three-day gathering.



Prof Rose-Marie Antoine



Tracy Robinson

It was the second time within a few months that the two institutions were being linked following the election of two senior academics in the UWI Faculty of Law as commissioners to the human-rights body which sits in Washington and serves the United States, Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean. **Professor Rose-Marie Belle Antoine** – Professor of Labour Law & Offshore Financial Law – and **Tracy Robinson** – Senior Lecturer in Gender, Family Law and Constitutional



President of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Judge Diego Garcia-Sayán, addressing the session as Spanish lawyer Arantxa Villanueva (centre) and the CCJ's Justice Winston Anderson look on.

Law – were elected members of IACHR at the 41st Regular Session of the Organisation of American States (OAS) General Assembly, held in San Salvador last June. Both began serving a four-year term on January 1, this year. For the first time, two CARICOM nationals sit concurrently on the Commission while also making history as the first Caribbean women elected to it.

The one-day session at Cave Hill, attended by legal luminaries from across the region and many law students, focused on the Inter-American system and the Caribbean. It included a special discussion on the death penalty. ■

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in the newspaper, being part of the Museum and Historical Society of Barbados and it goes on and on and on," said the minister.



Prof Henry
Fraser

The 67-year-old, also well known as an author, newspaper columnist, preservationist, artist, horticulturalist and heritage consultant, thanked Jones, Harris, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Sir Hilary Beckles and Master of Ceremonies, Christianne Walcott for their kind remarks, saying he felt privileged to have served UWI for 33 years and for the opportunity to "train far better doctors and leaders" than him.

An emotional Fraser announced:

"I have never asked what the University can do for me, but what I can do for the University and so that bond between the UWI and me has grown stronger every year."

"My whole medical career has been spent working to try to change things for the better. My whole parallel career with the National Trust [I tried] to change things for the better, to get people to appreciate and understand our history, to preserve what's important, and to improve Barbados for the lives of everyone." ■

Cave Hill Excellence Given International Acclaim

Cave Hill doctoral student Kim Baldwin brought glory to herself and The University of the West Indies last September by winning the best student paper prize at the prestigious Coast GIS Conference held in Belgium.

The Centre for Resource Management (CERMES) enrollee, submitted a paper entitled ***A Geospatial Framework to Support Ecosystem Based Management and Marine Spatial Planning for the Trans-Boundary Grenadine Islands.***

The presentation was taken from the first chapter of Baldwin's PhD thesis – the culmination of six years of research. The GIS chapter introduced the unique application of geographical information systems (GIS) technology, usually associated with creating 3D land maps (like Google Earth), for the purpose of mapping various aspects of marine topography in the Grenadines Bank, an area of the Caribbean Sea used by both St. Vincent and Grenada. She said the use of the technology to map the sea is still new, having been applied only within the last 15 years.

Baldwin chose the biennial Coast GIS conference because *"it is the largest marine or coastal GIS conference that's out there."*

Reaction to her submission was extremely favourable.

"People at the conference were really impressed with what we integrated, and this was very new... It's called participatory GIS, which is what I do."

Participatory GIS integrates conventional science with local knowledge. She explained this new approach is essential to further development in the field, adding that *"environmental management (is) about people; people are the ones that have an effect on the environment, so you need to understand their perceptions, what their objectives and their priorities are and bring that into science."*

This impressive approach also colligated with one of her goals, which is to present this paper to international audiences, thereby validating local knowledge and empowering various people working in the communities where she conducted her research – namely fishermen – to assist scientists, and subsequently local government and shareholders in planning for sustainable development within their areas.

"I wanted to show in this project how merging local knowledge and scientific knowledge can provide – especially using GIS – insight that you would not see by analyzing information independently," Baldwin said. ■



Kim Baldwin

PURE SCIENCE TO AGRO SCIENCE

Up until 2003 Keeley Holder was focused on a career in bioinformatics and human genomes – her dream job.

Today, after fate's untimely but decisive interventions, she is a crop farmer but hardly in the stereotypical vein.

You won't see this young woman in layered clothing with hoe in hand tilling the land. Sure she dons her matching pink boots, hat and gloves when out in the field, but she doesn't want to be just another woman in agriculture. Her quest is to be a savvy business woman and innovator in the industry.

Ironically, the same knowledge she would have utilised in her preferred profession is helping her blaze a trail in farming since deciding on that career four years ago.

SCIENTIFIC UNDERTAKING

With a BSc in Biology and Computer Science under her belt, Holder quickly realised farming is a scientific undertaking and has been researching and applying ways to improve the quality and quantity of her crops.

"Most people see agriculture as this simplistic thing where you sow, plant and reap...(but) agriculture is an applied science...once I got in to it, I realised agriculture – particularly fruit and vegetables because I don't know anything about livestock – had so many complexities.

"I like research and these things in agriculture really intrigue me. I started to do research to try to find answers to all the problems."

She pointed out that many farmers do not understand all the variables involved in reaping healthy, bountiful crops. Take onions, for example, she explained, this 20-week crop usually needs careful attention within the first four to six weeks. During that time, farmers must be meticulous in removing weeds, if not they could face considerable losses.

"If you go 'Oh leave the weeds, I took them out a few weeks ago,' you've lost 30 per cent of your crop."



Keeley Holder

Holder also noted each crop has unique characteristics and these require great care and attention.

"You've got to give (crops) food at the right time to get the most out of the plant. Different crops have different critical times. For example, you might need to apply the water at flowering for one crop, at fruiting for another crop, it varies. If you are going to grow several of them at once, then you've got to manage all of those things simultaneously. If you are growing them at different points, there is even more complexity in terms of coordination and management."

The focused 32-year-old is owner of Produce Growers Ltd, a fruit and vegetable farm at Cottage, St. George. She is also president of two organisations – the Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association and the Barbados Society for Technologists in Agriculture.

"I grow fruits and vegetables. Butternut squash was my signature crop. I've done broccoli and zucchini, beans, cucumbers, melons, sweet potatoes, carrots. A lot of it is just trying things. I do Integrated Pest Management (IPM) which is an integrated approach to pest management, looking at the environment, the biological, cultural and chemical ways you can control pests," she explained, adding that though she's not an organic farmer IPM integrates organic principles.

"I apply all the water through irrigation. I use fertigation; administering fertiliser through the irrigation system. Of course, we use pesticides. Certain pesticides are preventative, few are curative, so you have to make sure you understand the science behind the chemistry and apply it."

LOBBYING GOVERNMENT

Early on, this entrepreneur realised that as a farmer, you can't grow unless your sector does too and she has been working doggedly to improve the lot of Barbadian farmers. As president of the Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association (FVGA), she is currently lobbying government to import a transplanter which would *"allow farmers to sit on the back of it with a seedling tray while a tractor pulls the machine, speeding up the planting process"*.

Holder is also heavily involved in trying to ensure the right policies are in place to help farmers.

"My quest was to understand as much about policy as it relates to agriculture, to understand the administrative issues and how we can fix them. I've been to more than a dozen regional workshops in the last two years, representing

farmers, talking to policymakers at the level of CARICOM. We just finished the CARICOM Food and Nutrition Policy. We (FVGA) had a lot of input into that document,” she disclosed.

Hearing this Queen’s College alumna speak expertly and passionately about her field of endeavour it’s hard to remember her life was markedly different not so long ago.

DEVASTATING NEWS

An accident in 2003 injured Holder’s back and doctors diagnosed she would experience pain for the rest of her life. This news was devastating. At the time she was pursuing postgraduate studies and on course to realising her professional goal of working in bioinformatics; the application of statistics and computer science to the field of molecular biology.

“Basically, the doctor said ‘You are going to have two to three exacerbations every year’, so my plans to go overseas and do something fantastic in bioinformatics were smashed to bits. Biology is my first love and computers are my second. When I sat down and thought about it, I realised that I studied a lot of plant biology, so agriculture made sense because I wasn’t interested in doing another degree. It was about taking what I had and making the most of it,” she elaborated.

Added to her equation was the fact that several relatives on her maternal side– including her grandmother, mother and aunts – suffer badly from osteoarthritis and she could be next.

“The likelihood of me ending up with the condition was 50 per cent. So it meant with those odds and a back injury at 24 years old, I would have to take the bull by the horns and look to start my own business which would give me some degree of flexibility,” said the Cave Hill Campus graduate.

FARMING DESTINY

The traditional professions were saturated but agriculture was wide open and she saw it as an opportunity to make her mark.

Holder *“did the numbers”* and, according to her calculations, agriculture could be profitable once you knew what you were doing. She also assessed the risks and concluded most could be addressed from a scientific perspective.

She admitted she had no burning desire to be a farmer, nor was there an overwhelming love for the land. She preferred to study humans over plants, since she found the latter boring – initially. However, it was the next best option and she decided if she was going to do it, then she would put her all into it.

The ambitious young woman got a job as an Integrated Pest Management Specialist with Hydrogrow Farms Inc. which produces vegetables on a large scale using hydroponics. Her role was to assess pest problems in the greenhouses and fields and devise solutions. Holder was in her element since she studied diseases in certain vegetables while completing both her undergraduate and postgraduate degrees.

An interest began to take root in her and soon she had a newfound respect for vegetables and plants. She loved working with them. Less than a year after joining the company, she was awarded a scholarship to study Crop Production and Water Management at Galilee College in Israel in 2008.

“It was the most fascinating experience because this wasn’t just science. It was a hands-on course. We would have four-hour classes back to back, six days a week. We visited different farms and talked to farm managers. I was taken aback by the fact that every farm manager had a first degree in agriculture and a second degree either in economics or finance,” Holder recalled.

“These were not people who were guessing at this thing. The sophistication and technology were great. Everything there (in Israel) is mechanised and the only thing that is done by hand is harvesting. I saw phyto-monitoring where they attached sensors to plants. They were able to see the nutrients being taken up and it would feed back to a computer system that would then adjust the fertiliser regime so plants were getting the perfect amount of fertiliser. This was not hoe-and-fork type of agriculture. This was agriculture at a different level and it appealed to me as a scientist.”

When she came back to Barbados, Holder returned to Hydrogrow to apply what she had learned, but once again fate changed her course. Her father became ill and she quit to look after him. Back at square one, she had to figure out her future. She knew farming was her destiny and, armed with a business plan, she sought and secured the necessary financing.

Her one remaining challenge: finding suitable farm land.

Boldly, she pitched her plans to a gentleman who loved the idea so much he is now her landlord.

That was the start of Produce Growers Ltd and Holder hasn’t looked back since. ■

Adapted from Barbados Today.

RETURN OF A CJ!

CAVE HILL, BEYOND, AND BACK TO BIM!



BARBADOS NEEDS TO ESTABLISH A DRUG TREATMENT COURT AND TO MAKE BETTER USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE ITS SYSTEM OF JUSTICE.

This was the view put forward by the incoming Chief Justice of Barbados, the Honorable Marston Gibson, when he delivered the fifth lecture in the Distinguished Alumni Lecture Series, when the Office of Student, Corporate and Alumni Relations hosted Alumni Week in October 2011. His topic was *"Crime and Justice in 21st Century Barbados: New Challenges, New Responses."*

Drug Treatment Court

To an audience that included several judges and magistrates, the Chief Justice said that Barbados should have a drug treatment court as a means of attempting to save young drug offenders from being placed at Her Majesty's Prisons Dodds with what he termed *"hardened criminals"*, which tended to deepen their involvement in criminal activities once they were released. He credited former Chief Justice Sir David Simmons with the idea of the drug treatment court, referring to an address by Sir David to the National Association of Drug Support Professionals in Missouri in 2008. In that address, Sir David expressed the view that much of the burgeoning

criminality occurring in Barbados was connected to the problem of illegal narcotic drugs. The Chief Justice said that a drug treatment court would permit the sentencing magistrate or judge to consider different modalities of treatment for the commission of the offence involving drugs. He affirmed that the Penal System Reform Act required the courts to consider not only making the punishment fit the crimes, but tempering justice with mercy, which included consideration of remedies such as rehabilitation.

Speedier Justice

The new Chief Justice went on to call for wider use of computers by magistrates and technological training for clerical officers in the courts to speed up the administration and delivery of justice. He noted that magistrates required 21st century technology to enable better record-taking, record-keeping and reduction of the backlog of cases. *"We are not going to get rid of the civil backlog or the criminal backlog unless we understand that the technology is here to help us and we certainly should not leave magistrates having to wait on a pre-sentence report when they can go into a computer and find out whether a person before them has a prior conviction."* He said that he had explored the possibility of having the digital recording system For the Record, now in operation in the two of the new courtrooms of the Supreme Court, installed in the magistrates' court to speed up the delivery of decisions in criminal matters, but there was first a need to retrofit and repair the aging plant to accommodate this.

Celebrated Alumnus

Among this university's most celebrated alumni, the Chief Justice was honored as *UWI Alumnus of the Month in September 2011* on the occasion of his appointment as Chief Justice of Barbados. He completed his tertiary education at the Cave Hill Campus, graduating with honours with a Bachelor of Laws Degree in 1975. He proceeded to Keble College at the prestigious Oxford University to read for the Bachelor of Civil Law degree in 1977 after receiving a Rhodes scholarship.

His distinguished career has touched Barbados, the wider Caribbean and North America. He is a member of the Bar of: The United States Supreme Court, March, 1997; Federal, Eastern and Southern Districts of New York, March, 1989; Trinidad and Tobago, October, 1989; New York State, February, 1989; Antigua and Barbuda, April, 1986; and Barbados, October, 1981.

Like many of his fellow law alumni, he has lectured at his alma mater. He served as a Temporary Lecturer in Law at the St. Augustine Campus where he taught Criminal Law to First Year Law students, and as Law Lecturer at Cave Hill from 1981 to 1987, where he served as Course Director in Real Property Law, Equity (Doctrines and Remedies) and Law in Society (Jurisprudence). He also taught Criminal Law and Conflict of Laws. His fortunes took him to the United States of America where he worked as Instructor in Paralegal Studies at Lehman College, City University of New York from 2000–2008 where he taught Wills, Trusts & Estates, Estate

Planning, Law Office Management, Business Law, and Legal Drafting.

His rise through the judicature came with his appointment in 1989 to the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department, as Appellate Court Attorney. He has also worked as Court Attorney Referee for the Surrogate's Court of the State of New York and most recently Court Attorney Referee to the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Nassau County. ■

**The new Chief Justice [called]
for wider use of computers
by magistrates and technological
training for clerical officers in the
courts to speed up the administration
and delivery of justice.**

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Cave Hill Wins Case Analysis Competition

Still savouring its sporting triumph over sister campuses Mona and St. Augustine in late May, Cave Hill has added to its growing stack of silverware accumulated from The University of the West Indies inter-campus encounters by winning the annual business case analysis competition.

The fourth **UWI — CIBC-FirstCaribbean International Bank Case Analysis Competition** saw representative teams from the three UWI campuses putting their argumentative, analytical and presentation skills to the test in a contest held at the Henry Fraser Lecture Theatre, Cave Hill Campus on June 3, 2011.

While aiming to build skills in business case analysis and oral presentation among second and third-year undergraduate students, the annual competition also seeks to address areas critical to student development. Among these is the advancement of knowledge and understanding of issues affecting business, trade and financial services

in the Caribbean context.

This year's case scenario required participants to analyse and make recommendations for a ten-year-old scuba diving resort which was now reporting severe financial losses and on the verge of collapse

The competition drew on disciplines such as management, international business and entrepreneurship, while examining issues of industry analysis, services, small business and strategic change.

By emerging victorious, Cave Hill broke Mona's consecutive run of three straight wins in the competition's previous editions. St. Augustine placed second and Mona third. **The Cave Hill team also won the prize for the Most Original Presentation and Mona the Best Analysis of the Case.**

The Mona team copped the prize for the **Best Individual Presenter** which went to Chinese exchange student **Nan Li** from the University of Lafayette. **Team Spirit Prizes** were presented to individual members of each team who were recognized for their role in building and supporting team spirit. Those winners awarded

were, **Kiz Nathaniel, Kaydean Dale and Dawn Davis** from the Cave Hill, Mona and St. Augustine campuses respectively.

The presentations were adjudicated by a five-man team of judges from corporate



The winning Cave Hill Team with Faculty advisor Orville Lynch (from left to right: Olaoluwa Samuel-Biyi, Kiz Nathaniel, Dexter Norville, Rowena Boyce and Lynford Inverary)

Barbados including three from FirstCaribbean - Patricia Rowe-Seale, Audit Portfolio Director; Jacqui Bend, Head of Investigations and Reconciliations and Roslyn Turney, Manager — Client Relationship and Service Delivery. They were joined on the panel by Barbados Chamber of Commerce members Dr. Basil Springer and David Hutchinson in selecting the winning teams and individual performances.

This year's competition facilitated a weeklong team building and motivational experience aimed at forging strong ties with business students across the region, while at the same time providing academic and educational training.

The competition was coordinated by the Office of Student, Corporate and Alumni Relations which has responsibility for the management of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UWI and the Bank. Through this MOU CIBC-First Caribbean International Bank has contributed more than US\$1.3 million to support various developmental projects at the Campus since 2003. ■



The Cave Hill Team dramatise a segment of their presentation



Shamkoe Pile making a brief presentation of her winning business proposal.

PLANTING A SEED FOR BUSINESS STARTS

to individuals and organisations. A first-class honours degree holder in Mass Communications from the UWI's Mona Campus, Pile is currently enrolled in Cave Hill Campus' Masters in Project Management and Evaluation Programme.

Grenadian **Shivelyn Boney** placed second with "Caribbean Cuisines" and won a grant of US\$4,000 while Vincentian student, **Gamal Crichton**, took third (US\$3500) with his proposal "Genephi Monler". Another Barbadian student, **David Michael**, won US\$2000 for fourth place with his presentation "Echoes Caribbean" while **Leslie-Ann Colbourne** of Antigua & Barbuda was fifth with "Memorable Occasions", receiving US\$1,000.

Under this competition, UWI students are encouraged to develop and present feasible business plans for possible funding. This initiative was introduced to support graduates of the SEED programme with the bank providing US\$45,000 in grant funding over a three-year period as part of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed with the UWI in 2010.

Addressing the audience at the prize-giving ceremony, Chair of the SEED programme and Head of Department of Management Studies Dr. Justin Robinson, and SEED Coordinator Ayanna Young-Marshall thanked the bank for its generous contribution.

"This business plan function is really the culmination of a journey for these students who would have started attending workshops and entrepreneurship and personal development two years ago," noted Dr. Robinson.

In presenting the awards on behalf of the Bank, Corporate Communications Director Debra King expressed the Bank's pleasure in forging good relations and partnerships with the UWI and other private and public regional programmes which promote finance and business skills. She noted *"CIBC-FirstCaribbean through its Corporate Social Responsibility programme supported entrepreneurship and the industriousness of our youth... as a means of combating youth poverty and unemployment."* ■

Five students with an Entrepreneurial flair were the first beneficiaries of the CIBC-FirstCaribbean International Bank Student Entrepreneurial Empowerment Development (SEED) Business Plan Competition last July.

The acronym for their programme — SEED — could not be more appropriate as these budding business persons have all won seed capital to help make their business proposals a reality.

In the case of overall winner, **Shamkoe Pile** of Barbados?? — who copped the top prize of US\$4,500 — her business "Skai Multimedia" is already an established company providing multimedia services

BUSINESS SECTOR PLEDGES TO RECRUIT INTERNS

Internship opportunities for students are among the aims targeted in a Memorandum of Understanding between The University of the West Indies (UWI) and the Barbados Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI). The three-year agreement, which was signed in April 2011, also makes provision for a mentoring programme, the publishing of students' work, participation of the BCCI in the University's annual job fair and the business community's general support to UWI students.

The document was initialled by Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at Cave Hill Campus Dr George Belle and BCCI's Executive Director Lisa Gale. It was

witnessed by the Faculty's Deputy Dean Sonia Mahon and BCCI President Anthony Armstrong.

Though targeting the Social Sciences Faculty initially, business leaders believe there is scope for the agreement to include other faculties at UWI in accordance with some of their main goals of improving efficiencies in the private and public sectors, revitalising Bridgetown and moving towards a greener economy.

Increased collaboration between the business community and UWI is also expected to spur research, thus creating a sound platform for evidence-based decision making. ■



Kalinago

Showcase of Cultural Roots

by Cozier Frederick



The major objectives of the event included:

- showcasing Kalinago arts and crafts items
- illustrating Kalinago artistic techniques and methodologies
- sharing Kalinago heritage and culture
- establishing an economic alternative through surviving Kalinago art forms
- expanding the knowledge of Kalinago heritage to the wider Caribbean
- correcting misinformation pertaining to Kalinago history



CAVE HILL FIRST CITIZENS

The public got to know a lot more about **Dominica's Kalinago culture** after students from that country and heritage showcased several aspects of their way of life in a two-day exhibition at Cave Hill campus.

The event was organised by **Kalinago students** to promote their customs as well as to extend gratitude on behalf of recipients of the special scholarships awarded to them annually by the University.

Lecturers and students alike were eager to find out more about the Kalinago students, their experiences and their cultural heritage. Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, Principal of the Cave Hill Campus, made a special effort to attend the second day of the event, noting it had been long anticipated and was timely. He also stated that strides were being made to increase the presence of indigenous students on Campus. The Principal emphasised the need for the establishment of an indigenous students' association which would sustain the efforts already undertaken, while also serving as a body for forging links with similar organisations worldwide.

The Expo, which featured Kalinago students dressed in traditional wear, included a wide display of pictures depicting life in the Kalinago territory with special emphasis on the cultural groups, artisans and vendors and the Kalinago Barana Autê. A wide variety of articles were on display: art and craft items, food, Kalinago music, videos and publications on the Kalinago people. Most of these were donated by Kalinago artisans.

The students anticipate this event will be the first of many during their tenure at UWI. Discussions have already begun about the next Kalinago Exposition in which they want to include a lecture and cultural performance. ■

Students told: Champion regional integration

Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Ambassador Irwin LaRocque, told students at the Cave Hill campus of The University of the West Indies that the Region must *"shape integration to suit our own needs."*

The Secretary-General, exchanged views and ideas on the integration movement with lecturers, students and participants in a Regional Project on Youth Engaging the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) during a visit to the Campus on November 9, 2011. It was part of his official visit to Barbados and followed similar missions to St Kitts and Nevis, Antigua and Barbuda, and Dominica.



The Secretary-General challenged the young people to take up the challenge of being the intellectual leaders and champions of integration.

"It is your views, your vision, your ideas coming out of this University that can lead the charge in creating that 'Community for All' that we seek," he stated.

Ambassador LaRocque refuted the suggestion that integration was not happening in the Region and cited the Common External Tariff (CET), the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), Rules of Origin for products, functional co-operation, the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC), cricket and UWI itself as examples



Ambassador
Irwin LaRocque

of integration at work.

He stressed that CARICOM was much broader than the CSME and the integration process should not be judged by the CSME alone.

"The level of integration might not be happening as quickly as we would like but it is happening," the Secretary-General said. The challenge, he said, was to mainstream regional policy into national policy.

Deputy Principal of the Campus, Professor Eudine Barriteau, welcomed the Secretary-General to Cave Hill and stressed UWI's importance to the regional movement. She urged students to carry on the work of those who have gone before at the institution in moving the integration process forward.

The Secretary-General took the opportunity to congratulate Professor Barriteau on receiving the *CARICOM Triennial Award for Women*, with which she was invested at the July last meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government in St Kitts and Nevis.

During the Barbados mission Ambassador LaRocque held discussions with **Prime Minister Freundel Stuart**, **Foreign Minister Senator Maxine McLean**, and interacted with the youth, the private sector and the media as well as paid visits to CARICOM Secretariat offices and regional institutions based in Barbados. ■



16-20 May, 2012

"words need love too"

The inaugural **BIM Literary Festival and Book Fair** will showcase the works of Barbadian and other Caribbean writers. This year the emphasis is on fiction, poetry and drama. The Festival is organised by Writers Ink in collaboration with the Ministry of Family, Culture, Youth and Sports; The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus; the National Cultural Foundation and the National Library Service. For festival events and info please visit www.bimlitfest.org.

Exchange Programme Fosters Global Ties

ENROLLING FOR graduate or postgraduate study at The University of the West Indies or being a part of its staff can land you numerous opportunities to add an international dimension to your studies or professional experience.

One of the latest opportunities to become available is through the Mundus ACP project – a partnership of 20 higher education institutions from Europe and African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries.

As one of two Caribbean institutions included in the **Erasmus Mundus** programme, UWI personnel — master's and doctoral students, researchers, academic and administrative staff — can qualify for scholarships to develop postgraduate studies, research, teaching and administrative activities at European partner institutions.

Under this programme, there are approximately 12 scholarships exclusively available to UWI students, alumni and staff: eight full master's scholarships, two scholarships for mobility within a UWI doctoral programme, and two academic/administrative staff scholarships. Each scholarship provides a monthly allowance (between 1000 and 2500 Euros), a return ticket, health, accident and travel insurance and tuition fees to the host institution, where applicable.

Participation in the project is not limited to UWI staff, students and alumni. Full master's scholarships are also available to Caribbean nationals who have obtained a university degree or equivalent from other higher education institutions in the Caribbean as well as candidates who can demonstrate that they are in a particularly vulnerable institution, for social, political or economical reasons.

Recently, International Officer at the University of Porto, Ana Mato, toured the three UWI campuses promoting the Portuguese institution as an option for persons applying for Mundus ACP scholarships. The University of Porto — which has 14 faculties and one business school — is the coordinating institution for the Mundus ACP 2 programme and offers numerous fields of study

but specialises in engineering, economics, architecture and the arts.

Regarding the development of new courses of study, Mato explained this would be done “*across universities and you must have at least three universities one of which must be from Europe to be the coordinating institution... UWI can be part of this initiative to create new programmes, not only for students from UWI, but for students all over the world*”.

Mato, who was on a month-long Mundus ACP scholarship to visit and work at UWI, said Cave Hill students and staff responded enthusiastically to the prospect of experiencing life at the University of Porto and collaborating with persons there. Following her tour in Barbados, she returned to the St. Augustine Campus in Trinidad to work in the International Office, promoting the Erasmus Mundus ACP 2 project.

As for her observations on UWI, she said: “*It was nice to see how a regional, multi-campus university works because that's a new concept for us. It's interesting how they relate to each other because, even though they are independent campuses, they work as a whole — as one institution.*”

Meanwhile Jessica Lewis, Liaison Librarian in the Faculty of Humanities and Education at Cave Hill Campus, who benefited from a month-long stint under the Mundus initiative at Orkanen Library, Malmo University in Malmo,



Jessica Lewis,
Liaison Librarian,
Main Library

Sweden, October 2011, has been full of praise for the exchange opportunity.

Hailing her experience gained through the Administrative Staff Mobility placement as *"invaluable personally and professionally"*, she said the programme focused on the areas of reference service, information literacy and library management, all of which directly relate to her role at UWI.

"It aimed to support and contribute to my duties at the home institution as a reference and teaching librarian and to allow for the sharing of knowledge and experiences with the host library. This international library experience has engendered



Ana Mato, International Officer at the University of Porto.

the understanding of library systems in different countries, comparative librarianship and nurtured my own understanding and appreciation of

librarianship and the wider field of library and information studies."

Stressing the importance of international library work exchanges, Lewis stated this opportunity surpassed her expectations, exposing her to new techniques and technology within her profession.

"I have returned motivated and impassioned by my time spent in Sweden. The experience of working in another library has provided me with a new vision, which will fuel strategies for dealing with local challenges and the implementation of new ideas. It has also increased my confidence in my abilities as a library and information professional," she said. ■



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Tommi Lehtonen (left)
and Jarno Eerik Rusanen

Finding the Finnish

Residents in temperate climes are often hard-pressed to imagine studying at the beach with sand tickling their toes, or to imagine sampling the relaxed lifestyle and vibrant culture of the Caribbean while enjoying a semester of classes miles away from dreary, wintry weather.

For northern Europeans this sounds too good to be true, but it wasn't for Tommi Lehtonen and Jarno Eerik Rusanen who lived this dream for four months last year. The Finnish duo was part of a Cooperative Exchange Agreement between The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus and various universities in Finland, including Laurea University of Applied Sciences, where the two are enrolled.

Both Hospitality Management undergraduates savoured a semester at UWI in Barbados from September to December 2011, immersing themselves in Campus and island life, exploring nooks and crannies of Barbados — from St. Lucy's Animal Flower Cave to hang-out spots like Surfers Bay in Silver Sands, Christ Church, and learning much about the region from a host of new West Indian friends, made from living in the halls of residence. The two were also featured in a Banks Breweries advertorial shortly after arriving on island, they having coincidentally been touring the beer plant — and naturally sampling its No. 1 product — on the day the photos were taken.

"I like Barbados a lot. The people are nice, even strangers. People you don't know speak to you on the streets and out in public. They are very friendly."

"That wouldn't happen at home. People would think you're crazy if you speak to someone you don't know," said Jarno, highlighting this refreshing difference.

Unlike Tommi, who previously visited Belize, Dominica and Martinique, he had no idea what to expect from his first Caribbean experience but Jarno happily absorbed it all, dialect and rapid speech rhythm, seemingly non-stop limes and parties and the crammed "reggae bus" — the Finnish duo's colourful reference to the ubiquitous commuter buses found plying the University Drive route that services the Campus community.

"We love the 'reggae bus'. It's amazing how they stuff so many people on the buses and they play the music so hard. I love the atmosphere on the buses," said Tommi, adding wistfully, "It's something you would never see in Finland".

Sitting in idyllic sunshine and studying on a tropical seashore while compatriots in their Nordic nation endure a bleak winter is one of the prized memories which the 22-year-olds will long cherish.

"It's nice to take your notes and study at the beach," quipped Jarno, grinning at the thought of revising for exams with the sound of waves in the background.

Living in the tropics required some adjustment but the young men easily assimilated to the relaxed pace, Tommi noted. *"It took a few weeks to realise things here are a bit slower and not always on time. People are more laidback."*

Cave Hill Campus' academic system also differed from what they were used to at Laurea, where student marks are heavily weighted on group and project-based work.

"At home we have a lot of group assignments and we're cooperating with companies (in the hospitality industry) on projects," said Tommi, who like Jarno took courses in managerial communication, the Caribbean business environment and international tourism at UWI.

"There is continuous assessment, whereas at UWI you have lectures and tutorials and you get marked on your mid-term (exam), finals and class participation."

Having been chosen from a plethora of students vying for the coveted opportunity to study overseas during their undergrad programme, these pals count themselves truly fortunate and are already contemplating a return to Barbados and the wider Caribbean. Tommi has lined up an internship with destination management company, Sunlinc, within the next year while Jarno is optimistic of snagging a similar prospect.



Tommi and Jarno celebrate Finland's Independence Day on a beach in Barbados

Barbados and UWI have definitely lived up to their checklist of "going somewhere far and experiencing a different culture" with a warm climate year-round. There were lots of options in Europe but they didn't want to remain on the continent and eventually narrowed their selections to Barbados and Mexico.

After securing strong recommendations from their lecturers, thanks

to their good marks, they were chosen last March for this scholastic adventure. Recalling the process and the somewhat anxious wait following their applications, Jarno reminisced about trusting Tommi's advice in picking a Caribbean destination.

"He told me some (good) things and I believed him," Jarno chuckled.

Certainly grateful to Tommi, he can now attest that those things are true.

As they say in Finland, "a little experience is better than a barrel of knowledge." ■

Caribbean Conference

Trade Policy, Innovation Governance and Small State Competitiveness

June 11-13, 2012

This international trans-disciplinary conference will focus on the practice and theory of trade policy for small states in the contemporary global economy drawing on the experience and lessons from the Caribbean region.

In particular, we **invite submissions** from academics and practitioners on the following themes:

Trade Policy, Negotiations and the Implementation Agenda

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Trade and Innovation Governance

Trade and Export Facilitation

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Trade Policy and Innovation Governance in Key Strategic Sectors

Food Security

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Climate Change

A select number of papers will be published in an edited volume.



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3Ws Oval Judged The Best

The 3Ws Oval played a gem of an innings during the third Lawyers Cricket World Cup (LCWC) held in Barbados last August.

Showcasing its impressive facilities, particularly under the lights after dark, the cricket arena hosted several matches — including the semi-finals and final — and was the toast of the biennial cricket festival in which India prevailed over Sri Lanka in the final. Teams from Australia, England, Pakistan and the hosts, West Indies, also competed in the two-week event.

Among those bowled over by the picturesque UWI venue was tournament founder, R. Santhanakrishnan. In particular, he lauded the drainage system which permitted the final to proceed as scheduled despite torrential downpours earlier the same day.

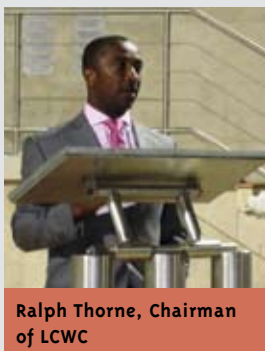
"The night matches were fantastic. Everybody who played here enjoyed the night matches," declared the Indian visitor.

"It has been surprising to see that, despite the rain, we have been able to play the final without any problems. Given the weather reports in the morning we were thinking that the game might not happen. The fact that it's been played is really great and a testament to the wonderful facilities here at UWI. The University has been a great host and we are appreciative."

Chairman of LCWC 3, Ralph Thorne, thanked UWI's Principal Sir Hilary Beckles who "embraced the idea of this tournament from the first day that we approached him".

"He put his entire staff at our disposal and we're really grateful for that. We cannot repay Sir Hilary and his staff for what they have done for this tournament, from the Opening Ceremony to the legal seminar, the closing ceremony and the final. At very short notice, he made UWI available for the final and we're very indebted to him. Staff came

The Indian team celebrate with their patron Sir Everton Weekes (centre rear)



Ralph Thorne, Chairman of LCWC

here outside of their working hours to assist us with preparations for everything."

The Barbadian attorney noted, "it is significant that it has been Sir Hilary's vision to develop this University and its physical infrastructure in a way that recognises the single most important West Indian institution — the institution of cricket".

"I thought from the beginning that UWI was our natural partner if we were going to be bringing lawyers here — some of whom studied at UWI — to play cricket. I felt it was important to establish that relationship with the institution that has embraced cricket and what it has meant to Caribbean people and people throughout the Commonwealth."

Stephen Leslie, Sport Coordinator for cricket at the Cave Hill Campus, said the University was "pleased to help the Lawyers Cricket World Cup become a reality despite the logistical demands, especially with teams from different cultures".

Regarding compliments from the foreign teams who enjoyed playing at the 3Ws Oval, Leslie explained: "A significant investment was made in the 3Ws Oval as far back as 2007, in terms of getting the right equipment for draining to combat the effects of bad weather. The guys (grounds staff) were here from 7 am. Yes, we've had a lot of rain but we've had the full 30 overs per side so it's been a success and I'm sure the players are happy." ■

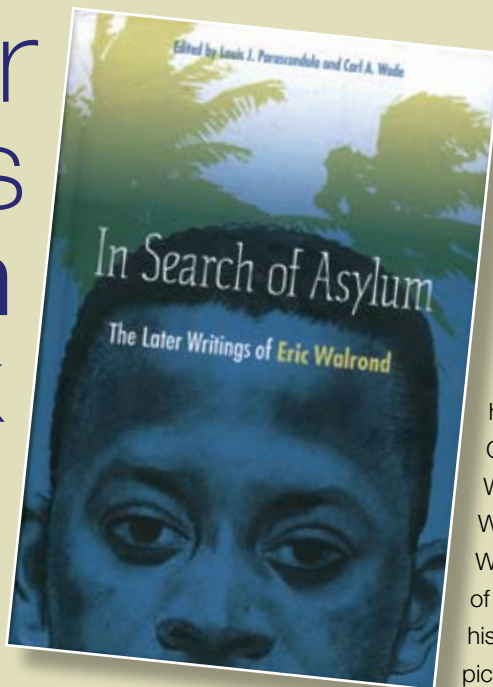
Writer brings hidden work to light

By Charmaine Joseph

No doubt the publication of one's first book is always a momentous event for any writer. On this occasion, however, Carl Wade's maiden offering as an author has the double significance of bringing to light the literary work of another individual.

In Search of Asylum: The Later Writings of Eric Walrond is a collection of pieces by this deceased Caribbean journalist and writer, highlighting his lost works from the 1920s to 1930s. The inset of the novel describes Walrond as "one of the great unexamined figures of the Harlem Renaissance".

Through his works of fiction, Walrond – born in British Guiana – chronicles life as a West Indian working as a journalist in Panama, New York and the United Kingdom where he spent the last years of his life in the 1950s as a voluntary patient of Roundway Hospital in Wiltshire, England; a psychiatric facility. His most well-known work was *Tropic Death*, a piece that won him recognition in literary circles.



While his earlier works have been recognised to an extent, Walrond remains unknown to most Caribbean people, hence the importance of Wade's new book which he co-edited with **Luis J. Parascandola** of Long Island University.

Wade, a Senior Lecturer in Literatures in English at Cave Hill Campus with a PhD in Education from Stanford University, admits he has a special interest in studying the Caribbean's lost literature. He came across Walrond while doing graduate studies. Wade notes that Walrond's writings of the West Indian experience in Panama were one of few that have ever been published and that his pieces on life in New York give an intimate picture of a West Indian residing in New York in the early 20th Century.

"The collection of Walrond's work took around ten years to gather from libraries, family and friends," disclosed Wade, adding the only way to understand present Caribbean society is to examine its evolution throughout the years.

"This project is really about reclaiming a significant part of Caribbean literary heritage."

In Search of Asylum contains pieces of fiction and journalistic pieces from 1929-1957 and a different, yet refreshing, view of Caribbean life and struggles. The writings are placed in chronological order and allow readers to journey with Walrond through his life experiences as seen through his eyes. Of particular interest were the vivid and well written works of fiction, especially *The Coolie's Wedding* and *The Iceman* which Wade recommends highly. ■

The Caribbean Tourism Organization in collaboration with The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus and the Barbados Hospitality Institute – Hotel PomMarine

6th Annual Tourism Human Resources Conference

"ENHANCING CARIBBEAN TOURISM HUMAN RESOURCES THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS AND INNOVATION"

The aim of the conference is to bring together tourism HR professionals from both the public and private sector, tourism educators/trainers, consultants to share strategies and best practices on areas and issues affecting the sector, to provide more technical information on certain aspects of tourism and tourism development, to enhance skills in certain areas, and to allow opportunities for professional networking.

May 23-25, 2012 at UWI, Cave Hill Campus

PRESERVING PARADISE

by Julia Horrocks PhD, Professor of Conservation Ecology

Colin Hudson's legacy to Barbados and its people includes weekend natural history hikes, the Carib cane harvester, the Dammer Dyker, the Village of Hope, the Future Centre Trust, tyre gardens and a passion for spreading the message of "treading lightly" across his beloved adopted home.

It was as a tribute to his life's work that the *"Preserving Paradise"* public lecture series was organised in 2005 by the Barbados Museum and Historical Society, in conjunction with the Department of Biological and Chemical Sciences of The University of the West Indies.

The wide appeal of the lectures was evident and the decision was taken to compile them into a volume named after the series and edited by **Sean Carrington** for the *"generation who unfortunately did not know Dr. Colin Hudson"* (p.12). Colin dedicated his life to achieving his vision of environmental sustainability and in the spirit of his own tradition of spreading the word would have been very pleased with this book.

With additions from the authors to update the original 2005 lecture series, and Carrington's careful editing, the lectures have been transformed into chapters that retain the "voices" of the speakers and their enthusiasm for their subjects. The book begins with a tribute to Colin from **Keith Laurie**, who was a close colleague of Colin's for over forty years in efforts to improve agriculture in Barbados,

followed by some memories of Colin offered by the chapter authors. Readers who think that they knew Colin will be amazed by the breadth of his interests and contributions, but it is his commitment to practicing what he preached, his dedication and his inspiration to others that shine through all of these memories.

The beauty of *Preserving Paradise* is that the contributing authors have taken the opportunity not only to share interesting and important facts, but also to offer informed opinions on keenly felt issues. From the varying perspectives of biologist, geologist, geographer, historian and economist, the contributors summarise their knowledge of the state of "Paradise", highlighting areas of special concern and suggesting possible solutions that would allow this small, developing island to weather the coming decades of inevitable environmental, economic and social change.

Karl Watson's chapter on the environmental history of the island reminds us that the greatest environmental destruction took place soon after colonization in the



1600s, eventually leading to 90,000 acres, of a total island area of 106,000 acres, being converted to arable land. The power of nature to heal itself can be seen today, as the canefields revert to woodlands, but the book reveals that there is much more that **we** should be doing to ensure that our children's children can still live in "Paradise". **Hans Machel's** overview of the complex and unique geological history of Barbados exposes the fundamental fragility of this "rock", which must not be "undermined" for the sake of generations to come. In **Sean Carrington's** chapter, we are reminded that the one remnant of original forest which survived the centuries of environmental change, Turner's Hall woods, is still without formal legal protection almost four centuries later. Despite having to deal again and again with alien species that have become pests, **Angela Fields** explains that we are still without legislation

to control species introductions, unless they are known carriers of pests or diseases. The slow response to address these and other environmental issues may be explained by insufficient social capital investment in the environment in Barbados. **Robin Mahon** highlights the lack of connectedness and trust between people and groups that constrains their ability to work constructively together to conserve the island's natural capital. One result is the sad lack of environmental NGOs to work with the government of Barbados, compared to many of our Caribbean neighbours.

Winston Cox's chapter tackles the difficult topic of reconciling the global dichotomy between

improving human welfare and conserving the environment. Among many thought-provoking ideas, he suggests that the ethical aspects of religious belief systems, some of which are considered to have been major causes of the environmental crises we now face globally because they extolled the superiority of man over nature, can be harnessed to help humans make the distinction between sufficiency and excess, and therefore act appropriately.

Leonard Nurse argues that despite the fact that we are powerless to stop the loss of critical coastal habitats to sea level rise, where more than 50% of the populace of the insular Caribbean lives, Barbados has a moral obligation to join with countries that have been the major contributors to the dire

situation that we now innocently face, and meet this challenge head on as a member of the global community.

I finished the book with an acute sense that "Paradise" may now need restoring as much as preserving, but that there is a tremendous wealth of knowledge to guide us in the right direction. We know what needs to be done, we know what can be achieved, and we know what will happen if we fail to act. We now need the collective will. I want to think that everyone, including our political and economic leaders, will have a copy of *Preserving Paradise* in their Christmas stockings this year. ■



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WOMEN AT THE FORE

The contribution of women in the Caribbean as public political figures is succinctly captured in Cynthia Barrow-Giles's edited edition *Women in Caribbean Politics*.

Her publication traces the history, experiences, challenges and successes of twenty outstanding women from twelve Caribbean territories as they navigate the traditionally male-dominated arenas of partisan politics, political leadership, anti-slavery and anti-colonial struggles, radical politics, international relations and diplomacy. The collection is an important and timely addition to an emerging body of scholarship aimed at recovering the often silenced role of women in public politics. It joins a narrative on the socio-economic, political and historical experiences of Caribbean women in public life, featured in collections such as *Stronger, Surer, Bolder: Ruth Nita*

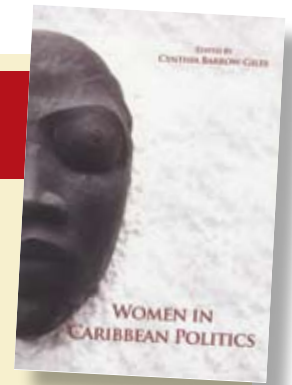
Barrow – Social Change and International Development, 2001, *Enjoying Power: Eugenia Charles and Political Leadership in the Commonwealth Caribbean*, 2006, (both edited by Professors Eudine Barribeau and Alan Cobley), and *Engendering History: Caribbean Women in Historical Perspectives*, 1995 (edited by Professors Verene Shepherd, Bridget Brereton and Barbara Bailey).

One of the main highlights of this work is Barrow-Giles' decision to expand the popular conceptualisation of political leadership. This is reflected in the organisation of the book into four sections. The first section comprises three chapters chronicling the life and work of female anti-slavery activists and leaders.

The second and third sections map the lives of a selection of visionary women in the pre-independence and post-

independence eras respectively, while the final one focuses on female heads of state and governors-general.

Women in Caribbean Politics has both scholarly and popular appeal. It will function as a valuable resource for students and teachers of history, political science, Caribbean studies, social studies and women's studies at the post-secondary and university levels. However, the chapters, though scholarly in their construction and content, are written in styles accessible to a wide cross-section of individuals. The political and social analyses, and the recovery work undertaken by some 19 authors in this collection represents an important contribution to knowledge about the lives of these path-breaking Caribbean women. ■



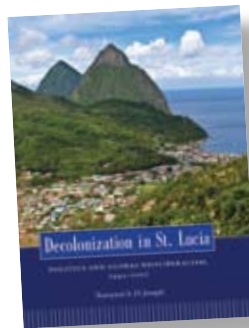
Pioneering Text on St. Lucia

One of the latest texts to emerge from the Cave Hill Campus examines the issue of how a Caribbean nation may achieve political but fail to achieve economic independence.

In *Decolonization in St. Lucia: Politics and Global Neoliberalism, 1945 – 2010*, UWI political scientist

Dr. Tennyson S. D. Joseph builds upon current research on the anti-colonial and nationalist experience in the Caribbean. He explores the impact of global transformation upon the independent experience of Saint Lucia and argues that the island's formal decolonization roughly coincided with the period of the rise of global neoliberalism hegemony. Central to the analysis is the tension between the role of the state as a facilitator of domestic aspirations on one hand and a facilitator of global capital on the other.

Joseph examines six critical phases in the St. Lucian experience.



The first is 1940 to 1970, when the early nationalist movement gradually occupied state power within a framework of limited self-government. The second period is 1970 to 1982, during which formal independence was attained and an attempt at socialist-oriented radical nationalism was pursued by the Saint Lucia Labour Party. The third distinctive period was the period of neoliberal hegemony, 1982-1990. The fourth period (1990-1997) witnessed a heightened process of neoliberal adjustment in global trade which destroyed the banana industry and transformed the domestic political economy.

A later period (1997-2006) involved the SLP's return to political power, resulting in tensions between an earlier radicalism and a new and contradictory accommodation to global neoliberalism. The final period (2006 – 2010) coincides with the onset of a crisis in global neoliberalism during which a series of domestic conflicts reflected the contradictions of the dominant understanding of sovereignty in narrow, materialist terms at the expense of its wider anti-systematic, progressive, and emancipator connotations. *Decolonization in St. Lucia* presents the only post-1945 political history of that country. ■

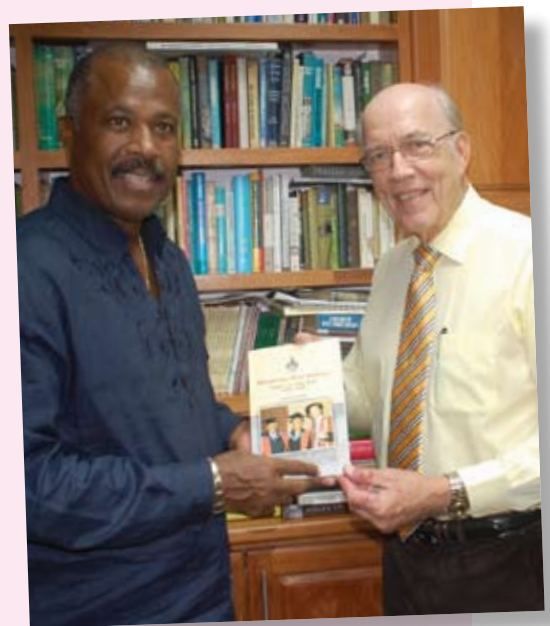
Book captures region's Illustrious Band of Citizens

Anyone wanting to research the underlying or common attributes of persons who have received an honorary doctorate from the UWI, Cave Hill in the past two decades will find vital information in this recent publication.

Former Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences **Professor Henry Fraser**, who served as the Campus' Public Orator for nearly two decades, has published a book entitled *Illustrious West Indians: 1992-2009*, a copy of which he recently presented to Campus Principal **Sir Hilary Beckles**.

Illustrious West Indians: 1992 - 2009 is a compilation of Professor Fraser's 47 citations for Honorary Graduands of the UWI at Cave Hill during the years he served as public orator. They begin with the **Right Excellent Sir Garfield Sobers**, National Hero and **Sir Douglas Lynch**, and conclude with **Sir Lloyd Sandiford**. They include such famous Caribbean luminaries as **Dame Eugenia Charles**, **Dr. Cecil Cyrus**, sculptor **Karl Broodhagen** and poet **Kamau Brathwaite** and our great cricket knights.

In accepting his copy Sir Hilary noted that the book would also make a worthy gift from the UWI to persons, including visitors. ■



Sir Hilary receives a copy of *Illustrious West Indians: 1992-2009* from Professor Henry Fraser.

China Awards Major Book Donation

The relationship between China and Barbados could soon be deepened with the establishment of a Centre for Chinese Studies to meet growing public demand for exposure to that country's language and culture as it gains increasing prominence on the world stage.



Principal of Cave Hill Campus Sir Hilary Beckles spoke of establishing the centre when he accepted over 500 books about China in a donation from a Chinese delegation at the Campus on August 4, 2011. Vice-President of *Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries*, Feng Zouku, and Charge d'Affaires of the People's Republic of China, Wang Lei, led the delegation at the handing over.

Sir Hilary noted that the relationship between institutions of higher education in China and colleagues at his university would be very important for Barbados in the future, adding

that the Campus was looking forward to welcoming Chinese scholars and Chinese students soon.

A historian, the principal noted that while Africans and the Europeans came to the Caribbean in the first stage of globalization, it was the later arrival of Chinese and Indians who helped to re-organise and rebuild the Caribbean islands of today. He pointed out that there was a small Chinese community in Barbados as early as the mid-nineteenth century but it did not expand because most of them migrated to Trinidad.

Under a bilateral agreement between the governments of Barbados and China, lecturer in Chinese, Liu Yang, joined Cave Hill's staff towards the end of 2011 and will spearhead teaching about that language and culture. ■

CHARTING Credit Union Progress

In a year designated as the year for the recognition of cooperatives around the world, researchers at Cave Hill have embarked on a major project to document the history of the credit union movement — the most successful indigenous cooperative organisation in Barbados.

Spearheaded by historians Dr Henderson Carter and Dr Aviston Downes with the

assistance of PhD student Meshia Clarke, the research initiative expects to yield an expansive body of written work that will form the basis for further in-depth interdisciplinary study of local credit unions, as well as video documentaries of the movement. Researchers are currently conducting interviews with as many credit union pioneering stalwarts as possible and are hopeful of staging a symposium sometime soon to attract persons who can add to the research output.

Carter, an author of the history of several local business enterprises, whose works include the 2008 publication *Business in Bim: A Business History of Barbados, 1900–2000* and last year's releases about the Barbados Light and Power Company and an indigenous family-owned enterprise, says the project forms one aspect of a Business History Initiative within the Department of History and Philosophy.

Downes, who like his colleague, helps to deliver the Department's business history programme, and who has done extensive research on mutual cooperative initiatives and black economic enfranchisement in Barbados, sees the credit union project as laying the groundwork for interdisciplinary research that involves colleagues in management, finance, economics and other academic fields.

It is anticipated that the project could lead to Cave Hill establishing a research centre on the credit union movement. In compiling their data, the researchers are seeking to gather an extensive collection of existing documented material about the movement, including annual reports and special publications, a task which

benefits from the critical involvement of doctoral student Clarke whose thesis is on the history of the credit union movement in Barbados. In this regard, the researchers are anticipating willing cooperation from the movement which they believe will see the overall benefit of their effort.

The historians' endeavour coincides not only with the United Nation General Assembly's proclamation of 2012 as International Year of Cooperatives, but with the local movement's amassing of more than a billion dollars in savings to date to emerge as a significant player in the local financial sector.

While building capacity for the business history programme, the historians see their research being linked to national development by heightening public awareness of the knowledge needed to facilitate and advance the establishment of Barbados an entrepreneurial hub.

Endorsing the project, General Manager of the Barbados Co-operative & Credit Union League, Anthony Pilgrim, stated: *"We in the credit union movement have often lamented the dearth of recorded material about the significant contribution that the credit union movement has made to the socio-economic development of Barbados. The directors and management of the League are therefore in full support of this highly laudable initiative on the part of the UWI, Cave Hill Campus."*

Public Workers' Credit Union stalwart Keith Bourne expressed the view that: *"The credit union movement in Barbados has contributed in no small measure to the social and economic development of Barbados. UWI should be congratulated for this initiative to ensure that its contribution is available to future generations."*

Researchers expected the initial stage of the project to take about three months. ■

For further information interested persons may contact the Department of History & Philosophy at (246) 417-4403, e-mail: history@cavehill.uwi.edu. www.cavehill.uwi.edu/fhe/histphil/



Dr. Aviston Downes



Dr. Henderson Carter

Doctors missing a beat in hypertension treatment

A new medical study shows that health care deliverers in Barbados need to comply more diligently with guidelines for the recommended interventions in the treatment of hypertension and other ailments.

This is one of the findings of a recent audit of medical charts of high blood-pressure sufferers and diabetics by researchers from Cave Hill Campus and Queen's University in Canada who took into account treatment at both private facilities and public clinics.

The study by **Dr. Peter Adams** of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, UWI, and **Anne Carter** of the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology at Queen's revealed that primary-care practitioners were not adhering to hypertension guidelines as closely as warranted, thus potentially compromising patient care.

"Improvements are needed in following guidelines for basic interventions such as body mass assessment, accurate blood pressure measurement, use of thiazide diurectics and lifestyle



advice," concluded the medical researchers.

"Despite the creation and distribution of guidelines six years before the study period began, a significant gap between the guidelines and actual practice exists. This supports the evidence that guidelines must be accompanied by intensive, multi-pronged implementation efforts if they are to achieve improved quality of care."

However, Adams and Carter conceded that improving compliance with guidelines may have financial implications and cost-effective strategies would be required to ensure affordable care.

"Health care workers have to be provided with the resources needed to facilitate compliance and care has to be affordable to private patients. Some simple office procedures such as measuring height, weight, urine albumin, taking adequate histories and giving advice cost only the increase in staff time required to do them," noted the researchers.

They also suggested that repetitive retraining in auscultation (listening to sounds from the heart, lungs and other organs as part of medical diagnosis) or the use of validated automated oscillometric blood pressure monitors *"can reduce the observer error in blood pressure measurement demonstrated by the study"*.

Cost-effective prescribing, they added, could help reduce the expense of implementing these changes. ■

Signs and Symptoms of Hypertension:

Hypertension is rarely accompanied by any symptoms, and its identification is usually through screening, or when seeking healthcare for an unrelated problem.

A proportion of people with high blood pressure report ...

- Headaches (particularly at the back of the head and in the morning)
- Lightheadedness
- Vertigo
- Tinnitus (buzzing or hissing in the ears)
- Altered vision
- Fainting episodes

Many people don't seek medical care until they have more severe symptoms from the organ damage that long-term (chronic) high blood pressure can cause.

If you are worried about your health, schedule an appointment with your doctor. He or she will be able to tell you if you have reason to be concerned about a diagnosis of hypertension.

CERMES Prepares for a Predator

Aware of the dangerous consequences lionfish could have on Barbados' marine life, the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) is gathering valuable data in preparation for the fight against this harmful predator.

Given sightings of the invasive species across the Caribbean over the past decade — and finally in local waters late last year — CERMES, as part of the national response team on this issue, is undertaking research to examine the impact of lionfish on reefs.

"We are interested in the impact of lionfish on key reef herbivores. Our primary fear is that lionfish will eat the herbivores which are keeping reefs clean. They would damage the natural eco-system by replacing local fish."

"We're also concerned about the possible economic impact on reef fishermen," explained Dr. Hazel Oxenford, Professor of Marine Ecology and Fisheries at Cave Hill Campus.

Escaped from Aquarium

Lionfish are native to the Indo-Pacific region but alien to the Caribbean and Atlantic, though related to the well-known stone/rock fish.

Lionfish were first found off Florida in 1992 — reportedly having escaped from a smashed aquarium — and they have spread through the Gulf of Mexico to Central America and beyond, having been spotted in Bermuda, Belize, Costa Rica, Cuba, Jamaica, Panama, Puerto Rico and St. Maarten.

"They are highly reproductive and possess voracious appetites. Within this region, they are known to grow bigger than in their native environment. They eat the natural inhabitants of Barbados' reefs and, since they have no natural enemies in the Caribbean, they can roam freely," observed Dr. Oxenford, adding that their *"long, toxic spines are a defensive mechanism"*.

CERMES, she disclosed, is currently collecting *"baseline or before"* data and this process will be repeated in a few years when lionfish become more prevalent. Baseline data comprises three surveys every four months: January (off season), June (main season) and



Christian Mehlführer

September. The institution is also documenting information from fishermen regarding the volume of their catches now. This will later be compared to the volume of catches when lionfish are in abundance.

"We've had several meetings with diver fishers and recreational divers to inform them that lionfish are coming and that CERMES wants to monitor them when they come. So we're enlisting their help as much as possible in this respect because they are the ones who are constantly out in the water and are most likely to come into contact with lionfish," said The University of the West Indies' (UWI) professor.

Lionfish Sightings

The second phase of this government-sponsored research project will measure the grazing rate of current herbivores. CERMES is also operating a hotline (246-824-8361) to accept calls about lionfish sightings and hosting a Facebook page with updates on the advent of lionfish in Barbados and related information.

As part of the Biodiversity Working Group under the Natural Heritage Department, CERMES — which works closely with the Coastal Zone Management Unit and the Fisheries Division — drafted a lionfish response plan a year ago, aspects of which are already being implemented by various stakeholders. In preparation for its research role, CERMES sent two representatives to a recent lionfish training workshop in Mexico. In February 2011, they also collaborated on a public information brochure on lionfish: what they are, what they look like, what to do if you get stung, and so on.

In the latter instance, Dr. Oxenford assured us that lionfish stings are *"rarely life-threatening"* though painful.

"Their venomous spines make them hard to handle and there's a danger that fishermen could get stung. They are also dangerous to unsuspecting swimmers. However, a sting is usually just painful. The immediate remedy is to put one's hand — as it's often the hand/arm that gets stung — in hot water, as hot as one can bear it, and to take some pain killers. There are rare cases of allergic reactions in which case one should seek medical attention." ■

Chronic illnesses hold Royal interest

Researchers at the Chronic Disease Research Centre (CDRC) were given a royal treat when His Royal Highness Prince Edward Earl of Wessex and his wife Countess of Wessex Sophie Helen Rhys-Jones visited them in March 2011 to learn of some of the research they were conducting.

Director of the CDRC, Professor Anselm Hennis outlined some of the institution's work on glaucoma and the centre's pioneering Barbados Eye Studies while his colleague Professor Clive Landis presented research about diabetes and studies being conducted to arrest the high incidence of amputations in Barbados.

Both studies hold unique interest for Barbados. Whereas glaucoma accounts for 13 per cent of blindness in most parts of the world, about 30 per cent of blindness in Barbados results from the eye disease. Similarly Barbados holds a worldwide distinction with regard to amputations as studies reveal amputees in the country demonstrate poor survival five years after an amputation. ■

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Workshop participants touring the biodigesters at a farm in Barbados

Caribbean Collaboration with Germany on Biogas

Motivated by their mutual mandate to promote the development and implementation of renewable energy technologies, the University of Flensburg of Applied Sciences in Germany and The University of the West Indies held a workshop in December 2011, highlighting the advantages of using such energy sources, particularly in the business sector.

By partnering to co-host the three-day presentation, **Natasha Corbin**, Manager – DIREKT (Small Developing Island Renewable Energy Knowledge and Technology Transfer Network) Project at UWI Cave Hill explained, both institutions were able to meet their respective goals.

"It was a collaborative effort because we recognise that they (Flensburg) are involved in projects with similar objectives but funding is an issue for most of these projects and you can't really conduct some of the activities on your own. DIREKT sponsored some of the components of the workshop and it was beneficial to us because we were able to do our training dealing with biogas and they (Flensburg) provided the technical expertise. Our project focuses on capacity building in different renewable energy sectors and biogas is one such renewable energy area that we are trying to promote within the region."

Thanks to this cooperation, the DIREKT Project was able to invite persons from across the region, including Trinidad and Colombia, to attend the symposium and be trained in various aspects of renewable energy.

"The majority of persons were from the business sector as one of the objectives is that we train businesses regarding the various aspects of renewable energy. This is an under-developed area within the renewable-energy field," noted Corbin.

"We need persons from outside UWI to be involved because we can do research here at the University but we must have ways to implement and test the technologies."

She added that her counterparts from Flensburg were likewise able to fulfil their quest in coming to the Caribbean.

"They are also promoting renewable energy and the development of renewable energy capacity. So it's definitely been to our mutual benefit."

Professor Dr Jens Born of the Chemical Technology of Renewable Resources Department of the University of Flensburg concurred, stating he was proud to be able to share his knowledge and expertise in renewable energy with participants at the workshop.

A specialist in bio-energy, he noted that biogas boasts superior stability when compared to other renewable energies.

"We believe that bio-energy, especially biogas, is a very important complementary energy source when compared to other energy sources, which are fluctuating, like wind and solar energy, because we can store the gas, then we can have the electricity later on if we need it," he said. He added, "biogas technology is the most interesting form of bio-energy or bio-fuel production because any kind of bio-mass can be digested into a gas or fuel like methane. So you are not dependent on one source for biogas. Also, biogas technology is able to transfer fertiliser back into the agricultural sector. So we have recycling of the fertilisers and you don't waste them.

Additionally, it's highly applicable in small scales which is very good for these countries (in the Caribbean). Usually small-scale solutions are not very profitable, but in biogas technology it's definitely feasible."

Meanwhile, **Dr. Indra Haraksingh**, lecturer in the Faculty of Science and Agriculture at St. Augustine Campus, disclosed that UWI will soon be introducing two master's programmes in renewable energy; a master's in renewable energy at all three UWI campuses, as well as a master's in renewable energy management at Cave Hill Campus. She stated that the University was responding to the scarcity of suitably qualified people in the area of renewable energy technologies. ■



Left to right: Dr. Thomas Rogers, lecturer in renewable energy at UWI Cave Hill; Natasha Corbin, Manager – DIREKT Project, Cave Hill Campus; Professor Jens Born, University of Flensburg; Dr. John Kutesakwe, University of Flensburg, and Dr. Indra Haraksingh, lecturer at UWI St. Augustine Campus were among the delegates at the Biogas Workshop last December.

Renewable ENERGY ON CAMPUS

Having a staff and student complement of nearly 10 000 makes Cave Hill the site of one of the largest daily gatherings with a population density ideal for demonstrating the value of renewable energy (RE). As part of its energy efficiency drive, the Campus plans to undertake the following projects:

- Lighting of the Campus's two bus stations using solar photovoltaic (PV) panels
- Solar PV powered lighting of student gazebos
- Replacing compact fluorescent with Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) in classroom
- Security lights for the Commercial Analytical Lab
- Implementation of RE street lights on Campus
- Implement systems to improve energy efficiency, focusing mainly on air-conditioning
- Utilizing the Physics Lab to display small RE models and posters
- Offering RE-related programmes at certificate and Master's levels

These initiatives are in keeping with the Campus' commitment to use renewable energy sources and the fact that for almost 25 years the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences has continually been involved in the development, transfer and practical application of renewable energy technologies.

Additionally, UWI has collaborated with various overseas universities on renewable energy initiatives, including the Developing Island Renewable Energy Transfer project (DIREKT) which is funded by the ACP Science and Technology Programme, an EU programme to enhance cooperation between the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) region.

This collaboration has enabled UWI to host renewable energy workshops and foster partnerships with regional businesses and with universities in other small-island states that face similar development problems to Barbados. The general objective of the project is to strengthen the partner's science and technology capacity in renewable energy by means of technology transfer, information exchange and networking. Recently, the Cave Hill Campus Renewable Energy group (SOLPROM) joined forces with the Barbados Renewable Energy Association (BREA) in an effort to propel the industry.

UWI also plans to work with the Barbados National Oil Company (BNOC), in association with the Solar Institutes, to execute three accredited certificate training programmes: Solar Training – Solar Electric Design and Installation (Grid-DIREKT); Solar Training - Grid Direct Design and the NEC (National Electrical Code), and Solar Training – Battery Based Design. ■

The Errol Barrow Centre for Creative Imagination (EBCCI), named in October 2006, was officially opened in December that year and its stage christened by the theatrical production *The Redemption of Sister Dinah*, in tribute of National Hero Rt. Excellent Errol Walton Barrow after whom the Centre was named. The EBCCI's mission to educate in the arts was firmly established as it introduced the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Creative Arts programme from September 2007 with thirty students and, just four years later, a Master of Arts programme in September 2011.



Marking five years of cultural

Since opening, the EBCCI has sought to define the artistic spirit of the people through academic and outreach programmes. Its annual offerings include the **International Diaspora Arts Festival** and the **End of Year Presentations** showcase by BFA faculty and students, amid a year-long potpourri of dance, theatre, music, film and visual art exhibitions, often featuring noted guest artists. It has revolutionized film in Barbados, hosting several film exhibitions. The EBCCI is currently



in the post production phase of the film **Sweet Bottom**, an exciting new feature-length dramatic film, produced and directed by Professor Gladstone Yearwood, Director of the EBCCI and an award winning filmmaker.

Students enrolled in visual and creative arts programmes continue to rise above expectations with award winning performances at the national and regional level in dance, drama, music and more recently film. They continue to receive awards and high commendations for their performances and appeared at CARIFESTA X with Kamau Brathwaite's **Odale's Choice** in Georgetown, Guyana in 2008.

Over the past five years, the EBCCI has been at the forefront of the University's international outreach, forging ties with the People's Republic of China, the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Republic of Cuba, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the United States of America, the European Union and India. The Centre's research thrust has fostered collaboration with areas of industry that complement the arts, such as the Regional Heritage Tourism Conference and the first ever national think tank on creativity and innovation.



Prof Gladstone Yearwood

The Centre is home to the revived literary journal **BIM: Arts for the 21st Century** magazine published

in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, and which has noted Caribbean intellectual George Lamming as its patron editor. The EBCCI is also the venue for the staging of the annual **Heroes on Stage Productions**, a series of plays written by Hilary Beckles to commemorate the lives of Barbados' National Heroes.



promotion

From March 22 to May 7, the Centre will host the **2012 International Diaspora Arts Festival — End of Year Student Presentations** under the theme **The Rhythmic Celebrations of the Artist**. This year, the Festival will again feature presentations by the students of the EBCCI in dance, theatre, music and film in the fulfillment of requirements for their course of study. They will be complemented by a film exhibition and workshops by award winning Barbadian UK based filmmaker Menelik Shabazz, the featured guest presenter.

Also featured will be an album launch by the **1688 Orchestra**, led by Stefan Walcott the theatrical staging of Trinidadian Rawle Gibbons' play **'Shepherd'** by the playwright in collaboration with the student body, **'Vectors'** the dance production led by Cuban American award winning choreographer and lecturer Neri Torres and guest choreographer Onyekwere Ozuzu, performances and workshops by the **UWI Chorale and Steel Orchestra Cry Freedom Tour** from St. Augustine Campus, and the best student films and student theatre and choreographies featured in cross campus competitions and festivals during the year. ■

More information on the EBCCI is available at www.cavehill.uwi.edu/ebcci and on Facebook.



Harking back to a Hero's Call



Scenes from *The Betrayal*; A play depicting the political intervention of the Rt. Excellent Clement Osbourne Payne

As Barbados marked its 45th anniversary of Independence, Cave Hill Campus raised the curtain on the seventh installation of its *National Heroes on Stage* series entitled *The Betrayal: A Play Depicting the Political Intervention of the Rt. Excellent Clement Osbourne Payne*. The drama, written by Hilary Beckles and directed by Harclyde Walcott, boasted an 18-member cast and ran from November 30 until December 4, 2011.

A revolutionary, Payne's public meetings in 1937 triggered his deportation from Barbados and sparked violent social unrest. He died abroad, never returning. In the ensuing years, his slogan "educate, agitate, but do not violate!" has resonated among many who regard him as an apostle for the regional trade union movement.

The 1937 uprising lasted for about a week days in different parts of the island, including the City where show windows were damaged and cars pushed into the sea. Fourteen people died, 47 were wounded and hundreds arrested. Damage to property ran into millions of dollars.

July this year marks the 75th anniversary of the Payne-inspired uprisings. ■



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