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Vice Chancellor's Award

CHILL news

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CAVE HILL CAMPUS, BARBADOS

We welcome your comments and feedback
which can be directed to
publicinformation@cavehill.uwi.edu
Or Chill c/o Office of Public Information
UWI, Cave Hill Campus
Bridgetown, BB11000, Barbados
Tel (246) 417-4076 / (246) 417-7529

EDITOR:
Chelston Lovell

CONSULTANT EDITOR:
Marva Cossy

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR:
Rasheeta Dorant

PHOTO EDITOR:
Lisa Yarde

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT:
Lisa Yarde

CONTRIBUTORS:

Angela Alleyne PhD	Ian Craig PhD
Marsha Boyce	Margaret Harris
George Brathwaite PhD	Dale Lynch
Margaret Broomes	Richard Thomas
Adrian Cashman PhD	UWI Centre
CERMES	WILLCOM

PHOTOGRAPHY:

Kenmore Bynoe	Brian Elcock
CERMES	Ramar Haynes
Chavier Cummins	Linn-Charlott Nilsen
Steven Daniel	Grantley Trebble
Simone Delzin	WILLCOM
Brendon Duncan	

Cover Photo by Brian Elcock
Graphic Design by Mark Headley

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The Making of a Smart Campus

Throughout the lifespan of any organism, it will likely be subjected to changes in its external environment which mandate that it evolve or expire. Organisations are no different. Faced with the need to embrace change or dissolve into history, they will often seek to re-engineer their component parts for optimum performance in order to maintain or achieve impact, sustainability and growth.

For more than half a century, The University of the West Indies at Cave Hill has operated on a funding model which was introduced in the early 1960s. That model has reached its limits and is in its dying throes. The university, designed to provide a tertiary education that would advance the human resource needs of the region, has not completed its mission of facilitating social mobility and regional sustainability. It therefore has to be repositioned, not only to continue providing higher education that is applicable to the 21st century, but to do so in a manner that ensures its own sustainability and relevance.

As part of a wider regional tertiary level ecosystem, which is preparing to roll out a new five year strategic plan to help revitalise Caribbean development, the administration and management at Cave Hill are laying the groundwork to reposition the campus as a smart campus and a unique provider of higher education within The UWI family. Guided by The UWI's Triple A objectives of Access, Alignment and Agility, we have embarked on a reconceptualisation of this campus' strategic development that include but are not limited to:

- Rebuilding student enrolment which declined sharply after the introduction in 2014 of tuition fees for Barbadians;
- Pursuing smart diversification and growth at Cave Hill in a manner that embraces the relevance of a liberal arts education;
- Adopting a more aggressive policy of internationalisation;
- Strengthening the campus' alignment with industry and corporate establishments.

While cognisant of the need to tap into non-traditional regional and international markets to bolster student enrolment, we have also devised several mechanisms to help cushion the financial hardship wrought on Barbadian nationals. Signalling our intent not to abandon our host citizens, we have embarked on a vigorous public information programme and recruitment drive targeting high schools.

As a smart campus, we will seek to harness the changes in technology, including mobile applications, big data and the Internet of things, as we move towards improving educational delivery and pedagogy. We intend to revolutionise the education system through diversification of content and widespread application of information technology while maintaining vigilance over quality and student-centredness.



Professor V. Eudine Barriteau, GCM
Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal,
UWI, Cave Hill Campus.

We will emphasise smart learning, using technology to enhance the student experience, to reach a wider audience, to achieve better communication, and we will seek to integrate the smart campus into neighbouring business communities. Our smart campus proposal is intended to position Cave Hill Campus as an integral, but seamless driver of services, resources and intellectual capital in an urban, business and residential community.

The Faculty of Science and Technology will play a critical role in our strategy to build a smart campus. It is the nerve centre for the long-term transformation of the learning, delivery, integration, investment and spatial culture of the campus. We will improve the quality of the learning environment and the quality of the research undertaken. Growth in science, technology and innovation is fundamental to the advance of Caribbean societies. We expect to create a state of the art facility befitting a 21st century Campus.

Our internationalisation thrust will be strengthened by our growth of English as a Second Language immersion programme, programmatic offerings through the Confucius Institute, and the provision of medical education to international students.

Deeper engagement with the private sector will help with our efforts at greater self-reliance. The development of an agro-business science park driven by our Centre for Food Security and Entrepreneurship and the establishment of an Office of Research and Innovation will strengthen our linkages with industry and the corporate sector, and the commercialisation of our applied research.

The Cave Hill Campus is resolute, resilient and committed to the revitalisation of Barbados and Caribbean development. We are simultaneously navigating financial austerity while being propelled by existing opportunities to maintain financial sustainability and Campus relevance. We have undertaken a number of measures to work through and beyond our economic difficulties. We are refashioning the strategic development of the Cave Hill Campus as a smart campus, dedicated to expanded access, transforming the skilled labour force and growing applied research and innovation to advance Caribbean societies. We are working towards greater financial self-sufficiency.



Medical students from the Class of 2015: (l-r) Hamzah Suleman, Mohammed Akojee and Abeo Ogunshye with lecturer Dr. Jacqueline Vigilance

MEDICAL ALL CLEAR



Endorsement enables faculty to attract more US students

LESS THAN A DECADE after opening a full-fledged Faculty of Medical Sciences, Cave Hill Campus has received a stamp of approval that positions it to enroll an influx of American students who wish to pursue a medical career.

Late last year the United States Department of Education's National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) endorsed the recognition which was given to the University of the West Indies medical programme by the region's regulatory body, the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions (CAAM-HP). The endorsement means that federal loans may now be used by American students to study medicine at The University of the West Indies (UWI).

The highly coveted sanction was a pivotal moment for the UWI Faculty of Medical Sciences, as it makes Cave Hill Campus the only medical school operating in Barbados which has acquired such recognition.

Principal and Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Eudine Barriteau

explained that the US approval signifies that The UWI Faculty of Medical Sciences has met US standards of comparability in the provision of medical education. The US currently boasts some of this hemisphere's leading institutions for physician training, including some of the world's top ranked medical schools renowned for research and patient care.

Barriteau noted that following the NCFMEA recognition, Cave Hill has started to lay the groundwork to ensure that it aligns its programmatic offerings to attract U.S students who may wish to study medicine in Barbados, and later return to the US for medical practice.

"If we want to target American students specifically we have to revise our curriculum and offer a curriculum that meets the United States Medical Licensing Education (USMLE); we don't have that curriculum yet. We have additional steps to take. We also don't want students

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coming one by one. We would prefer a cohort and to get the cohort we have work to do hence the additional steps.

"A student can come right now on his or her own volition, but what they will be doing is the programme which we have that caters for medical education in the Caribbean. We have students right now who sit the USMLE which gives admission to practice and they do very well, just like we have Caribbean students who also do well on the GRE and SAT (tests for admission to US graduate and undergraduate programmes) because of the solid education they have had." Though medical teaching began at The UWI in 1948 at Mona Campus, Cave Hill began offering medical education in 1967 by providing postgraduate training and internationally-recognised research. In 2008, the School for Clinical Medicine and Research transitioned to the Faculty of Medical Sciences with purpose-built facilities.

While praising the many successes of the faculty, Principal Barriteau said the approval has the potential to blossom into a new revenue stream for the university which has introduced a number of initiatives to reduce dependence on government funding and become more self-reliant.



Principal and Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Eudine Barriteau.

"Even though we will fast track these requirements, we are going to do so in a detailed manner because we don't want to be ill-prepared," Barriteau added. "We have to develop networks, for example, we need hospitals where the US students can go for clinical training. This becomes necessary so as not to have those students place any pressure on hospital resources in the Caribbean or function in a manner that would jeopardise our accreditation."

Prince Harry meets medical faculty

JUST AHEAD of World AIDS Day last December, Britain's Prince Harry paid a surprise visit to Barbados' Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH), warning about the importance of HIV testing. The visit underscored the significance of The University of the West Indies at Cave Hill in providing patient care on the island.

Several UWI faculty provide medical services as well as administer and coordinate clinics at the QEH, in addition to their teaching duties. One such member of faculty with whom the prince held lengthy discussions



Prince Harry speaking with a young patient during his visit to the Paediatric Ward.

was lecturer Dr Alok Kumar who serves as a paediatric consultant at the health institution.

The two discussed the importance of people being tested for HIV with Dr Kumar noting that in spite of the island's success in halting perinatal transmission, "HIV is something that keeps persisting".



Dr. Alok Kumar (left) chatting with Prince Harry.

He also pointed out that owing to the challenge of stigmatisation, the island was still faced with a problem of people not wanting to disclose their positive status for fear of discrimination, including job loss.

Prince Harry also queried whether there was stigma surrounding mental health in Barbados, an issue on which he campaigns in an attempt to raise awareness and encourage young people with mental health issues to speak about.

The prince campaigns on the issue with the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

Dr Kumar noted ongoing efforts to end mental health stigma but that it was still a thorny issue.

Donors helping students to stay on track

A REQUIREMENT to pay 20 per cent of the cost of their academic programme, has seen Barbadian students join their regional counterparts in the annual hunt for scholarships.

It's a situation of which the University of the West Indies (UWI) is acutely aware and which led Cave Hill's administration to make an offer of scholarships to Barbadians one of the key features of its programme of activities to mark Barbados' 50th anniversary of Independence last year.

Days before the island observed the November 30th milestone, five students were awarded scholarships by the university to mark the occasion.

"The Golden Jubilee offered us a superb opportunity to replenish Barbados' human resource capital by investing in you, by providing you with opportunities to earn your degrees and acquire values that would last a life time," Campus Principal Professor Eudine Barribeau told the students.

She thanked the campus' donor community, including individuals, for their generosity which enabled the institution to honour the pledge she



Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States, Ambassador Nestor Mendez, greeting Cave Hill Campus Principal Professor Eudine Barribeau.

had made earlier in the year at the unveiling of the campus' calendar of anniversary events.

Cave Hill also partnered with the UWI Open Campus to donate several so called "back on track" awards that enabled recipients to undertake pre-university qualifications that would help fast track their journey to the UWI.

Numerous other organisations including the campus' Guild of Students and the Global Education Scholastic Trust also provided generous scholarship donations. The Trust awarded a \$10,000 scholarship to



Graduate student Shernell Gittens accepting her award from Principal and Pro Vice-Chancellor Eudine Barribeau.

Barbadian Ashley Leeandra Jackman, a Level III student pursuing studies in Management with Spanish.

In the meantime, Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), Ambassador Nestor Mendez, admonished Caribbean nationals for not taking advantage of scholarships being offered by the organisation, when he paid a visit to the campus. He urged students not to allow language to be a barrier to them furthering their education.

Ambassador Mendez delivered a lecture at the Faculty of Law titled **The Role of the OAS in Shaping the Hemispheric Agenda and the Derived Value of Membership to Caribbean States**, in which he stressed that education, an area in which the OAS has been partnering with Caricom-member states and others, was one of the key drivers to assist the region to navigate its challenges

Sad farewell

AS WE WERE PREPARING to go to press with this edition, **CHILL's** editorial team received the devastating news that one of our contributing colleagues had passed away. He lost a brief battle with cancer and died on March 1.

Contributing photographer Steven Daniel whose work has featured consistently in many editions of **CHILL**, including this, was a beloved colleague who was always eager

to capture with his lens, the unfolding stories of success and achievement, as well as other campus developments.

Photography was not his main duty but a passion which he pursued with an unflappable demeanour and a quiet confidence that endeared him to many.

Steven joined the Cave Hill community in January 2006 and was a part-time assistant in the Sidney Martin Library until December 2007. He joined the CLR James Cricket Research Centre in January 2008 where he worked until his passing.



STEVEN DANIEL

Cave Hill preparing for the UWI Games

AFTER WELCOMING sporting professionals from across the region for the inaugural Caribbean Sports Conference last October, Cave Hill's Academy of Sport is once again preparing to host another flagship regional event.

About 600 student-athletes from St. Augustine, Mona, Open Campus and Cave Hill will vie for honours in the 30th biennial UWI Games slated to take place in Barbados from May 24th – June 2nd this year.

The nine-day event, which is regarded as the largest tertiary education sports meet in the Caribbean, comprises ten sporting disciplines: Cricket, Netball, Volleyball, Basketball, Swimming, Tennis, Table Tennis, Volleyball, Hockey and Track & Field.

Head of the Academy of Sport Amanda Reifer has described the games as an essential developmental platform for young athletes aspiring to compete on the international stage.

"Our student games have evolved over the years in size of contingents, number of sporting disciplines and degree of competitiveness. They complement our investment in world class facilities and academic sports programmes, which help to ensure that UWI students maintain a competitive advantage in all sport related disciplines," she said.

The staging of the UWI Games brings significant tourism benefit to host countries as large contingents of students, staff and supporters require accommodation, transportation and other goods and services that contribute to entertainment expenditures.

Reifer also emphasised the importance of corporate support and the participation of key partners and sponsors who helped to ensure the continuation of the Games over the years.

"We are eternally grateful to the private sector for their assistance with the 2017 Games to be held here at Cave Hill. The Barbados Olympic Association, Digicel, Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc, and all other partners who have contributed in cash or kind remain the bedrock for the games' successful execution."



Report to assist with managing Sargassum

REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS now have a document that could help guide their responses to further influxes of the Sargassum seaweed, which has threatened the lucrative tourism industry and caused health and environmental concerns.

The document was compiled by a team from the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Management (CERMES), Cave Hill Campus, and the Barbados Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Area and Wildlife (SPAW-RAC), following extensive research on the phenomenon.

The Sargassum Management Brief titled **Golden Tides: Management Best Practices for Influxes of Sargassum in the Caribbean with a Focus on Clean-up** was compiled and submitted in 2016 by the five-member team of Catrina Hinds, Frédérique Fardin, Hazel Oxenford, Janice Cumberbatch, and Adrian Cashman, of whom the latter three are University of the West Indies (UWI) researchers.

The 17-page document provides government officials, coastal managers,

beach caretakers and coastal residents with up-to-date information on the recent influxes and offers guidance on how best to sustainably manage the seaweed, based on lessons learnt to date.

Since the first major influx occurred in 2011, inundating the shores of several Caribbean islands and West African countries, the golden-brown seaweed has become a recurrent invader.

The researchers say these influxes have given rise to a number of serious socio-ecological and economic concerns, particularly in the hospitality and fisheries sectors.

As a result, they have paid particular attention to undertaking clean-up efforts, promising that other recommendations focusing on potential commercial uses of the weed and on adaptation measures suitable for fishers and other vessel operators would be made in the future.

The team said the UWI and a number of other regional institutions would continue to actively research and understand this new phenomenon and develop further solutions.

UWI**tv** launched

The latest physical campus in The University of the West Indies' illustrious existence was the backdrop for one of the institution's most significant developments in its near 70-year history. The media launch for the university's latest ambitious educational initiative, **UWI**tv****, was held at Cave Hill, spreading the news locally and online across the globe.



*Dr Alafia Samuels making a comment at the launch of UWI**tv**.*

Established as a tripartite partnership between The UWI, CaribVision - the regional cable service of the Caribbean Media Corporation, and Jamaica's RJR Group, UWI**tv** reaches millions of viewers in more than 20 Caribbean countries. Millions more in the large Diaspora communities in New York, Toronto, Montreal, London and Europe are able to access via Caribvision. UWI Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles said there would be three hours of television broadcast daily, offering a variety of programmes developed from activities and events that occur across the UWI's four campuses. Programming content will also be accessible online at any time. "We are going to be engaging an audience of millions of people daily to promote the interest of our university and to take the content that is developed daily within the UWI to a global audience. This changes completely the nature of communications of the university to its constituencies and to the wider world," he said of the new multimedia public information and education service initiative.

"In addition we have access to 68 years of archives we have been saving, all of those seminal events not only in the university but in the region and beyond. Furthermore, we will be having partnerships with other universities in the world that already have moved into cable broadcasting as well as internet broadcasting."

Senior advisor for communications to the Vice-Chancellor, Don Rojas, joining via livestream, spoke of the tremendous benefits provided by the new station, which is also expected to be a source of revenue for the university.

Sir Hilary described the new TV station as "a game changer in Caribbean education and public outreach" noting that UWI**tv**'s cable service will be complemented by a



*Vice-Chancellor Sir Hilary Beckles described UWI**tv** as "a game changer".*

"robust web and social presence, allowing users to access content in real time or on demand."

He said the UWI**tv** website will also offer a "vast searchable video database, which will serve as an invaluable resource for students, scholars, librarians, researchers, documentarians and journalists throughout the region and across the world."



Dr Angela Alleyne.

Biosafety students Excel

Efforts to safeguard the Caribbean's natural environment, including its food production and preparation surroundings, from an intrusion of foreign, harmful or genetically modified organisms, received significant support when Cave Hill graduated its inaugural cohort of masters students in Biosafety.

Ten graduates, two of whom earned distinctions, successfully completed the programme and represent pioneers among biosafety policy advisers, legislative guides, practitioners and monitors in the region.

The University's online learning platform enabled the working professionals from Belize, Antigua, Suriname, St Vincent and the Grenadines and St Lucia the opportunity to participate in the new Masters programme that spanned the 2014 to 2016 period.

Programme coordinator Dr Angela Alleyne said it aims to assist regional states that are signatories to the Cartagena Biosafety Protocol (CBP) under World Trade Organisation rules. The protocol requires that modern biotechnology tools are used carefully and sensibly to minimise health and environmental risks of genetically modified products (GMOs), a provision that has resulted in a demand for scientific professionals with expertise in the field.

"With increasing food imports in the region, there is

a greater need for improved surveillance and testing of agricultural products made with the assistance of modern biotechnology," Dr Alleyne said.

"The biotechnology techniques used in making these products can also be utilised to test for their presence."

She noted that the University's initiative was in response to a rising need for this type of training and expertise. In addition, there is a growing pool of organic farmers who require their products certified through scientific testing as GMO-free.

Some of the successful students said the MSc in Biosafety has been very helpful in assisting them in their activities as quarantine officers, laboratory personnel and policy personnel in biosafety. They also were very enthusiastic about the opportunity given to them to network with their colleagues in the region from Belize to St. Lucia, through the programme.

They lauded Cave Hill for embarking on the use of a blended learning format – online learning with some face to face interaction – allowing them to complete the degree programme with minimal dislocation in their daily lives.

The M.Sc. programme has broadened its reach by including students from the Bahamas, Guyana and Barbados in the second cohort and seeks to expand its impact when new students enrol in September 2017.

EBCCI hosting AFTA Conference

Barbados will be the venue for a major international conference on the performing arts when the Errol Barrow Centre for Creative Imagination at Cave Hill Campus hosts the Africa Theatre Association's flagship symposium this year.

The 2017 AFTA Annual International Conference will be held under theme, "Many People, Many Cultures, One Humanity: Re-Centering the Poet, Poetry and Performance" from July 6 to 9.

The conference theme is concerned with influences that inform theatre and performance in Africa, in the Caribbean and in their respective diasporas. It is anticipated that issues and sub-themes emerging in papers will address "threads, movements, theory and criticism, media, practice,



dramaturgy, music, dance, poetry, film, new media, design, ritual, meta-narrative, ancestral voices, legacy, identity, language, nationalism, post colonialism, indigenous, traditional and other models of theatre and performance."

Theatre and performance on the African continent itself, as well as in the diaspora, have historically been influenced considerably by the story teller, the griot and the poet, who traditionally have been the keeper of the tales, the maker of the myths and the voice of the culture.

Papers are expected from within disciplines of History, Literature, Cultural Studies, Visual Arts, Film, Dance and Theatre including cross-discipline submissions.

Prospective participants are invited to submit their abstracts of a maximum 250 words for the papers they wish to present to conferences@africantheatreassociation.org.



Professor Winston Moore (left) in conversation with Principal & Pro Vice-Chancellor Eudine Barriteau (right) before delivering his inaugural professorial lecture.

Anyone seeking signposts to help Barbados advance beyond its current socio-economic achievements would have found several when Cave Hill held a flagship lecture series to cap the campus' year-long celebrations marking its host country's golden anniversary of self-government.

What emerged from the speakers was a veritable developmental roadmap during the series entitled **"1966+ Beyond the Broken Trident: Achievements, Challenges and Prospects"**.

Lecture halls were crowded and the final event held to standing room only as the slate of speakers, primarily academics, contextualised the pre and post-Independence factors that have shaped Barbados. Wide-ranging focus fell on issues that included finance, labour and other aspects of the economy; history; politics; culture; education; health; the environment; rights for people with disabilities and gender. Critical analyses concluded with speakers offering a host of recommendations on the way forward as the country looks to the next 50 years.

With Barbados beset with economic challenges, it was unavoidable that the economy and the financial system would receive major attention during the series which ran September 15 to November 24, 2016.

Two academics, Head of the Department of Economics, Professor Winston Moore in his inaugural professorial lecture and former UWI Pro Vice-Chancellor for Planning and Development, Professor Andrew Downes conducted detailed scrutiny of the economy; while Dean of the Faculty

Mapping gains and looking ahead

of Social Sciences, Dr Justin Robinson assessed the financial system and investment climate.

Setting the stage for his senior colleague whose focus in lecture two would include job creation, skill development, and labour reform, Moore's overview of pre and post-independence economic performance put forward several areas of potential to aid in further development, including the largely unexplored green economy.

"The penetration of renewable energy can reduce our dependence on imported fossil fuel and, hence, our vulnerability to oil price volatility, generate jobs as well as new industries," he said.

"Increased investment can boost economic growth without negative consequences for the environment. Green approaches to waste management, for example, through a national recycling programme, transportation, water management, and the use of land can also result in similar gains as well as new businesses and job creation."

Tapping into their immense reservoir of knowledge retired Deputy Principal Professor Pedro Welch, and UWI Chancellor Sir George Alleyne gave parsing focus on educational and health attainment. While both spoke of the

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many strides that have been made, they also pointed to lingering areas of concern.

"It is clear that the spread of education to the masses at the primary and secondary levels has provided a real impetus to human resource development since the 1960s. Of equal importance, the introduction of a technologically driven model into the educational policy of the island has contributed to heightened expectation of an accelerated human development profile of the population," said Professor Welch.

With regard to tertiary level education, he added, *"We need to consider how access to the University is, perhaps, the single most important factor in accelerating the movement of working-class families to the level of the middle class and, for that matter, enabling some members of the professional and middling classes, possibly through an entrepreneurial venture that was fuelled by the academic know-how and skills provided by the University, to move into the upper social levels of the society."*

Development of a cultural identity, management of the environment, and the creation of an inclusive society to fully accommodate differently-able citizens all received searing scrutiny in separate presentations.

Offering a perspective from the post-independence generation, lecturer in Politics, International Relations and Integration Studies, Dr Kristina Hinds-Harrison touched on the need for increased accountability of holding public office holders and inadequate youth involvement in decisions that affect them.

In an examination of gender relations, Cave Hill Principal and Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Eudine Barriteau, under whose patronage the lecture series was

held, spoke of the many narratives that undergird deep-seated ideologies and stereotypes associated with women, and continue to lead to inequalities.

Pointing to contradictions and tensions in our gender ideologies, she suggested that the time may be ripe for Barbadians to do some introspection.

"We are the state and we are society. It is too simplistic to lay all the blame on the state and absolve ourselves from any responsibility for perpetuating beliefs that continue to view women and other marginal groups as secondary. The state is permanent and continuous. Governments come and go, but particular governments create policies and shape the contours of the state. We the people, license governments, we give them authority to act on our behalf. What occurs in state policies is replicated in societal practices."

UWI Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles climaxed the series by suggesting that Barbados needed to move forward with a new development model, one embracing the masses far more than currently obtains.

Referencing key figures and epochs in the island's history, he said: *"Fifty years (after attainment of independence) the unjust society remains. The just nation that near 3,000 of our ancestors fought for has not yet been realised and yet I believe... that as Barbados was the most unjust society in this hemisphere we must continue our efforts to make sure that Barbados becomes the most just society in the next 50 years."*

"You cannot have growth of small businesses, medium-sized businesses, even with brilliant ideas, without access to finance. That's the system we have. I would suggest that that is where we have to start looking for a new model of the forces that will modernise, transform and develop this economy."

"Fifty years (after attainment of independence) the unjust society remains. The just nation that near 3,000 of our ancestors fought for has not yet been realised and yet I believe... that as Barbados was the most unjust society in this hemisphere we must continue our efforts to make sure that Barbados becomes the most just society in the next 50 years."



Medical Sciences educate and inform

THE University of the West Indies Faculty of Medical Sciences has provided the bedrock for health care delivery in Barbados, establishing a long history of collaboration with the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the Ministry of Health. So much so that the provision of expertise on health-related matters or just keeping the public informed has become second nature to UWI's medical science staff.

In keeping with its public education thrust, the faculty hosted a medical lecture series as its contribution to Barbados' Independence celebrations, covering an array of engaging topics on which there has been close collaboration between the university and Government.

Glaucoma, hypertension and other non-communicable diseases all came under the microscope with UWI's Chronic Disease Research Centre (CDRC) staff and leadership stressing the need for adopting healthier life styles to stave off some illnesses.

"...we all need to work together to make sure that we increase activity levels," said CDRC lecturer Christina Howitt in a joint presentation with research assistant at the centre Mariam Alvarado on physical activity.

"It's the best opportunity we have to improve health in Barbados. Leading an active lifestyle can reduce the risk of a whole range of diseases starting with stroke. We see more than 500 strokes each year in Barbados. Being active can reduce the risk by almost 30 per cent.

Next, hypertension and Alzheimer's disease – a reduction for both of these by about 40 per cent," Howitt noted.

Amid ongoing debate on the rising cost of health care and possible reform, senior lecturers in Accident & Emergency Medicine Dr Reginald King and Dr Harold Watson brought perspective to the issue when they delivered on the theme, "**Past,**



L-R: Dean, Faculty of Medical Sciences Dr Peter Adams and Campus Registrar Kenneth Walters listen while Professor Emeritus Sir Henry Fraser makes a point.

Present and Future – the delivery of emergency health care in an independent Barbados.

Public attention was also focussed on **Eliminating AIDS in Barbados through Rational Decision Making**, a lecture by Deputy Principal Professor Clive Landis, an honorary director of the Barbados Ministry of Health HIV laboratory, who in 2013 and 2015 led the lab to international accreditation with the College of American Pathologists.

Professor Landis spoke of his collaboration with the Ministry of Health to demonstrate viral suppression at a level comparable to what has been achieved in the United States and, among many numerous issues he raised, urged better education on the disease.

"We're long past the point when we need to be afraid of this disease. It's not a death sentence, it's very difficult to catch. What we also need is accurate information. There are so many untruths and mistruths and half-truths and quarter truths and downright lies abounding about HIV that the public needs information. Treatment is prevention. It's eliminating AIDS, saving lives and it's protecting the public," he said.

One of the most anticipated activities was the panel discussion on medical marijuana which evolved polarizing views on whether approval of the substance for medical research, as has occurred in Jamaica, would assist the region or retard the development of Caribbean youth.

The series ended November 8 with Senator Sir Henry Fraser suggesting that Barbadians were eating themselves to death and echoing the many warnings about obesity and the chronic disease epidemic facing the country.

He said: "Two thirds of women are overweight or obese One third of men are overweight or obese. Men remain active and slim far longer than women, who are fatter at a younger and younger age."

Sir Henry pointed out that, "20 per cent of all adults have high blood pressure and half of those are over 45. By age 60, it's 60 per cent. And one in five adults over 45 has diabetes, all heading for strokes, heart attacks and kidney failure.

"Dialysis for kidney failure, due to the combination of diabetes and hypertension, costs more than \$35,000 per patient, per year. We dialyze over 200 patients – that's \$8 million a year, the health care costs of 6,000 other patients."



L-R: Former, Prime Minister of Barbados, Mr. Owen Arthur in conversation with Chairman, Barbados Hotel and Tourism Association Roseanne Myers and Vincentian Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves

Once Britain exits the European Union (EU), the CARIFORUM relationship with the rest of the EU under the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), which was negotiated to be of indefinite duration, will remain intact; but the EU will have to negotiate a new trade regime with CARIFORUM, a process that can take various forms and years to arrange.

That's according to former Prime Minister of Barbados Owen Arthur who cautioned that a post-Brexit trade regime between the region and the United Kingdom could cause a decline in Caribbean trade fortunes.

He made the comments at a Brexit symposium hosted by the UWI Cave Hill Campus last August following the June 2016 referendum outcome that the UK must cease to be a part of the EU.

"At the extreme (a new trade agreement) could involve the EU defining for itself a most favoured nation (MFN) tariff regime which it would apply in its dealing not only with CARIFORUM but with all other countries," Arthur said. *"Such a regime involving the imposition of tariffs on Caribbean products would be less advantageous for the region than the duty free regime presently enjoyed under the EPA,"* he added.

He added that Britain could also devise a generalized scheme of preferences (GSP) to be granted to developing countries, a regime offering better tariffs and other trade arrangements than those under the MFN relationship. A GSP arrangement however could be quite complex and can have graduation conditions that could work to the disadvantage of the Caribbean.

Arthur said this arrangement would create a special difficulty of foisting on the region, the same tariff and other conditions of trade with Britain that were given to other developing countries whose prospects are more competitive than those of the Caribbean because of "costs conditions."

The economist argued that the Caribbean's best option was to use the available two year interval prior to Brexit to begin talks in a meaningful way with the EU so that once Brexit became effective, the two groups of countries can announce the retention of the trade regime already contained in the EPA.

"This should not pose an insurmountable difficulty since the trade regime embodied in the EPA is already WTO compatible," he said.



BREXIT: THE CARIBBEAN'S NEXT MOVES

Beyond trade, the Caribbean's relationships with the UK and the EU includes programmes and instruments of development cooperation which were not subject to development rules and which were at the discretion of both the EU and the UK, Arthur pointed out.

"The opportunity could exist post Brexit for the Caribbean to seek a bilateral programme with the United Kingdom that is more generous and more impactful than a programme in the various chapters of the economic partnership agreement," he noted.

In addition, Arthur said Brexit must be an opportunity to set in train efforts to revamp and to reset CARICOM's trade diplomacy with the global trade community in a way that can have major beneficial impacts in the structure and in the performance of the region's economy.

"This issue concerns the fact that Brexit has exposed how narrow and how fragile are our region's relationships with the global economy. It underscores the need for those relationships to be revamped and to be reengineered."

Arthur stressed that the trade dependent Caribbean has the fewest bilateral trade agreements of any region in the world and those agreements are narrowly focused on the trade in goods. He described regional trade agreements with Canada and the US as "largely depreciated assets which can hardly serve now as instruments to conduce regional development."

Cricket Centre Acquires Unique Collection

The CLR James Cricket Research Centre has acquired a unique collection, comprising more than five hundred items of cricket memorabilia. The collection was donated by Henderson Springer, former West Indies cricketer and cricket coach who has travelled the world playing, coaching and watching cricket. During his travels, he amassed a great collection of cricket artifacts including cricket ties, shirts and hats from cricketing nations which have played against the West Indies. The items in the collection are associated with players, cricket teams and cricket events.

Librarian and PhD candidate Margaret Broome said on receipt of the items: *"At the CLR James Cricket Research Centre our primary focus is preserving the history of West Indies cricket in all formats. With the 'information explosion', libraries are facing increasing demands for access to documents preserved in their original form and other artifacts. Original materials provide value that cannot be replicated in other formats."*

"Each item in this collection tells a story or provides information about the person who wore it, a cricket event or the cricketing nation on whose behalf the item was created. By using such artifacts as primary sources, the material culture aspect is added to the research conducted. Such artifacts as these in the Springer Collection will provide insights about our cricketing material culture in times past."

The collection of memorabilia will be of interest to researchers, cricket enthusiasts and future generations as it will add to the historical record. Many artifacts from the collection will be displayed as a permanent exhibit at the CLR James Cricket Research Centre at Cave Hill campus. Those items not on display will be stored and preserved for future exhibits.

For the victims of violence

Cave Hill Campus paid homage to women affected by domestic violence, with a public installation honoring the memory of those who lost their lives as a result.

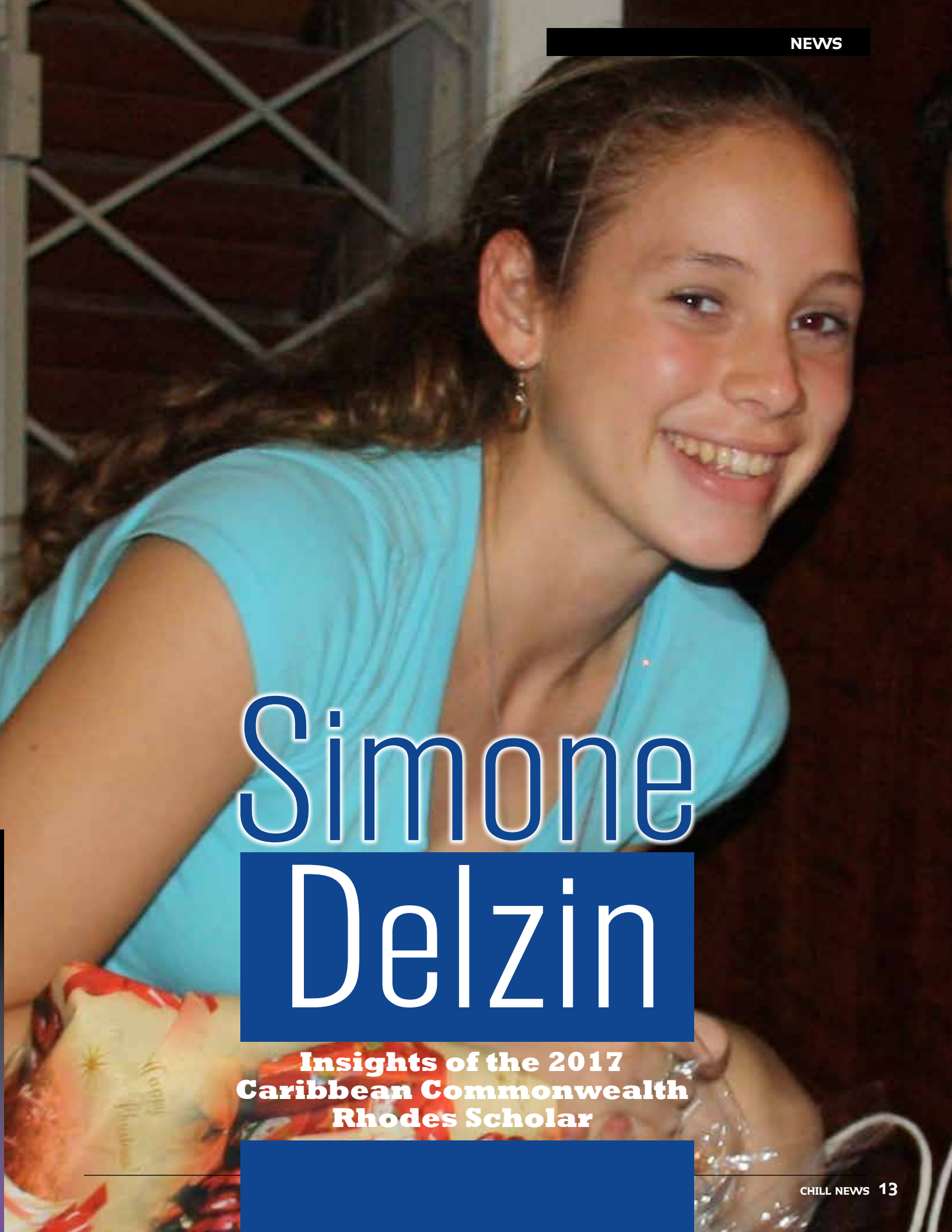
The installation themed Letters: **One Is One, Too Many** was erected last November in the foyer of the Leslie Robinson Building to coincide with the *United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women*.

The project curated by lecturer in Theatre Studies Harclyde Walcott, depicted the stories of several victims of domestic violence and was aimed at restoring human dignity to individuals who may have come to be thought of simply as statistics; and to reconnect them with society at large.

It is also served as a call to action in support of the explorations and implementation of mechanisms that will help to reduce violence against women.



Harclyde Walcott



Simone Delzin

**Insights of the 2017
Caribbean Commonwealth
Rhodes Scholar**



Simone orchestrating a chant during the UWI STAT One Voice event, which led a group of over 100 Cave Hill students off campus in surrounding communities to protest gun violence.

By Rasheeta Dorant

In 2013 Simone Delzin rejected a partial scholarship to attend the University of Guelph in Canada, and made a last minute decision to move from her hometown in Trinidad and Tobago to enroll at The UWI, Cave Hill Campus in Barbados.

It was a decision that led to what the 22-year-old would regard as “the most transformative experience” of her life to date.

Fast-forward to four years later; Simone is now the recipient of the 2017 Caribbean Commonwealth Rhodes Scholarship, outgoing President of UWI STAT (Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow) and a self-professed patriot for all things Caribbean. She has joined an elite band of

more than 60 UWI alumni who have captured the coveted award.

Although Simone is a first class graduand with a Biology and Psychology double major, her UWI experience was not limited to academic excellence. She recalls a journey of self-discovery, life-long friendships and a renewed passion for the socio-politics of health and social justice.

“UWI was never my first option for tertiary study. I was excited to leave the Caribbean and experience a different culture and environment. However, my father who is now a lawyer, is also a proud Cave Hill alumnus and encouraged me to at least pursue my undergraduate

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Children from the Black Rock community joining in the UWI STAT One Voice march held to protest a rise in gun violence.



Simone with her family (from left) older brother Kyle Delzin, mother Ann Marie Llanos-Delzin, father Gregory Delzin and younger sister Steffi Delzin.

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degree in the region.”

“It wasn’t long after I had started that I realised I had made the right decision and called him just to say thank you,” she said.

Growing up in Trinidad, Simone discovered her humanitarian nature at the age of 14 when her secondary school — St. Joseph’s Convent, visited an orphanage. The visit was so impactful that the young ballet dancer decided to become a weekly volunteer. Although she led dance classes with the children during her spare time, she remained conflicted by her desire to do even more.

“I’ve always had a passion for people especially children but I felt like that visit really burst my bubble and exposed me to a lot of the problems facing society. Ever since then I wanted to be a part of the solution. ”

This led to her starting a charitable organisation at age 16 called Spark-a-Smile, which she ran up until she left her native land to pursue studies at Cave Hill.

“I remember being very nervous and thinking I was way too young to be asking these types of questions and wanting to effect social change. But for the very first time I also felt this energy and a very strong conviction that it was too important not to try, even if it seemed hard or impossible.”

The project was a resounding success and allowed Delzin and her peers to accomplish a variety of activities including the distribution of books and hampers to underprivileged children throughout the twin island republic. She would later receive the Trinidad and Tobago National Youth Award for Leadership in honour of her founding the youth-led initiative.

Although being armed with her newfound passion and ignited by her achievements, Simone remained skeptical about her choice to pursue tertiary studies in the

Caribbean. Despite several trips to Barbados, by her family, she remembered feeling like a “tourist” in her early days on Campus. “It was like I was visiting for class but not really a part of the environment.”

As her studies progressed Simone credits her Caribbean Civilization and Law, Governance and Society foundation courses for instilling a feeling of “belongingness” and sense of Caribbean pride.

“Biology gave me the structured content that I was accustomed to from my CXC and CAPE subjects and Psychology became my creative outlet for learning about people and human nature; but I truly appreciated UWI as an institution and my relevance to this region after completing my foundation courses. Once I delved into the content I understood my father’s pride and was thankful for the opportunity to feel the same.”

Simone’s enthusiasm and interest in Caribbean identity and governance structures flourished as she participated in even more extracurricular activities on Campus. She became a member of the track and field team and helped to revamp the then defunct UWI Dance Society.

“A whole new world opened up for me and my social network grew from attending panel discussions, public lectures and reading about the contributions of stalwarts like C.L.R. James, Michael Manley and Eric Williams. I felt energised and once again convicted to bring about social change but this time it wasn’t only for my country but my entire region.”

“Sometimes people ask me why I’m so excited about my university but where else in the world could I have gone and had an opportunity to meet not one but several prime ministers from across the region who are excited to pay their way and come to deliver a lecture at the behest of our small student associations with no money or significant resources.

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We felt so unworthy, but thankful..." she chuckled.

Although her Catholic faith and the support of her family remained a driving force behind her success, Simone identified UWI Vice-Chancellor Sir Hilary Beckles as having the biggest impact on her self-actualisation and academic pursuits to date.

She proudly recounted memorised themes from reading all of his books while sharing her admiration for his *"boldness and unreserved character"*.

"Even in the face of opposition and criticism, Sir Hilary remains unwavering in his undying faithfulness to the Caribbean region. He is not only an inspiration to me but many of my peers see him as a role model because of his courage, humility and willingness to always give advice," she said.

Medical Anthropology

In October, Simone will embark on a new academic journey at the University of Oxford where she will commence postgraduate studies in Medical Anthropology.

However, just a year ago the passionate student-leader had very little knowledge of anthropology and what the discipline entailed. She recalled attending a panel discussion to commemorate the bombing of Cubana Airline Flight 455, and feeling enlightened when St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves spoke extensively about neo-liberalism in the Caribbean and its degrading effect on nationalism.

"It was like a light bulb immediately switched on in my mind because it was the first time someone verbalised a lot of my thoughts and gave them credibility. I saw a lot of the cultural connections and how politics and societal norms shaped the Caribbean health care system, but I never knew that it was something I could study exclusively"

"When I was applying for the Rhodes Scholarship I still wasn't entirely sure what I wanted to do, but after browsing past research papers on Medical Anthropology that examined neoliberalism and health and then others on reproductive trends and the role of the family, it wasn't long before I knew that I had discovered my career interest."

Upon her return, Simone hopes to generate meaningful research that will inform policy frameworks tailored for people living in the Caribbean region and bridge the gap between the more vulnerable persons in society and their access to healthcare.

"I will forever be grateful for the invaluable education The UWI has given to me. It is unmatched in its ability to ground Caribbean nationals in a critical understanding of the issues affecting the region and inspiring us to look for solutions within our respective disciplines."

Hiking was one of the many extracurricular activities Simone engaged in while in Barbados. Here she is having a light moment after exploring the east coast.

Help for Haiti



From left to right: Dr. Yanique Hume speaking at the launch of activities in support of Haiti while Dr. Justin Robinson and Dr. Jennifer Obidah listen.

Below, from left to right, Deputy Principal Professor Clive Landis, Principal and Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Eudine Barriteau and Campus Registrar Kenneth Walters lead the Candlelight procession.

In late January, Haitian Raquel Pelissier captured second place at the Miss Universe pageant, a competition touted for its glamour, elegance and, other charming traits.

Her achievement, by no means an insignificant feat, was a victory for the French-speaking Caribbean island that has seen more than its share of disasters.

And while many are basking in the glow of the recent success, in stark contrast work continues on the ground to assist those among the population of more than 10 million who still struggle in the wake of the devastating 2010 earthquake, a cholera epidemic and the deadly Hurricane Matthew that hit the island many years later.

Cave Hill which has always maintained a strong community presence across the region joined the effort to support the Caribbean neighbour in a way that would leave a lasting impact on the residents, particularly those in need.

An assistance programme themed Ayiti Lévé (Haiti Rise Up) was developed to not only provide sustained assistance, but to correct misconceptions about the island.

The latter is one of the pet peeves of one of the chief organisers Dr Yanique Hume, lecturer in the Faculty of Humanities and Education who worked in Haiti for 15 years.

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Having first-hand knowledge of the inner workings, strong culture and the indomitable spirit of the people, she found it difficult to relate to the mostly negative images presented, often following disasters.

Dr. Hume made it her mission to heighten awareness and alter the popular mind set about that country to an extent where Barbadians would see it as a place of cultural richness that has contributed much to the region and the world.

During the month of November, funds were raised to assist micro and small businesses, agriculture, health, sustainable development, and to meet the needs of children, many of whom were unable to attend school for varying reasons.

“We’re helping in such a way that after (aid providers) leave Haitians can pick up their lives and continue. In addition to raising the funds, we’re also educating the Barbadian community about Haiti. There’re many ideas out there about the country but we’re bringing expert knowledge on these different cultural areas so that people will get to know,” said Dr Jennifer Obidah, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education.

The activities included an All Saint’s Candlelight Procession and Ceremony, a Haitian film series featuring documentaries and films, a demonstration of Kompa music – one of the many musical genres that started in Haiti and has reached across the Caribbean and the globe, a workshop on Afro-Haitian dance, and the showcase of Haitian work through the eyes of gifted orators and poets.

Dean in the Faculty of Social Sciences Dr Justin Robinson stressed that funds donated would go to reputable agencies.

“With a number of these crisis events there’ve been outreaches and fundraising for Haiti and there has always been the question of whether the funds have actually gotten to those who really need it. What we’ve tried to do is to identify a number of agencies that are very well vetted and are known to be quite effective in reaching the communities and working through the communities and also focusing on working on particular needs,” Dr Robinson said.

Dale Lynch,
Director
of Student
Services.



Here to help

Ready assistance for students in need

The Office of Student Services continues efforts to help those in need of financial assistance.

In one of its latest initiatives, it has launched an Adopt-A-Student programme, specifically targeting low-income students with day-to-day expenses, such as food, transport and stationery.

A fund has been established and is supported through a minimum \$10 monthly contribution from all administrative, academic and technical and support services staff.

Director of Student Services, Dale Lynch said the initiative, which already exists at the sister campus at St Augustine, Trinidad, fills an important need.

“There is no doubt that financial challenges can negatively impact a student’s performance. Financial difficulties cause stress and unhappiness, often times provoking students to consider withdrawing from university. Students in financial difficulty work several hours, worry more, miss meals, risk being homeless and withdraw from student and campus life. Undoubtedly, therefore, apart from the risk of attrition, financial hardship can negatively impact health, an additional factor that threatens student success,” she said.

The Adopt-A-Student programme is one of many financial assistance initiatives offered by the campus to needy students, who can also access a financial aid clinic to discuss options.

For further information on how you may contribute to the Adopt-A-Student Fund, please contact the Office of Student Services at studentservices@cavehill.uwi.edu or 246-417-4165.

By Marsha Boyce

The name Floyd Reifer brings to mind cricket instantly. The sport has provided the former Barbados and West Indies player, now coach, with some of the most memorable moments of his life. However, none stands out more for the 44-year-old Reifer than being one of the five individual recipients of The University of the West Indies Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence 2015/16.

Reifer Excellence

IT was the first time that service in sport by a member of The UWI community had been recognised with the institution's highest staff award; and the historic moment on October 19th 2016 during the glitzy ceremony at the St Augustine campus had even greater significance for Reifer as he received his award from his mentor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles.

"Sir Hilary was actually the first recipient of the award. You would never think that the first recipient would be the Vice-Chancellor now; and then, that he would be the one giving the award to me," he says with pride.

"It's a great honour. It was also a great feeling to receive it from Sir Hilary himself knowing that I see him as a mentor. I have learnt a lot from him over my years at UWI so words cannot describe how I felt!"

It was at Sir Hilary's invitation that Reifer took up the role as coach within the cricket programme at the Cave Hill Campus a decade years ago. Since then, the former left-handed middle order batsman has used his knowledge and experience to make a truly regional impact, not only

Floyd Reifer (right) receives the Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence from Sir Hilary Beckles.

coaching the Combined Campuses and Colleges team in the West Indies Cricket Board competitions; but also having a stint as assistant coach with the St Kitts & Nevis Patriots in the Caribbean Premier League. Most notably, just shy of his 37th birthday, when some might have believed his best playing days were behind him despite an impressive first class season, he took up the mantle as Captain of the West Indies team, leading his young charges into battle against Bangladesh in the midst of a regional players' strike in 2009.

Road to coaching

Reifer's love affair with the sport of cricket had taken root from an early age, being a member of a 'cricketing' family.

"It's in my blood! I believe I was born to play the sport. I tell people that all the time. I am happy to see that parents are now pushing their children into

more sports. Sport can pave the way for a lot of people to progress in life. Growing up, I always knew I was going to play cricket. I always knew I wanted to play professionally. I still believe – I don't have any regrets – but I should have played more Test cricket. Unfortunately, it didn't happen," he grins.

After representing Barbados for around 15 years, learning from the likes of local legends Malcolm Marshall, Desmond Haynes, Gordon Greenidge and Carlisle Best; taking the field in West Indies colours alongside Brian Lara, Courtney Walsh and Sir Curly Ambrose; then playing professionally in the UK, the transition into coaching was a natural one for Reifer.

"I always knew I had the ability to coach. I was always good with people. People think coaching is being technical all the time but it's the ability to get the best out of individuals; and I believe I have that ability. That makes the other part easier – when you come to the technical and the

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tactical aspects – because now the players have confidence in you and they buy into it.”

He’s currently qualified to coach any first class or test side in the world, but for now, cricket at Cave Hill is his focus. Here, he’s more than just a coach, seeing himself as a mentor to players, providing guidance on and off the field.

Success at UWI

It was in the midst of doing one of the things he loves most – coaching; while sitting under a balcony at the 3Ws Pavilion that has borne his name since 2013, that we analyse the success of the cricket programme at UWI. Locally, the Elite Division team has done it all, winning more than ten cups within the last seven years, including completing an unprecedented hat trick of major titles, twice. The Intermediate team has gained promotion to the First Division. Then, at the regional level, the Combined Campuses and Colleges (CCC) team, of which Reifer is also the head coach, has made it into two major finals while producing many players who would go on to represent the West Indies.

“We bring guys here with raw talent – guys that the other territories are not even looking at to represent them. After being here for a few years, going through the UWI programme and the CCC programme, they have developed from raw players into first class cricketers. We have seen them mature, going on to play for the West Indies ‘A’ and Senior teams.”

Striking a balance between winning titles and developing players is important to Reifer; one which he seems well on his way to mastering. He could easily have been boastful but instead, only after some prodding, reflected on the number of current regional cricketers who have passed through his hand. The list is shaping up to be an impressive one with the likes of current West Indies captains Jason Holder (Tests and One-Day Internationals) and Carlos Brathwaite (T20 Internationals) among the ranks. Other notable current and past UWI cricketers who have suited up for the Windies include recent limited overs selectee Rovman Powell, Kesrick Williams, and Chadwick Walton. Among those who have made a mark on the regional scene are several Barbadians like his cousin Raymon Reifer, Kyle Mayers and

Omar Phillips along with Kavesh Kantasingh (Trinidad and Tobago), Simon Jackson and Shacaya Thomas (Jamaica), Kavem Hodge, Romel Currency and Miles Bascombe (Windward Islands).

For Reifer though, joy doesn’t come from name dropping, but rather in seeing players continually excel after leaving the confines of the 3Ws Oval.

“To have, for example, West Indies captains as graduates is great, not really for me, but for the University. It augurs well for the UWI programme and the CCC programme that we can produce two [West Indies] captains. It’s about the development of these young guys and the development of our organization. These guys now have to pave the way for others to come in and get the same opportunities to achieve those things.”

Dedicated to development

He would tell you that he is just a quiet individual who enjoys the occasional lime with friends, listening to reggae music, and spending time with his family. However, the fire in his eyes when speaking about the programme tells a different story. His dedication to the task at hand is evident, with even this interview being punctuated with bellows of instruction and encouragement directed on the field.

One of the hallmarks of the cricket programme at UWI is holistic player development.

“It’s very important to us to develop players academically. The guys that are on scholarship, still have to maintain a certain GPA. It teaches them to balance life – academics, cricket and social life. Obviously, if they are out there all the time representing UWI, we can’t let them down on the academic side; we give them all of the support that they need.”

Reifer credits the support of his entire team, as well as the University administration for the success of the programme thus far. “We have the facilities here. We have the coaches and the staff – Pedro Collins, Ryan Hinds, Ryan Austin – these guys are doing a great job. We have a good team here, including the grounds staff; and obviously the Academy of Sport supports us all the way in terms of the development of players.”

And with that in mind, one of his major goals is the

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Floyd Reifer (fourth from right, partially hidden) and the UWI Blackbirds celebrate a fourth title in a year after winning the UWI/C.O. Williams Construction Inter-Parish Cricket Competition.





FLASHBACK 2007: Floyd Reifer (right) with (from left) Roland Butcher, Sir Hilary Beckles and Nekoli Parris celebrating the UWI Blackbirds' capture of the Sagikor General Super Cup.

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continued development of regional cricketers. "We have an important role to play in West Indies cricket. We've shown that we have the skill, knowledge and the expertise to develop cricketers. We are going to continue to expose new talent every year. I strongly believe that the sooner that we [CCC] get back into four-day cricket, the better for us. We have talent in the region but the cupboard is not that full. I think that we can give the West Indies Cricket Board and the selectors the opportunity to see more talent, so they can have more options in terms of selecting players."

The future

Despite being entrenched in the UWI's history, Reifer is not one to rest on his laurels and is well aware that the spotlight on him will intensify.

"One of the things that the Vice-Chancellor said about the award is that, yes you have done well and you have achieved a lot; but now that you have received the award the work has begun! You now have to push forward."

He is aiming for further progress and success as the UWI and CCC programmes look to fully embrace more modern technological advances in sport.

"UWI has the Sport Sciences degrees, and we hope that the students that are involved in those programmes can get involved in sport at UWI where we can even create jobs. For example, they could do research and provide the information to the coaches. That is how we are going to develop as a Caribbean region. We are way behind and we need to catch up."

The demands of the various roles mean he's virtually on the job seven days a week for most of the year but that isn't about to change any time soon.

"The drive for the success of the programme, the drive for the success of the players, that's what keeps me going. No matter how tired I am, if a guy calls and says 'coach I need some extra work', I can't say no. It's been tough, some long hours, long days. Obviously, I try to keep myself fit. One thing that I haven't mastered yet is getting enough rest... still working on that part," he says with a laugh.

Reifer says he owes much to the sport of cricket and is determined to give back. Influenced by memories of having to make a choice between cricket and university education, today Reifer is guided by that vision of Sir Frank Worrell for regional players to have the opportunity to study and play cricket at the highest levels, and he relishes his role in creating such avenues for young men.

"It's not only about cricket. It's about life as well. When these guys leave here, they are prepared for life after UWI, and what the real world is like. We try to develop well-rounded persons. All of the knowledge that I have learnt over the years, I have brought into this programme; and I try to make these guys better than I ever was at the game."

Editor's Note: The Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence has been a UWI tradition for more than 20 years. The awards recognise excellence in teaching, administration and research accomplishments, service to the university community, contributions to public service, and all-round excellence in a combination of two or more of these core areas.

A medical researcher whose work has taken her into the heartland of the Ebola epidemic is among the latest recipients of the Principal's Award for Excellence. *Angela Rose* who gained recognition for Outstanding Contribution to Public Service for her support in national development and international emergency responses, was among three academics and a technician who received the campus' highest honour to staff.

Along with Ms Rose, who is a senior lecturer in Epidemiology at the Chronic Disease Research Centre (CDRC), other academic awardees included **Professor Evelyn O'Callaghan** and **Dr Troy Lorde**, both honoured for Research Accomplishments; and senior technical assistant in the Maintenance Department **Kenneth Alleyne**, who copped the award in the Administrative, Technical and Service (ATS) staff category. The staff members were formally recognised for their contribution at the campus' annual Staff Awards and Retirees Ceremony last December.

In 2014, at the height of global fears about Ebola and its transmission, Ms Rose responded to the World Health Organization's (WHO) call for epidemiologists fluent in French to assist with the Ebola haemorrhagic fever outbreak response in West Africa. She endured harsh living conditions, long hours in remote areas with limited food and widespread resistance and disbelief by families and communities. In spite of her challenges, she achieved key objectives which led to an improvement in the overall timeliness and quality of the Ebola response. Ms Rose heads the CDRC's non-communicable disease (NCD) surveillance and is also a member of the UWI Caribbean Regional Zika Task Force.

Having authored over 45 works since joining The University of the West Indies, Prof O'Callaghan's primary area of research is West Indian and Caribbean literature. Her active research agenda has led to numerous special presentations and invitations to lecture at universities across the globe. Recognition of her more recent work on the preservation of West Indian narratives resulted in an invitation to participate in Workshops on "Digital Humanities", at Yale University. This led to collaboration with international scholars on developing an online digital humanities module, which Professor O'Callaghan incorporated into her teaching at Cave Hill.

Four earn Principal's Award for Excellence

In November 2012, collaborating with colleagues from the University of Reading and Long Island University, she organised a conference in Barbados. The papers from that conference resulted in a co-edited book of essays titled "Caribbean Irish Connections: Interdisciplinary Perspectives" that was published in 2015.

Tourism economics, international trade competitiveness and applied econometrics are among Dr Lorde's primary areas of research in which he has been quite prolific. Over the last five years, he has written and published a number of highly cited and important papers. One entitled, "Local Residents' perceptions of the Impacts of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 on Barbados: Comparisons of Pre- and Post-Games" has been cited more than 69 times since 2011. His more recent studies have investigated issues of significant policy relevance including "Innovation in the Services Sector: An Analysis of CARICOM", "An Assessment of International Competitiveness in CARICOM Services Exports" and "Why Buy When we can Pirate? The Role of Intentions and Willingness to Pay in Predicting Piracy Behaviour".

Seven years after joining the campus community. Mr. Alleyne migrated from the Maintenance Department to the Planning and Projects Unit in 2007 where he steadfastly applied his education and training in Building and Civil Engineering. As the Projects Coordinator/Technical Officer/Construction Manager, the skill and diligence in project coordination and supervision which he had displayed in his earlier job enabled him to excel in his new responsibilities. Completion of his Masters in Building and Construction Management at the Cave Hill Campus in 2014 further boosted his competencies.

Described as "a dedicated team player (with) focus and determination," he is credited with supervising the \$7 million dollar three-storey CARICOM Office, the construction of the Clinical Skills (Errol Walrond) Building, the "Quaw's Quest" monument, the USAID-funded CERMES Extension, preparation works for Cave Hill 50th Anniversary renaming Ceremonies and the Nelson Mandela Freedom Park. He has also given outstanding logistical support to the Vice-Chancellor's Installation Ceremony and annual graduations.

More than 60 members of staff were recognised for long service varying from 15 to 40 years; while 13 retired from the university.



Ms. Angela
Rose

Professor Evelyn
O'Callaghan

Dr Troy
Lorde

Mr Kenneth
Alleyne

ACADEMY OF SPORT SHINES AT AWARDS



The Academy of Sport at the Cave Hill Campus is in winners' row once again. Renowned for its domination across several local sporting disciplines, the Academy was recognised by the Barbados National Sports Council at the **34th Annual National Sports Awards Ceremony**.

The UWI administrators were lauded for their enduring commitment to sporting excellence and the holistic development of players.

Head, Academy of Sport Amanda Reifer (left) accepting her Sports Administrator of the Year Award from June Caddle.



NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Sagcor UWI Blackbirds Cricket Team retained the 2016 Barbados Cricket Association (BCA) Sagcor General T20 Championship
- The UWI Blackbirds Intermediate Cricket Team was victorious and has been promoted to the BCA First Division; a feat the team has pursued for over 30 years
- The UWI Blackbirds Women's Team captured both the 50-over and T20 titles, playing unbeaten, in the BCA Iris Walker Competition
- The UWI Blackbirds Netballers were crowned the Queens of the Barbados Netball Association (BNA) Senior Knockout and Division 5 competitions. The Division One 'A' team won the BNA League Competition
- In hockey, the Blackbirds placed second in the Men's and Mixed competitions of the Banks International Hockey Festival
- The male football team won the Barbados Football Association Digicel Premier League title in only its second year in the competition. The Blackbirds team broke several league records in capturing this title

L-R: Roland Butcher, Head Coach Football, accepted the Club Award on behalf of the Academy from André Burgess.

Solving the water problem

Time's running out!

By Adrian Cashman, PhD



"When one man drinks while another can only watch, Doomsday follows." – Turkish Proverb

During 2015 and into 2016 it was obvious to anyone paying attention to the media that something is seriously wrong with our water supply. Almost every day there was something about Barbados' 'Water Woes'.

Water supplies to homes and communities were interrupted for days on end, water tasting salty, bans on watering lawns and complaints that ministers and the Barbados Water Authority (BWA) were doing nothing. Public meetings were held and we saw the formation of the "Water Warriors", delivering buckets and water to stressed communities.

In many parts of the island black tanks sprouted up, to satisfy the thirst of Barbadians, but even these were not without their problems. If nothing else the experience brought home to many Barbadians the reality that this is indeed a water scarce island. These are all symptoms of a problem we have with our water but what has brought Barbadian society to this sorry state? I would argue that it is due to a combination of circumstances, some of which are of our own making.

BREAKING DOWN

Firstly, there can be no doubt that the severe drought that started towards the end of 2014 that increased in intensity during 2015 and lingered well into 2016 did reduce the island's water resources – the water available from our aquifers/groundwater. But this does not explain the rise in outages and supply interruptions. Put simply, the water supply system is breaking down so the water is not reaching the people. That is down to complacency and decades of under-investment in the maintenance and management of the water infrastructure.

Clearly, this situation is unacceptable and more needs to be done. But we have to be careful not to act without thinking. Water supply systems are expensive to build and run and, they last a long time – how often have we been told that some of our system is over 100 years old? So, whatever we do must consider what the future might hold. And that means taking account of how climate change is going to impact on us. Recent research by CERMES into the future availability of water to meet the needs of Barbados illustrates the potential scale of the problem we may be facing.

In just over 30 years' time we expect the amount of water needed by the country to increase by around 30%; to support

domestic demand, businesses and tourism. We have looked at how Barbados' economy is likely to grow, particularly the tourism sector, the linkages to global economy, the changes in domestic demand for water as well as other sectors such as agriculture and commerce. From these calculations we have been able to describe four future scenarios and the average water demand associated with each of them, assuming that there are no supply constraints and that all the demand can be met.

However, we already know that all of the demand for water cannot be met, otherwise we would not have experiencing shortages. The next piece of the puzzle we looked at was how much water could be sustainably pumped from the ground in the future, without causing seawater to come into the aquifers or for the water levels to drop so that it becomes harder to pump. The amount of water that can be sustainably pumped out depends on recharge which in turn depends on the climate; how hot it is, how much it rains and how much gets into the aquifers.

To do this we used the projections of future climate change that have been produced by Professor Michael Taylor's group at UWI Mona. These were applied to a model of Barbados' groundwater aquifers that we had developed. In this way we have been able to project what the sustainable yield from Barbados' aquifer is likely to be around 2050. We expect how much we can get from the groundwater to drop by around 50%. This implies that even with the Spring Garden desalination plant there will not be enough to meet everyone's demand water.

If we do nothing then by 2050 (just over 30 years from now) then on average water demand would be equivalent to 60 000 gallons per person (that's about four times as much water that you'd drink in a lifetime) whereas we would only be able to get 33 000 gallons per person from the desalination plant and the groundwater; a shortage over a year equivalent to 27 000 gallons for every person on the island. It is also obvious that water losses have to be addressed as a matter of urgency. By how much the losses can economically be reduced is a matter for discussion and has to be weighed up against other adaptation and policy options.

BALANCE

There are two ways to bridge the gap between demand and ability to meet it. You increase the supply by finding more water or you decrease the amount of water being used to bring the system into balance. We could increase supply in three ways; by

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We need to realise that water is scarce and it looks set to get worse in the future. People need to learn the value of water. ... time is running out and we need concerted action now, we have seen what the future looks like if we do nothing and it is not pretty.

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desalinating seawater – which is plentiful but costly, by importing water or, by rainwater harvesting. We could decrease demand by; asking people and businesses to use less, using technology to improve the way in which water is used or, by introducing economic incentives which reward good behaviour or punish waste.

The BWA announced plans for two seawater desalination plants, provisionally with the same production capacity as the Spring Garden plant. Assuming that they could operate all year round, two such plants would add the equivalent of 20,000 gallons per person. The cost of building 2 desal plants is not yet known or how much they will cost to run or what the source of energy would be (fossil fuel?). Using a rough estimate based on the cost of the existing plant adjusted for inflation and without operating costs, the cost would be of the order of everyone having to pay at least an extra \$100 every year. And it would not cover the demand.

CALCULATIONS

The calculations of demand include the reduced level of leakage that the BWA hopes to reach through their current mains replacement programme. But I believe that more needs to be done to reduce leakages. Reducing leakage to say just 15% from the current level of 43% of consumption would reduce demand by the equivalent of 17,600 gallons per person. This is just less than the additional supplied by the desal option at broadly the same overall capital cost. The advantage would be though that there would be cost savings as operational costs would fall. However, this still does not balance the books so other measures would have to be considered.

We need to realise that water is scarce and it looks set to get worse in the future. People need to learn the value of water. We need to look at smarter water tariffs that encourage more efficient water use as well as incentivise the use of previously used (what we would normally call waste) water. Reusing water could add the equivalent of 10,000 gallons per person a year to supply, though the cost still needs to be worked out. A mix of technological and economic measures that improve how water is used could reduce demand by anything up to 50%. Surely these are worth looking at. But time is running out and we need concerted action now, we have seen what the future looks like if we do nothing and it is not pretty.

The research that UWI is engaged in can contribute to better decision-making and the choice of options. But research alone is not enough, we all need to be more respectful of our water with people, professionals and politicians working together to secure a future where we all have access to water; children, senior citizens, working mothers and users all across the island, not just for the good of a few but for the many. If we don't then people and the economy will suffer.



Human development and sustainability: Cave Hill's challenge

by George C. Brathwaite, PhD

Having recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of independence from Britain, Barbados has reached a significant milestone. This landmark signals a need for capturing the best of achievements, and for taking 'new guard' to further Barbados' developmental process. A maturing nation, Barbados must take stock of the positives while forging ahead to tackle today's urgencies and fixing the necessities which will engender sustainability.

The Caribbean will need the imagination of its academics, policymakers and technocrats, together with the political will of its leaders to bring about purposeful and positive changes over the next few decades. Strategically, Barbados and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member states must embrace the expectations of local populations while emphasising the expansion and strengthening of individual capabilities and the utilisation of appropriate institutional support systems to achieve economic growth without making future generations worse off. The emphasis on these forms of engagement should seriously consider alternatives for additionally building resilience and creating enhanced capabilities at all levels of endeavour.

The University of the West Indies Cave Hill community, must stand ready to offer leadership and pivotal engagement at all levels of societal interaction at this critical moment. The Cave Hill community must trigger national discourses of this possibility by honing in on past achievements and deciding how best to confront the challenges facing the Caribbean region.

There are many diverse challenges confronting these small countries, and it is essential that the people and governments of the region are steadfast in their abilities to provide utility while safeguarding the sustainability of this vulnerable region. Notwithstanding the enormous social, economic, and other gains which have helped to positively transform Barbados and territories in the region in the last six decades, the quest to fit into the mainstream of global production and international competition has been difficult.

Following neoliberal prescriptions, several of the routes taken by Caribbean governments in the last two decades to achieve progress have proven themselves detrimental on

several fronts. The gains have not always been accompanied by distributive justice, nor have they produced the socioeconomic returns paraded as neoliberal virtues by some of the leading multilateral agencies which continue to provide advice and technical assistance. Neoliberal remedies have come with conditionalities that, if not totally toxic, have altered the development thrust of the small states. The developmental focus and objectives for attaining economic growth, have over time, become seemingly shifted towards debt reduction and austerity.

Barbados and the region have therefore struggled for the last 20 years and since 2008, they have become strangled, with both economic growth and sustainability compromised. Situations of increased poverty and hardship are once again pronounced. Largely as a result of ideological constraints, policy options have appeared limited and exogenously given, and pressures have surfaced locally in varied forms. These include insufficient gross capital formation, redistributive inefficiencies, uncontrolled fiscal deficits, high indebtedness, high unemployment, rising crime rates, pronounced population inequalities, and a prevailing inadequacy for the indigent and poor to gain access to essential services. For thousands of individuals, the delivery of adequate social services inclusive of higher education remain elusive.

In the context of the regional problematic can hope be inspired so that the people of the region can feel confident about their futures? How can policymakers help to construct the types of mechanisms for achieving continued progress and sustained development for the next 50 years? The Caribbean must strategically position itself through research and

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development to rely more on scientific knowledge that is peculiar to the region “regarding human well-being” (Diener & Suh, 1997). Emphasis must be placed on formulating public policies that are rooted in ample information for improving and broadening people’s capabilities.

A definitive vision for the society’s immediate and long-term future requires a collaborative approach that fosters the need for cooperation, innovation and exploration. These avenues of engagement followed by definitive implementation typify a purposeful objective. Remaining stalled or myopic in outlook cannot be the answer for the people nor authorities if they are to reap progress in Barbados and the region.

Unfortunately, throughout the last two decades, too many mixed signs emerged from political elites. Gross uncertainty and internal contradictions by government officials were clear illustrations of an elitist disconnect and political apathy in Caribbean circles. This culture of political lethargy has, in some cases, given way to vote buying/selling on unprecedented scales and a less than empathetic show of support for those being squeezed at the wrong end of public policymaking.

There is little doubt that the issues compounding the drive towards human development are complex and multifaceted. “Employment policy, fiscal management, the health care system, pension arrangements, housing policy, immigration law, the fight against crime, the management of natural resources,” have some bearing on human development and sustainability. Moreover, addressing the corresponding challenge will “necessitate a radical shift in existing patterns of production and consumption, and the transformation of major socio-economic sectors including [tourism], energy, transport, agriculture, manufacturing and construction” (Meadowcroft, 2007).

Economic development is about “life-and-death issues” and consequently national and regional thinking has to be broad-based and strategic. James Cypher (2014) insists that: “Investments

in infrastructure, in education, in technology, in environmental sustainability, in diversification of the economic base, and in machinery and equipment are some of the areas that must receive support from both the public and private sectors if the economic surplus” which is sine qua non to national development, is to be harnessed. Moreover, “economic activities should be in the service of all human beings while at the same time safeguarding the biophysical systems necessary for human existence” (Lehtonen, 2004). Attending to the needs of the society, therefore, requires ample economic and macroeconomic steering while not pushing aside broader ecological and environmental concerns. These aspects must then be used for building social and economic capital, thus helping in the surge towards national development.

The collective efforts for enhancing success in national development are intrinsically tied to “the well-being or quality of life of a person, and judgements about equality or justice,” while seeking to ensure that people have the effective opportunities so that they can “lead the lives they have reason to value” (Robeyns, 2003). Governments and national agencies must do more to further ensure that people’s capabilities are such that individuals can “undertake activities such as reading, working, or being politically active, or of enjoying positive states of being, such as being healthy or literate” (Robeyns, 2006).

In that regard, Caribbean States have done satisfactorily. However, it would be erroneous to accept that developmental objectives have reached a state of optimality for which entire populations can feel content about today and tomorrow. The fact is, poverty and myriad forms of inequality persist. Unemployment especially among the region’s youth is unwelcomingly high, leading to a host of other social and societal problems.

By the turn of the 1960s, it was determined that education would be prioritised as a defining input for Barbados’ post-

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independence development and the UWI was defined as an adjunct to national and regional development thinking for Caribbean people. Free tertiary education has helped to overcome the structures of underdevelopment which slowed or otherwise derailed human and national development, as well as endangered the best prospects for sustainability.

With that policy abandoned, Barbados and regional academics must devise and/or reconfigure mechanisms and policies for enhancing the individual's capabilities. The political elites must endeavour to encourage the regional population to be involved in the agenda setting for human development and sustainability. Creative and critical thinking, alongside research and information must drive the process of human interactions and engagement designed to achieve wealth creation and economic growth in the region and over the next few decades.

A better world is possible, but Barbadians and Caribbean people must individually feel obliged to be 'strict guardians' of their heritage and firm craftsmen and women of their collective fate. Further, with external forces continuing to bear down on small and peripheral nations, it is advisable and urgent for entities such as The UWI to explore and to discuss alternative pathways and possibilities for reshaping Barbados' and the region's developmental prospects.

To that extent, the Cave Hill community working assiduously to embrace its alumni and supporters, must become more proactive. Students and staff must be more centrally visible in shaping and recreating the national discourse of human development and sustainability. Of course, this is notwithstanding the contrapositions that will be touted by sceptics and naysayers whose emblems of achievement are closely tied with old bourgeoisie façade, or otherwise remain unseparated from the neoliberal clutches in which growing inequalities are hallmark.

Tertiary education is inherently transformative, and an educated society is likely to be better positioned to navigate the rough and uneven contours that have developed in the last decade. A better life for individuals and the society is made possible when the level of consciousness grips the nation through discourse and action. It is precisely why Barbados and the Caribbean, going forward, must utilise the informational and transnational spaces that have

become opened within the context of the UWI and Caribbean identity.

In 1968, Prime Minister Errol Barrow stated that: "It is of the utmost importance that our statesmen and scholars, students

and scientists should all realise that a university institution cannot survive unless it has as its constant goal service to the communities which support and sustain its activities." This call remains relevant in several different existentialist ways. Clearly, the Caribbean public will at times critically discuss and sometimes question the contributions and quality of students emerging in the regional labour market. However, the political responses or those flowing from Cave Hill need not be dismissive or force retreat; rather, social and distributive justice should account for the path taken to entreat discourses of human development and sustainability.

The current scope of financing in the public sector is proving to be inadequate. It is therefore becoming critical that the country engages in a national discourse that would lead Barbados and the region to make specific decisions on new modes of funding critical services. This discourse, however, must take place in an orderly, realistic and strategic fashion. More problematic would be

knee-jerk reactions to cash and other shortages which, from time to time, have affected social agencies and services. Now is a time for grabbing opportunity rather than imitating action due to panic or following externally prescribed measures which impoverish the region's people.

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MULTIPLE CHOICE'S NEGATIVE IMPACT ON ENGLISH

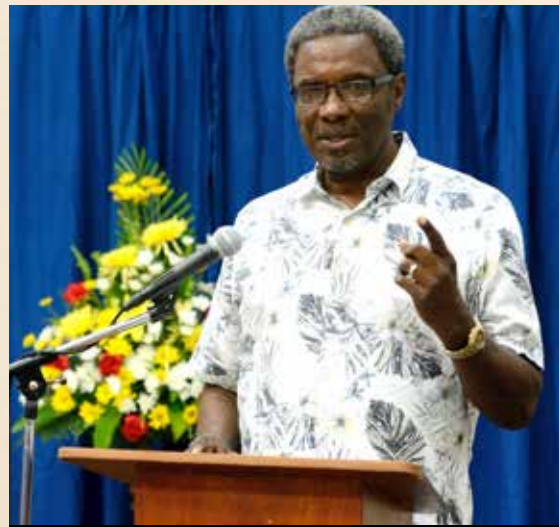
A key problem facing the teaching of English in the Caribbean is that students and examiners have become accustomed to multiple choice questions that do not generally stimulate the development of writing skills.

Delivering the feature address at the inauguration of an academic clinic to develop English language skills, Professor Emeritus Peter Roberts identified as a major concern for the academic community a difficulty by students in writing extended English paragraphs.

Roberts said that over the last 30 years, the introduction of multiple choice examinations to the school curricula had not served to encourage students to practise English since they were not forced to write extended paragraphs or full sentences.

"(It) is not just the student who gets accustomed to short answers but the CXC (Caribbean Examinations Council) also gets accustomed to short answers. Such a tendency means students would not get enough time or practice writing," he said at the October 31 opening.

Roberts, one of the first lecturers in Use of English courses at the Cave Hill Campus over 40 years ago, said the writing laboratory was supposed to cater to all students interested in improving skills. However he noted that the course became associated with exams and assignments for students deemed as having difficulty with the language.



Professor Emeritus Peter Roberts delivering the feature address at the opening of the Writing Clinic

Acknowledging that 20 years ago, teachers complained that students were not practising their writing skills enough, Roberts said people today were writing more frequently than at any other time in history through the presence of social media and other forms of internet technology. However these new forms of writing have provided a challenge and opportunity for universities.

Roberts felt universities needed to find ways of harnessing the good things about new writing platforms. For example, he said options could be considered such as the use of the keyboard as a tool in examinations, instead of the conventional hand-writing means.

He argued strongly for the creation of channels between new media and academic forms of writing English in order to prevent a separation between new media forms and institutional and student development. Especially with regard to students, Prof. Roberts pointed to the need to use technology to enhance the appeal of writing to students as well as for their own self-expression.

Dr. Ian Craig, head of the Department of Language, Linguistics and Literature, which hosts the clinic said surveys of university graduates and their employers through the years found that a common deficiency among students was their ability to write competent, coherent, Standard English.



Principal and Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Eudine Barriteau and Chancellor Sir George Alleyne flanked by top academic achievers from the 2016 graduating class

Scholarly excellence celebrated

THE PASSION, enthusiasm and commitment that Principal and Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Eudine Barriteau has for her staff and students, particularly those who achieve exceptional performance, is without question.

So it came as no surprise when she spearheaded yet another initiative to celebrate outstanding student achievement, with the staging of the inaugural Reception in Honour of Scholarly Excellence held October 13, 2016. It was further manifestation that student-centred activities hold pride of place at Cave Hill, and excellence would be awarded due recognition, whether for accomplishment in the classroom or on the field of play.

As the 130 top academic achievers of the Cave Hill Campus gathered for the celebration at the 3Vs Pavilion, Professor Barriteau pointed out the importance of the mission of the UWI, to advance education and create knowledge through excellence in teaching, research, innovation, public service, intellectual leadership and outreach in order to support the development of the Caribbean region and beyond.

She said the campus was exploring the creation of synergies among

existing programmes to create new specialisations, which could result in the BSc degree in Sports Science becoming a foundation programme for a Master's degree in occupational therapy.

Additionally, she urged the Faculty of Medical Sciences to work with colleagues in the academic sports programme to explore new areas of collaboration.

Chancellor Sir George Alleyne, in his remarks, delivered some sobering advice to the 'super achievers', advising them not to be overcome with "a feeling of what to do next".

"What I want to urge you to do is to have that confidence that you've been so good so far that the world will open itself to you and you would be able to enjoy the fruits thereof," he encouraged, adding that students should not look down on a life of public service even though the financial rewards may not be comparable to those who work in the private sector.

"I would encourage those of you who don't go into public service not to think that those of your peers who went in to public service are somehow not the brightest of the brightest and have no ambition. I think that public service probably represents the pinnacle of achievements of those who are really, really bright," said Sir George.



Dr. Therese Hadchity being congratulated by Chancellor Sir George Alleyne on completion of her Doctorate in Cultural Studies with High Commendation.

The students singled out for the reception said they felt honoured given their years of hard work and commitment to the university.

"It's an absolutely amazing feeling because as a student it's never easy with the extra nights that you put in but it got easier over time. My first GPA was nothing like what it looked like in the end because I just kept getting better and I think that's what I appreciated most about the experience ... learning and growing," said Romane Duncan, one of last year's valedictorians.

Seiyefa Sonron was proud she achieved her goal of an MSc in Project Management and Evaluation and expressed surprise by the new recognition granted by the UWI.

"I didn't know what to expect. It's an honour to see the fruits of all my hard labour and to know that I've been recognised for what I've done, even the hard nights studying and all of that," said Sonron, a project officer at the Bank of Jamaica.



L-R: Noxolo Ndara
(St. Augustine); Tamara
Savoury (Cave Hill);
Ramar Haynes (Cave Hill);
Tracy Nola Koubangou
(St. Augustine); Chavier
Cummins (Cave Hill)

This is life in SOUTH AFRICA

Study the Humanities and experience the world. This could become a likely mantra for Faculty of Humanities and Education as its students continue to benefit from cultural immersions abroad as part of their learning experience – whether studying history, culture, arts or languages.

Among the latest beneficiaries of an educational adventure were four Cave Hill students who portrayed a recent journey to South Africa as “superb”, “life-altering” and “mind-opening” among other enthralling descriptives.



“The reception that we were given was warm and excellent,” said Brandford Howell a second year History student. “You hear stories but it’s another thing to experience it. When you hear people say ‘welcome home, brother’, it’s something else. I heard a lot of people say that people in South Africa don’t care about you and that kind of thing but now I have the experience and the authority to tell them otherwise,” he said.

The January 17-22 cultural exchange visit reciprocated one paid to Cave Hill campus late last year by five South Africa students, and brought to fruition another aspect of an agreement spearheaded by Dean in the Faculty of Humanities and Education Dr Jennifer Obidah and representatives of the University of Johannesburg.

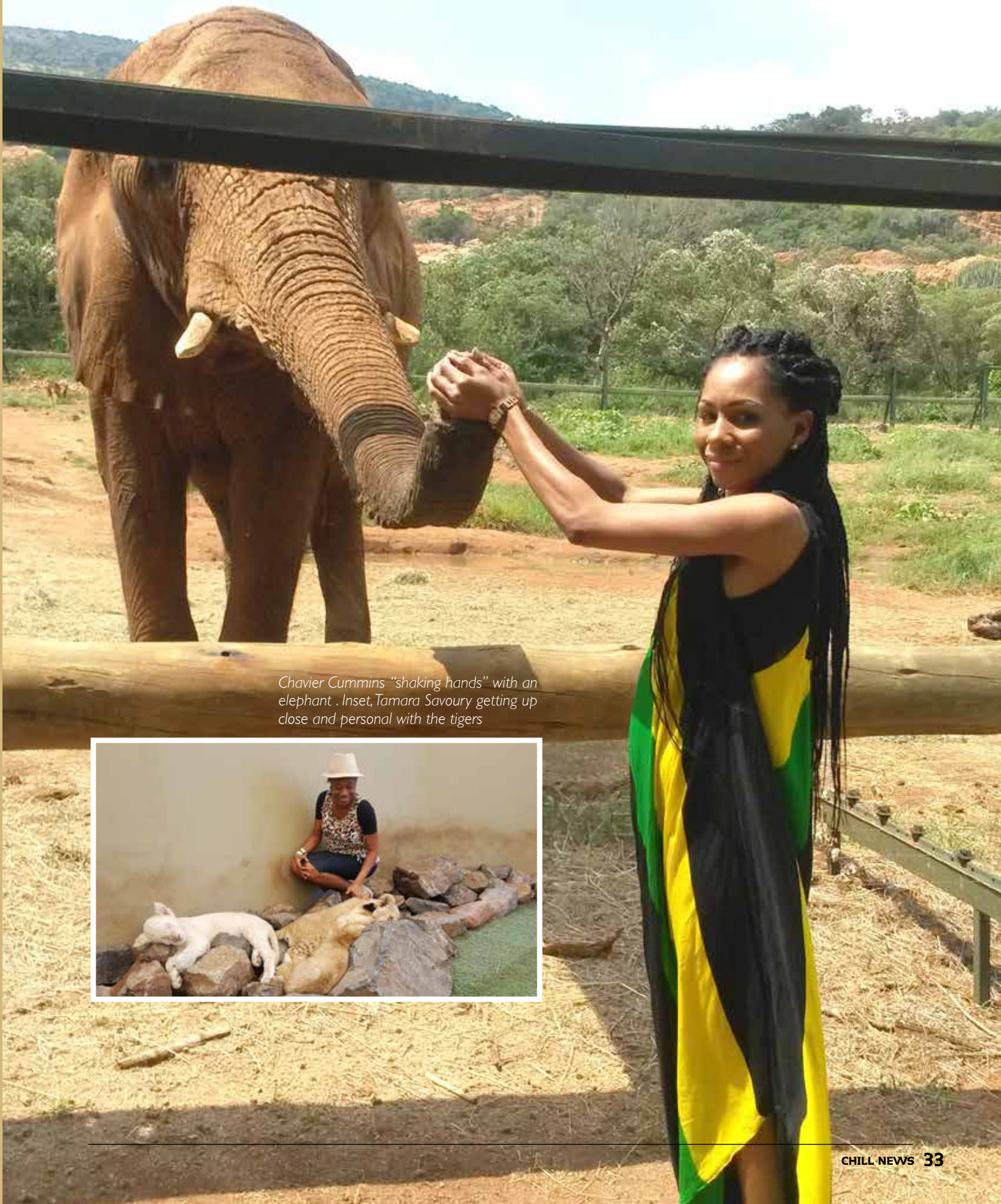
Howell along with fellow students Ramar Haynes, Chavier Cummins and Tamara Savoury were chaperoned by Director of the Office of Student Services Dale Lynch.

Though Savoury, a second year student pursuing a BA in Literatures in English with History, had a high level of awareness about South Africa, she was left in awe of the many developments she witnessed in Johannesburg.

“...It was surprising to see just how westernised and industrialised Johannesburg is with the skyscrapers and multiple highways and fast food restaurants and things like that. I have a love for history and saw that they have come quite a long way from apartheid.

“A past minister of government who worked under Nelson Mandela, the first black minister of agriculture, gave her experience of moving from an apartheid-run society into the freer society and it was so emotional. For me being in the presence of somebody who has helped bring about

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Chavier Cummins "shaking hands" with an elephant . Inset, Tamara Savoury getting up close and personal with the tigers



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so much change was life-altering,” she recounted.

Haynes, a third year Human Resource Management student, who serves as the Faculty of Social Sciences representative on The Guild of Students was quick to take note of the differences in the food and the sharp, visible contrasts between the poor and the rich.

“Even as we moved from Johannesburg and we went into Soweto we actually saw a different side of South Africa, the poorer side, the squatting, people living in severe poverty. One of the other things that stood out for me was the chat with the president of their guild, known as the Student Representative Council (SRC). They had a Fees Must Fall movement, where they were experiencing (burdensome tuition fees) similar to what we’re experiencing at Cave Hill. I heard how passionate they were, so much so that they allegedly burnt down buildings on campus and even up to the time we left we saw people chanting and singing,” he said.

“Also, the food is similar but different from ours. They concentrate more on

“...People would look at us and say: ‘you look as if you’re from this place’. I was told that I look like I’m from Nigeria. I felt at home. I felt I was back to, as they call it, Mama Africa. I felt like we had reunited with our brothers and sisters.”



Student Ramar Hayne embracing African culture.

spices and salt. Their food isn’t sweet like ours. The weather is also different. The sun would be blazing but the wind was nice and cold and you had to wear jacket. Overall, the experience was nice. People would look at us and say ‘you look as if you’re from this place’. I was told that I look like I’m from Nigeria. I felt at home. I felt I was back to, as they call it, Mama Africa. I felt like we had reunited with our brothers and sisters.”

Cummins, a third level history major, and the guild’s Humanities and Education representative likened some aspects of the visit to a spiritual experience.

“As soon as we got outside where we were staying I grabbed a handful of dirt and I began to connect. It was kind of freaking out the rest of my mates because they didn’t understand it was also a spiritual experience. I’m a historian at heart so for me it was connecting to where I came from initially,” she explained.

Like the others, Cummins learnt a lot from talking with South African officials, an activity dubbed fireside chats. The words of one female lecturer, “If I talk too much I don’t get what I want and if I don’t talk at all I don’t sleep at night”, resounded with her.

“For me the trip was very transformational because it changed

my perspective and my resolve. We in Barbados are so laid back and don’t fight to the death for anything. The president of the SRC was actually locked up for meeting with some people. It’s very political there and they know that their lives are at risk when they stand and speak. I was thinking that we don’t live like that in Barbados but yet we’re so afraid to stand up and be counted and to make our voices be heard. As an aspiring politician that just blazed something in me.”

The four spoke glowingly about the ‘top-notch’ university infrastructure inclusive of the technology and classroom structure and marvelled at the country’s eleven official languages being spoken on campus, although Zulu appeared to be most commonly used.

They also noted that the campus with an enrolment of 40,000, has designated parking for first year students. Visitors, though welcome, are not given free reign to roam the compound.

“I think that we in the Caribbean and especially in Barbados take walking on campus for granted because at the University of Johannesburg and any other university you just cannot just walk on campus. There are a lot of protocols that you have to go through,

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they have to know that you are coming on campus. So we had to get permission to go on campus even though we were their guests. Then they met us and took us on a campus tour where we were able to see the premises but there were certain parts we weren't allowed to go. Because of the Fees Must Fall protest restrictions were imposed on where we could go. Even on our hall of residence, I asked for a microwave and an electric kettle so we could heat our food at night and make tea and they had to go and ask for access to those. That was shocking," Chavier said.

The UWI students visited the iconic Hector Pieterse Museum and Memorial, named in memory of a 13-year-old fatally shot in 1976 while walking past student protestors on whom the police had fired. Also on the agenda were visits to The Elephant Sanctuary where the students walked elephants, and the Lion and Safari Park where they petted lion cubs, saw hyenas, giraffes, wild dogs and a host of other exotic animals.

They also explored The Apartheid Museum, and the Cradle of Humankind, so named because it is believed to be the place where mankind originated. The area, which remains an active excavation site, has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Meals cooked with crocodile and ostrich proved a hit with Savoury and Ramar, while lasagne was Cummins' preferred food. Howell, a vegan, had more limited choices.

While getting around, they thoroughly enjoyed shopping especially with an exchange rate of 13 rand to US\$1. Less appealing were racial incidents which they note remain a deeply entrenched issue despite the end of apartheid more than 20 years ago.

One troubling incident played out before their eyes, reminding them of the racial tensions their African counterparts can face daily but all agree the overall experience was worthwhile. So much so that one student will give serious consideration to returning to pursue a master's degree while others are interested in spending a semester on another exchange programme.



Engaging in the culture



Students at the Cave Hill campus holding their study group outdoors

Improving the Student experience

NAN INITIATIVE geared at boosting efforts to improve the student experience, Cave Hill Campus has invited recent graduates to comment on their university experience.

Principal of the Cave Hill Campus, Professor Eudine Barriteau dispatched a personally signed letter to each undergraduate and post graduate student congratulating them on their achievement and inviting them to submit their comments which she hopes will aid in establishing measurable quality benchmarks to improve student life inside and outside of the classroom.

She said the campus has intensified its focus on developing quality benchmarks for pedagogical and administrative service delivery as a priority.

“We are to continuously improve our service to our students - we can think of it as an enhanced customer service,” she said. “This

year the Campus introduced a letter of congratulations for the undergraduate and postgraduate Class of 2016 and I invited feedback from them. We are seeking to continuously improve the learning experience of our students and that process includes revisiting and further improving what we offer to them.”

She noted that in terms of enhancing programme delivery, the Campus’ Information Technology Services (CITS) department would become a much more integrated aspect of campus’ operations and assist in providing workable solutions for improving efficiencies.

She added that in terms of programme delivery, Cave Hill would utilise more online and blended technologies in an effort to capture a broader range of students.

In this regard, she has held discussions with her counterpart Principal at the Open Campus on

“We are to continuously improve our service to our students - we can think of it as an enhanced customer service...”

how the technological platforms and online programming expertise there could assist Cave Hill in reaching a wider cross section of students.

This will be done on a cost sharing basis, she said, and she intends to meet with faculty deans to have them identify programmes that lend themselves to this format.

The campus is committed to being innovative to ensure it remains relevant and flourishes beyond the current financial challenges, Professor Barriteau stressed.



By Ian Craig PhD

TWO SPANISH STUDENTS gave themselves a headstart as they entered their final year by spending July 2016 in Santander, Spain, as participants in the Department of Language, Linguistics and Literature's Study Abroad Programme.

Barbadian Roneisha Goodridge (Management with Spanish) and Vincentian Ohr Shortte (Spanish with Management) completed an intensive 100-hour Spanish Language and Culture course alongside fellow students from all over the world. Their experience included taking trips to the nearby city of Bilbao with its famous Guggenheim Art Gallery, and the prehistoric cave at Altamira, as well as enjoying the theatre, the beach, nightlife, church, and street festivities, all the while meeting a new set of friends.

The transatlantic journey was long, but Roneisha is sure it was worth it: "The experience gained in such a short time is immense and invaluable. Being immersed in a foreign language culture for the first time, exploring a new city on my own and meeting friends from

different parts of the world have all made an impression that's sure to last a lifetime."

Ohr, who benefitted from a WIGUT Travel Bursary to meet some of the travel costs, agrees that saving up the money wasn't always easy, but paid off in the end: "The opportunity was priceless when I consider the wealth of experience I gained from this new culture and the network of friends from around the globe that have left a mark on my mind."

Of course, diving straight into a new culture always involves some shocks to the system and some challenges too: "What was very disorienting was looking at a menu or the dishes of food on offer in restaurants and not having a single clue what it was you were looking at. But it definitely got easier after a while..."

The two adventurers studied at the prestigious Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo (UIMP), famous for its summer school for foreign students. Spanish Assistant at Cave Hill, Paula González, also works at the UIMP in summer, so the travelers had a familiar face around to ease the transition.

Both students stayed in a student hall run by talkative Trinitarian nuns and are sure the experience of finding their feet in a new city and a new country over an entire month has given them the confidence to move onward and upward to new and more challenging intercultural experiences.

Similar opportunities available include a nine-month assistantship in Colombia as an English tutor, open to UWI Spanish Majors and Minors and usually undertaken after graduation.

What's for sure is that they won't forget their first European experience in a hurry: both kept a journal of their sojourn as part of the requirements for new course HUMN3015 Immersion for Languages, a three-credit elective designed by Dr. Ian Craig of the Spanish section to maximise gains in intercultural awareness.

Doing the course last summer has reduced their load for the final year which became one course lighter, a great bonus after working so hard to realise many a Spanish student's dream of discovering Spain first hand.



OPERATION SMART CAMPUS

WITH AMBITIOUS PLANS to ramp up its science and technology eco-system, Cave Hill is on a trajectory to become transformed into a “smart” campus, a source of innovation and growth for its host community, country and the region.

Principal Professor Eudine Barriteau made the disclosure last August during the closing ceremony and presentation of final projects by 35 children, ages 9-12, who took part in the five-week 2nd Annual Barbados Junior Robotics Camp.

Economists regard a smart city as one that utilises connectivity to address the challenges faced by its society and broader community. A smart campus is at the centre of such a city or community, as it provides the technical and non-technical skills to both develop the workforce as well as solve problems.

In addition to addressing problems facing the city and the community, the smart campus is a source of innovation and growth. Through a symbiotic relationship between industry and the academy, new ideas are not just developed but are also exploited jointly with the business community. Central to this is the so-called Internet of Things. Using this concept, object-to-object communication is facilitated over the Internet along with real time data monitoring.

“The UWI intends to raise the bar in both basic and applied science education and research”, Barriteau stated, adding that “this would drive national growth strategies, raise income levels and increase national competitiveness in global markets.”

She said students would be provided with the necessary tools to explore, create and design new products that would ensure Barbados and the region are key members of a technology-driven world.

Leading the campus’ drive will be a refurbished Faculty of Science and Technology.

“The campus is in the process of developing a fabrication



lab using a model developed by MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology). In this case, we are hoping to start small with a couple of fabrication instruments. Based on the model we will fabricate what we need to expand the lab. The primary benefit of this lab is that it will allow us to introduce students in and outside the faculty and campus to the idea of creating hardware.

“The current focus, across the country and the region, is generally on software. There is a misconception that we can’t build our own hardware. Cave Hill intends to dispel that myth. This model is currently being used across the world in developing countries. This lab is essential to the development of robotic research in the faculty,” she explained, during the ceremony at the 3Vs Pavilion at Cave Hill.

“We are placing a new emphasis on Cloud/Server-side technology. We are looking to move mobile app development in Barbados and the region to the next stage. A really good mobile app utilizes services in the cloud to provide the user with an ideal experience that supports the company’s or institution’s main business. We are currently too focused on stand-alone apps.”

The robotics camp, organised by the Caribbean Science Foundation in partnership with the UWI, the Central Bank of Barbados and the City of Bridgetown Co-operative Credit Union, concluded with a number of challenges and displays by the students operating autonomous robots.

IT'S TIME



Enhancing student experience

TRADITIONALLY, it has attracted a higher percentage of male enrollees than female. However concern over that longstanding gender imbalance along with impediments which limit its intake of students with disabilities has led the Faculty of Science and Technology to take action aimed at addressing these trends.

The faculty is in the preliminary stages of developing a network pairing female students with industry professionals of similar gender, and a peer support group for students with disabilities.

Under the acronym FUSE-IT (FST Undergraduate Student Experience Initiative), the aim is to improve communication between the dean and the students, by merging ICT, the Internet and feedback to build an online community that enhances the student experience. It also encompasses feedback, online study tools, mobile apps and cloud-based services.

Dean of the Faculty, Dr. Colin Depradine, who champions helping people with disabilities gain access to higher education, said while many prospective students may not have physical challenges, an increasing number have learning disabilities, particularly dyslexia.

*DR. COLIN DEPRADINE:
Dean of the Faculty of
Science and Technology.*

"Many of them are not even sure what sort of accommodation they need, after having been tested and finding out they're dyslexic," he said. "(Our) staff themselves may also need training. There are a lot of things that need to be fixed quickly for those students since a lot of them are struggling because dyslexia is not about intelligence."

The faculty has established a peer support group for students with disabilities, a majority of them dyslexic.

Depradine said: "The objective is to give them an opportunity to discuss the issue and how it affects their progress in the university as well as the general interaction with society. In Barbados anything called learning disability is seen as a weakness or negative ..."

The dean is confident the initiative will correct the gender disparity in existence among not only students but faculty as well.

Whereas biological and chemical sciences have an almost equal number of male and female

lecturers, there is a far greater number of males lecturers in computer science, math, physics and electronics department.

"We are finding that in the computer sciences, math, physics and electronics fields many of our female undergraduate students don't remain in the field when they graduate," Dr. Depradine said. "They tend to move on to accounting or something else," he said.

To date, FUSE-IT has created an online hub that facilitates students accessing pertinent information without doing an extensive search of the university's website.



STUDENT-CENTERED

The UWI team: Back row, from left: Peter Arender, industry mentor and chief investment officer, Fortress Fund Managers; Jillian Nunes, President, CFA Society Barbados; and Damien Gaskin, faculty advisor and part-time lecturer at UWI.

Front row, from left: Jordan Lorde, undergraduate, economics and finance; Sheldon Shepherd, undergraduate, economics and finance; Chris Farmer, graduate student, financial management; Aisha O'Neal, undergraduate, banking and finance; and Wayne James, graduate student, investment and wealth management.

Students Test Financial Skills

FIVE CAVE HILL STUDENTS who dream of becoming financial analysts have been given the chance to prove their mettle over a seven-month period.

They signed on as a team for the 2016-2017 **Research Challenge**, a worldwide competition organised by the Chartered Financial Analysts (CFA) Institute, the global association of investment professionals that sets the standard for professional excellence and credentials. The institute has more than 113,000 members in 140 countries.

The **Research Challenge** is an annual competition that provides university students with hands-on mentoring and intensive training in financial analysis. It is open to teams from universities around the world, and this is the first time UWI has fielded a team, says Jillian Nunes, President of the CFA Society Barbados, which has arranged the team's participation.

"This is a tremendous learning opportunity, because you are going to be functioning as independent equity analysts," she told team members at the November kick-off meeting. "This is not just an academic exercise: this is a real-life learning experience, and it attracts the world's top business and finance students."

The teams are tasked with analysing a publicly listed company and submitting a written report indicating a buy, hold, or sell recommendation on its stock. In addition to being judged on the report, each team will have 10 minutes in which to defend its recommendation before a panel of

judges, all of whom are CFA charter-holders and practising professionals.

"So come with your personality and your research," Nunes told the team.

The first round of the competition will pit the Cave Hill team against five other teams from universities and colleges in the Caribbean: two from the Cayman Islands, two from Jamaica, and one from the Bahamas. Round Two is the Americas Regional Final, and Round Three is the Global Final to be held in April 2017 in Prague, Czech Republic.

Nunes says a "win" at any stage would bring a great deal of public recognition for UWI Cave Hill. "The prestige would be enormous."

The publicly listed company assigned is Fitbit, the global brand that combines connected health and fitness devices with software and services. Apart from a one-hour interview with the company's head of investor relations, the students are not allowed to contact any other company insider for information. However, they can interview suppliers, customers or competitors.

The team will have limited access to a local industry mentor and a faculty member, but cannot enlist the help of any other professionals. Furthermore, all reports and presentations must be original work, Nunes warned the team.

"Ethics are an integral part of this competition," she said. "We expect you all to abide by the CFA Institute Code of ethics and standards of professional conduct."

UWI launches youth development strategy

MARKING **INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY** on August 12, 2016, The University of the West Indies (UWI) launched the UWI-Youth Development programme (UWI-YDP) at the Cave Hill School of Business, Barbados. Under the theme ***The Road to 2030: Eradicating Poverty and Achieving Sustainable Consumption and production***, the launch represented a renewed commitment from the University to impact the global youth development agenda.

Established as a project within the Office of the Vice-Chancellor, the UWI-YDP's vision is to become the centralised advocate for youth development, which responds to the needs of the youth and youth organisations within the Caribbean. The programme will also provide a strategic guide for key youth development organisations throughout the region offering them technical support.

At the launch, UWI-YDP's Ad hoc Working Committee was represented by three young activists, Chairman Michael Joseph; deputy chairman Kevin Manning and Secretary Damani Parris, a former Guild President at Cave Hill. Citing some startling figures on youth underdevelopment and deviant behavior in the Caribbean, the committee chairman expressed hope that the seriousness of the situation was not lost on regional governments and developmental agencies. Testimony of the intent to collaborate, representatives from state agencies, the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the United Nations, the Barbados Investment and Development Corporation (BIDC) and the IADB were present at the launch.

UWI Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles in delivering the feature address highlighted the severe need for a youth empowerment force within the Caribbean noting the resurgence of young people engaged in the national political discourse. Pointing to the movement of engagement and alertness gaining ground throughout the world, initiated by young people – the Black Lives Matter movement being one of the most notable (started by three young American women) – Vice-Chancellor Beckles challenged the audience to honestly assess the situation in the Caribbean.

He said: "There is no movement of youth political engagement that can be identified with clear and specific objectives for change and transformation. This has to concern all of us who are educators because we see the landscape which is dotted by the references we made about youth crime and underdevelopment and the pervading culture of entertainment, leisure and pleasure among our young people. What is missing is the political philosophy of change and transformation and movement."

The difficulties that youth in the Caribbean face are apparent to the UWI-YDP and the UWI owns its responsibility to the next generation and intends to take up the challenge to provide youth with the keys to their own future. This programme represents a core part of the Vice-Chancellor's vision to rekindle an "activist university".

UWI-YDP projects will target persons aged 16-35 years and seek to ensure Caribbean youth become productive citizens within the region and internationally.



From left: Kevin Manning, UWI-YDP; Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, UWI Vice-Chancellor and Michael Joseph, UWI-YDP respond to audience feedback at the launch of The UWI's Youth Development Programme (UWI-YDP)

Aweso

By Marsha Boyce

Consider her a wanderer with many homes. Despite what her passport and official documents might say, Linn-Charlott Nilsen will tell you that she considers herself to be 98% 'Bajan'. The UWI student was born in Germany. She has spent a significant portion of her life in Barbados but has also had quite an interesting journey elsewhere.



me

From Germany... to Barbados

Linn moved to Barbados from Germany with her mother when she was just seven years old back in 1998. At the time, her father worked as a Captain on a cruise liner that plied the Caribbean route. The move allowed the family to be together every week as opposed to every two months. It was a tough transition for the young German to make as she was enrolled at Codrington High School.

"It was definitely a cultural shock. I was very afraid because everything was so different. I didn't speak English. I had to learn that at Codrington. I was so afraid that my mum had to stay with me for the first week on site at the school so I could run to her if there was a problem. It was definitely very different but it turned out to be a great experience."

She moved on to St Winifred's two years later where she would complete her CXC's. From there, she entered the Barbados Community College to pursue studies in Hospitality Management. After successfully completing that programme, it was time for a change of scenery after some eleven years in Barbados. The then 18-year-old Linn decided to head to Norway – her father's homeland which opened up an entirely new chapter of her life.

From Barbados... to Norway

It was another change. She struck out for a second time. People would notice her accent and ask her where she was from. Linn wanted to really get to know Norway and learn the language. Not leaving Barbados fully behind, she completed a two-year distance certificate in Guidance & Counselling through UWI Open Campus. During that time, she travelled back and forth between Norway and Barbados for examinations or any major projects.

Then in April 2014, Linn was set for another adventure joining the Norwegian Air Force.

"I was actually called in when I was 18 because it's mandatory for all women and men in Norway at 18 if you are physically fit to do so. I didn't want to go then because I had just moved from Barbados and I was not ready for the army, air force or navy. They accepted that. So when I was 22, I decided to go. I had finished Open Campus and I wanted to try something different."

There is always stiff competition to get into the Norwegian Air Force as it is highly rated in society and seen as a valuable asset to have on one's resume. Four years after the usual entry age, Linn contacted Air Force officials and they were happy to consider her at that time. After passing a series of physical and psychological tests, she joined in July 2014.

"From July to September I was in boot camp. You had to learn how to shoot. There's physical training. You learn everything, including how to carry yourself in uniform."

It was a time when she had to put individuality aside and also a time which made her truly appreciate the freedoms she had.

"You wake up in the morning to the sound of horns, bells and yelling. You're a number and you are called by your last name – your first name doesn't exist," she recalls with laughter.

"You wake up at four in the morning, with ten minutes to get dressed. They tell you when to get up, when you can have breakfast, when to run, when to [use the bathroom], everything! It was mind blowing!"

She says she's all the better for it, now being a very punctual and organized person, and credits the entire experience with helping her to grow as a person.



Linn-Charlotte enjoying the sun, sea and sand at home in Barbados

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The Thailand Experience

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"It was challenging but in a good way. When you challenge yourself, you learn a lot about yourself. Being in the army was not easy, especially two months of boot camp. I really had to push myself. My sergeant told me that when you are exhausted and you think you can't do any more, you still have 80% left to give. This motivated me throughout the whole year because there were times that I wanted to give up."

That fighting spirit was more than evident during a gruelling competitive 10K run which she had to complete.

"The whole troop had to do it. You had sergeants before you and behind you. If you stopped, you had to go back and start again. You weren't allowed to jog or walk; you had to 'run' for 10 kilometres. If you wanted water, you took it in your hands and you drank it while running. The feeling I had when I ended that race was like something I had never felt before! When I crossed that finish line, that feeling of victory came over me, that I did it and didn't fail!"

From Norway... to Brussels

After two months of training and a series of interviews, Linn was officially selected and recruited. Next came a ten-month placement period; and of course, she would not settle for the ordinary.

"Me, being all international, I wanted to go outside of Norway," she laughs. "I went for the most difficult – Brussels. They were 180 applicants; only three got in and I was one of them!"

Linn's Brussels attachment was actually at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the intergovernmental military alliance more commonly known as NATO. Being selected has been one of the highlights of her life to date.

"In that interview, I was so nervous! I completely went blank. They asked me a lot of political questions. I couldn't even remember who the Prime Minister of Norway was! Somehow there were impressed. When I mentioned that I grew up in Barbados, they were intrigued. That was a memorable moment when they sent me the letter saying I was one of three that got in," she says with a smile.

On arrival at NATO in September 2014, she was promoted to the rank of corporal and the hard tasks continued.

"It was a lot of administrative work. We were handling confidential documents and archives. There was also more training, for example in shooting, in order to protect NATO."

The rigours and restrictions of army life, the accompanying responsibilities and the weighted knowledge that she was serving her country all added pressure to an already tough environment.

"When I started, there was a lot of terrorism at the time. We had long hours, sometimes working up to 16 hours a day. It was a tough responsibility."

Without going into too much detail, and understandably so, Linn revealed her start coincided with the time the Islamic militant group ISIS was becoming a prominent threat on the global radar. Her work included sifting through and documenting sensitive related information received via email and other means.

Linn would stay there for a year despite getting offers to extend her service period. She believes her time at NATO helped to chart the course of her life as it was then she decided that she wanted to do an undergraduate programme in Psychology.

"They asked me to continue but I wanted to come home and study Psychology. With NATO, it was a great job but it wasn't enough for me. I wanted to develop more knowledge in the area that I loved."

Back to Barbados...

After being in Norway for a total of five years, she returned 'home' to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree at the Cave Hill Campus. The avid beach goer admits it wasn't a difficult decision.

"I am so used to Barbados now. It's really a part of who I am. I feel like Barbados has a magnet to it. It's so hard to leave the island," she confesses. "Every time you leave, it feels like you are leaving a piece of you behind. I don't feel that way about Norway or Germany."

However, after spending some time in a European environment as well as one year in the army, Linn humorously admits that she had to readjust to 'island life'.

"When I came here again in August [2015], some things irritated me. I was so used to structure and now things were taking their time! Now I am back in the zone again," she says with a laugh.

Adventurous and spontaneous at heart, Linn says she surprisingly found it difficult to make new friends at the start of her first year at Cave Hill. However, she attributes that to getting used to a new environment while being very focused on her studies. She describes her social life as non-existent but that is balanced by the feelings of satisfaction derived from the knowledge she gained over her first year of studies.

"I've learnt a lot. Not only in the subject, but my writing skills have improved. I never knew what study method worked best for me until I came here. It's going well. I think that's all part of how I matured throughout the year."

From Barbados... to Sweden

Her second year of university became even more interesting. Keen on new experiences, she has embarked on the Study Abroad Programme and January this year marked the start of a semester at Stockholm University in Sweden.

ELIZABETH WATSON

Mother to LRC

By Margaret Harris

On August 6, 1962, a young, excited Elizabeth Watson watched in awe as the black, green and gold of independent Jamaica's flag unfurled for the first time. The heady days and nights of the summer of '62 were accompanied by the pulsating, happy rhythms of a newly minted genre, ska, the soundtrack of Jamaican independence. Ska boomed from everywhere. Little did Watson know then that she would embark soon on a journey spanning over four decades in a higher education community, become one of the longest serving members of The University of the West Indies; and that ska would become writ large in her academic career.

Watson joined the staff at Cave Hill as a library clerk in 1968, just a couple of months after the campus had migrated from its original moorings at the Harbour site.

From her earliest days at Cave Hill, Watson set her sights on becoming an academic librarian. This required a degree and library qualifications. In 1974, she argued successfully with the Campus that students doing a degree at Cave Hill, according to the regulations, had up to nine years to complete their course of study. Precedence was that staff doing degrees had to resign at the end of their first year with no guarantee that they would get their former job back. Her success paved the pathway along which many members of non-academic staff at Cave Hill have trod to complete their degree without having to resign.

Watson addressed the matter of library qualifications by enrolling in the last cohort of persons allowed to register as external students for an Associateship of the Library Association (ALA) of Great Britain. She completed

this in a record 13 months. Her entry into the world of audiovisual (AV) librarianship came about because a requirement of being registered as an Associate was that post-examinations, students had to spend a year doing professional work. Such work had to be overseen by someone who already had an ALA. Mentored by the late Alan Moss, she was assigned to organise a small AV collection that was created to support students pursuing a Diploma of Education (Dip. Ed.) from The UWI. Students took these materials into their classrooms as supporting and illustrative matter.

In 1979, Watson was offered the temporary post of Assistant Librarian in the newly commissioned Learning Resource Centre (LRC). This unit comprised an AV library, a dark room to develop photographs, a video studio, a printery and a graphics arts section to produce teaching materials. Watson was given a tabula rasa. While some people had an idea of what was possible it was up to Watson to make it become a reality.

After equipping the LRC, Watson held a series of bag lunch concerts over the next five years to encourage persons to use its resources. Mainly musical, the concerts drew on resident campus talent, with occasional outside guest artists. The highlight of the concert series was the Christmas concert which featured the campus choir, Cavite Chorale. Following every

concert, attendees were informed about the LRC and invited to make use of its services and facilities.

Students were the first to engage with the new technologies. Having viewed videos in the LRC, they would share content information in class or tutorials. On more than one occasion a lecturer would come into the LRC asking to view a particular video "before more of my students embarrass me". Today the LRC has become totally involved in the academic, outreach and administrative life of the Campus. It has photographed a diversity of events, printed invitations and posters, drawn images for oral examinations and provided AV materials for courses.

The collection now stands at over 22,000 items covering formats such as video, film, sound carriers (45rpm, LPs, cassettes, and CDs), slides, and photographs. In addition to materials with modern content, there are vintage postcards depicting life and practices of bygone years. While the historical aspect of the collection emphasises Barbados, it also includes material from other Caribbean territories.

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The AV collection, which is now a part of the Sydney Martin Library, is the largest tertiary level collection of AV materials in the English-speaking Caribbean. Watson feels “gratified that I have been able to integrate non print media into the curriculum in such a way that it is now integral to teaching and learning strategies”. In recognition of her contribution to the field, in September 2014, the Campus renamed the collection the Elizabeth Watson Audiovisual Unit.

In addition to her responsibility for the LRC, Watson administered UWIDITE (The University of the West Indies Distance Teaching Experiment) at Cave Hill. As a result of that experience, the Commonwealth of Learning which supports distance learning across the Commonwealth, asked her to edit a reader in library services which was favourably reviewed.

In 1982, Watson graduated with honours from Long Island University where she pursued a Masters in Library and Information Science. Over the years, she has extensively researched popular music. As she says “I worked with the music and as an academic I was required to do research; I went to most of the calypso shows.” Therefore merging her professional life with her personal interests facilitated her meeting the academic requirement to publish. Her publications on calypsonians and sound archiving are helping to fill voids that exist in the world of popular music in Barbados. Watson has authored three books on Barbadian calypsonians: John King, Informer and Red Plastic Bag. She is currently working on two other books — one of which will be on Jackie Opel. On the issue of West Indian people documenting their own histories,” she says. “They leave it up to [non-nationals] to write about us so it becomes their story and not our story. For me to write on the calypsonians is important as I am telling their story through lenses that are similar to theirs.”

In 2007, Watson was promoted to the rank of Professor, the first member of non-academic staff at Cave Hill to be appointed to this rank. A year later she was appointed Campus Librarian, holding that post until January 2014. Part of her service therein was on post retirement contracts. Library refurbishment and the creation of rooms that allow cell-phone usage are among changes Watson introduced during her tenure as Campus Librarian. She also took charge of two special collections the Olga Lopes-Seale and George Lamming collections; key holdings that help to distinguish university libraries from each other.

Watson feels strongly that any University of consequence must have an art collection. “In societies such as ours it is important for the university to purchase art that re/presents dying traditions and aspects of culture and heritage that will not be/are no longer practised for a variety of reasons. This would include women cutting cane, picking up cane trash and bundling it.

“My grandson would hardly ever see that because of the loss of the sugar cane industry. The only way that he and persons of his age would become familiar with such aspects of their past heritage is through images presented in paintings.”



Former campus librarian Dr. Elizabeth Watson (left) and her successor Dr. Greta Pasch at the naming of the Elizabeth Watson Audiovisual Unit

Her work has been of interest to others, so she has spoken on her research all over the world. Among the countries where she has made presentations are: Australia, Aruba, Canada, Curaçao, Finland, Ghana, Hong Kong, Jamaica, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Turkey, Singapore, South Africa, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, the USA and Venezuela. Connections she has made on such trips have been used to the benefit of the Campus.

Over the years, Watson has witnessed remarkable changes on campus including major infrastructural works, significant reduction of green space which she laments as “a real loss” and growing diversity among the student body. Traffic blocks and parking congestion were never a problem in the early days of Watson’s life at Cave Hill.

In 2015, Watson brought the memory of Jackie Opel to the fore; this time in Barbados where she successfully defended, with High Commendation, a PhD on his life and work. Ironically, once again, there was a link to independence as in that year Barbados embarked on a year of celebrations to usher in its 50th anniversary of independence. Watson’s thesis privileges Opel in a way that, to date, has not happened as, prior to her work, very little was known about his life in Jamaica.

The Jamaica that Opel travelled to in 1962 was very different from his lived experiences in Barbados which was not yet independent. In Watson’s view “for Opel to see all those black musicians being privileged would have been a big eye opener for him,” Noting the major cultural dissimilarity between the two islands, Watson said regarding the 1960s, “People in Barbados were singing covers of R & B, ballads from the US. In Jamaica, people were singing songs they created.” In Jamaica, music was a thriving creative business; skin colour and social status were immaterial. As long as you could cut a tune

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that pleased the 'ducer, you and he made some money. Aspiring artistes who did not make the cut were ejected from the studio precincts by "bouncers who literally threw [them] out".

During the mid-1960s Opel's name had been synonymous with ska. He reached international stardom and traveled to the USA, Canada, England and throughout the Caribbean. His "Cry Me a River" is believed to have sold over a million copies. Jamaicans embraced Opel readily to the extent that not many were aware that he was Barbados-born. He was able to compose almost at will. Two of Opel's tracks are backed by The Wailers before they became famous.

The Skatalites who worked mainly in Clement "Coxson" Dodd's Studio One, was the band which made ska rock. Soon after his arrival in Jamaica, Opel joined the Skatalites as one of its lead singers. Opel also served as MC introducing the band with a 10-9-8, etc. count down, reminiscent of spaceship launches. Occasionally Opel played bass, when the regular bass player did not show. His song "TV in Jamaica" was composed because the Skatalites main bassist would never leave home until the day's episode of "Bonanza" was aired. Opel also sometimes played saxophone.

Opel never really saw the real benefits of his work because, like many of his peers, he had no real understanding of the business of music. He sang for the love of it and earned a "few coppers" in the process. Producers like Dodd however were familiar with how music as a business was organised. They ran their studios like urban plantations. Artists happily accepted payment from producers without having any idea of how the sum they received tied into the income accruing from their music. Watson shared that ruthless wheeling and dealing – sometimes with a gun in full view – was the environment in which the new and unique sound identified with Jamaican nationalism was created.

In terms of thrusts to build Barbados' creative industries, Watson opined that with regard to music "You cannot have a music industry until you know what the raw materials are, this is inclusive of the music and lyrics that composers create. There is no list anywhere for anyone to be able to say this is the music created in Barbados by these creators". She lamented the absence of a national discography.

Watson is also concerned that the region's cultural practitioners do not fully grasp the significance of the term "intangible heritage", described by UNESCO as "the practices, representations, expressions, as well as the knowledge and skills (including instruments, objects, artefacts, cultural spaces), that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognise as part of their cultural heritage". Music, by its very nature is intangible heritage. The informational role of music is almost totally overlooked by governments, cultural practitioners, musicians and others.

Reflecting on her career and time at Cave Hill, she shared the motto of her alma mater, Hampton High School for Girls — *Courage and Courtesy*. At the naming ceremony for unit named in her honour she said "it took a great deal of courage and considerable courtesy to navigate my years at the university".

Watson's most memorable achievement occurred in 2000 when she was asked to be the keynote speaker at LIASA's annual conference in Durban, South Africa. LIASA was the unified library and information association formed in South Africa after democratic rule. What made this invitation stand out was that she was the first black, the first woman and the first West Indian to address this body of over 1,000 librarians. Her association with the library profession in South Africa went back to her chairing one of the unification meetings that took place between the three associations of librarians in South Africa based along racial lines.

In 2013 when Barbados celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, Watson curated a national exhibition in Barbados entitled *The Role of Education in Development*.

Still culturally active, Watson serves as Chair of UNESCO's Memory of the World (MoW) Committee in Barbados. She is also the English-language speaking expert on the Regional committee for the Memory of the World Committee in Latin America and the Caribbean (MOWLAC). She is a past President of COMLA (Commonwealth Library Association). In that capacity she had to travel to various Commonwealth countries.

While she is retired, Watson is very active in a number of areas associated with popular music and its preservation. She is currently creating a number of biographies on Barbadian musicians for the National Biographical Dictionary of Barbados. A chapter she has written on AV archiving for a reader being published to support the archives programme at Mona has just been accepted; and, she is currently working on two biographies of Barbadian singers — one of them Jackie Opel whose music awakened a passion in her over half a century ago.

Learning becomes a life-changing adventure

by Marsha Boyce

Turkana tribeswoman in Loiangalani, Kenya

In 2011, Grantley Trebble was a 19-year-old, still searching for his purpose in life; little did he know he would find it during three months in Jamaica after embarking on the Study Abroad programme. To say the experience was 'life changing' might seem a bit cliché but that is exactly how Grantley describes it.

He entered UWI Cave Hill in 2010 to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Psychology; and although he was studying a subject which he enjoyed, he still felt something was missing.

"When I came to Cave Hill, what largely disappointed me was the fact that a lot of my social peers were at university as well. You ended up staying in your cliques. I found it hard to break out and meet new people. That left me with a little hole because that was not really what university is supposed to be about."

Grantley began craving a new experience, a sense of independence, a chance to develop away from home. At first, he joked with his friends that he was going to attend all three physical UWI campuses before he graduated, but that thought which was made in jest became part of the reason he decided to look into the Study Abroad Programme at the Cave Hill campus.

"The technicalities involved in that [studying at Mona and St Augustine] made it too challenging. I then realized that the International Exchange Programme was one of the avenues in which I could get a chance to

do something similar, so I was inspired to try it out."

After attending a few meetings and realizing that there were scholarships available to assist with funding through the International Office, Grantley decided it was an opportunity he could not pass up. Initially, he examined options in Germany and Switzerland but that might have meant a possible extension in the time he would take to complete his degree based on what was required for Psychology. That led to him choosing the UWI Mona Campus in Jamaica as the programme there was very similar to what was offered at Cave Hill.

"The process was a lot more straightforward than I had anticipated. I just sent in my application form, came in and spoke to Paula [Jarvis]. She is super dedicated to her job. She just went

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Savanna lands in Ethiopia on route to Wanchi Crater Lake

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above and beyond to make sure everything was sorted and did her best to ensure I could get some of the funding that I needed.”

The former Harrison College student then set off for Jamaica in September 2011 – the start of the first semester of his second year. On arrival, Grantley was instantly struck by the sight of the mountains which stand prominently on the eastern side on the Mona campus.

“It was like a green screen! I had never seen a mountain (up close) until that time. It was a complete shock to my senses. Every morning I would wake up at five to just to watch how the sky changed as the sun crept up over the hill. Sunrise was always my time. It blew my mind away!”

Grantley didn’t arrive with much which forced him to be resourceful very quickly.

“On my second day, I picked all of the [Jamaican] ackee trees on campus. A lot of people have a perception that it looks bad, but I didn’t care, I picked all of them! I had about six garbage bags full of ackee,” he says with a smile.

If you know anything about Jamaican ackee, then you would be aware that it is not something you would randomly choose to cook without any knowledge of how to prepare it.

“I realized that having ackee was a blessing. I asked a security guard and she told me how to pick them properly so as not to poison myself. She also told me how to cook and preserve it. So I just followed her instructions! I cooked all of it and put it in the freezer!” he laughs.

Grantley admits that cooking was not one of his major skills but the experience allowed him to integrate quickly into life on the Rex Nettleford Hall of Residence as he became the ‘go-to’ guy for ackee.

“I got to experiment. People would come over every morning because everyone loves ackee in Jamaica!” he says with a chuckle. “People from different islands, different cultures; they would come, bring ingredients, pots and pans and we would all cook together. I tasted all different types of cuisine and I learnt to make so many dishes!”

One of those dishes was Borscht – a type of beef soup which was prepared by the German students.

As a student on the International Exchange programme, Grantley’s friend network grew exponentially interacting with those from France, Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, Guadeloupe, the USA and Canada; many of whom he met on hall or through the University’s First Year Experience Programme. He enjoyed the hall life and the community vibe, and cherished the genuine connections he was able to develop. The self-confessed ‘occasional’ sportsman ended up participating in just about every activity on offer, sporting and otherwise. His adventurous nature earned him the ‘hall name’ or moniker ‘Daredevil’.



Grantley Trebble in Africa

“I did absolutely every event that I could, except tennis because I can’t play that to save my life,” he laughs. “In doing everything, I realized that I could actually do sports that I didn’t know I was good at before. It was all extremely memorable. I even made modifications to the garden while I was there.”

A bit of a free spirit, Grantley travelled all over the Jamaica from the rural countryside, to coastal regions, even taking in motor rallying in the north of the island. One of his more

memorable experiences was a visit to the Rastafarian Indigenous Village in Montego Bay. He ventured to the Nyabinghi community more commonly known as ‘Rasta Village’ for a ceremony which commemorated the coronation of Haile Selassie.

“That was definitely a highlight for me; getting to experience their way of life, just meeting people who have only been living a natural agrarian life. The drumming, the chanting the singing... they drummed from eight in the night to eight in the morning. I had never seen someone so dedicated to something.”

He admits that he was not keen on ‘tourist activities’ with the exception of a visit to the Bob Marley Museum in Kingston.

Academically, after some minor administrative issues, he quickly settled into his classes. Grantley was inspired by the drive of some students as well as the passion of his lecturers and tutors. The Psychology major revelled in vibrant classroom debates. He also surrounded himself with a group that thrived on learning and had a holistic approach to gaining knowledge.

“I went from a C student to an A student. I learnt how to apply myself. The environment was also helpful because you could wake up at 3 a.m. and find people studying. I had a group of friends who were all doing different degrees but we would actually read for each other and discuss things collectively. After getting into a habitual way of studying, it became something pleasurable and enhanced my experience as a student a lot more. My experience in Jamaica made me realize that I was as smart as the effort I applied.”

During that time, he set himself target of graduating with Upper Second Class honours, which he achieved in 2013 while admittedly still leading an active social life and working part time.

However, the return to Barbados was not the easiest of transitions for him.

“I was so deeply inspired that when I came back to Barbados, I thirsted, knowing I had experienced something totally different. I felt so lonely I even kept going back to vacation in Jamaica. I went like six times. I got part time jobs just to pay for my plane ticket. I went every opportunity I could.”

It was on one of those subsequent holidays that he returned to the Bob Marley Museum and ended up working there!

“It was a place where I felt very welcomed. There are always people around and there’s the chance that some of the Marleys

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would be there. I met Rohan Marley once and we had a decent conversation.”

While hanging out one afternoon, he was discussing his thoughts about moving to Jamaica with one of the drummers. He accepted an offer to work in a kitchen on a part time basis.

“I went a few days a week. I learnt how to cook jerk and different types of food there. I did that for about three weeks before I moved on.”

In addition to the change in his academic approach, Grantley says his time in Jamaica on the Study Abroad programme had a profound impact on his personality.

“It was one of the best experiences that I have had. It was the first time I was able to step out of the concept of who Grantley ‘was’ and the perceptions that people had. When I went to Mona, there was only one person there who knew me from before, so I had the chance to be completely and exactly ‘me’. I learnt how to be myself, and that is invaluable.”

While in Jamaica, he says he walked everywhere as he developed a passion for exploration. So when he returned, that new found love fuelled a desire to know more about his home.

“When I came back to Barbados, the spark I now had made me question what I knew about my island. I realized I barely went to the beach. I didn’t know Bath in St John, I really did not know Barbados!”

Grantley admits that his previous local experience had been limited to the South Coast and what he describes as “a very city touristy lifestyle”. That led him on a journey of awareness, a hunt for the culture nature of Barbados and to fall in love with features that he previously didn’t even know existed. As he returned to Cave Hill to continue his studies, what started out as a personal quest to get to know the island, grew into him taking the new international students at Cave Hill on hikes.

“I started going out with the students from the exchange programme. It was so beautiful to see my own island through the eyes of other people who were seeing it for the first time. That transitioned into me developing my own tours and hikes for the students and anyone who was interested and we would go exploring together.”

And just like that, the idea for his company was born. Good Times Tours was officially launched in 2013 and currently still coordinates hikes and tours for international students at the Cave Hill campus.

The unearthing of a passion that ultimately led to a business opportunity wasn’t the only way in which Grantley says he benefitted from his Study Abroad experience. He learnt he could survive on modest resources; and after running the

tour company for a year, he decided it was time to do some global exploration.

“I found people passionate enough to run the company, so I decided now I am just going to travel. I went with way less money than you would generally need. My plan was to meet people, and I was going to work. I travelled for two years with it all just working out.”

For the two years, Grantley traversed the globe. He explored Ethiopia and Kenya, getting a taste of Hong Kong and Dubai, going down under to Australia, while also visiting Europe and North America.

“When I was in Africa – I only paid for accommodation for nine days and I was there for six months! I would just meet people and interact. They would invite me to stay.”

Ironically, some of the former international students whom he took on hikes and tours or even those he met at Mona welcome him openly on his trips.

“When I travel the world now, for example when I was in California and France, I met up with people that I knew on the exchange programme. It’s a community that has now expanded past Barbados – a worldwide community of friends that I’ve stayed with as I travelled. In that way, my connection with the programme hasn’t ended yet and it’s five years later.”

His passion for nature and exploring keeps him busy while is

also currently building his own house, by hand, following a design he says no one has applied here as yet. Added to that, Grantley is toying with the idea of taking another trip – this time going from Ecuador to Venezuela, hiking through the Amazon.

It’s no surprise then that he doesn’t hesitate to encourage any student to try the Study Abroad programme.

“That experience in the exchange programme inspired a big change in me and has led to me travelling, my work, entrepreneurship, everything! You should just try it! Being in another place sometimes challenges you as a person. You view life through a different lens, especially when you live on a small island. Regardless of your interests, it’s going to be something different which has the potential to inspire you.”

For those preparing to embark on the process, Grantley advises that one should keep an open mind.

“To say ‘step outside of your comfort zone’ is the very stereotypical response but that is the response that really fits. Just be open to a new experience,” he stresses. “If you are going to go to a place for something new, you have to be willing to ‘experience’ that new thing.”

“I have realised that anything is possible, purely from meeting people who behave like anything is indeed possible! That’s part of my motivation. I would like to share that passion with someone else; and even if one person reads this article and does the Study Abroad programme and gets a life changing experience, then I would be happy.”



Monolithic Church of St. George, Lalibela, Ethiopia

DESPITE MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION EFFORTS TO PROTECT BARBADOS' WHITE SEA URCHIN (*TRIPNEUSTES VENTRICOSUS*) POPULATION, LOCAL STOCKS OF THE POPULAR DELICACY HAVE DWINDLED LARGELY DUE TO OVERFISHING AND POACHING WHICH HAVE PLAGUED THE FISHERY FOR SEVERAL DECADES, ACCORDING TO FINDINGS BY THE CENTRE FOR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES (CERMES).

Proposals for Better Sea Egg Management

By Margaret Harris



IN ITS FIRST REPORT

following the reopening of the fishing season in 2015, the Cave Hill-based CERMES recommended that the Barbados Fisheries Division significantly improve its monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) systems of sea urchin harvesting to ensure that harvesting practices and a new licensing regime, among other things, are properly managed throughout the open season.

Furthermore, it said that the future of sea egg fishery management appeared to be as uncertain as an annual abundance of the spiny animals, noting that, "...there is currently a confusing mix of consultative co-management alternating with conventional command-and-control minus the critical element of consistent enforcement."

Barbados' sea egg fishing season reopened for the month of October 2015 following a ten-year ban, and unlicensed harvesters as well as buyers from them faced a BDS \$50 000 penalty.

The reopening of the season in Barbados followed or coincided with similar open seasons in the region – notably in Martinique, Grenada and St. Lucia – and was the longest in duration. Bans had been instituted in these countries due to overfishing. Martinique's fishery was opened for two days, August 20-21; St. Lucia's for October 19-25 and Grenada's from July 1 for an indefinite period.

To combat harvesting and illegal purchases during Barbados' closed season, both customary practices in spite of the legal threats, CERMES urged greater public education to inform consumers of possible prosecution and the dire consequences of stock unsustainability.

The urgency to rehabilitate and sustainably manage the local sea egg fishery prompted the drafting of the first individual sea egg fishery management plan for Barbados in April 2015. CERMES found that the



The popularity of sea eggs had caused overfishing from as far back as the 1800s, well before Emancipation, when the first regulations were put in place in Barbados to oversee harvesting.

Below left: Verifying the size of sea eggs.

popularity of the delicacy had caused overfishing from as far back as the 1800s, well before emancipation, when the first regulations were put in place in Barbados to oversee harvesting.

A total of 625 persons registered to participate in the 2015 sea egg season of which approximately 300 were considered to be actively involved in the fishery. According to CERMES, governance issues were among key industry challenges, including a failure to manage the licensing of workers.

Citing the Fisheries Division's failure to demonstrate a well-planned approach to managing the sector, CERMES recommended the re-establishment and strengthening of the Sea Egg Fishery Management Advisory Council (SEFMAC). The proposed council would comprise representatives of relevant government agencies including enforcement agencies, the Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organisations



(BARNUFO), an independent fisheries' biologist and representatives of major sea egg fishing communities. It would lend administrative support for effective stakeholder consultation and engagement in the management of the sea egg fishery.

CERMES recommended that more than half the council's membership be fishers. Community

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Estimates revealed that the Barbados sea egg industry earned BDS \$1.2 million during the month that it reopened.

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representatives would be responsible for advising members of their communities on relevant issues and reporting the concerns to the council meetings. The council would coordinate stock assessments, formulate management policies providing advice and recommendations to the minister responsible for fisheries, and develop ways of enforcing any management regulations.

Estimates revealed that the Barbados industry earned BDS \$1.2 million during the month that it reopened. In light of a widely-held view that there was “appreciable recovery” to support lifting the ban, the season reopened to allow for the legitimate purchase of sea-eggs before adult urchins naturally died off while only poachers continued to benefit from illegal dives.

However CERMES noted that sea egg fishers were demonstrably

concerned over the declining abundance of sea eggs during the 2015 season and repeatedly promoted the need for responsible harvesting practices. One harvester said that management had failed to regulate and enforce measures increasing the likelihood of fishermen diving for sea eggs in future without obtaining licenses.

Added to the failure to make operational a co-management council, a registration and licensing system of all sea egg divers and breakers was implemented with an accompanying reporting requirement for reports on the numbers of sea eggs harvested. Registration and licensing were open to anyone interested and no restrictions were imposed.

A reporting requirement enabled authorities to gather socio-economic information and other data. But the licensing system, implemented for data collection rather than harvesting control,

received mixed reviews from sea egg harvesters and breakers. A common sentiment among those who felt the new licensing system was unfair was that the season should have been opened only to people who fish as a profession.

However, CERMES found that the license application or registration process did not allow for the collection of information either on the type of harvesting operation either by group or individually. This is deemed critical for developing an accurate socioeconomic profile so as to monitor trends and changes over time.

Of the 625 registrants only 332 returned data sheets suggested that while the level of initial interest was surprisingly high, there was significant attrition or indifference to reporting as the season progressed.

From left, Dr Godfrey Xuereb, Dr Jean Adams, DrAlafia Samuels and Mariam Alvarado chatting after the forum.

Sugary drinks taxes in focus



From public lectures to symposia on obesity, the ravages of the diabetes epidemic and the need for regular exercise, the Cave Hill Campus has been keeping the spotlight on the dangers of chronic non-communicable diseases.

So intent are university officials on bringing about behavioural change that, just weeks into the new year, they embarked on yet another initiative to shed further light on the issue, during a forum titled **The Taxation Of Sugar-Sweetened Beverages (SSB) – Does It Improve Health?** held during the 5th Annual Faculty of Medical Sciences Research Symposium.

It came on the heels of media reports of the results of a recent survey that found that soft drinks manufactured in Barbados, in many instances, contain significantly higher levels of refined sugar than elsewhere, a major worry for Healthy Caribbean Coalition, the Chronic Disease Research Centre (CDRC) and other advocates for healthier living.

With one in three Barbadians being obese, sugar-sweetened beverages are said to be a major contributor to the epidemic.

During the January 20 activity, Gates Scholar Mariam Alvarado, who is pursuing a PhD, presented the preliminary findings of a survey on the 10 % excised tax implemented on SSB in August 1, 2015 by the Barbados Government.

Using price and sales data from one grocery store during the January 2012 to March 2016 period, the report found that sugar-sweetened beverages had risen by an estimated 6.3 percent.

“It does seem that companies are absorbing a portion of the tax so we don’t see the full pass through.... For non-sugar-sweetened beverages we see kind of the same story across the board, no real change in prices. For sports drinks and sodas the pass through rate, which is the per cent of the tax passed through to the actual consumer was between 7.5 and 7.4 per cent and for sweetened juices it was a little bit lower at 5.2 per cent,” said Alvarado.

She acknowledged challenges in her research, having to utilise data from one grocery store, lack of access to

household consumption data, and inadequate time to gather pre-excite tax information due to the short time frame between its announcement and implementation.

Senior Research Fellow at the University of Cambridge, Dr Jean Adams, framed her presentation within the context of the SSB taxes globally and in the United Kingdom, the justification for sugar-sweetened beverages taxes and evidence of the impact and the need to evaluate. Due to the stage of implementation, she said much of the data was outstanding.

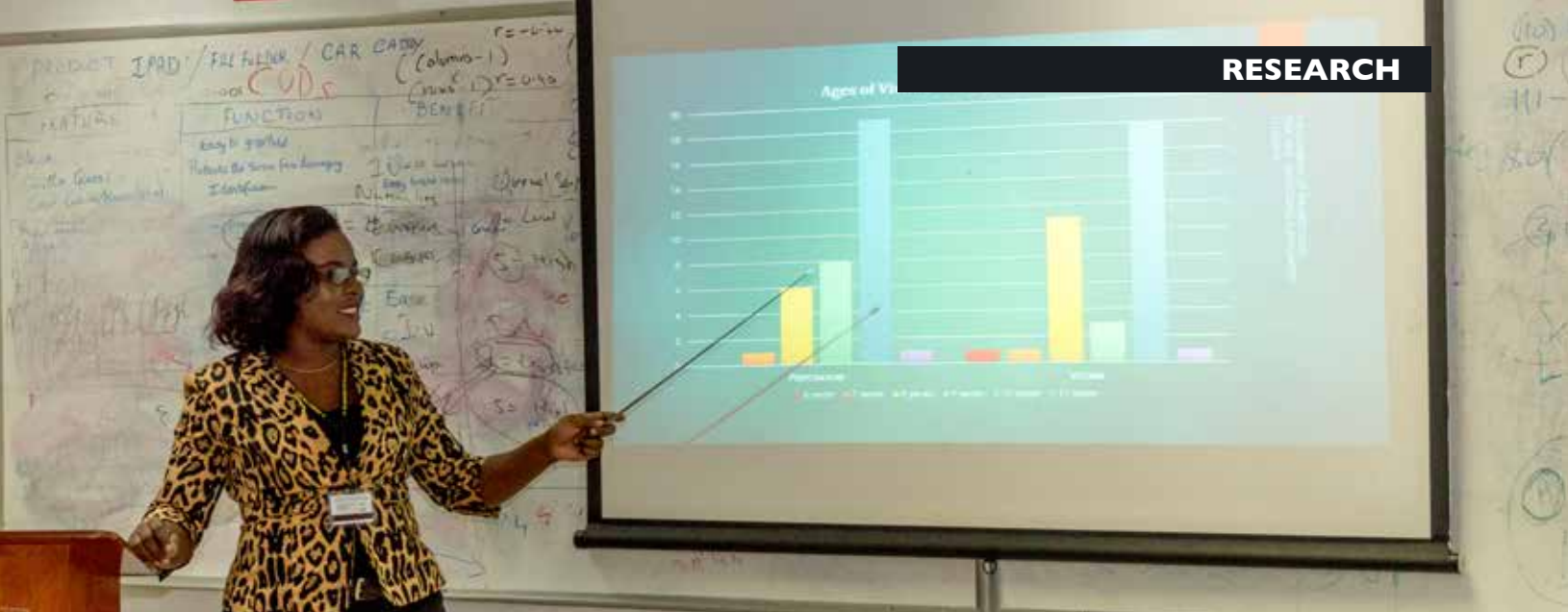
Representative of the World Health Organisation and the Pan American Health Organisation Dr. Godfrey Xuereb examined the SSB taxes in the Caribbean – progress and challenges as well as the support from partners.

Though he was disappointed that the full cost was not being passed on to consumers to force a change, he said Barbados was on the right path and should maintain the tax as a deterrent.

“WHO/PAHO will continue to provide all the international evidence that is coming in to support and protect the tax. We know that civil society has an important role in ensuring that the tax remains so people like Healthy Caribbean Coalition, the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the Diabetes Association need to continue to be vocal,” he said, noting that other regional countries which have not yet done so may well implement similar measures.

“Once we have an established policy this is replicated in many of the member states. We have seen this with tobacco taxation, we’ve seen this with other forms of taxation that are not food-related and I think the sugar-sweetened beverage tax is one that can easily be replicated throughout the Eastern Caribbean and throughout the whole of Caricom.”

In Barbados, roughly one in every six adults between 45 and 64 years old have been diagnosed with diabetes and it stands at more than one in three adults in the 65 and older age group, according to the 2015 Health of the Nation survey conducted by the government in concert with the CDRC.



RESEARCHERS PROBE BULLYING IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

A survey of bullying in primary school across Barbados has determined that parents have a major role to play in preventive measures since most patterns of bullying in both victims and perpetrators emerge in the household.

The survey was conducted by the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus in 40 of the island's 69 Government-operated primary schools between September and November last year. Students in the Department of Management Studies' Project Management and Evaluation programme appraised principals' opinions on the extent to which bullying was prevalent in primary schools. The findings were presented to an audience that included several of the principals and other education officials.

The survey, which did not assess the island's 36 privately-operated primary schools, found that most bullying in the primary institutions evaluated is verbal and emotional (27%) followed by physical (25%), pack (15%), with cyber bullying being the least prevalent at six per cent. It was concluded that bullying occurred in 50 per cent of reported cases.

A majority of principals attributed the problem mainly to family related issues, followed by jealousy, and friends encouraging others to bully. The personality of the victims was also a major contributing factor while power, victims' characteristics and provocation by victims featured among other reasons for the occurrence of bullying in schools.

The survey did not find any religious motives while sexual orientation ranked low. There was a low prevalence of bullying accompanied by violence and a small number of students were said to be bullying others to relieve boredom. However it was assessed that genders bully in different ways, with females tending to be more verbally aggressive.

While the sample was conducted on the 4 to 11-years-old age cohort, the majority of incidents of bullying occurred in Class 3, that is, 9 to 10-year-olds. It is believed these bullies may have started their aggressive behaviour in Infants A. Older students were said to be generally preparing themselves for the 11 Plus examinations and tended not to be as involved in the practice of bullying.

Intervention methods used to control bullying behaviors include apologies from the perpetrator to the victim or to the institution, parental involvement, speaking to students during general assembly and counseling perpetrators. It was found that the most effective measures, however, included a zero tolerance policy, parental input, and self-esteem classes. Additionally, it was argued that apologies and admonishing students did not always bring about required results because of a general tendency in the schools towards recidivism. It was also found that since bullies are often repeat offenders, suspension as punishment or intervention is generally ineffective.

The evaluation exercise was limited by insufficient participation among principals, some of whom indicated lack of interest, being too busy or having too little available time. It was also restricted by the sample size, lack of available data, and access by researchers to all sites. Just over a quarter of the principals interviewed claimed not to have any bullying in their schools.

Another conclusion drawn was the need to establish a clear definition for bullying since all principals did not use the same criteria for determining the transgression, at times confusing normal interaction between growing children as problematic.



Cave Hill campus earned a reputation for marine turtle research.



Researchers leading charge for change



Students took an interest in the research on display



RESearchers at CAVE HILL continue to use their discoveries as a force for regional change and to shape better societies.

Examination into Dengue, Chikungunya, HIV, non-communicable diseases like diabetes, childhood obesity and vascular disease and congenital diseases like sickle cell, were among the many on which extensive medical research was carried out and published. Much of the work gained national and international attention, including a social science Youth are the Future Study by the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social & Economic Studies (SALISES) made an international mark. That study examined youth employment in the Cabean region, its effects on the young people and implications for socioeconomic development.

Prolific research flowed from the Faculty of Social Studies where there was a new book on the Grenada Revolution, several publications on economics and tourism-related matters inclusive of market segmentation, air liberalisation and visa policies, sports tourism and forecasting arrivals.

Economics research examined fiscal policy, risk management, determinants of economic growth in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, small businesses in Barbados and crypto-currencies in relation to international reserves.

Not to be left out, psychological research included the effects of on-line peer pressure and parent employment status on adolescents, public attitudes to software and music piracy as well as an investigation of factors that influence corporate behaviour of professionals like accountants.

In the Faculty of Science and Technology, much of their recent output focused on the environment. For example, studies on coral reef looked at reef recovery, coral bleaching, marine sponges, various fisheries (for example parrotfish) or interactions with the dive tourism sector.

The campus, having justifiably earned a reputation for its marine turtle research and the Barbados Sea Turtle Project, had publications on leatherback migration, hawksbill growth dynamics and how green turtle health is impacted by "dive with the turtles" activities. The campus' timely work on guiding management of the recent Caribbean-wide Sargassum influxes has also been showcased.

Under the flagship **Journal of West Indian Literature**, the Faculty of Humanities and Education oversaw and published work on Caribbean Literature. New book titles included **Conversations on Philosophy**, **Caribbean Irish Connections**, **Le Robinson antillais**, **Journeys in Caribbean Thought** and **Caribbean Popular Culture**.



Professor Eudine Barribeau talks to students about the importance of research.

Historical work in the faculty explore the prehistoric culture of Barbados and high rates of mortality and morbidity in more recent times. Cultural studies discuss, among other issues, the Haitian influence in Cuban culture, the African-Brazilian diaspora in West Africa and even the dress styles associated with local churches.

The Faculty of Law showed off new editions of internationally acclaimed textbooks by its academics as well as research publications relevant to the Commonwealth Caribbean.

In addition, there are several cross-faculty research publications on education, some focusing on tackling clinical education, comparative Law, dyslexia, e-learning readiness, field biology skills and Black women in computer science education. Particularly noteworthy was the **Caribbean Teachers' Series (CTS) Mathematics** book, nurtured by the work of Dr. Janak Sodha.





IF INSTALLED INCORRECTLY, solar PV modules can lead to a higher energy consumption in the building below, due to an increase in cooling demand.

AIR FLOW MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE

IMAGINE LOSING cooling efficiency and hundreds of dollars annually due to incorrectly mounted photovoltaic (PV) panels on homes and other buildings.

Some home and business owners have been living that reality without even knowing, simultaneously reducing the lifespan and effectiveness of their roof-installed solar panels.

They are no longer unaware thanks to research conducted by graduate student Julian Maynard with the guidance of lecturer in the Faculty of Science & Technology at the University of the West Indies, Cave

Hill, Dr Tom Rogers.

Titled **The Effect Of The Air Gap Distance On Solar PV Performance**, the research concluded that PV modules should not be installed directly on rooftops as this prevents air from flowing and leads to heat absorption into the building.

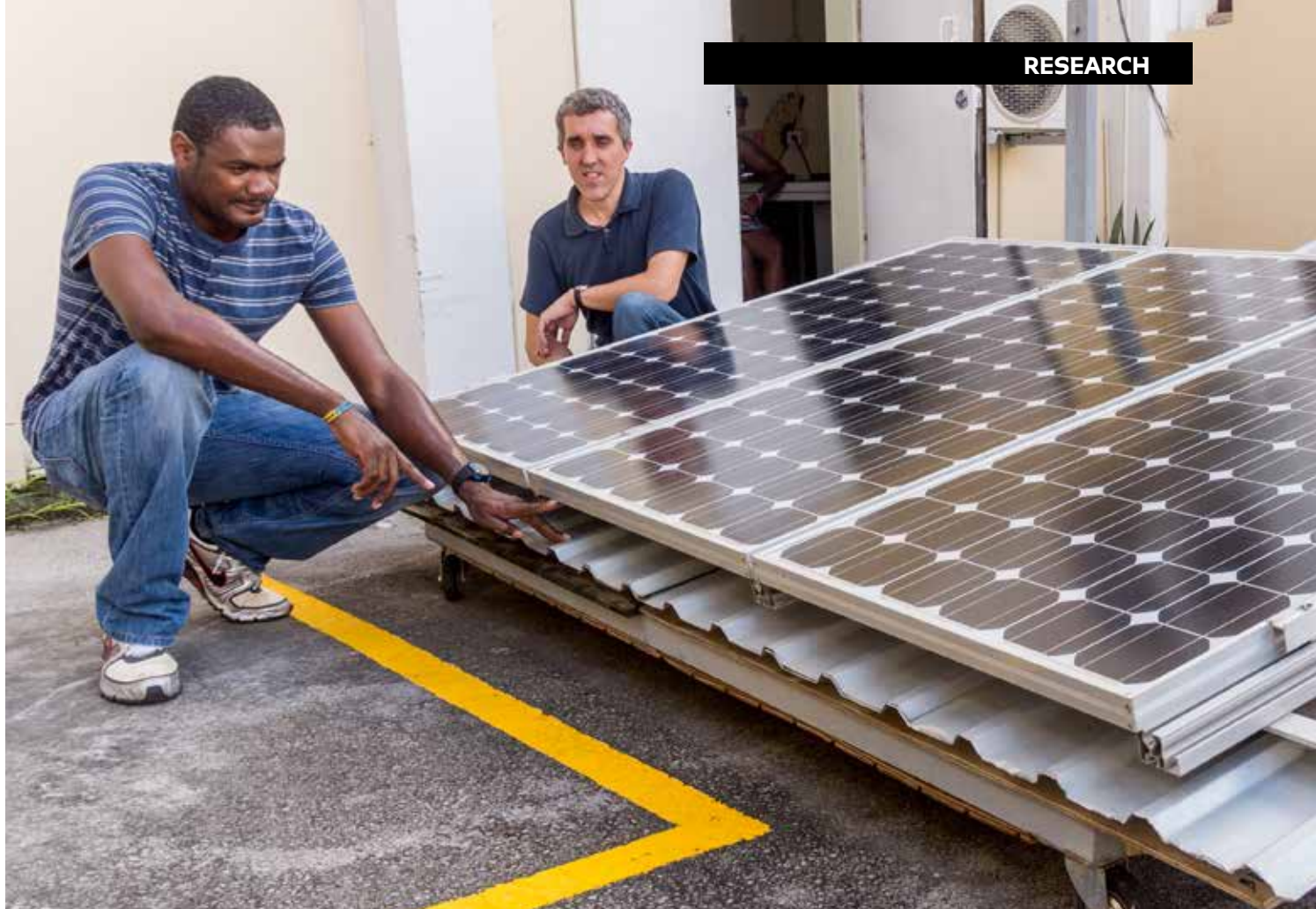
“As the air gap increases, the temperature of the roof decreases, with more air being drawn between the modules and the roof. This helps to transfer any heat away from the roof via convection. With an air gap of less than one inch, the roof

temperature is actually higher than if there were no solar PV modules installed.

This suggests that, if installed incorrectly, solar PV modules can lead to a higher energy consumption in the building below, due to an increase in cooling demand. Air gaps above one inch lead to lower roof temperatures, indicate that energy consumption from cooling demand would be decreased,” the team found.

A simulated roof structure was mounted using zinc u-panel roofing with plywood sheet. Three

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Elevated temperatures contribute to solar cell deterioration, thereby impacting on how long they would last, the research found.

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solar PV modules were installed on the structure using a purpose built variable air gap racking system, temperature sensors were used and the ambient air temperature measured, along with the wind speed and incident planar solar irradiance.

“You have to allow a reasonable air gap between the PV modules and the roof. If you don’t do that then you’re going to reduce the energy that you generate and you’re also going to heat up the building below,” Dr Rogers explained of the research done over a three-month period.

The determination was that the minimum air gap for roof-mounted solar PV systems should be three inches, and that there was a five per cent efficiency loss for flush-mounted systems compared to systems with a gap of three inches.

Elevated temperatures also contributed to solar cell deterioration, thereby impacting on how long they would last, the research found.

This is due to the fact that an increase in temperature would lead to a decrease in the efficiency of the PV modules, and having an air gap allows air to flow underneath the modules, keeping them cooler.

“There are lots of installers who’re installing it with a good air gap but there are a few instances where we’ve seen modules are almost flush to the rooftop and that will raise problems for the PV systems. It will end up heating up your home,” Dr Rogers said.

“By and large the main installers have a reasonable idea of this already. They didn’t appreciate just how big an impact it could have and also the fact that the larger the air gap, the better the system will perform.”



Dr Tom Rogers

The construction of the mock roof structure was funded by the Inter-American Development Bank’s (IDB) Building capacity and Regional Integration for the Development of a Generation of Entrepreneurs (BRIDGE) project.

The experiment was conducted in the parish of St Philip in Barbados with the support of LG Engineering, which granted site access.

Answering the marijuana question

A STUDY HAS FOUND growing popular support for the decriminalisation of marijuana use in Barbados.

At a marijuana symposium last September, researcher Devron Bruce said there was greater acceptance of the substance, a discovery which seemed linked to a more liberal movement in international states. The Caribbean Development Research Services (CADRES) representative presented his findings at the two-day event at Cave Hill Campus entitled **Marijuana: Perpetual Problem or Potential Problem Solver for Barbados?**

While 73 per cent of those surveyed in 2008 felt that marijuana should remain illegal, the number of people sharing this sentiment had fallen to 37 per cent when the same question was posed in 2014.

With regard to actual legalisation of marijuana, however, 18 per cent supported full legalisation, 40 per cent partial and 28 per cent preferred the status quo.

The survey found that nearly half of Barbados' population was familiar with some level of marijuana use. According to Bruce while 57 per cent admit to having never experimented with the plant, 43 per cent said they had.

"It is safe to say that a strong majority of marijuana users support some level of legalisation and decriminalisation. It begs the question why there has been so little movement legislatively on the issue. Quite surprisingly though, roughly 300 persons who use regularly want marijuana to remain illegal, which is baffling and hypocritical," said Bruce.

In understanding the "political relationship" to marijuana use, Bruce asserted that often religion guided views on politics and what should occur in the public sphere. Moral questions also influenced the behaviour of Barbadians either in their responses to survey questions on the polarising issue of marijuana or in the actual use of the drug.

Fifty-eight of respondents consider marijuana use to be immoral, Bruce said noting this may be one of the reasons that it remains illegal in Barbados.

The number of practising Christians who confessed to marijuana use was well below national averages. Among non-practising Christians, on the other hand, 47 per cent experimented, 35 per cent used occasionally and 23 per cent used regularly.



Devron Bruce making his presentation at the Marijuana Symposium.

Overall over 90 per cent knew that marijuana was illegal and a high per cent of persons who experimented believed that what they were doing was wrong.

Bruce argued that a sizeable number of Barbadians do not see the issue of decriminalisation as a moral issue yet much of the discussion often surrounded or equated illegality with immorality.

Among Rastafarians marijuana use, whether occasionally or frequently, was high, an anticipated outcome given their use of the substance as a religious sacrament.

The study showed that nearly six in ten people felt that marijuana was harmful to health.

"Yet many proponents would argue quite convincingly that the opposite is true with science to back them up. For example the perception that marijuana is addictive is a lot higher than the actual scientific evidence and statistics, yet many persons equate marijuana with addiction and the numbers are nowhere close to it. Therefore it seems as though there is a high level of misconception regarding the potential for marijuana to damage one's health, Bruce argued.

In relation to other crime, 44 per cent of Barbadians felt the decriminalisation in marijuana would spark an increase in crime; 28 per cent believe there would be a fall-off in crime and 15 per cent said it would have no impact.

"The correlation between crime and marijuana acts as a deterrent for legislators to institute changes to the drug policy laws," Bruce said.

He added: "...there are considerable persons who say that crime will increase if marijuana is decriminalised for medical and religious purposes. The statistics re: persons who believe that crime will increase prove to be an interesting one: illegality and criminality are seen as synonymous. Therefore to ask if an illegal substance should be legalised and whether it would increase crime, the associations would certainly increase the numbers who believe that crime would increase."

The researcher felt the accuracy of perception needed to be investigated further, adding that although there remains some resistance to decriminalisation, there is a trend of rapidly growing support for some level of decriminalisation. With this in mind, he thinks it is unlikely that the illegal status of marijuana will remain in place for much longer.

WITH REGARD TO ACTUAL LEGALISATION OF MARIJUANA, HOWEVER, 18 PER CENT SUPPORTED FULL LEGALISATION, 40 PER CENT PARTIAL AND 28 PER CENT PREFERRED THE STATUS QUO.



L-R: Minister of Education, Ronald Jones (second left) receiving a copy of the mathematics book from Dr. Janak Sodha. Looking on are Head of the Barbados Association of Principals of Public Secondary Schools, Vere Parris (left), and Human Resource Development Specialist, Orville Lynch.

New book and app make learning Maths easier

IT IS BEING HAILED as a pioneering initiative that could help transform the learning of Mathematics in Barbados and other Caribbean states struggling with low pass rates.

Head of the Department of Computer Science, Mathematics & Physics at Cave Hill Campus, Dr Janak Sodha, with the support of other educators, launched **Caribbean Teachers Series (CTS)** last October.

The book, the culmination of years of work and authored by 16 teachers, is accompanied by a Maths app that provides video solutions, an experience the authors liken to standing next to the teacher as the problem is solved for you.

The book has secured approval from the Barbados Association of Principals of Public Secondary Schools, and there are plans to have a Caribbean edition. **CTS** was born out of an earlier online initiative, **UwiTube.com**, which hosts free videos covering CSEC Maths, Common Entrance Maths, CSEC English with ongoing work to create CAPE level maths videos. Details of CTS Mathematics are online at **CaribbeanTeachersSeries.com**, including sample pages and sample videos.

Sodha explained: "It took one year to complete the video solutions to all the questions within the book and two years to write the book. Last December authors began creating video lessons which teach

each topic within a given chapter from fundamentals. We aim to complete this by June 2017. The app took about six months to complete and was written by a UWI student, Rashid Holder, who has since then, created his own company — **Cavedgeeks.com**."

Under each title, theory is presented in a concise manner and illustrated through examples. Every question at the back of the chapter has a video solution, created by the teacher who wrote the question and is viewed through the "CTS Maths" app.

Sodha added: "Given the typical workload of a teacher and the amount of effort it takes to write

Continued on Page 62

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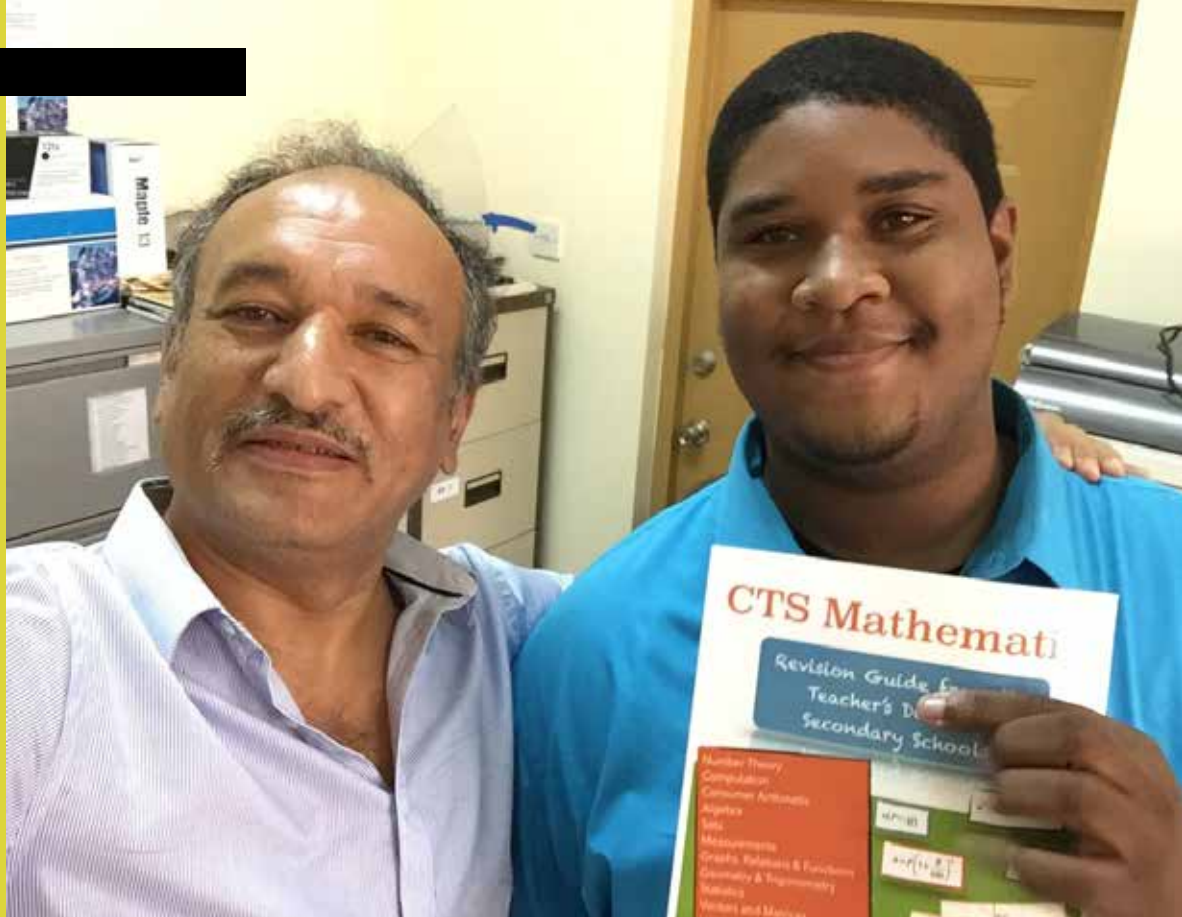
a book, most teachers will never be able to publish their knowledge and experience for the benefit of our children. The concept of CTS is to share the workload. Each author is responsible for only one chapter, or a part of chapter.

"An interesting consequence of taking this approach of multiple authors is that the knowledge presented in the book has been peer reviewed by each author, the quality is naturally improved, and the authors become part of a team.

"Prior to CTS, the teachers did not work as a team. We now have a **Whatsapp** group and share knowledge on related matters. An interesting benefit is that inexperienced teachers can now get a small window into how the topic is taught at other schools."

CTS is a grassroots series and there are plans already to expand the programme to include other subjects.

"The total dominance of foreign publisher throughout the Caribbean that siphon money out of the Caribbean is astonishing. We have very experienced



Dr Janak Sodha (left) and Rashid Holder taking time out for a selfie during the launch of the CTS Maths book and app.

teachers throughout Barbados and across the Caribbean. There is no reason why we cannot create our own Series, which generates an income for our teachers and schools," Sodha said.

"The next book will be on Common Entrance Mathematics — using the authors on **UwiTube.com** — and the CAPE level mathematics. During this process, I will expand the series to create a Caribbean edition to include several islands. Having completed the three levels of Mathematics — CSEC, Common Entrance and CAPE — we shall expand the series to

cover English and Sciences, starting once again with the CSEC level."

Sodha is currently working also on **bigbrosis.com**, an online academic mentorship programme that will facilitate communication between students at UWI to help each other. He anticipates imminent release with a feature showcasing a tutoring service for schools with teachers from across the Caribbean being able to serve as tutors for a fee.

Minister of Education Ronald Jones and human resource specialist Orville Lynch have also given the thumbs up to the initiative and indicated that this is a significant step in the right direction.

Lynch, a tutor at UWI, said this is particularly important because a one-size fits all approach would not work for the problem or poor performance in mathematics that has permeated the region's education system.

Minister of Education Ronald Jones and human resource specialist Orville Lynch have also given the thumbs up to the initiative and indicated that this is a significant step in the right direction.



Professor Sir Hilary Beckles autographs a copy of his book for Professor Eudine Barriteau

BRITISH BARBARISM IN BARBADOS

VICE-CHANCELLOR of the University of the West Indies Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, a historian of international acclaim, has launched a new book that examines one of the most brutal periods in regional slavery.

The First Black Slave Society: Britain's "Barbarity Time" in Barbados, 1636-1876 provides thoughtful insight into the creation of the western world.

"This book traces the concept of black slavery and plantation slavery from the old world to the new world. It looks at the first sugar plantations in the Mediterranean, the first sugar plantations using slave labour in the context of the 14th century in South Europe then it follows that social and economic technology from the Mediterranean to the islands off the coast of West Africa where sugar plantations were first established on the African continent," Sir Hilary said.

"It traces the movement from those islands to Brazil and shows why Brazil in the 16th century became

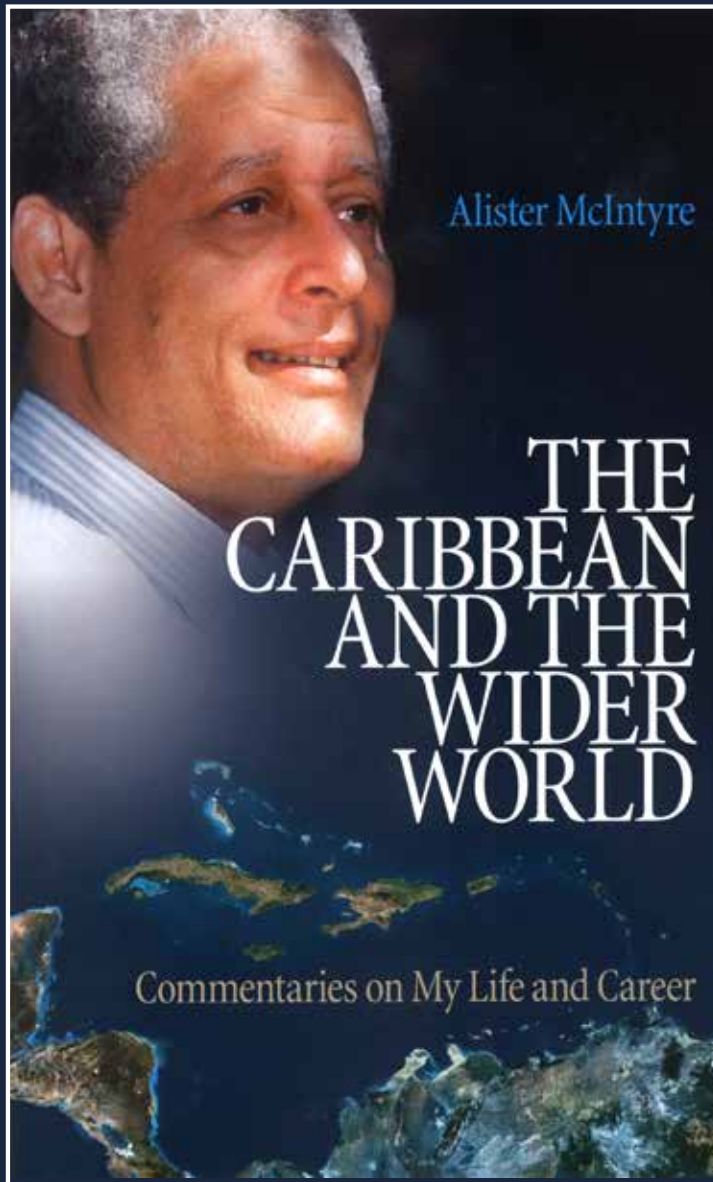
the largest producer of cane sugar in the world. Then it traces the movement from Brazil to the West Indies, first in Barbados then in Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic and Cuba. And finally, it consolidates in Barbados."

The book, launched in partnership with Cave Hill's Department of History and Philosophy, is a prequel to another on global black debt which is expected to shed more light on African enslavement, not only in the Americas but in the Middle East, South East Asia, the historian promised.

"I will then compare the economics of black slavery in the western world with the eastern world. So we can compare Egypt with Jamaica, Barbados with India, and Guadeloupe with China. We will look at how African enslavement was also an important part of the rise of the east."

The December 9 book launch was held as one of many events staged by the campus in recognition of the 50th anniversary of Barbados' Independence.

THROUGH THE EYES OF SIR ALISTER



FOR DECADES he carved out a path and name for himself in regional and international organisations, then later, in academic leadership at The University of the West Indies. Now former UWI Vice-Chancellor Sir Alister McIntyre has penned a book that traces his many experiences.

The Caribbean and the Wider World: Commentaries on my life and career was launched at Cave Hill Campus on December 15, an event attended by leading campus officials and longstanding friends and colleagues of Sir Alister, who sent a video message from his home in Jamaica.

“The first chapter speaks to my early life in Grenada, goes on to make reference to my university education in the United Kingdom and subsequent enlargement of that academic experience at Princeton and Columbia universities in the United States,” Grenadian-born Sir Alister told attendees including his former student and the evening’s moderator, Professor Emeritus Sir Frank Alleyne.

“Thereafter, it focuses on my efforts to Caribbean economic integration starting with being a technical advisor to the Caribbean Heads of Government Conference leading on to serving as the secretary general of CARICOM.

“In that latter capacity I served as technical advisor to the CARICOM negotiating team during negotiations of the first LOME Convention with the European Union. Thereafter, the focus of my efforts shifted to global issues on the new international economic order leading further to service at the UNCTAD as director of commodity’s division... and later on as deputy secretary general of that organisation.”

The book was launched in the three physical UWI campuses. In Barbados, it received an in-depth review by Professor Andrew Downes, former Pro Vice-Chancellor responsible for Planning and Development.

“I hope that you will build on some of the analysis to promote a vigorous discussion of the future of the Caribbean, especially in the economic and social spheres,” Sir Alister told attendees.



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