



**Celebrating
The UWI's 70th**

**Cave Hill Wins
Global Award**

**Sugarcane Energy
Research**



The University of the West Indies
Cave Hill Campus

**A SMART CAMPUS
for the 21st Century**

A PUBLICATION OF
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Catalysing Innovation

Similar to reaching a significant milestone on the higher education landscape, the arrival of a new academic year or tertiary cycle often ushers in a wave of optimism; the kind that offers renewed hope to education planners who are aiming to meet the needs of countless aspirants and to address the region's developmental challenges.



(l-r) Chinese Vice Premier Liu Yandong presents the Confucius Institute of the Year award to Professor Eudine Barriteau, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the Cave Hill Campus on 12th December, 2017 in Xi'an, China.

The current academic year, coinciding with the start of **The University of the West Indies Strategic Plan 2017–2022** and the 2018 year-long celebrations to mark The UWI's 70th anniversary, has heralded opportunities for catalysing innovation in higher education in unprecedented dimensions. That five-year plan has at its core the goals of **Access, Alignment** and **Agility**, a triple "A" strategy which offers not simply a platform for revolutionising the tertiary education system, but also transforming Caribbean societies to meet the requirements of the 21st century.

Adhering to the triple "A" institutional pursuits, Cave Hill has embarked on what is perhaps its first major policy reorientation since its establishment in 1963, the reconceptualisation of the campus's strategic development. Encouraged by the evolving framework of our

Smart Campus initiative which we have shared increasingly with internal and external stakeholders during the past year, we have: pursued greater self-reliance through revenue-earning and cost-saving strategies; leveraged technology to improve education and other services delivery, as well as to enhance governance; and expanded the internationalisation of our programmatic and other offerings.

In spite of the campus's severe, well-ventilated and documented financial challenges, we have energised our human resources to advance the university's enduring mission to foster innovation that would positively transform this region. The imminent activation of our multimillion-dollar, agri-business development park, our intensified global engagement led by a determination to export our flagship medical programme,

and our capture in December of the prestigious global Confucius Institute of the Year Award amply illustrate our transition towards greater innovation and a burnished, burgeoning global profile.

We keenly anticipate our new education imperatives to spur us towards even greater accomplishment. Last December, the campus's Finance and General Purposes Committee approved the establishment of the **Cave Hill Office of Research and Innovation (CHORI)**, one objective of which is to improve the quality, quantity and impact of our research, innovation and publication. We expect this new office to help drive output and add lustre to the Cave Hill brand. We remain hopeful, also, that stakeholders and benefactors will continue to take notice of our efforts and lend further support to our initiatives. ♦

Driven

IBM Watson AI XPRIZE



The Cave Hill team includes (l-r) Dr. Curtis Gittens, Dr. Mechelle Gittens, Nicholas Hoyte, Prof. Ian Hambleton, Christina Howitt

Using Artificial Intelligence to Combat Health Challenges

A multidisciplinary group of experts, drawn from computer science, statistics, and public health, are developing an artificial intelligence-powered (AI) system to predict human behaviour in those predisposed to diabetes. This system has the potential to revolutionise the world's approach to health behaviour change.

The cognitive AI simulation and virtual counsellor system (**Driven**) seeks to identify the root causes of patient decision making and behaviour, and is under development by the group led by computer scientist, Dr. Curtis Gittens, a lecturer in the Faculty of Science and Technology at Cave Hill.

Having entered the highly competitive, internationally acclaimed \$5 million **IBM Watson AI XPRIZE** competition last year, the local experts secured the approval of a global panel of judges to move onto Round 2.

It is the only team from Latin America and the Caribbean to advance, and is going up against groups from Canada, United States, Italy, United Kingdom, India, Vietnam, China, Australia, Norway, France, Poland, Germany and Israel.

"Considering the number and quality of the teams that are in the competition, we are pleased with the fact that we get to move on to Round 2. In Round 1, the entire Latin American and Caribbean region was only represented by us and a team from Ecuador. There



were 90 teams in North America, between the US and Canada, and over half of those teams have been eliminated. When you consider the fact that we were considered strong enough to enter Round 2, given the sheer number of teams from developed countries, it says something about the work that we're doing. For us to get into Round 3, we are focusing on getting the full system running and proving our technology," Dr. Gittens said.

The IBM Watson AI XPRIZE challenges teams to develop powerful AI applications, demonstrating how humans can collaborate with AI technologies to tackle the world's greatest challenges. The focus this time around is on Health & Wellness, Learning & Human Potential, Civil Society, Space & New Frontiers, Shelter & Infrastructure, and Energy & Resources.

Dr. Gittens said that preliminary feedback from one of **the IBM Watson AI XPRIZE** liaisons indicated that they stand a good chance of making it to Round 3 once the system is constructed and proven.



Brendon Duncan

Only 59 teams from 14 countries have advanced from the initial 148 teams that entered the challenge which concludes in 2020.

The system being developed by the national team consists of cognitive architecture, an agent-based model and simulation system, a virtual counsellor and a data analytics engine.

The team believes that identification of the root causes of unhealthy behaviours would allow health professionals to develop highly-personalised behavioural interventions, hopefully reducing an individual's risk of developing a major chronic disease by addressing the key inhibitors and facilitators to healthy lifestyle change and adherence.

They explain that **Driven** is different from current AI technologies because it probes the reasons behind these types of psychosocial behaviours, and in doing so, would provide public health interventionists with a valuable lifestyle management tool that provides insight into the persistence of people eating a poor diet.

"What we want to do is create a psychologically realistic, virtual version of a person. We capture what the person likes, their emotional profile, what foods they eat, where they live and their social and physical environment to create a virtual world with that virtual person in it. The goal is to run a number of simulations using scenarios in which they are faced with food choices; for example, going to Christmas dinner or birthday parties or just going out to dinner, and identify the triggers that will lead them to choose the food that they shouldn't be eating."

The World Health Organisation has said that non-communicable diseases (NCDs) were responsible for 39.5 million or 70 percent of global deaths in 2015, with cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes and chronic lung diseases being the main contributors. Diabetes, in particular, accounted for 1.6 million of those deaths.

"We are in the competition to win, but we recognise that, if we build the system and apply it to our situation in the Caribbean,

we can make a significant change in the way NCDs are treated. The XPRIZE Foundation has a huge network of people you're exposed to through mentorship, workshops and conferences. You get to meet a global community of leading thinkers in the area and you get the opportunity to share your ideas with them. Being able to have a significant impact on how chronic non-communicable diseases are treated is nothing to sneeze at. It's something that will be a significant benefit even if we don't make it to the finals," Dr. Gittens explained.

The inroads by these academics coincide with Cave Hill's transformation to a Smart Campus, an initiative that combines innovation in facilities design and management, curriculum reform and the continuous enhancement of its learning environment and administrative processes.

"It seems to be a convergence of events," Dr. Gittens noted. "It's a good time to be doing this, especially with the Smart Campus initiative. If we continue to be successful in the competition we believe it would inspire students to strive to take their position on the global stage and be recognised for excellence in work and research. It will also show that we don't have to look to North America and Europe for leadership in technology and innovation."

The AI project is the result of research conducted by Dr. Gittens and his wife, Dr. Mechelle Gittens, in the fields of AI and mobile health respectively, combined with the research expertise of the Data Group in the George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Centre.

The other members of team **Driven** are: Catherine Brown, Qualitative Data Analyst; Dr. Peter Chami, Machine Learning Specialist; Brendon Duncan, Mobile Application Developer; Professor Ian Hambleton, Biostatistician (Predictive Analytics); Christina Howitt, Data Scientist; Nicholas Hoyte, Software Developer (AI Perception); Dr. Selvi Jeyaseelan, Research Methodologist/Research Manager; and Dr. Natasha Sobers-Grannum, Primary Care Physician/Clinical Epidemiologist. ♦



Catherine Brown



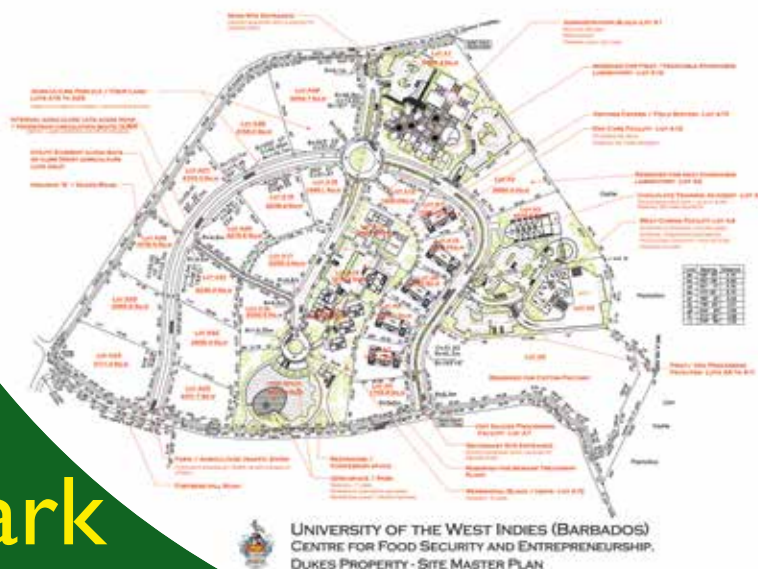
Dr. Selvi Jeyaseelan

Dr. Natasha
Sobers-Grannum

Absent is
Dr. Peter Chami

A multimillion-dollar agricultural and agroprocessing project that is likely to transform the landscape of rural Barbados, provide economic stimulus to the island and wider Caribbean, and revolutionise regional agribusiness, is earmarked to get underway in the first quarter of 2018.

Agri-business Park ROLLED OUT



The UWI-Dukes Agri-business Development Park will utilise 28.5 acres of land at Dukes Plantation in the parish of St. Thomas gifted, in 2012, to Cave Hill Campus by benefactors, Charles and Vanessa Edghill.

The first phase of construction is planned for this year, with US\$34 million in funding being provided under a bilateral aid programme between the Government of Barbados and the Government of the People's Republic of China.

While a large portion of land will be allocated for farming, a multipurpose park is on the cards to house facilities for agroprocessing, meat curing, chocolate manufacturing and training, and cotton processing. It will also feature a food standards laboratory, a sewage treatment plant, recreational spaces, a 500-seat conference room, retail shops and restaurants.

Oversight of the project is the remit of Cave Hill's **Centre for Food**

Security and Entrepreneurship (CFSE) which has successfully implemented and received high commendation for: its Sail Cargo Project, designed to facilitate intra-Caribbean maritime trade; and the Black Belly Sheep Leather Project, a high-value, joint enterprise utilising Italian designers and other expertise.

CFSE Director Professor Leonard O'Garro, an internationally recognised Caribbean scientist and a 2012 recipient of the Anthony N. Sabga Caribbean Awards for Excellence in Science and Technology, is excited about the opportunities and implications of the project. He noted that several significant agribusiness enterprises will be domiciled there.

"... every enterprise located there will be associated with a training programme, either vocational or for accreditation," said the native Vincentian during the unveiling of the plans to the media last October. *"When it's up and running, it*

will provide a training hub for people in the entire CARICOM area. In addition to the types of activities that will take place, we anticipate a tremendous amount of investment to come into Barbados because it will be the centre for agribusiness activity in the region."



O'Garro said the project will also complement Barbados's tourism product, by providing sources of attraction, recreation, leisure and education for visitors.

Continued on page 6

The Barbados Blackbelly Sheep Leather Project is one of the major CFSE initiatives designed to impact the viability of agriculture and leverage research and development with the goal of moving agri-business further along the value chain.

The ongoing project held in partnership with **Island Leathers Inc.** forged global connections with a world class Italian leather manufacturing company to produce a sample of blackbelly sheep leather goods.

Patrons examining the blackbelly sheep leather products on display at agrofest.





(l-r) Minister of Foreign Affairs Senator Maxine McClean greeting Charles Edghill, while Principal Eudine Barriteau (second left) and Vanessa Edghill look on.

.... Continued from page 4

He explained: *"It will be possible for visitors to spend their entire day there, for a fee. They will be able to take part in educational activities, such as spinning cotton, making chocolates and so forth. They will also be able to prepare meals and get in touch with Barbadian culture under the teaching of well-qualified chefs in an environment conducive to such activity. The project will be designed so that all the enterprises can grow and become regional entities. In addition, all of the systems are already there for they to become global as well. All of the issues with respect to regulations, quotas and so forth have been built into the projects that we will execute from there."*

Having secured approval from the Town and Country Development Planning Office, Cave Hill Campus has embarked on sensitising residents in nearby communities ahead of the pending construction.

Principal and Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Eudine Barriteau said the

state-of-the-art facility would be environmentally friendly and could generate at least 1,000 jobs when completed.

"The UWI Cave Hill Campus, which is already a major, multifaceted contributor to the economic life of this country, is about to make its economic presence felt in an even more significant way. This mega-community of agribusiness activity will not only offer a diverse range of employment opportunities, but will position Barbados to become a regional hub for entrepreneurial development, educational training and cutting-edge agribusiness research in a 21st century, expansive, multifaceted complex," she said.

"When this is up and running and we get beyond the construction phase, we can look at employment from 1,000 to 1,500 persons. This is a massive project and there are many phases that have to be rolled out. When this is completed, it

will be a site where the taxis will bring tourists to spend a day; they can observe things; and there will be development spilling over to the neighbouring communities ... so we do see great employment opportunities in addition to training and research.

"The first phase will be construction of the conference facilities, the restaurant, the training facilities, the labs, and the sewage treatment plant. We have to prepare for what Town and Country [Development Planning Office] has given us approval for. What will be happening simultaneously, however, is that we will be developing curriculum. For example, for the chocolate academy, we have received a grant from the Caribbean Development Bank to develop a Master's [degree] in Chocolatiering which is a highly specialised skill," the Principal added. ♦

Cave Hill Celebrates The UWI 70th

Year-long celebrations
marking the 70th
anniversary of The
University of the West
Indies are in full swing at
Cave Hill.



Monsignor Harcourt Blackett (inset) addresses the congregation which included (from left) UWI Vice-Chancellor Sir Hilary Beckles; Chairman of Cave Hill Campus Council, Sir Paul Altman; lecturer, Dr. Kenneth Connell and UWI Pro Vice-Chancellor Alan Cobley.

Held under the theme **"70 years of service, 70 years of leadership"**, the observance started on 28th January with an interfaith service of thanksgiving at the St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Cathedral that was attended by members of the administrative, technical and support staff, teaching staff, students, friends and well-wishers.

One of the highlights of the celebration is a special community outreach, **Community Talk**, in which academics will hold discussions across Barbados and in neighbouring islands on a range of topics, including: legalising marijuana; disaster preparedness; natural medicine vs traditional

medicine; and the way forward, post-independence.

"We have had programmes for the community before but this is now an engagement at a personal level, a community level. We are engaging communities to help them grow; we are engaging OECS territories as well, territories that



(l-r) Tanesiha Brown and Dr. Donley Carrington at the 70th anniversary service

we draw from in terms of our student base," said Chair of the Campus Planning Committee, Dr. Henderson Carter.

Another highlight is the **Gala Dinner**, branded **"Luminaries Gala: Dining with the Stars"**, which will be held on campus on 28th April, National Heroes Day, and featuring cultural icons Stedson "Red Plastic Bag" Wiltshire and Anthony "Gabby" Carter, among other luminaries.

A \$70 fundraising drive will also be launched in April to assist needy students, while an unveiling ceremony will be held in October to honour 70 outstanding Cave Hill graduates.

The activities can be tracked on a **70th anniversary App** developed by Cave Hill Science and Technology student, Theo Taylor, who created the App for the UWI Games hosted by Cave Hill in 2017. This was done under the supervision of Head of the Department of Computer Science, Mathematics & Physics, Dr. Janak Sodha.

The UWI started in Mona, Jamaica in 1948 as a College of the University of London, going on to achieve full university status in 1962. In 1961, the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad was converted into the St. Augustine Campus, and in 1963, a third campus was established at Cave Hill, Barbados. In 2009, The UWI Open Campus, a virtual campus with over 40 physical sites across the region, was launched.

The University of the West Indies now has a presence in 18 Caribbean territories and is spreading its influence across various continents. ♦



Freshers Benefit from Fundraising Race

Moving to tertiary education from the secondary level can present acute challenges for students as they adapt to a new learning environment. University leaders are constantly seeking to address this issue with innovative strategies, one of which has gained major corporate and public support through a new, fundraising initiative.

The **First Year Experience (FYE)** programme, a developmental project, utilises peer-to-peer relationships whereby level 2 and level 3 students serve as mentors to “freshers” to help them navigate any challenges they encounter during the adjustment period.

Last year, this peer mentorship programme benefited significantly from the **RBC Race for the Kids**, a global charity run, which raised Bds\$63,000 from its inaugural staging in 2017. The FYE programme received Bds\$21,000 from the funds raised, with the remaining portion allocated for six scholarships valued at Bds\$7,000 each.



Under the FYE programme, students received advice and support from 12 committed peer mentors, guided by senior representatives of the campus's Office of Student Services. Aside from helping new students access on-campus services and solve problems about the academic process, the peer mentors facilitated aspects of the FYE curriculum, particularly those related to academic and study skills.

They staged awareness campaigns centred on addressing a range of wellness or social justice concerns, including those related to diabetes, obesity and the differently abled.

In addition, the group plans to undertake a leadership project to help students consider and identify problems affecting disadvantaged and vulnerable groups in their community.

It is anticipated that some of the FYE peer mentors will graduate to become full-fledged FYE

facilitators and take responsibility for an entire FYE group, paving the way for the induction of new peer mentors.

With such positive impacts, The UWI Cave Hill Campus and Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) are anticipating that thousands will lend their feet to this worthy cause again this year when the 5k run/walk is staged on 11th March. Organisers are aiming to more than double last year's 1,300 participants, and raise more than Bds\$100,000.

Internationally, the **RBC Race for the Kids** attracts more than 121,000 participants and has raised more than CAD\$27 million, with races being held in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Trinidad & Tobago, the United Kingdom and the United States. ♦



Major Progress on Global Agenda

Across the Americas and Europe, into Africa and Asia, Cave Hill's international journey picked up pace in 2017, expanding the university's global influence and connections.

Pursuing a quest to create greater global awareness of the Cave Hill brand, university officials: successfully advanced the campus's reputation across Latin America through continued promotion of its **English as a Second Language Programme** (teaching of English to non-English-speaking citizens); consolidated its presence in Europe with higher student enrolment; and made significant progress in furthering its international reputation by ratifying a number of agreements with Asian and African agencies.

The UWI established **Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs)** with the **University of Johannesburg** and the **University of Ghana** to facilitate student exchange programmes and international enrolment at Cave Hill, a likely boon to increasing the

number of students from Africa in the near future. A September mission to Ghana, specifically, cemented an agreement for Cave Hill to offer medical education to students from that country; the inaugural cohort is expected to start training at the campus in academic year 2019.

Cave Hill's crowning international achievement came at the end of the year when its campus-based Confucius Institute (CI) was bestowed the prestigious global **Confucius Institute of the Year Award**. Throughout the year, the campus had undertaken a wide range of activities to assist Barbados in understanding and engaging the Chinese society.

It also hosted the inaugural **Caribbean-China International Law Moot Court Competition** and the signing of two MOUs: one paving the way for the establishment of a joint **Caribbean-China Legal Research Centre** at The UWI, Cave Hill; and the other between **The UWI Press** and the **China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL)** Press.

(l-r) President of the University of Miami Julio Frenk greets Principal Eudine Barriteau, while senior university officials look on.



Vice Chancellor of the University of Johannesburg Professor Ihron Rensburg signs the visitors' book during a courtesy call to Principal Eudine Barriteau.

Under the press agreement, select UWI Press titles will be translated into Chinese for purposes of publication, titles would be marketed in China and the Caribbean for the Chinese diaspora population, and select CUPL Press titles will be translated into English for purposes of publication.



(l-r) Justice Winston Anderson of the Caribbean Court of Justice and Chief Justice of Barbados, Sir Marston Gibson, attending the International Law Moot Court Competition which had full support from the judicial fraternity. The Chinese team claimed the top prize while Cave Hill gained The Spirit of the Caribbean-China Moot Award as well as titles for Best Memorialist and Best Oralist.

Principal and Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Eudine Barriteau remarked that as business, academic and other opportunities open up in China to people of this region, the MOUs will greatly facilitate intercultural understanding and communication as well as the transnational

conduct of business between China and the Caribbean.

"A key requirement to conducting business between these eastern and western cultures is a mutual understanding of each other's legal systems. In this regard, functional cooperation between the UWI Press and the CUPL Press will make legal and other critical information available, not only to academics and legal practitioners, but persons seeking business and other opportunities in China. The MOU between the two university presses is aimed at promoting the translation and publication of their works. Implementation of the MOU should significantly enhance knowledge of China in the Caribbean, and of the Caribbean in China, through the publication and translation of important texts. In particular, considerable gaps in the knowledge of Chinese law in the Caribbean and Caribbean law in China will be addressed through this ground-breaking cooperation."

"Similarly, the MOU establishing a joint legal research centre at the Cave Hill Campus ... will bolster legal understanding of each other's jurisdiction. This MOU is a first in the Caribbean and will enable Chinese and Caribbean scholars and students to work together to enhance their knowledge of the law in one another's jurisdiction. Given the importance of law to, inter alia, well-regulated trade, the centre has the potential to provide Caribbean-China relations with an entirely new platform for cooperation and mutual understanding."

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Law students Mohsin Nana and Britney X. Elliot-Williams



YANG Peiru (standing) presents during the moot competition. Looking on are (l-r) her coach Professor ZHU Lijiang, School of International Law, China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL), and moot partner CAI Jiahong, as well as Cave Hill team members Moshin Nana and Britney X. Elliot-Williams along with their coach, Dean, Faculty of Law, Dr. David Berry.

.... Continued from page 11

In July, officials from the Ministry of Education and other Barbadian educational institutions pursued discussions with Chinese counterparts and officials from Hanban, the China Scholarship Council, China University of Political Science and Law, and the Beijing Normal University.

The Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC), the region's major examining body, also enlisted support from the Confucius Institute to create a curriculum for the teaching and examination of Chinese in the Commonwealth Caribbean. ♦



(l-r) Professor LI Juqian, Deputy Dean, School of International Law, China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL) and Dean, UWI, Cave Hill Faculty of Law, Dr. David Berry hold winning trophies and the plaque which will carry an inscription of the winners.

Scores of high school students from Panama have been learning English in Cave Hill's language and cultural Immersion English as a Second Language (ESL) Programme which is attracting hundreds from South American countries. Here, an ecstatic second cohort celebrates shortly before returning home last June. A third cohort arrives 17th March for the four-month ESL Programme with a special focus on Tourism and Business.



Medical Training for GHANAIS



The internationally endorsed flagship medical programme at The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill could soon be enrolling Ghanaian students, in an initiative aimed at expanding the campus's academic offerings worldwide.

Principal of Cave Hill Campus Professor Eudine Barriteau (second left), Dean Dr. Peter Adams (fourth left) and Dr. Kenneth Connell (third right) with Ghanaian representatives at a fair trade.

A Cave Hill delegation visited Ghana on 26th — 29th September seeking to establish academic partnerships with stakeholders in that country's health and higher education sectors. Among their activities, university representatives held discussions with officials from the Ministry of Health and University of Ghana's **Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research**.

Chair of Cave Hill's Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS) **Task Force for International Outreach**, Dr. Kenneth Connell, says an articulation agreement between the two universities could be finalised by early 2018, paving the way for an inaugural student intake in August 2019.

Dr. Connell, a former FMS deputy dean, was accompanied by Dean, Dr. Peter Adams, on the three-member team led by Campus Principal, Professor Eudine Barriteau. Both doctors have thrown their full support behind the agreement to provide medical teaching to Ghanaians, and predict that closer collaboration between the universities will bring mutual benefit.

"The visit to Ghana revealed the potential of the higher education market in West Africa. I am expecting very positive outcomes," Professor Barriteau said.

"There is tremendous scope for academic collaboration between The UWI Cave Hill Campus and the University of Ghana, in particular, including the enrolment of significant numbers of African students in the pre-clinical phase of our medical programme. The training of Ghanaian doctors is among a wide range of strategic collaborations which we hope to pursue under a renewed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with that university," she added.

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The University of Ghana shares a number of similarities with The UWI. Both were founded in 1948 as external colleges and became self-governing institutions in the early 1960s. There are also medical research similarities between University of Ghana's **Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research** and Cave Hill's **George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Centre**.

"Both centres research diseases relevant to their populations so that the health of the respective populations can be improved," Dr. Adams explained. "In Ghana, most of the research is on infectious diseases, in particular malaria, while we concentrate on chronic non-communicable diseases."

In addition to student enrolment and research collaborations, discussion focused on the exchange of elective students and external examiners, and also adjunct appointments.

Dean Adams said his counterpart at the University of Ghana's **School of Nursing** also expressed interest in obtaining elective placements for nurses in Barbados and assessors for academic promotion, staff exchanges and adjunct appointments with The UWI.

The University of Ghana has an enrolment of approximately 800 students in its six-year medical programme and is facing significant increase in demand. Within this context, the University of Ghana and that country's Minister of Health have welcomed Cave Hill's offer to train future generations of Ghanaian medical doctors, under a split-site transnational programme similar to that currently in existence between University of Ghana and Gulf University, Bahrain.

A four-year MOU between Cave Hill and the University of Ghana culminates in March 2018 and Vice-



Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana, Professor Ebenezer Oduro Owusu (left) and Principal of Cave Hill Professor V. Eudine Barribeau exchange gifts.

Chancellor of the University of Ghana, Professor Ebenezer Oduro Owusu, will visit Barbados next year to initial its renewal.

The Cave Hill delegation's visit was part of a trade mission by Republic Bank Barbados, an affiliate of the Republic Bank in Ghana, known as HFC Bank. The latter has already expressed a willingness to develop a student financial loan product to assist Ghanaian students wishing to study in the Caribbean. ♦

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Regional Marijuana Commission, established to investigate the issue of marijuana use in the region, has submitted a status report.

CARICOM

Marijuana Commission Submits Report

The Guyana-based CARICOM Secretariat which announced the submission of this report, said that the ten-member commission, chaired by Professor Rosemarie Belle-Antoine of the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, is expected to present its findings and recommendations to the CARICOM summit to be held in Jamaica in July.

It said that the commission had undertaken consultations in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, The Bahamas, Guyana, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname over the past two years. The consultations in Dominica were cancelled because of the passage of Hurricane Maria in September last year.

According to the status report, marijuana has emerged as an issue of social significance across the region.

"It embraces several complex dimensions, including the scientific,



Professor Rosemarie Belle-Antoine

economic, social, religious and legal ... and there [are] many commonalities in the discourse ..." These include "... vital information and strong opinions about marijuana and its use, including strong lobbying for use for medical reasons from a group of persons living with disabilities and in wheelchairs..." the report stated.

It also noted "just as many persons had important questions, wanted more information and education

and looked to the commission's report to provide those answers".

Some states in the region have already initiated action on the issue; and in those states where decisions have already been taken to engage in law reform, the call for more public education and a more coherent regional approach was made.

The commission, comprising experts in the scientific, medical, legal and

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social science fields, as well as a representative, each from the religious community and youth, were required by regional leaders to “conduct a rigorous enquiry into the social, economic, health and legal issues surrounding marijuana use in the Caribbean and to determine whether there should be a change in the current drug classification of marijuana, thereby making the drug more accessible for all types of usage (religious, recreational, medical and research)”.

The commission was also required to recommend the legal and administrative conditions to be applied, should there be reclassification. It has been reviewing information and secondary data pertaining to marijuana laws/legislation regulating its use and classification, findings related to research conducted on the medical/medicinal use of marijuana, the economic and social impact and its implications for the region.

The CARICOM Secretariat said information gathering is ongoing, and towards this end, data is being collected from adolescents and youth and the public. Researchers and other interested individuals are invited to submit written material on marijuana for use in its work. ♦



SERU to Focus on Student Success

The SERU team (l-r) Andrea Marshall, Althea Greene-Forde, Patricia Atherley, Shavonne Demendonça and Paula Jarvis

With the adoption of a more student-centred approach at The University of the West Indies, a Student Enrolment and Retention Unit (SERU) has been formed at Cave Hill with an aim to ensure a more positive, holistic student experience.

Established at the beginning of the 2017–2018 academic year, SERU operates as a first-stop hub for information, guidance and referral for students, and manages the international programme, including the Student Exchange Programme and the Study Abroad Programme.

To aid its efforts, the unit coordinated an Open Day last November, exposing prospective students, parents and guardians to campus offerings, operations and facilities, as well as information on financing options and study-abroad opportunities.

A featured attraction was a concert by the celebrated and talented, 2MileHill, whose lead singer, Mahalia Cummins is a Cave Hill alumna.

Building on the success of that event, SERU held a welcome

reception in February for international students, providing them with the opportunity to mix and mingle with members of the wider campus community.

With over 130 non-regional students registered for this academic year, including North Americans and Europeans, they were also exposed to a taste of Barbadian culture.

During the activity at the 3Ws Pavilion, three of the students – Steven Hodgson of Canada, Arttu Perrello of Finland and Kevin Heinevetter of Germany – gave brief insight into their decision to choose Cave Hill for their study-abroad experience. ♦



Open Day 2017 – This SERU-led initiative invited prospective students and parents on campus for an opportunity to interact with staff members and UWI alumni.

The year 2017 could prove to be a watershed for Cave Hill relations with Japan as the campus seeks to consolidate and expand its influence in Asia.

Deepening Ties with Japan

The past year has seen the strengthening of the relationship and bonds of friendship between the campus and Japanese institutions.

In particular, three initiatives were staged in the latter half of the year that not only built on the groundwork laid in previous years, but also offer a far-reaching, positive impact on the Caribbean region, its youth and the environment.

Campus Principal Professor Eudine Barriteau visited Japan on 10th–17th June where she met with government and academic officials as well as students, and set in motion several collaborative activities that followed.

With support from Japan's Association for the Promotion of International Cooperation and the Embassy of Japan in Barbados, Cave Hill hosted a lecture about the highly lucrative **anime industry**, an environmental seminar, and staged a workshop on the dreaded sargassum seaweed that threatens to undermine tourism-dependent Caribbean economies.

In September, associate professor at the Digital Hollywood University in Japan and anime expert, Mitsuteru Takahashi, introduced



Anime enthusiasts listen to anime expert and associate professor at the Digital Hollywood University in Japan, Mitsuteru Takahashi (Inset).

an audience of mainly students to the popular Japanese artform and informed of the numerous job opportunities available in the multibillion-dollar industry, once they tapped into their creativity.

Anime is a style of Japanese film and television animation that targets both children and adults. Japan currently has around 600 animation production companies in the steadily growing industry that generates in the region of US\$16 billion annually.

With this being an unexploited area in the Caribbean, the campus has been keen on showing students

the need to think outside the box by exploring and accessing such non-traditional opportunities rather than becoming stymied in an oversaturated job market.

An island nation that shares some common geographic features and climate-related threats with the Caribbean, Japan offers opportunities for joint collaboration to remedy coastal challenges and other mutual dangers.

In this regard, the two-day discussion on the sargassum seaweed proved informative and insightful for visiting Professor Anne McDonald of Japan and

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other members of the Japanese delegation. It also enabled UWI experts to provide an update on their research on the brown algae, while other qualified people spoke of their work and the impact of the seaweed.

"We live in an interconnected world and things in one part of the world can impact on others ... Clearly, if we have global and regional problems like this (seaweed deposits), it means that we need global and regional partnerships to tackle them," said Director of the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), Dr. Adrian Cashman.

Professor McDonald, a lecturer at the Graduate School of Environment Studies, Sophia University, Japan, delivered on the topic, **"Lessons from the Field: Exploring Culturally and Environmentally Relevant Solutions to Increasing**



Dr. Adrian Cashman
Director of CERMES

Environmental Challenges of Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss".

She shared insights from her experience in Japan, focusing on biocultural and climate change related policies for small-scale and artisanal fisheries and agriculture.

Sargassum expert Professor Hazel Oxenford pointed to the ecological and socio-economic disasters that states, like Barbados, have had to deal with, adding there were also commercial opportunities and other benefits from the seaweed that has



Professor. Julia Horrocks
Marine Ecologist

been coming from a new source – the Equatorial region.

"International partnerships will clearly be critical in helping to move forward in terms of these causes and consequences, particularly with prediction science, with risk assessment and, certainly, with management and mitigating impacts and developing opportunities, product development and resilience" the marine biologist said. ♦

Mounds of sargassum seaweed washed ashore on a beach.



Less than three years after its establishment, the Confucius Institute (CI) of The University of the West Indies at Cave Hill captured the prestigious global Confucius Institute of the Year Award.

Global Award for Cave Hill



Confucius Institute at Cave Hill



(l-r) Dr. Song Qingbao, Co-director, Confucius Institute; Zhang Xuejing, former CI volunteer teacher; Professor Eudine Barriteau, Principal, The UWI, Cave Hill; François Jackman, immediate past Co-director, Confucius Institute and Deborah Deane, Executive Assistant, Office of the Principal, with the winning award.

The honour was bestowed on 12th December, during the **12th Confucius Institute Conference** in Xi'an, China by the China-based Hanban/Confucius Institute Headquarters, which has oversight for more than 500 institutes and over 1,000 Confucius classrooms worldwide.

The award was presented by the Vice Premier of the People's Republic of China, Ms Liu Yandong, during the opening ceremony of the conference which brings together thousands of representatives from Confucius Institutes, partner universities and China's Ministry of Education. Among the ceremony's awardees, Cave Hill Campus was the sole recipient from Latin America and the Caribbean.

In receiving the award, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of The UWI Cave Hill, Professor Eudine Barriteau, said: *"It represents both recognition of the work the university and the Confucius Institute have been doing together and an encouragement to achieve more."*

"The relationship between the Caribbean and China is of growing importance, and the Confucius Institute gives The UWI Cave Hill the tools to equip our students with the language as well as the cultural means to shape this relationship."

Cave Hill's Confucius Institute, which began operations in April 2015, is the youngest of The UWI's three such institutions and the youngest ever in the world to gain such recognition. It is also the first time a Confucius Institute in the English-speaking Caribbean has earned the award which recognises outstanding work during the year.

The Confucius Institute at Cave Hill provides elementary to advanced Chinese courses and imparts knowledge about Chinese history and culture. In May 2017, it coordinated and hosted the inaugural regional conference of Caribbean Confucius Institutes held in Bridgetown.

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Professor HU Ming, Chairman of the CUPL Council and Principal Eudine Barriteau shake hands after signing a MOU.

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In addition, it has implemented a programme with the Ministry of Education in Barbados to develop teaching in primary and secondary schools and with the Caribbean Examination Council (CXC) to develop a Chinese language curriculum for Caribbean schools. To date, thousands of students have benefited from the CI's teachings, including hundreds of university students.

Since gaining Chinese proficiency **HSK (Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi)** testing status in 2016, the Barbados-based Confucius Institute had administered HSK and **YCT (Youth Chinese Test)** examinations and is the only site authorised to do so in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean.

Professor Barriteau said the Institute's relevant and innovative work programme aligns perfectly with the internationalisation thrust of the campus and reinforces its core values of integrity, excellence, gender justice, diversity, and student centredness.

Declaring the CI as a crucial partner in the educational planning, delivery and outreach infrastructure of the Cave Hill Campus, she said, *"The Confucius Institute enhances the impact of The UWI by building bridges with national and regional communities through the variety of programmes offered and the sheer scale of its activism."* ♦

Embracing Cuba with Love

by April A.S. Louis



"En Cuba, decimos amor con amor se paga,"... "In Cuba we say 'Love is paid with Love'" was the response I received after thanking Idalmis Brooks and Dr. José Ramón Balaguer Cabrera (referenced professionally as Dr. Balaguer) for their heart-warming welcome during my short visit to Cuba, for the XI International Conference entitled "Cuba and the Caribbean: 45 years of relations". The conference was hosted by the Norman Girvan Chair of Caribbean Studies at the University of Havana. Whilst a very simple phrase, "amor con amor se paga" encapsulates Cuban philosophy on human relations not only in terms of social interaction, but also in political and academic exchange.

It was admirable and impressive how knowledgeable the different Cuban professors and professionals, who participated in the conference, were of CARICOM's structure, policies and history. This knowledge was seen throughout all the generations which participated; from past government officials, who served as ambassadors to CARICOM countries, to current university students - a fact which was displayed in the panel entitled **"Youth Outlook on 45 years of Cuban Relations with CARICOM"**. In that panel, one of the most memorable presentations was one which chronicled the history of interaction between Las Casas de las Americas with various English and French speaking poets and writers. In all,

there was a formidable interest in CARICOM people, literature, politics and academia and, most importantly, how it fits into Cuban dynamics.

The diplomatic relationship between CARICOM and Cuba may seem inescapable to some, considering the geographical proximity and historical similarities shared between the nations. However, the political climate after the 1959 Revolution in Cuba, led by Fidel Castro, was one which could have prevented relations even between nations which shared historical parallels. However, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, shortly after their own independence, established relations with Cuba in a tense political environment marked by the political and economic isolation of the Hispanic isle. As the late Cuban President Fidel Castro Ruz stated, the decision was indeed a brave one, and Cuba *"will never forget this noble gesture on the part of its Caribbean brothers."*

This has certainly been the case. In its relentless campaign to fortify relations between CARICOM and Cuba, the latter country has conceptualised politically a definition of Caribbean which focuses on inclusivity and similarity. A concept of fraternity is symbolised from the individual level, with kindness and openness within a few days of socialising, to the state level, with Cuba being the only state to have diplomatic missions in every CARICOM nation. This concept is also based on sharing resources with other Caribbean islands, as we have seen with Cuban scholarship, healthcare and sport programmes. Even more recently, we have the proposal of a multi-destination tourism as a means of sharing tourist arrivals, rather than a tourist product based on destructive competition.

I must highlight that this is not only a matter of cultural integration based on idle romanticism, but one of political and economic survival. As island developing states, we continue to experience the consequences of neo-imperialism, economic underdevelopment and climate change. Additionally, US President Donald Trump and his policies were also greatly discussed, as his ideas have severe repercussions for Caribbean nations, whether Spanish, French or English-speaking. These discussions were based on an understanding that we were susceptible to "Trumpism" and a resolution, or even coping mechanisms, could be established as a whole. With that said, the common thread running throughout the conference was that CARICOM and Cuba relations were a means of survival, defence and an opportunity for prosperity and stability, if carried out effectively.

"If" must be added, as there are a myriad of variables which constantly threaten the fortitude of our diplomatic relations. Externally, interventions in regional affairs commonly placed in the

form of economic agreements, especially in times of recession, appear as mirages in deserts of fiscal instability. Internally, we have yet to concretise our identity as Caribbean people, transcending the traditional definitions of English, Spanish and French Caribbean. The difficulties in integration, even amongst CARICOM nations, are testimony to the vicissitudes of our regionalisation project.



Head, Department of Government, Sociology and Social Work, Dr. Tennyson Joseph; Cuban academic, Dr. José Ramón Balaguer Cabrera and Cave Hill graduate student, April Louis at the University of Havana.

The presenters at the XI International Conference, held at the University of Havana, laid out the rigours of relations between CARICOM and Cuba but never proposed dismantling or abating the interactions. It was a matter of improving and reconfiguring our relations. The Cuba and CARICOM relations of 45 years ago are not the same as those which exist today. In analysing our current political situation, it is vital to see what new opportunities we have to enhance our relations. To pay Love with Love ... Amor con Amor may sound too romantic and idealist to be the basis of our foreign policy or political decisions; nevertheless, it helps us to conceptualise integration as a mutual exchange of the best resources that each state possesses. We may never be able to provide large sums of capital that other states may be able to offer. However, it can allow us to better cope with the challenges which face our region. ♦



Principal Professor Eudine Barribeau along with Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education, Harry Husbands (third from left) and representatives of Germany share a light-hearted moment while observing the poster display.

German Exhibition on Energy Efficiency

Efforts to wean the region off fossil fuel dependency and to switch to more sustainable energy forms received considerable encouragement when Cave Hill hosted the travelling energy exhibition, Germany's Energiewende or German energy transition.

The two-week educational display, showcased last November, outlined the major role that European nation has been playing in climate protection, with the ultimate aim of positioning its entire energy supply to renewables by 2050.

Aptly falling within the observance of **CARICOM Energy Month**, the exhibition was hosted in partnership with the governments of Barbados and Germany and the CARICOM Secretariat.

It was facilitated by the Cave Hill Campus, the Division of Energy and Telecommunications in Barbados, the CARICOM Secretariat and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

Students, members of staff and the general public were educated on energy efficiency, heating, mobility, renewable energies, costs for the consumer, climate protection, nuclear power, economical aspects, international aspects, the electricity grid, security of supply, energy storage, civil participation and the future of energy supply.

The event had special significance for the campus and its host country which has established itself as a leader in the renewable energy sector in the region.

Cave Hill's own track record in renewable energy and its reputation as a research-oriented institution had received favourable reviews and featured prominently in the decision to site the exhibition within campus precincts.

National energy reduction efforts include: allowing independent power producers to generate and sell electricity derived from renewable sources to the public grid; the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems on the roofs of over 30 public buildings, including 16 schools; and the provision of incentives for businesses and private individuals to convert to cleaner energy. However, despite those efforts, the country's fuel imports account for as much as 30 percent of export earnings.

Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, Senator Harcourt Husbands, said the high fuel import bill shows that more needs to be done.

"It is recognised that we in the Caribbean have not been as focused as we should be on energy efficiency and our goal here, in Barbados, is to pick this 'low-hanging fruit' by reducing our electricity consumption by 22 percent by 2030," he said during the exhibition's opening ceremony.

"We are also focusing some effort on the transportation sector. In Barbados, transportation accounts for well over 25 percent of all energy consumed, and therefore represents a major contributor to local greenhouse gas emissions as well as the importation of fossil fuels."

Cave Hill has been gradually turning into a leading voice on renewable energy, both in terms of its advocacy and its practices.

In 2012, Professor Eudine Barriteau, now the Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal, presented Prime Minister Freundel Stuart with the **Green Economy: Scoping Study Synthesis Report Barbados**, conducted in association with the United Nations Environment Programme, that provided a blueprint for radically transforming the Barbados economy by harnessing the benefits of a sustainable, green economy.

Cave Hill has itself reduced its consumption of energy generated by fossil fuels and correspondingly lowered its energy costs.

Under the watchful eyes of an energy committee, a number of conservation strategies have been implemented and are monitored for effectiveness. PV panels have been installed to light bus stations, occupancy sensors are in place in areas commonly used by staff and students and are activated only when the room is occupied, more energy-efficient bulbs are being used, renewable energy street lights have been implemented, charging stations for electric vehicles have been installed and academic programmes are being offered on renewable energy.

Plans are being made for more extensive PV installations across the campus with an aim to reduce the energy bill by 50 percent by the year 2020, while an intense sensitisation programme is earmarked for staff and students to create greater awareness about energy conservation. ♦



One of the solar photovoltaic wind hybrid systems at Cave Hill Campus.



Ambassador of Cuba to Barbados, Dr Francisco Fernández Peña and Principal Eudine Barriteau signing the MOU.

Strengthening Cuban Connections

Last year's first anniversary of the passing of the Cuban revolutionary leader, Fidel Castro, was marked with deserving reverence when Cave Hill Campus moved to deepen its relationship with Cuba. The campus signed memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with two institutions in the Spanish-speaking Caribbean country.

Two agreements, formalising Cave Hill's relationship with the University of Havana and Cuba's Ministry of Public Health, were signed on 24th November, by Principal and Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor Eudine Barriteau and Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba to Barbados, Dr. Francisco Fernández Peña.

Professor Barriteau said Cuba has provided distinguished service to its Caribbean neighbours, particularly in the area of healthcare.

"The People's Republic of Cuba has always been a partner in the developmental needs of Barbados and other Caribbean countries, and we thank them for this. The development of medicine and public health

has been one of Cuba's most precious gifts to the world. Cuban doctors are usually among the first on the ground after any natural disaster throughout the Caribbean.

"This underscores the fact that the public health system in Cuba is one of the best in the world and we, in the Caribbean, owe a debt of gratitude to the Government and the people of Cuba for the way they have continuously assisted regional governments with health care."

She recalled a personal anecdote of Cuban doctors dispensing eye treatment to her father in her native Grenada, adding that they have made *"a significant contribution to healthcare in that country and the Caribbean."*

The signing of the MOUs was held on the first anniversary of the passing of Cuban revolutionary leader, Fidel Castro, and was one of two activities held by the Cave Hill Campus to mark the occasion.

The MOUs pave the way for the mutual exchange of university staff and students and joint research, among other areas of collaboration.

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MEDIC ON A MISSION

Q&A with Dr. Kenneth CONNELL

Dr. Kenneth Connell currently wears several hats in connection with his substantive duties as a UWI lecturer in Clinical Pharmacology and a hypertension specialist who runs the QEH's Hypertension Clinic. He is:

- ◆ Chair - Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS) Task Force on International Outreach;
- ◆ Chair - Cave Hill Articulation Committee for UWI/University of Ghana Transnational Programme;
- ◆ Governor of the Caribbean Chapter of American College of Physicians; and
- ◆ President of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Barbados.

Q. How is the Caribbean faring in the global fight against hypertension and are you satisfied that we are doing enough, as a region, to put pressure, so to speak, on this global epidemic?

A. The Caribbean is faring as expected because most in the region are low to middle income countries and, unfortunately, the disease burden for non-communicable (NCDs) is not evenly distributed internationally and most of them are in low to middle income countries. It is predicted that by 2025, 80 percent of the global burden of NCDs will be from low to middle income countries of which Barbados and the rest of the Caribbean are a part. We have limited and vulnerable resources. Last year, we saw the effect of several hurricanes so we know that resources can be easily shifted from health. So, although the Caribbean has been responding as expected, the countries have done a commendable job. For instance, even with those limits and smaller communities,

most countries have taken some advocacy campaign at a national level and this is likely because of one of the strongest declarations in the world, the **Port-of-Spain Declaration** of more than ten years ago which led to the NCD declaration by the **World Health Organisation**. Organisations like the **Healthy Caribbean Coalition** have evolved to champion civil society organisations, and have gotten more involved in the fight against NCDs across the region. So, although it has been a country response, there has definitely been a holistic regional response as well.

We've also had changes in policy in Barbados and some of the regional countries such as sugar-sweetened drink taxes, tobacco taxes and legislation, and we now have intensive education in terms of lowering salt intake and green environments, at work and schools. The third factor would really be the healthcare system. Even given our limited resources, Caribbean countries have strengthened their healthcare systems so that they get more bang for their buck. Using Barbados as an example, given that I'm intimately involved with the efforts, at polyclinics we have used projects such as the **Standardised Hypertension Treatment Project** to access cheap evidence-based drugs in the treatment of hypertension, and have been able to reduce the mean blood pressure readings or increase the control rates in just 18 months.

Q. Can you provide an update on the May Measurement Month initiative conducted in 2017 in which The UWI was involved?

A. The **International Society of Hypertension (ISH)** decided that the major barrier to control is awareness. Last May, a campaign was set out by the ISH to raise



awareness of blood pressure by capturing ten million blood pressure readings internationally. Barbados was among less than 100 countries that participated, with Jamaica and St. Lucia being the only other two Caribbean countries. Barbados, in collaboration with The University of the West Indies, had 500 volunteers, the highest response rate based on our population size. Not only was the university involved in the project at a policy level, but students in the Faculty of Medical Sciences were on the streets and in business places taking blood pressure readings and collecting data. That data was sent to the project team in the United Kingdom and will inform the final document on what awareness and control rates are like.

Q. As President of the Heart and Stroke Foundation, what can you tell us about the synergies and collaboration between that organisation and The UWI and how can this relationship be further strengthened?

A. Academia cannot be divorced from civil society because a lot of our interventions

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and strategies are informed by research. Therefore, having a university person at the head of the Heart and Stroke Foundation enriches both institutions. As an example, May as Measurement Month came from the foundation, which then relied on the university for support. The flip side is that the Cave Hill Campus now has two automated external defibrillators (**AEDs**), which are life-saving devices that are applied to the chest and delivers shock, and are used in emergencies. That is a direct result of conversations between the campus, health officials and the foundation to have **AEDs** in public places. The foundation has partnered with The UWI for a very long time - we have trained both medical students and doctors at the hospital in advanced and basic life support courses for more than seven years. Recently, the foundation received the very prestigious Bloomberg Grant from New York, USA. Part of the grant speaks to advocacy and we will be collaborating with the university in this area.

Q. Cave Hill has a flagship medical science programme which it is seeking to market globally. Can you speak more about this?

A. I am very proud of the medical sciences programme, especially the fact that it has double accreditation. We have regional accreditation by **CAAM-HP (The Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions)**. This means there was an external quality assurance by this body which has validated our programme as having met certain core and key objectives for teaching medicine in the region. There are only just about four or five medical schools in the region that are accredited, and we're the only one in Barbados. We also have the **NCFMEA (National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation)** approval, which is from the USA. This stamp of approval allows American citizens to study medicine at The UWI Cave Hill Campus and be federally funded. There are more than 50

offshore medical schools in the region, but not many of them have NCFMEA approval; so this is something of which we are extremely proud.

Q. We have engaged the University of Miami and the University of Ghana in negotiations since obtaining the NCFMEA accreditation. Can you give us the background to those talks, their current status, and are other negotiations ongoing?

A. I lead the task force on international outreach which was commissioned by Principal Eudine Barriteau in July last year. The key mandate of this task force is internationalisation of the faculty's undergraduate programme and other programmes that may be of relevance. One of our first partners, logistically, was the University of Miami (UM). Last year, we were hosted by UM for the signing of a historic MOU between The UWI Cave Hill and UM. This MOU spoke to campus programmes, not only medical sciences. The main aim of the mission was to push the medical science agenda. Leading the task force, I've had several meetings with faculty and administrators there, discussing how we can create partnerships in research, with scholarships and academic exchanges, and more importantly, in exchanges of our undergraduate and postgraduate students for training at UM and vice versa. The discussions are very advanced. The university is currently in the process of signing a more specific MOU for medical sciences, called the **Harrington Agreement**, which would allow for a further ease of exchange of staff and students between the two institutions. The UWI also has an MOU with the University of Ghana. Cave Hill was the first campus, of the three landed-campus and one virtual campus, to operationalise this MOU. Through a mission with Republic Bank, we went off to Ghana in October. The aim was to obtain more information from the University of Ghana, to highlight the existence of the MOU and to build partnerships. We virtually concretised an agreement that would soon see the exchange of Ghanaian

students between the University of Ghana and medical students of The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill. The students from Ghana would come and do their preclinical studies for the first two years of their programme and would return to Ghana to complete their medical sciences programme and exit with a University of Ghana degree. We are hoping to see the first set of students in 2019.

Q. How important is it for us to align with an organisation like the American College of Physicians (ACP)? How did this alignment come about and what are some of the current and future plans for the Caribbean Chapter?

A. The ACP is the largest professional institution in the United States with a membership of more than 150,000 doctors and medical students all around the world. I would say that roughly about 30 percent of the members are international. The college is essentially structured in chapters. At The UWI, over a two-year vigorous process, we were successful in the creation of the **ACP's Caribbean Chapter**. This means that we now have a voice in the college's leadership in terms of voting on policy and protocols that are set throughout the region and the world. Secondly, we are on the international stage; so we are seen. The Caribbean Chapter will allow for closer synergies throughout the region, which is the main aim. We can have academic exchanges, design various products and advocate for the betterment of the health of adult patients in the region. Cave Hill Campus's doctors being part of this organisation creates a natural alignment because we have two institutions working towards the same aim of producing quality care and quality products in the form of medical doctors as internists.

This is an edited version of an interview with Dr. Kenneth Connell. ♦

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"Over the years we have developed links with some of the major universities in the world, but we take great care to ensure that we have formal links with the great universities and institutions close to us," said Principal Barribeau, as she touted Cave Hill's internationalisation thrust.

"We have the greatest respect for the institutions and universities within the Republic of Cuba."

In a move geared towards memorialising the contribution of the late Caribbean leader, members of the academic community, the pan-African movement and others held a two-day colloquium to celebrate the legacy of Fidel Castro.

The featured speaker was Dr. José Ramón Balaguer, Head of the International Relations Department of The Communist Party of Cuba, who led a high-powered delegation from the Spanish-speaking country.

In a post-conference reflection, Head of the Department of Government, Sociology, Social Work and Psychology, Dr. Tennyson Joseph, one of the event organisers, said the late Cuban leader was the most prominent Caribbean personality and the Caribbean's most important statesman of the latter half of the 20th century.

*"It was important to hold the two days of reflection on the life and contribution of Fidel Castro, in order that a younger generation of Caribbean persons could learn about and get an understanding of his contribution to Caribbean development. As an example of the kinds of 'learning opportunity' on the contribution of Fidel of which I am speaking, I can draw reference to the presentation of Dr. Alafia Samuels, whose topic was on **'The Transformation of the Cuban Health System under Fidel's Guidelines'**. Following her presentation, there were a number of seasoned political activists in Barbados who indicated their astonishment at the high level of advancement of the Cuban health system. Many of the participants called for her presentation to be made available to a wider audience."*

Dr. Joseph noted that the colloquium also solidified the MOU signed between **The UWI** and **University of Havana**.

"It was of key significance to us that one of the leading participants at the colloquium was Dr. Balaguer, a

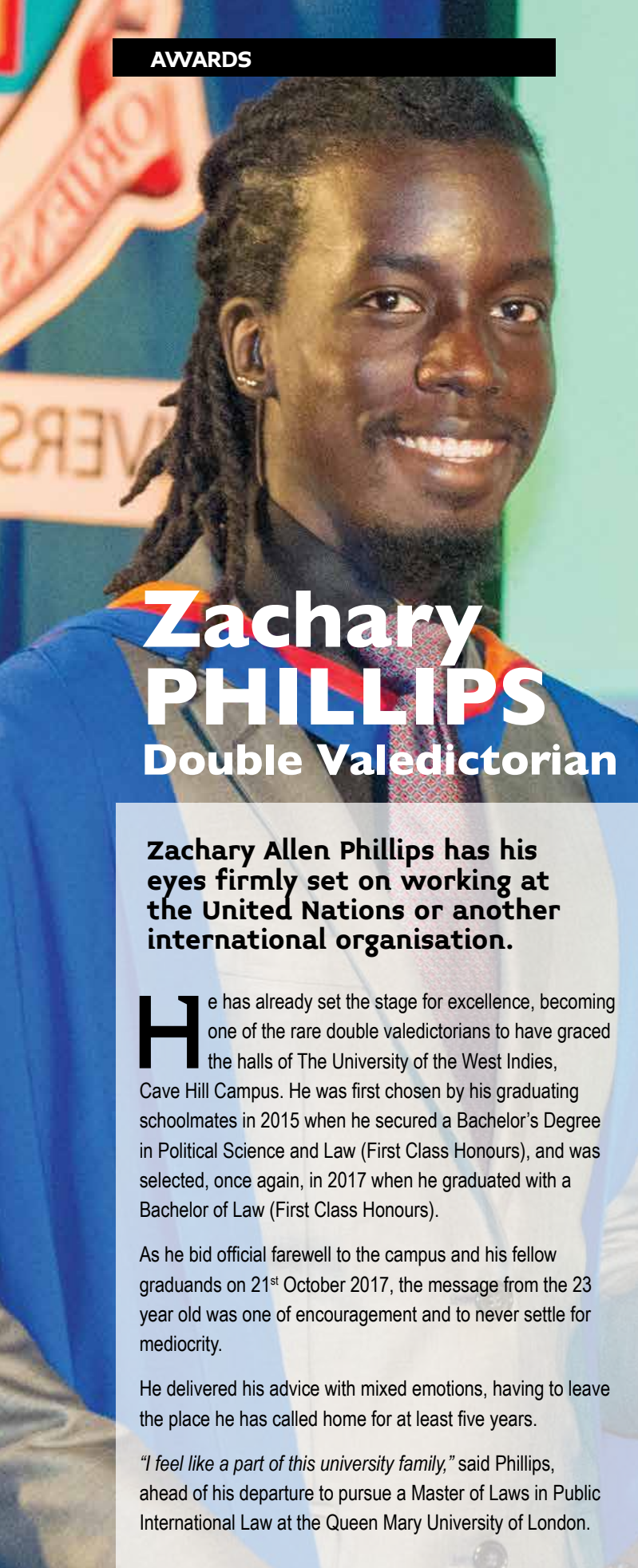
former Minister of Health, a member of the Council of State for Cuba, an early founder of the Cuban Revolution, and one of the six persons designated by Fidel to act during his period of illness. The presence of such a prominent personality at the colloquium was an important indication of the kinds of relationships which could be developed between Cuba and The UWI.

*"It is of great significance that following the colloquium, I, along with an MPhil research student, April Louis, visited Cuba to attend the **XI International Conference (University of Havana, Cuba) 'Cuba and the Caribbean: 45 Years of Relations'** from 6th-8th December 2017. A graduate in Political Science and Spanish, April's research thesis is around the question of Comparative Political Thought in which she is examining the political thought of Cuban intellectual José Martí and identifying the differences with English-speaking Caribbean thinkers on the question of independence, nationalism and identity. April's visit proved remarkably useful in deepening her insights and knowledge and her familiarity with the topic. Not only did she make a successful presentation to the conference, she was also called upon to give comments on Cuba-CARICOM relations to Cuban National Television. Perhaps the highlight of the visit was the courtesy extended to us by Dr. Ramón Balaguer, who agreed to receive us in his office adjacent to the Plaza de la Revolución."*

Dr. Joseph described the colloquium as highly successful, noting there is much potential in a UWI-Cuba relationship given the possibilities for collaboration in areas of public health, medicine, sports research, climate change, alternative energy, international relations, political theory and political economy, and languages and linguistics.

"One key expectation is that collaborative exchanges can take place between all members of Cave Hill and the University of Havana that will redound to the benefit of both institutions. The possibilities are innumerable," he noted.

The colloquium was staged by the Faculty of Social Sciences, the Faculty of Humanities and Education, the Faculty of Medical Sciences, the George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Centre, the Institute for Gender and Development Studies and the Embassy of the Republic of Cuba. ♦



Zachary PHILLIPS

Double Valedictorian

Zachary Allen Phillips has his eyes firmly set on working at the United Nations or another international organisation.

He has already set the stage for excellence, becoming one of the rare double valedictorians to have graced the halls of The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus. He was first chosen by his graduating schoolmates in 2015 when he secured a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Law (First Class Honours), and was selected, once again, in 2017 when he graduated with a Bachelor of Law (First Class Honours).

As he bid official farewell to the campus and his fellow graduands on 21st October 2017, the message from the 23 year old was one of encouragement and to never settle for mediocrity.

He delivered his advice with mixed emotions, having to leave the place he has called home for at least five years.

"I feel like a part of this university family," said Phillips, ahead of his departure to pursue a Master of Laws in Public International Law at the Queen Mary University of London.

While he was devoted to his studies at Cave Hill, he also used the opportunity to immerse himself in the Barbadian culture, network and spend quality time with his peers, who hailed from across the region.

"I [lived] on Frank Worrell Hall and that was the highlight of my university experience. I was next door to Trinidadians, Jamaicans, and Lucians ... I learnt a lot about the Caribbean without having to actually go to every island. Meeting new people and understanding new things really made me focus better on my work."

"For example, I looked forward to my government courses. I used to sit down and hear people talk about their countries and then I related it back to my classes and that helped me a lot."

Phillips's formula for achieving academic excellence was simple - attend classes, take notes and engage in a deep discussion on pertinent issues.

"I had to write it, discuss it, and discuss it again with my classmates and my roommate. I couldn't just sit and listen and not make notes. That is how I learnt," explained the self-proclaimed regionalist, whose first degree was funded by the Antiguan Government. His second degree was partially funded through a scholarship from UWI.

Phillips's decision to study law did not occur in a vacuum, and was not without the support of his family, including his mom, Renee, and his grandmother, Isola. He recounted being told by his grandmother that she believed he would follow in the footsteps of his late grandfather, Cosmos Phillips, a former Attorney General of Antigua and Barbuda.

"At every milestone she [would] say, 'I can't wait for the next one'. So since I am graduating now, the next one is being called to the Bar and she [my grandmother] is excited about that. The truth is that I tried to rebel a little bit and that's why my first degree was Political Science and Law and not full law. I also don't like criminal law; I don't like court room law. When I was at Cave Hill doing my first degree, I took a course called International Law and I really fell in love with it. It is evident that I really fell in love with it because I am doing my master's now in International Law," he said.

The young Antiguan said his studies in political science have taught him a lot about politics, how governments work and countries are structured, among other things, all of which would help in International Law.

Though interested in working with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the Caribbean Community and international organisations, he would ideally prefer an attachment to the United Nations.

"Being in London is a stepping stone ... because a lot of international organisations have their headquarters in London. I have already started applying for internships with several international law firms and I am hoping that working with a group like that would get my foot in the door," Phillips added. ♦



Cave Hill Captures Cross-Campus Awards

Cave Hill made a clean sweep of three longstanding cross-campus academic prizes in 2017, for first-year and final-year examination performances in the previous year. These prizes are awarded annually to the most outstanding students in The University of the West Indies, Faculty of Social Sciences and Faculty of Humanities and Education across all The UWI campuses.

Shafel McDowell achieved the top prize in accounting for obtaining the highest marks in Level 1 examinations, after beating out thousands of fellow first-year students at Cave Hill, Mona and St. Augustine.

Her faculty colleague, **Kion Taylor**, received the **Charles M. Kennedy Prize** which goes to the student with the highest marks in the BSc Economics degree programme, in the final year of examinations.

Both students were enrolled in the BSc Economics and Accounting degree programme in the Faculty of Social Sciences. University and faculty leadership and colleagues were delighted at the 2015-2016 results announced recently by The UWI's Board for Undergraduate Studies.

Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at Cave Hill, Dr. Justin Robinson, praised the students' success and said the top awards are indicative of the faculty's enduring



Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Dr. Justin Robinson presents prizes to Shafel McDowell (left) and Kion Taylor (right).



commitment to teaching and nurturing student excellence.

"The Faculty is delighted in the performances of our students and celebrates with them in their successes. This is a reflection of the hard work and dedication of the academic and support staff of the Faculty of Social Sciences in particular and, in general, the support team at UWI Cave Hill.

"Given the financial constraints the campus has recently faced, the staff has made significant sacrifices; but what remains constant is the quality of education that we deliver. Our programmes will continue to be globally impactful and rooted in our Caribbean identity."

The third award was the **Hugh Springer Prize** which went to Theology student, **Yolanda Clarke**. She was regarded as the most distinguished final-year student of the Faculty of Humanities and Education, and that of Social Sciences within The UWI.

The Springer and Kennedy prizes have been in existence since the late 1960s. Through the years, Cave Hill has performed creditably in maintaining a consistent



Theology student
Yolanda Clarke

challenge for these awards through exceptional student performance, from the days of its pioneering Faculty of Arts and General Studies (later renamed Faculty of Humanities and Education) and the inauguration of its Faculty of Social Sciences in 1975.

Cave Hill Cross-Campus Awards in the Past Ten Years (2007-2016):

First Year Prize – 2015-2016
Charles Kennedy Prize – 2015-2016
Hugh Springer Prize – 2015-2016
First Year Prize – 2014-2015
Charles Kennedy Prize – 2013-2014
Charles Kennedy Prize – 2011-2012
Hugh Springer Prize – 2011-2012
Charles Kennedy Prize – 2008-2009
Charles Kennedy Prize – 2007-2008 ♦

Days before crossing the stage last October to be greeted by new Chancellor Robert Bermudez on Graduation Day, scores of top achievers in The University of the West Indies Class of 2017 received special recognition during a Reception in Honour of Scholarly Excellence held at Cave Hill Campus.



Recognising Scholarly Achievement



Principal, Professor Eudine Barriteau addressing the honorees.

It was the second year the campus staged the ceremony, that seems earmarked to be a marquee event on its academic calendar, to showcase and celebrate outstanding student achievement.

The highly anticipated event, the brainchild of Campus Principal Professor Eudine Barriteau, brings acknowledgement of high scholastic achievement on par with The University of the West Indies' similar annual recognition of outstanding student-athletes and its top sportsmen and sportswomen. It also follows the traditional practice of staging various awards ceremonies to honour faculty and staff whose exceptional work helps The UWI to fulfill its mandate.

Scores of students who received First Class Honours at the undergraduate level, as well as those who gained distinctions and high commendation for their master's and doctoral degrees respectively, were toasted for their enviable achievements.

Over 1,600 students, including 361 at the postgraduate level, graduated from Cave Hill last year. Over 120 of them received First Class Honours while more than 80 earned distinction in their master's degrees. There were also 13 PhD recipients, two of whom earned high commendation.



The campus-wide recognition of such achievement aligns with the global academic practice of recognising individuals who have made the Dean's list based on high scholastic accomplishment. The celebration is gaining firm corporate support from business practitioners. Sponsors have lauded the initiative and are pledging further backing in an effort to encourage the continued pursuit and acknowledgement of scholarly distinction.

Peter Arender, Chief Investment Officer of Fortress Fund Managers, one of the event sponsors, noted his organisation was "happy to support excellence especially among young people," as he pointed out that the reception was one of several collaborative initiatives between his company and the university.

He added: "The students who have worked to reach the top of their disciplines deserve our support because their hard work will



not stop at graduation. Their same energy, focus and determination – if we encourage it – will make countless contributions over the years and benefit us all.”

Another sponsor, ophthalmologist Dr. Nigel Barker, who saw merit in supporting the venture said: *“I did enjoy it and appreciated the value. Funds permitting, I will most likely contribute again...”*

Several stakeholders who operate commercial enterprises at the campus, including Campus Cafeteria and Mount Restaurant (Caribbean Cuizine) as well as Campus Mart, spoke of wanting to contribute to student development in any way.

In a brief congratulatory address at the ceremony, Professor Barriteau made special mention of **Simone Delzin**, a First Class Honours graduate of the Faculty of Science and Technology who received the **2017 Commonwealth Caribbean Rhodes Scholarship**.

“You have demonstrated quite clearly you have moved beyond potential and promise,” Professor Barriteau told the high achievers at the ceremony. “Tonight you have delivered on that potential and so celebrate the fact that you have obtained the pinnacle of academic excellence for students.

“The campus is very proud to recognise your achievements with

this ceremony. We do not expect you to rest on your laurels. Your journey has just begun. Wherever you go and whatever you do, we want you to view these academic achievements as marking your dedication to discipline and excellence ... You deserve to be recognised. You have done exceptionally well.”

She noted that celebrating their achievement was in line with the now annual recognition of student-athletes across the university, campus staff who receive the **Principal's Award for Excellence** and, at The UWI-wide level, the acknowledgement of those who provide exceptional service and are granted the **Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence**. ♦



1. Dean Faculty of Law, Dr. David Berry presenting Janeil Odle with her award.

2. Dr. Waneisha Jones who earned a Master's in Public Health (MPH) with distinction accepts her award from Dean, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Dr. Peter Adams.

3. Valedictorian Rhyesa Joseph who gained first class honours in Political Science receiving her award from Deputy Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Dr. Dion Greenidge.

4. Singer, Ashawnya Bellamy provided some of the evening's entertainment.

5. First class honouree in Chemistry, Tamara Thomas (left) receives her award from Deputy Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology, Dr. Leah Garner-O'Neale.

6. Darren Carlos who gained first class honours in Theology received his award from Dean, Faculty of Humanities & Education, Professor Evelyn O'Callaghan.



Principal Eudine Barriteau and Deputy Principal Professor Clive Landis (front centre) along with Coordinator for Graduate Studies and Research, Professor Eddy Ventose (at left) with some of the 2017 awardees.

A science scholar, who enabled delivery of the first taught master's degree programme within her department in over two decades, was among six outstanding employees who captured the Principal's Award for Excellence in 2017.

Rewarding EXCELLENCE

Dr. Angela Alleyne, from the Department of Biological and Chemical Sciences at Cave Hill Campus, was recognised in the areas of teaching, research and public service. Her fellow academic, **Westin James** from the Faculty of Law, also gained recognition in the area of teaching when the campus held its Annual Retirees and Staff Awards Ceremony on 16th December.

Other awards for outstanding service to the campus community went to **Carla Springer-Hunte**, Manager of the Errol Barrow Centre for Creative Imagination (EBCCI), and **Halda Davis-Woodroffe** from the Campus Registrar's Office, with similar accolades going to administrative and technical service (ATS) staff, **Natalie Greenidge** and **Ariane Franklin**.

Since joining the campus in 2008, Dr. Alleyne, a biochemist, has earned recognition for her sterling contribution to research, teaching and public service. Her research focuses on finding a cure for viruses

that damage the cassava crop, as well as the area of biosafety. She successfully designed and implemented the MSc in Biosafety, the first taught master's degree programme for her department in over twenty years. Serving as the faculty champion for the current UWI strategic plan, she was also commended for responding readily to university service and outreach activities.



Dr. Angela Alleyne receives her award from Principal Eudine Bariteau.



Westmin James

James, an exceptional law lecturer, has acquired a reputation for teaching the International Mooting course. His transformative style has earned laudatory reviews from students. In addition, his teams have won three prestigious international mooting competitions, namely: the Caribbean Court of Justice International Moot Court Competition in 2012; the Inter-American Human Rights Moot Court Competition in 2014; and the Inter-American Sustainable Development Moot Court Competition in 2014.



Natalie Greenidge

Springer-Hunte's background in accounting and theatre has been applied successfully to the efficient and effective planning and execution of a wide range of activities at the EBCCI which she has capably managed for the past seven years. Her contribution has significantly reinforced public perception of the level of excellence with which the centre and the university are associated. As an active researcher in the area of popular culture, she has presented papers at a number of international conferences and her work has been published in reputable journals.



Carla Springer-Hunte

functions as an administrative assistant. A consummate team player, she is highly regarded for her ability to manage with confidence, use of initiative, and planning and executing her work without supervision. Her skills have also benefited a number of campus committees.



Ariane Franklin



Halda Davis-Woodroffe accepts her award from Professor Eudine Barriteau.

Davis-Woodroffe, a senior assistant registrar who functions as line manager in providing secretarial support to the university's major statutory committees, while undertaking a range of other administrative responsibilities, was described as an absolute professional who epitomises efficiency and effectiveness in executing her duties. Her work within the secretariat was said to have contributed significantly to Cave Hill's reputation for efficiency in executing its

meetings. Her creativity was especially demonstrated by the use of a paperless approach in the circulation of meeting documents. In this regard, her use of technology places her at the forefront of Cave Hill's mission to become a Smart Campus.

Backed by a solid 18-year career at the university, Greenidge's skills and knowledge of university procedures are highly sought after, thanks to her admirable attitude and aptitude in the Human Resources Section where she

Franklin, a pivotal force in the Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL), was acknowledged for undertaking duties beyond her expected scope and credited as being principally responsible for the many commendations which that unit has received in recent years. Training in project management, business etiquette, report and minute writing, protocol, events management and records management underpin her impeccable interpersonal skills, while enabling her to undertake her duties with dedication and efficiency.

Altogether, the university bade farewell to 19 former colleagues, while 67 staff members received awards for long service ranging from 15 to 40 years. ♦



Shavonne DeMendonça Captures the PULSE of Service Excellence

Cave Hill is pacing itself for its long-term transformation into a Smart Campus for the 21st century. Student-centred and technology-enabled, this reorientation of the campus is also being fuelled by a renewed focus on customer service as a key determinant of the quality of the student experience.

In June 2017, Cave Hill launched an employee recognition scheme designed to Position the University to Lead through Service Excellence, dubbed a **PULSE Points** programme. It encourages commitment to the campus's service values by providing a mechanism for students, employees and external customers to nominate staff for a PULSE Points award whenever they are served with exceptional attentiveness, efficiency and courtesy.

During its pilot phase, the programme emphasised quality internal customer service. Employees were invited to recognise deserving colleagues who supported their efforts to meet the needs of the campus's ultimate beneficiaries – its students. As part of the internal promotion, Principal Professor Eudine Bariteau challenged each staff member to become the first to earn three PULSE Points

and win her special prize of a tablet. By August, forty-three PULSE Points had been awarded, and Shavonne DeMendonça (formerly Rudder) had racked up the highest number, surpassing the required three and accumulating a staggering 13.

Shyvonne's deployment to several offices during the past decade helped to forge her reputation as a consummate customer service professional. Not surprisingly, her passion for front-line interaction helped her emerge as a friendly face and voice in the newly-established Student Enrolment & Retention Unit (SERU), following her transfer there last August.

Student Nynia Etienne nominated Shavonne for a PULSE Point because: *"She really helped me with my journey at the university. When I had difficulty with registration she ensured that everything would be taken care of. Whenever I lacked motivation she would inspire me to continue pushing. Being far away from home isn't easy and whenever I was dealing with a family issue or personal*

issue she would always listen. The funniest moment with Shavonne was the day she bought me a water bottle. She was tired of seeing me walking around the school drinking from

a glass or soft drink bottle. Shavonne is more than a secretary; she is a confidant, mother and friend to me."

In her nomination, external customer Jeanille Nedd wrote that: *"Shavonne went above and beyond to assist me in whatever way she could when she learnt of my visual impairment. Her bright smile, reassuring words and strong spirit, along with her professionalism, always made tasks easy when conducting business at the office."*

Another student, who preferred to remain anonymous, nominated Shavonne for being *"very helpful when I had a problem. She made sure she got back to me with the answers to my questions, went out of her way to try to get my problem dealt with, also reassuring me that everything will work out. She gave me positive advice, letting me know once I put my faith and trust in God everything will also work out!"*

Shavonne attributes her inter-personal skills partly to her training in massage therapy. This teaching imparts the importance of staying composed in order to avoid passing negative feelings to clients during treatment. *"Too often,"* she says, *"we allow ourselves to get lost in our own situations and feelings. This can easily lead us to create a less than pleasant experience for those with whom we will inevitably come into contact."* Her greatest motivation is *"seeing a satisfied customer"* and she does her best to achieve that each

and every time by reminding herself that, *"Whatever else might be happening, you are working."*

Shavonne offers some other practical approaches to service:

- **'Personality wins over knowledge'** – She remembers that in an earlier posting, it required a steep learning curve to get her to the point of being able to answer students' many questions knowledgeably, especially on administrative procedures. Her ability to strike up and maintain excellent working relations with a network of persons on campus, who provided guidance when she needed, ably assisted her. If she didn't know the answer, she knew how to get it. She would politely ask the student to allow her time to check, and make a quick call to a colleague or senior member of staff.
- **'Keep notes'** – In the early days, Shavonne ensured that she would only ever be stumped by the same question once by making notes whenever she received guidance from a colleague. Eventually, she could make mental notes, but in the beginning, she relied on what she wrote down.

- **'Find inspiration'** – Though exceptional, Shavonne her down days and rough patches like anyone else. At those times, she draws strength from inspirational Christian music or from a conversation with a supportive friend. These have helped her to serve colleagues and students as they deserve, even during stressful times.
- **'See the opportunity'** – Shavonne has had her fair share of difficult customers – the ones who are frustrated (and show it) because they may have had a poor service experience before they reached her desk. She tries to make their day better, believing that at the end of the day, *"Everyone, even the customer who seems flustered or is rude, really just wants to have their problem resolved."* Her secret weapon, then, is empathy. That allows her to *"make bad interactions good and make good interactions great."*

Sharing her views on the PULSE Points programme, Shavonne welcomes the opportunity it offers *"for all of us to recognise where our focus ought to be; on our customers."* Even so, she points out its limitations, given that, as impressed as they may be, some colleagues and customers could find it challenging to find the time to complete the online form or submit a nomination on paper. *"They are truly moved by the service they receive, yes; but their busy routines, their immediate commitments, many things may present as distractions, which may prevent them from writing that review."* That means that some deserving colleagues' efforts may go unrecognised.

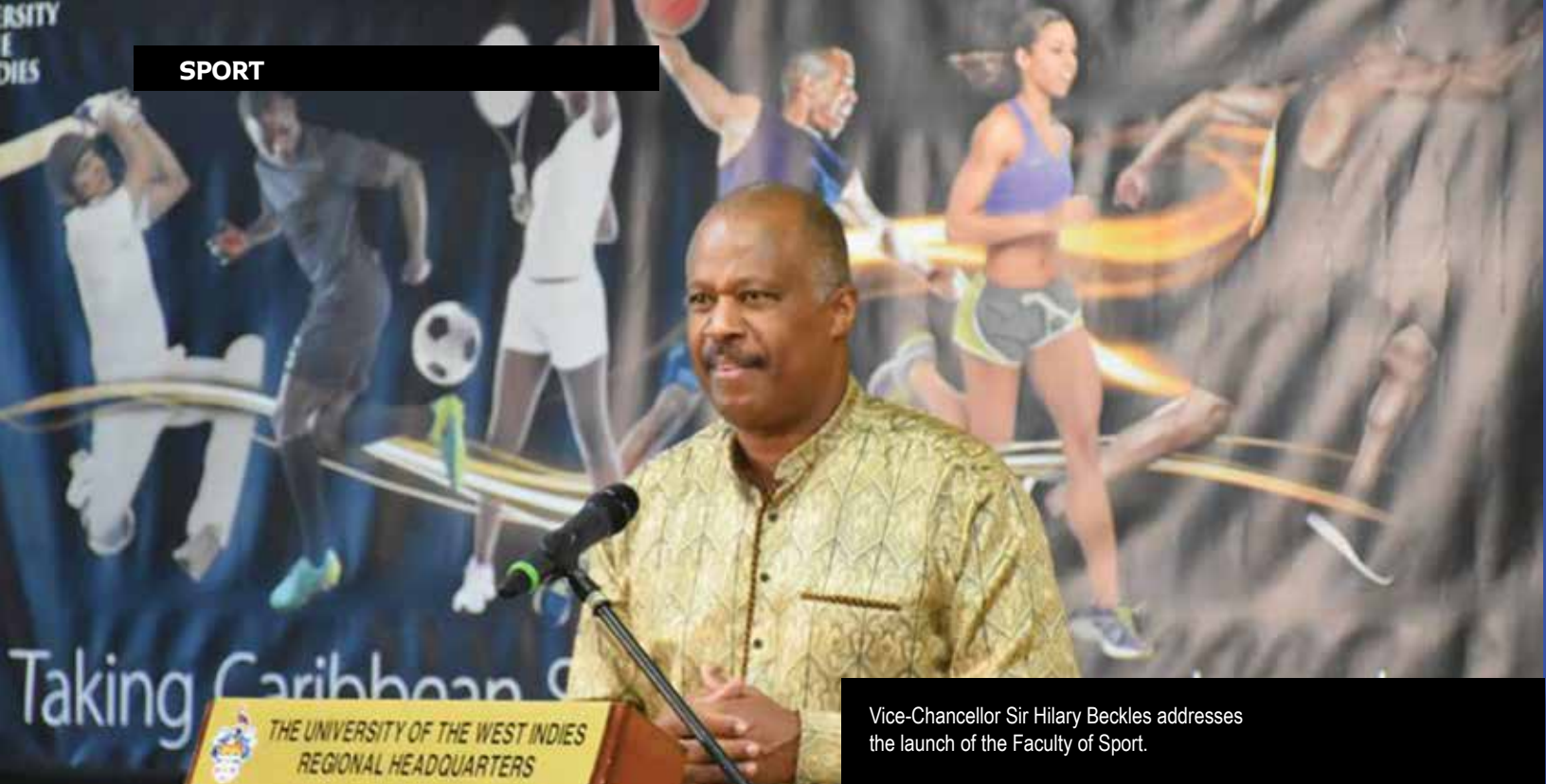
As coordinator of PULSE Points, the Campus Quality Assurance Office, with the Principal's support, is committed to raising awareness of the programme and reminding internal and external customers to help the Campus to recognise outstanding employees through ongoing online and off-line promotional activity. Shavonne notes that, *"Every interaction we have is an opportunity to, not only affect a person's mood and create a positive impression ... but ... to further build the UWI brand or erode it. We are all ambassadors after all - UWI ambassadors."* Her words perfectly underscore our imperative and commitment to Position the University to Lead through Service Excellence.

By Koelle Boyce, Quality Assurance Coordinator, Campus Quality Assurance Office ♦



Professor Eudine Barriteau presents Shavonne DeMondonça with her winning prize.

- **'Smile'** – When Shavonne speaks to a customer on the phone, she tries to do so with a smile on her face, knowing that her positive sentiment is likely to be transmitted in her tone of voice. As she says, *"The secret of pushing your personality across the phone is to smile."*



Vice-Chancellor Sir Hilary Beckles addresses the launch of the Faculty of Sport.

On Wednesday 26th July 2017, another page was written in the long and storied history of The University of the West Indies (The UWI) with the launch of its first new faculty in 40 years. The Faculty of Sport has been added to the academic repertoire at a time when the Caribbean is emerging as “an elite global sporting civilisation”.

UWI Launches Faculty of SPORT

In announcing the details, UWI Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles stressed that the faculty will seek to maintain the regional excellence that has been achieved in sport thus far, while committing to reclaim that which was lost.

Acknowledging that sport is a US\$145 billion industry, Sir Hilary outlined that the Caribbean was not getting its just share.

“We are producing the talent. We are producing the entertainment. We are producing the products that capture the imagination of the world. The world looks upon us to produce excellence, but we are not

getting our share of the revenue. This is something that we must now take very seriously.”

The structure and design of the new faculty is intended to reflect the regional nature of The UWI’s engagement. The Faculty of Sport will comprise four academies of sport — one on each campus — coordinated through an Office of the Dean. A unique feature will see the new faculty being guided by three disciplinary pillars: one focused on teaching, learning and research; a second on professional outreach and engagement, connecting with the various regional bodies involved in

the administration and governance of sport; while the third pillar is geared towards public outreach and community development.

The UWI Vice-Chancellor believes that sport has impacted the global economy like no other industry through convergence of fields ranging from science and technology to health, tourism and manufacturing; and it now offers the region the best chance at economic growth.

"If there is one industry that we can develop in the Caribbean right now to diversify our economies and make our economies competitive, it is to build a sporting industry in our region. We are hoping that our faculty will do all of the relevant research, teaching and learning, to participate in that conversation with our investors, our entrepreneurs, our public sector and our global manufacturers to enable that focus to take place in the Caribbean space."

During the launch, Sir Hilary announced that The UWI was in the process of preparing a manuscript, *From Sir Frank Worrell to the*

Honourable Usain Bolt, which will capture the full journey of how the university has done its best to participate in the journey of Caribbean sport.

He also outlined the launching of a capital campaign aimed at raising US\$70 million in celebration of The UWI's 70th anniversary. The funding is geared towards meeting the infrastructural needs of the Faculty of Sport, resulting in state-of-the-art facilities across all campuses.

"Universities are not built to serve themselves. Universities are built to serve the communities that support them. We are doing this because we believe this is in the best interest of Caribbean people at this moment in time. Continuing to serve our people is our number one priority. This is another demonstration that your university cares about your destiny and your future."

The official launch, which took place at The UWI Regional Headquarters in Jamaica, was attended by regional sporting administrators including the

President of Cricket West Indies (CWI), Whycliffe 'Dave' Cameron, and former President of the Jamaica Olympic Committee, Michael Fennell.

The new faculty received a tremendous endorsement from The Most Honourable PJ Patterson, former Prime Minister of

Jamaica, who believes it presents the perfect opportunity to harness the gifts of Caribbean people in a field where they have reached the highest echelons of excellence.

"We should encourage them and ourselves as a society, and allow all of those who have performed with such proficiency to seize the opportunity to capitalise on the potential of an area where the region enjoys a competitive advantage in the global marketplace."

"My vision has been that the Caribbean would be seen as an international mecca for sports. The Caribbean is no longer just for sugar and bananas. It is for promoting the creative skills and talents of our people."

Among the former Prime Minister's hopes for the new faculty is the establishment of approved laboratories, catering to all levels of international testing in sport, along with the expansion of linkages beyond the English-speaking Caribbean, promoting true regional unity.

There were several other visual and written endorsements for the new faculty from: current Prime Minister of Jamaica, The Most Honourable Andrew Holness; Jamaican Senator Parnell Charles, speaking on behalf of the Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Honourable Olivia 'Babsy' Grange; various student leaders and student-athletes; West Indies cricket legends, Sir Everton Weekes and Jeffrey Dujon; and current CWI Director of Cricket, Jimmy Adams. ♦



Deputy Principal Professor Clive Landis and Head, Academy of Sport, Amanda Reifer confer at the launch of the new sport faculty.



Dean, Faculty of Sport, Dr. Akshai Mansingh

New Sport Faculty Adopts Team Focus

Developing superstars, capturing hunger for success and harnessing the creativity of the region will be some of the guiding forces driving the work of the Faculty of Sport — the first new faculty at The University of the West Indies in 40 years.

The faculty, under the guidance of new Dean, Dr. Akshai Mansingh, has been tasked with playing a major role in the development of a true sporting industry in the Caribbean.

"I am truly honoured to have been selected to manage this vision of the Faculty of Sport," said Dr. Mansingh during the official launch last year.

"Our team in all of the academies across the four campuses will work together to ensure that this faculty becomes as precious to our region as our sportsmen and women. I re-emphasise that our team will do so because this faculty is a team sport and not an individual event."

Drawing on the region's long success in cricket and, more recently, track and field, football and netball, Dr. Mansingh highlighted the vast talent pool available in the Caribbean; however, he noted that there is much more that can be done.

"The reliance on science and technology in sport, coupled with the apathy towards this in our region, has seen our dominance slip in many of these sports. The creation of the Faculty of Sport gives us an opportunity to bring together all of the creative and scientific minds of the region, while harnessing leaders in all aspects of sport, from throughout the world, to offer support to the athletes, many of whom have chosen to make this region their home to perfect their skills."

Dr. Mansingh also noted that the scope of the faculty extended beyond active sport participants and elite athletes. *"Creative academic minds with an interest in anything to do with sport will have an opportunity to pursue their research; and practitioners such as coaches, strength and conditioning experts and sports physiotherapists will also find a forum in this faculty."*

The way in which the faculty was conceptualised by Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles offers lots





Academic Coordinator, Academy of Sport, Dr. Rudolph Alleyne (left) puts an athlete through his paces in a sports lab.

of potential and scope, and according to Dr. Mansingh, it will allow for the collaboration and production of programmes across the spectrum of the university.

"We can actually harness programmes in Sports Law, Sports Nutrition, Sports Psychology, Sports Management, Sports Tourism, Sports Medicine, the History of Sport and its impact on our society, and Sports Business. We can collaborate with just about every department and, certainly, with every faculty across all four of our campuses.

"... in keeping with the 'One UWI' mantra, many courses would be available across all campuses, and with the inclusion of the Open Campus, will be available in just about every contributing territory and beyond."

The faculty will offer courses and qualifications at the certificate, diploma, undergraduate as well as postgraduate levels, with an LLM in Sports Law possibly being one of the first inter-faculty collaborations.

With a new dawn on the horizon, all four campuses of The UWI have embraced the vision.

Professor Eudine Barriteau, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the Cave Hill Campus, was delighted to note the integral role played by Cave Hill in the creation of the faculty which will have an impact on Caribbean development, in line with the mission of The UWI. She noted that the current academic and athletic programmes at the Cave Hill Academy of Sport will constitute part of the new faculty's offerings.

"We congratulate Dr. Mansingh on his appointment as Dean of the faculty and pledge our fullest support to working with him and all colleagues across our beloved university to advance the objectives of this latest addition to the Caribbean academy."

Amanda Reifer, Head of the Academy of Sport, Cave Hill, in highlighting a number of 'firsts' for Cave Hill, also welcomed the elevation of the field of sport with the establishment of a bona fide faculty.

"All of us at the Academy of Sport commend the leadership of The UWI for demonstrating, in a major

Continued on page 40

.... Continued from page 39

way, The UWI's commitment to the development of a viable sporting industry in the region. The UWI has stepped into the driver's seat and taken control of the wheel to revolutionise and propel regional sport to the highest levels possible."

Professor Archibald McDonald, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the Mona Campus, believes the launch of the faculty is a major milestone of The UWI, and the region as a whole, as it formally legitimises sports education, training and research in the region.

"We also have a long-standing programme in Sports Medicine which is renown throughout the region. The establishment of this new faculty will not only bring all of these initiatives under one unified umbrella, but will also aid us in expanding further into the development of this field as a legitimate higher education programme for potential students, eliminating the need for our students to go elsewhere to further their studies and professional development goals in sport."

Meanwhile, Deputy Principal of St Augustine Campus, Professor Rhoda Reddock, was excited about the faculty's potential in developing student-athletes to the highest international standards.

"Caribbean young people of talent will now have the opportunity to have this development right here at home ... We know that this development will allow

us to better serve our student-athletes to achieve the academic and sporting success that they deserve and desire."

Adding its support to that of the older campuses, The UWI Open Campus has welcomed the addition of the new Faculty of Sport. Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal Dr. Luz Longworth believes the introduction of the new faculty, with its unique structure, is equally as significant as the move to launch the Open Campus ten years ago. She notes that it highlights the university's commitment to growth and renewal, as well as to leading social and economic development in the Caribbean.

"This is a faculty that is virtual and real. It will be everywhere and anywhere that our Caribbean sporting minds, bodies and souls reside ... Like all Caribbean people, the Faculty of Sport is born of creativity and excellence. It is destined to be the vehicle which will harmonise, across the 3000 nautical miles of our Caribbean, our tremendous strengths.

"It will finally ensure that one of most visible areas of excellence is owned, developed, and marketed here in our region for the benefit of our athletes and all of our people."

This Faculty of Sport will have gold as its official colour, embodying the mantra, **"Going for the Gold"**. ♦



The Ryan Brathwaite track at the Usain Bolt Sports Complex, Cave Hill Campus



(l-r) The UWI Mona Team Captains Alicia Richards and Fedrick Dacres receive their winning trophy from Vice-Chancellor Sir Hilary Beckles.

They came as defending champions and left with their title intact despite a close challenge from their host rivals when the 30th edition of The UWI Inter-Campus Games was held in Barbados 25th May - 1st June.



Mona Retains Inter-Campus Title

At the close of the 2017 Games, a two points margin saw Mona Campus emerge triumphant. They amassed 102 points to edge out Cave Hill with 100 points. St. Augustine closed with 76 points, coming in third place, and The UWI Open Campus team, which competed only for the second time in the Games' 52-year history, earned 18 points.

Over 500 student-athletes competed in the biennial sporting tradition, in ten sporting disciplines: basketball, football, tennis, swimming, table tennis, track and field, volleyball, cricket, netball and six-a-side hockey.

It is one of the few opportunities where the students get together as one UWI. The tournament, themed "The Making of Champions", saw athletes test their talent

and skills in an atmosphere of friendly rivalry from the Games' kick-off through to the closing ceremony held at the Cave Hill Campus.

As he presented the champions' trophy during the closing ceremony, UWI Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles spoke of the extraordinary work of the coaches, administrators and the student-athletes who contributed to the success of the event. *"These Games are so important to the prestige of our institution and to the values we associate with higher education and the young citizens [whom] we are preparing to lead this region,"* Vice-Chancellor Beckles said. ♦



The next UWI Games will be hosted by the Mona Campus in 2019.

In a year that they dominated several sports played on turf, Cave Hill Blackbirds also sailed into uncharted waters by entering a yacht in the Barbados Sailing Week for the first time. Yachtsmen Nevin Roach, Colville Thompson and Joshua Clarke sailed aboard *Oiseau-noir* (French for Blackbird) under the command of skipper, Franchero Ellis.

Cave Hill Blackbirds Enter Uncharted Waters

The six-metre Pen Duick 600, a small sail boat designed by the renowned French yachtsman, Eric Tabarly, and built in 1977, sailed with her original mainsail, a museum relic more than 40 years old. What the captain and crew lacked in marine modernity, they more than made up for with their sailing skills once they hit the ocean.

Oiseau-noir's small size proved no deterrent to her handlers venturing into the deep waters of Trader Bank during the **Coastal Series** of the regatta, and her overall competitiveness surprised many as she completed all her races.

Navigation was in the hands of Clarke, a social sciences student and racing first-timer, who added "*a clear step above pre-regatta training*"; and Roach remarked

that his own learning curve rose steeply with each race, as he became more efficient at trimming the sails.

Despite not finishing on the podium, Cave Hill Blackbirds gained the respect of other competing seafarers placing a respectable joint third on points overall in the **Coastal Series** before the tiebreaker.

Oiseau-Noir also performed creditably in the endurance race of over 60 nautical miles around Barbados, with some of the most challenging conditions this year. With shifty winds, gusting above 30 knots, creating wild conditions along the east coast, and several squalls on the west coast beating up on the little vessel, her mainsail was ripped in half, forcing the team to consider retiring from the race. After

reefing the ripped sail to just over half its size, the crew continued around North Point even though many competing yachts started turning back, not willing to brave the tough conditions.

Perseverance, along with trust in the skipper's training and experience, landed them fourth in the double-handed category and sixteenth overall, an amazing feat for such a small vessel. During the gala prize-giving ceremony, Cave Hill Blackbirds team received the **Spirit of Barbados Sailing Week Award**. Ellis and Thompson were then specially invited to complete the **Ocean Passage Race** to Antigua aboard the Australian super maxi yacht, **CQS**, which had broken the **Mount Gay Round Barbados Race Absolute Monohull** record and won the skipper's weight in Mount Gay Rum.

The race to Antigua was a record-shattering 17 hours and 35 minutes, shaving a whopping 10 hours off the previous record. This was no fluke since **CQS** had come from a record-breaking crossing of the Atlantic from the Canary Islands to Grenada, in 11 days and 3 minutes under the command of multiple record-holding skipper, Ludde Ingvall.

CQS started her race two hours behind the other yachts, and sped along at more than 20 knots. Creating an impression that matched the special effects of a Star Wars movie, **CQS** caused an explosion of spray whenever her wings touched water – an

enchancing sight rendered even more beautiful at night as the running lights illuminated the spray in red. A series of squalls really put **CQS** into her element as she peaked at 25.6 knots to quickly leave all competitors behind in the first four hours. At the finish line in Antigua just before dawn, Ellis observed that moving from the smallest yacht to the largest of the fleet was rather sobering. The 306-mile dash to Antigua had lasted only three hours longer than **Oiseau-noir's** traverse around Barbados.

The members of the Blackbirds team were integrated with the permanent crew and trusted to help with important tasks such as changing **CQS's** giant sails while travelling at high speed. Ellis also helped to control the massive sails as the backup jib trimmer, a job not given readily to a newcomer to the vessel. After racing, they did everything with the rest of the crew from sharing meals, to accommodations, to post-race maintenance in preparation for the **2018 RORC (Royal Ocean Racing Club) Caribbean 600 Race**.

Recounting their regatta experience as an exhilarating one, the Blackbird mariners said, *"Although their latest venture took place at sea, it seems as if another Blackbird sporting endeavour has already taken flight."*

The UWI (Blackbirds) Sailing Club can be contacted at uwisc2@gmail.com. ♦



(l-r) Yachtsmen
Nevin Roach,
Colville Thompson
Franchero Ellis
and Joshua Clarke

When hurricanes Irma and Maria swept through the Caribbean last September, with strength of up to Category 5, they left a trail of devastation in their wake and significant upheaval in the lives of hundreds enrolled at The University of the West Indies. It was a situation tailor-made for the university community to demonstrate its caring and commitment, and which prompted an outpouring of UWI generosity for neighbours from affected territories.

Gusts of Goodwill Unleashed after Hurricanes

Amid the loss of lives and destruction to homes and other infrastructure, untold psychological damage was done to residents of Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, the Virgin Islands, St. Maarten/St. Martin, the Turks and Caicos Islands, the northern border of Haiti, and the south-eastern islands of The Bahamas.

The UWI mobilised relief efforts, with donations sites set up at its campuses, while university experts worked in concert with regional Heads of Government and Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) teams, assessing the damage to inform the recovery process.

Cave Hill took immediate steps to suspend any financial constraints on the accounts of students from affected countries, which prevented them from accessing their academic records and study materials, thus easing their financial situation. Students with outstanding payments were granted the option to defer these sums for the first semester of the academic year, a provision



Deputy Principal Professor Clive Landis helping to fill a barrel with supplies.



Students gathering hurricane-relief supplies.

that had been offered similarly, in 2015, to students from Dominica when Tropical Storm Erica struck that country with widespread impact on the lives and livelihood of residents there.

As part of fundraising efforts, a **Celebrity T20 Cricket Hurricane Irma/Maria Relief Benefit** match was held in November at the 3Ws Oval, Cave Hill.

The matchup between a **Sagicor-UWI Icons XI** team and a **Prime Ministers' XI** was hosted by The UWI in partnership with platinum sponsor, Sagicor Financial Corporation, and Flow Sports Premier.



The US\$100,000 donated by Sagicor during the event brought the total raised to US\$111,591.18, with the remainder coming from other corporate partners, along with online and cash donations for the rebuilding of schools and hospitals.

*"The Cave Hill Campus was very pleased to host this fundraising celebrity T20 cricket match in support of The UWI's hurricane relief effort. It was entirely in keeping with the immediate response by the campus community in the aftermath of the hurricanes, which saw households open their homes to students who may not be able to return for the Christmas period and the launch of an **Adopt-A-Student Emergency Fund**,"* said Deputy Principal, Professor Clive Landis, on behalf of The UWI Cave Hill Campus Management Team.

In December, when affected students were forced to remain in Barbados due to conditions in their homeland, the campus hosted a Christmas party in their honour to get them into the spirit of the season.

With the support of the **Optimist Club**, the students experienced a fun-filled evening in which they won prizes, received gifts and were treated to varied forms of entertainment. ♦





Robotics Camp Captures Youth Interest

Youth interest in technology is at an all-time high. Some Caribbean intellectuals are turning that passion into a marketable skill and, at the same time, keeping the region in the loop with the global technology revolution.

A leading force behind one such initiative is the Caribbean Science Foundation (CSF) which, in partnership with The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, has been tapping into the potential of some of the region's brightest, from as young as nine.

Established as an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organisation, with support from the Caribbean Diaspora for Science, Technology and Innovation, the CSF aims to assist with the

diversification of Caribbean economies by harnessing science and technology, stimulating technology-based entrepreneurship, accelerating education reform that supports technology-based entrepreneurship and advising Caribbean governments on scientific and engineering matters.

In pursuit of those objectives, the foundation has designed two programmes: the **Barbados Junior Robotics Camp (BJRC)** which targets the 9 –13 age group; and the prestigious **Student Program for Innovation in Science and Engineering (SPISE)** for those in the 16 — 18 age category.

"We groom these students, we keep them on a science or STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) track so they

remain in the sciences, and eventually, when they become fully qualified PhD holders and heads of companies and organisations, we want them to come back to the Caribbean and to give back. We want them to remember the experience they had, how amazing the experience was and we want them to create that scenario for other students," said Assistant Director of the CSF, Lois Oliver.

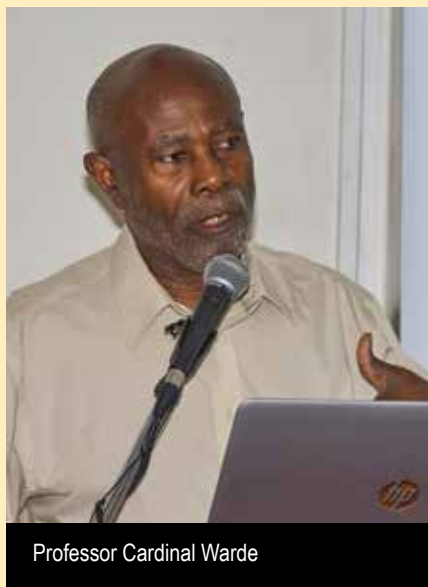
In 2017, 48 students took part in the three levels of the month-long Junior Robotics Camp where they were introduced to basic technology, engineering concepts and computer programming.

Much like the BJRC, interest continues to grow in the foundation's flagship programme, SPISE, with the CSF welcoming its largest cohort of students from across 13 Caribbean countries in 2017.

The 24 students who were part of the sixth annual SPISE, a far

cry from the ten who took part in the inaugural class back in 2012, brought the total number of participants over the years to 109.

During the annual, four-week, residential summer programme, the regional participants studied university-level subjects, including the computer programming language, Python; Calculus (Levels I and II), Physics (Levels I and II), Biochemistry, Entrepreneurship, Underwater Robotics, Electronics/ Renewable Energy and Caribbean Unity.



Professor Cardinal Warde

Their instructors included academic and industry professionals from the United States and faculty from The UWI.

"One of the long-term goals is to replicate the camp throughout the Caribbean and to catalyse the integration of robotics into standard primary and secondary school curricula," explained Professor Cardinal Warde of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), who is the interim Executive Director of the CSF.

At the conclusion of the programme, students had the opportunity to showcase their newly developed skills with public displays of computer programmes, business plan pitches, underwater robotics and wind energy generation.

"The tools were great, the classes were great and the homework was manageable. To be honest, I think it's good that it's intense because when you're learning, it's full immersion rather than doing one hour per week," said Diego Lascurain, 17.

He, along with Matthew Clarke and Shanna Edwards, from Queen's College took part in last year's instalment of SPISE. Though he was considering a career in engineering, Lascurain said the SPISE programme has sparked his interest in computer science.

The programme did the opposite for Jamaican Jason Salmon, 17, who remains firmly interested in biomedical engineering.

"It has been a good experience because I got to meet 23 other people from around the Caribbean so it was a mixture of cultures. At the same time, I learnt a lot from the experience in terms of programming because I hadn't done it before. Biochemistry was quite extensive as well," Salmon said.

SPISE graduates are eligible for internship positions in the Caribbean, Canada and the USA, which gives them the

opportunity to work in business settings and garner real-world research experience in science and engineering.

Oliver explained: *"As a requirement of SPISE, we ask all our graduates to go back to their schools and communities and spread the word, and I think the personal experience that they share motivates their colleagues and friends. We have students who would have been eyeing this programme from the time they were 12 and 13 years old, so the interest is definitely there. Word is spreading about us, not just among students but among corporate citizens, and every year, we've been so fortunate to have all our students fully sponsored. It costs US\$6,000 per student to attend the programme, and that does not include airfare. I think this speaks to the regard which corporate citizens have for the programme, and out of this, we've been able to place some students in internship positions with some of our sponsors."* ♦



Participants at the Robotics Camp

Bioprospecting – the search for plant and marine bacteria from which medicinal drugs and other commercially valuable compounds can be obtained, is showing promising results for scientists at The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus.

Fuel Research Sparks New Hope for Sugar-cane Industry

This has sparked growing optimism in their search for indigenous alternative fuels and medicinal solutions, such as cancer-fighting, natural compounds, that are derived from plant and marine-based resources.

Led by Professor of Organic Chemistry, Professor Winston Tinto, research into sugarcane bagasse has led to the discovery of an entirely new species of bacteria for the production of biomass fuel. This fuel, developed from organic materials, provides a renewable and sustainable source of energy used to create transportation fuel or other forms of power.

Along with the newly discovered bacterial species, The UWI also employed a methodology developed by PhD candidate, Jamila Jones, which employed four strains of bacteria to hydrolyse sugarcane bagasse. Hydrolysis is the process of breaking down biopolymers to simpler compounds by chemical reaction with water.

Jones's research is being conducted under the supervision of Professor Tinto who believes that bioprospecting may be an important reason for revitalising Barbados's sugar industry. However, he suggested that this must be linked to the diversification of the industry into more value-added production, an exercise, he added, which was long overdue.

Jones, who completed undergraduate studies at The UWI and later an MSc degree in Molecular Medical Microbiology at Nottingham University in the UK, isolated 103 strains of bacteria, and through a

selection process, found that four strains possessed the best properties for hydrolysis of sugarcane bagasse. The doctoral candidate also examined co-cultures produced by combining bacteria and other fungi to determine how to most efficiently hydrolyse sugarcane bagasse for best results. Since then, the bacterial co-cultures with fungi were successfully used to hydrolyse brewer's spent grain (BSG) from Banks (Barbados) Breweries and rice husks from Guyana. As a result of the scientific discoveries using the sugarcane

bagasse, The UWI signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the **Federal University of Mato Grosso** in Brazil in the hope of developing the research further, using the scaled-up plant facilities at the South American university. Professor Tinto said, *"This should allow The UWI to seek joint partnerships for the technology developed."*

He noted that Brazil's success in biomass production is likely to generate funding required for expansion of the research.

"Research in how to achieve maximum production of biofuels and other value-added products is the next logical step in the investigation," said Professor Tinto, who added that the technology developed can be used locally or in other countries with large inventories of sugarcane bagasse.

Based on the results, The UWI is seeking collaborations with the **University of Guyana** to create a biorefinery that will help in the production of biofuels from multipurpose cane varieties through biomass conversion; a facility that integrates biomass conversion processes and equipment to produce fuels, power, heat, and value-added chemicals from biomass.



Professor Tinto (left) and Jamila Jones conducting scientific research for new fuel.

Continued on page 50

Professor Winston TINTO

leads research team on biomass fuel

Renewable energy can be wind energy, solar energy, photovoltaic (which is a form of solar energy), hydrothermal energy, and bioenergy. In the biomass conversion process, lignocellulosic (plant dry matter) biomass, the most abundantly available raw material on the earth for the production of biofuels, may be used in different forms to produce fermentable sugars that can be converted to second-generation biofuels. This can be bioethanol or biobutanol.

Biobutanol is preferred to bioethanol since it can be used as a transportation fuel without having to retrofit the engines. Also, biobutanol does not absorb water to the same extent as the ethanol version. However, the technology to produce biobutanol on an industrial scale is still lagging behind the bioethanol process.



... Continued from page 48

"The identification of useful bacterial and fungal strains can efficiently convert these fibres to fermentable sugars and lignin derivatives which are then converted into commercial products," said Professor Tinto.

With the biorefinery, which is to be located in Guyana, Professor Tinto explained that it would be possible to use sugarcane bagasse, brewer's spent grain and rice husks to convert to biofuels and the lignin monomers.

"The biorefinery would be especially useful for when sugar is not in production in order to maintain a large volume of biomass, in an operation that would not be labour intensive," he said.

He noted Barbados, with its much smaller land mass and less sugarcane, might have a limited amount of finished grain and not much rice husks, while in Guyana the potential exists to incorporate all three by-products efficiently. In another sugarcane producing island, Trinidad and Tobago, Tinto said, *"There was only one plantation which was planning its scientific collaboration with India but to produce animal feed only."*

The sugars produced are mainly glucose and xylose which can be used also in the food and beverage industry or fermented to produce alcohol suitable for use in vehicles. On the other hand, lignin (a complex organic polymer deposited in the cell walls of many plants, making them rigid and woody) derivatives can be used to produce degradable plastics and other useful bio-materials.

"The yields are important because this is what determines if the entire process is economically viable. Indeed, the nature of yields can be considered a bottleneck in the whole process and will ultimately determine if it is worth pursuing," said Tinto.

A major part of research on biomass conversion involves optimising yields in each step of the operation.

With regard to Brazil, Tinto explained that that country's large market for sugarcane-derived products

made the current strategy feasible. However, he added it would take between three to five years for the research to be consolidated. Tinto has already spent two weeks at the **Federal University of Mato Grosso** to discuss the way forward.

"The whole idea is that, in the case of Brazil, if a good process is established, then we can get the chemical industry to buy into it," he said.

The **Federal University of Mato Grosso** is still at the stage of base research. Once the operation reaches an advanced stage, is developed and products created, then The UWI plans to patent its end of the research, as well as create partnerships with Brazil in which some patents will be jointly held by Barbados and Brazil.

With regard to competitiveness, The UWI's first obligation will be to see to what extent the local

economy can rely less on external markets for similar products. Next, it will seek to understand what market potential exists, working with countries such as Brazil which already has a large market, as well as European countries such as Germany which is currently producing alcohol from sugarcane bagasse.



Since the Barbados government has announced plans to set up a multipurpose sugar factory, Professor Tinto remains optimistic that the factory will be able to make downstream products.

"A major part of what we are doing will be to generate intellectual property (IP) and generate interest wherever they are located. Some of this technology is recent and is now being exploited in Germany and other EU countries. Since the field has a lot of players, The UWI's aim is to look for unique ways to exploit whatever we find," he said.

The initial focus of the energy research project involved bioprospecting for bacteria and fungi from sugarcane plantations around the island. A collection of these cultures has been established and is being systematically investigated for microorganisms that can convert the sugarcane fibre to fermentable sugars for use in biofuel production. ♦



Professor Winston Moore

Head of the Department of Economics at Cave Hill Campus, Professor Winston Moore, has co-authored a study that has found lower productivity levels at firms owned and managed by females in the Caribbean compared to those operated by their male counterparts.

The research showed that the level of underperformance was approximately 12 percentage points fewer at firms owned by females, while those managed by women were down about 16 percentage points.

However, Professor Moore, International Monetary Fund (IMF) economist Andrea Presbitero and Professor Roberta Rabellotti of the University of Pavia, who authored the study **"The Gender Gap in the Caribbean: The Performance of Women-Led Firms"**, concluded that access to finance, size of the firms, and corruption and governance were the contributors to the lower performance of the female-led enterprises.

"Female-owned and managed firms always tend to report that they have issues in relation to access to finance. What can also explain that gap, in terms of productivity, is the size. Female-owned and managed firms tend to be a lot smaller and, as a result, face the challenges that all small firms face in relation to raising financing, penetrating new markets and so on," they noted.

"Thirdly, the issue of corruption and governance of institutions was more likely to be identified by female-owned and female-managed firms as a significant constraint. If you account for the three key factors mentioned earlier, then the so-called productivity gap between female-owned and female-managed firms disappears altogether. The gap in productivity that is largely reported in the international literature is mainly due to the constraints encountered by these female-owned and managed firms."

The authors also found that the financing constraints were affecting innovation at the female-owned and managed firms.

"It isn't the case that females are more risk-averse. It is the case that female-owned and managed firms have these constraints in

terms of financing and the size of the firm, which therefore make them less able to invest in research and development (R&D)," Professor Moore explained. The main policy implications of these findings, therefore, are that helping small businesses to address issues in relation to access to finance as well as to develop sound institutions would lend support to goals in relation to gender equality in the region.

The study is part of a wider report, ***Exploring Firm-level Innovation and Productivity in Developing Countries: The perspective of Caribbean small states***, which is a collaboration between Compete Caribbean, the Inter-American Development Bank, UK Aid, the Government of Canada and the Caribbean Development Bank. ♦

Why Female-led Firms Underperform

Indigenous Caribbean Flora among Endangered Species



A groundbreaking study has unearthed that out of every ten flowering plants unique to the Eastern Caribbean, seven are at risk of becoming extinct.

This was one of the major findings of a collaborative research project by Professor Sean Carrington of The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, and Drs. Gary Krupnick and Pedro Acevedo-Rodríguez of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

The study published in *Botanical Review*, a leading international journal, established that nearly three quarters of the flowering plant life found only in the Eastern Caribbean, a region regarded as a biodiversity hotspot and therefore a priority area for conservation action, appeared to be under threat of disappearing from Earth.

The scientists looked at the 262 species of flowering plants and one gymnosperm that are found only in the Lesser Antilles, the group of islands stretching from Grenada, in the south to Anguilla, in the north. Plants like these, known only to occur in a particular region, are said to be endemic to that region.

The study used two distinct methods to assess the status of the plants. One applied an algorithm that analysed the number of



Professor Sean Carrington

specimens of each species in time and space. This method was developed at the Smithsonian Institution to analyse the flora of the Hawaiian Islands, but is widely applicable to other island groups.

The second method used criteria developed for the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List** assessments, such as geographic range, as well as changes in plant abundance, plant distribution and habitat quality over time.

Both methods led to the same conclusion – that 70 percent of the 263 Lesser Antillean endemic plants are at risk of extinction.

"Sadly, twenty-one species have not been collected for at least a



Psychilis kranz

100 years and are quite likely to be extinct already,” the scientists summarised.

They noted: “Many other species occur only on one island (32 percent), and some at just one site, putting them at extreme risk of imminent extinction. In fact, two species known only from single volcanic sites on St. Vincent and Montserrat have not been recollected since the volcanic eruptions on these islands in 1979



Lobelia brigitallis



Peperomia

and 1995 respectively, and may well be extinct.

“The study has provided much-needed information on each species which will allow scientists and conservation managers throughout the region to focus their attention on the plants under greatest threat to safeguard their future existence and their potential unexplored value.”

The total flora of the Lesser Antilles represents nearly ten times the number of plants studied, but those 263 were a priority for study as they are found nowhere else on Earth and need to be a focus for conservation, the researchers explained.

Disappearance of this indigenous plant life was attributed to agricultural expansion, residential and commercial development, tourism and other upscale leisure amenities which account for the loss or reduction of some of the region’s ecosystems and unique micro-habitats. The scientists warned that climate change, especially global warming and projected declines in annual precipitation, is expected to have a further impact on the fragility of these ecosystems. In addition, projected rises in sea level will likely cause islanders to relocate from low-lying areas to what are relatively undisturbed, higher areas inland where many of these endemic plants are found.

They observed that Caribbean marine protected areas greatly exceed terrestrial ones, both in area and number, although the terrestrial biodiversity is what

defines the region as a biodiversity hotspot.

“The lack of equivalent terrestrial protected areas is of even greater concern considering that the Caribbean is top-ranked among hotspots for likely, future plant extinctions,” they stated.

The scientists noted that plants are the cornerstone of life on Earth and provide not only oxygen, food, fuel, medicine, timber and other essentials, but play critical roles in climate regulation and ecosystem maintenance.

The researchers gathered and analysed data from almost 7,000 preserved specimens collected over the last 240 years.

“This innovative approach was less labour-intensive and more cost-effective than embarking on full-scale field studies of the different species across the 16 countries and territories that are home to these plants.” they noted.

“Even so, with these preserved plant specimens housed in 11 herbaria (museums for plant collections) across the Caribbean, the USA and Europe, this was still a challenging task.”

Prior to this study, only 14 of the 263 Lesser Antillean endemic plants had been assessed for the IUCN Red List, a register of the world’s endangered species of plants and animals. This meant that the conservation status of only a small minority of these unique plants was previously known, a situation remedied by this research. ♦

One in Three will Fail or Quit

A pioneering study has found that up to 33 percent of the children in secondary schools across the Eastern Caribbean are at risk of either dropping out or failing.



Dr. Verna Knight

The report, co-authored by Lecturer in Social Studies Education in the School of Education, Dr. Verna Knight, and Director of the School of Education, Dr. Babalola Ogunkola, also concluded that 17 percent or just over 1,700 children at the primary level faced similar risks.

The 2017 study, **"Global Initiative on Out of School Children: Eastern Caribbean"**, was supported by the United Nation's Children Fund (UNICEF) and Argentinian NGO Asociación Civil Educación para Todos.

It analysed information on enrolment by age, grade, repeaters, dropouts and graduates from early childhood (4 years) and primary and secondary levels using data collected from administrative data units in ministries of education in Antigua & Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines and the Turks & Caicos Islands for the periods 2012–2013 and 2013–2014.

The study centred on a framework designed by UNICEF and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics that highlighted two general categories for exclusion: present or total exclusion (children who are out of school); and potential or partial exclusion (children who are enrolled in school but not engaged at the school level).

This was then divided into five dimensions of exclusion: children of early childhood age who are not in the school system; children who are of primary school age but are not in school; children of secondary school age but were not enrolled in primary or secondary school;

children of primary school age and are enrolled but are at risk of dropping out or failing; and those of secondary school age who are enrolled but were also at risk of dropping out or failing.

The researchers found that 0.5 percent of children of preschool age (4+ years) were out of school completely, while this stood at 1.4 percent (840) for primary school children and 3.3 percent (over 1,000) for those of secondary school age.

"When we dug a little deeper into the notion of potential exclusion, we saw that the exclusion begins as early as kindergarten. For example, when you look at the region, we saw 8 percent of the students were at least one year behind at kindergarten level. We saw this increase to 11 percent at grade one level, 13 percent at grade two level and 17 percent at grade three level. By the time we got to form five, it was 38 percent."



Replace this with the students

This shows us that the problem is identifiable at the kindergarten level but, when they're not addressed, it's very difficult for those children to improve," Dr. Knight said.

The resultant effect was students starting to drop out of school as early as first form due to their inability to cope. The study also concluded that boys were twice as impacted as girls, with repetition and drop-out rates for boys standing at 8 percent and 6 percent respectively.

While data for the five-year period for the same cohort of males and females was absent, the scholars examined the number of students enrolled in first form compared to the number of them in fifth form, noting an overall 24 percent decline.

"There was a 15 percent loss for girls between first and fifth form compared to 32 percent for the boys. This shows that the boys are most impacted by this exclusion, the first to drop out, most represented in the repetition classes, the suspension list, with discipline issues," Dr. Knight indicated.

Following a review of recently conducted empirical studies, the researchers arrived at 12 barriers to potential exclusion, which were later narrowed down to five, following consultation workshops with key interest groups in each country.

The main problems were inadequate support for struggling learners, inadequate special needs provisions, negative teacher attitude towards academically weak students, weak academic performance and participation of boys and low parental engagement and involvement in children's education.

While the latter (low parental engagement and involvement in children's education) did not emerge as a factor at the early childhood level, poverty did.

"It wasn't a surprise to find that teachers were reluctant to teach 'weak' students at the secondary level, but when we saw it emerging at the primary level and the early childhood level too it became a greater concern. If we are saying that potential exclusion begins at kindergarten level, where we begin to see the gaps, and this continues at primary school

and into fifth form levels, where it seems to widen, then there's need to bring those teachers together to ensure that their training and professional development are really addressed," Dr. Knight stated.

"Half of the teachers were untrained to begin with. Less than 50 percent of the secondary school teachers across the region are certified as trained; so they were untrained and there were these students coming in who couldn't read, couldn't write and they still had to teach them Principles of Business, Social Studies, History,[that is], the same curriculum. The performance level of the students began to fall in the subject areas and the teachers blamed the children and said 'those students don't belong here, they need to be kept in the same primary school or sent to a different type of secondary school or something'. It got so bad that some teachers don't want to teach low-performing students and the children were separated based on ability. What we found was that once the students went into a particular stream (classes based on abilities), they continued in that stream throughout the entire schooling period, which has implications for their motivation, self-confidence and self-esteem."

An exhaustive list of recommendations has been put forward to remedy the deficiencies, including: school outreach to parents; the development of stronger partnerships with families; the facilitation of parent orientation sessions so they could better understand their roles; parenting classes; and more home visits by trained counsellors and teachers.

Additionally, the researchers suggest innovative changes to classroom instruction methods and the use of teaching aids at primary and secondary school levels for children with problems learning.

For teachers with a negative attitude towards academically weak students, they believe: professional support should be provided, targeting problem areas; mentorship should be provided for younger teachers; bridging programmes should be introduced to support children in the transition from primary to secondary school level; and targeted support was needed for children who repeat a class level. ♦



Jonathan Alleyne

Thanks to a royal experience, 22-year-old Johnathan Alleyne's big dreams for himself and Barbados are already magnified.

Having completed a six-week stint at **Buckingham Palace** and **Windsor Castle** in Britain last June as a recipient of the Royal Household Hospitality Scholarship, he no longer aspires simply to oversee a tourism industry service. Rather, he is now focused on management of more expansive tourism projects.

He had the change of heart after benefiting from an enviable experience at the residence and administrative

headquarters of the **British Royal Family** just months before he attained his Bachelor's Degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management from The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus.

In Britain, Alleyne worked alongside the Master's Department within the Royal Kitchens, the front-of-house and housekeeping sections to deliver a number of events.

"It was a wonderful experience. I totally enjoyed my time spent there. You could be asked to cater for functions, look after garden parties or escort guests around the palace. No two days were ever the same. Even though you were assigned to the same area, your roles were completely different every day and this made the experience even more enjoyable," he recalled.

LIVING A DREAM

He, like other scholarship recipients from Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, worked weekdays and used the weekends to explore the palace and wider London.

Alleyne, who also has an Associate Degree in Hospitality Studies from the Barbados Community College and interned at the Sandy Lane Hotel and the Tree House Club, almost missed out on the opportunity to apply for the scholarship. He was hesitant, thinking that he did not have a chance at the award announced by His Royal Highness, Prince Henry of Wales, as eligible to one citizen from each of nine Commonwealth countries from May to June 2017. However, after being prompted by a former tutor at the Barbados Community College, who had initially encouraged him to apply, Alleyne submitted his application form, later receiving news of his acceptance by checking his emails while on campus preparing for a test.

The 2014 winner of an **Emerging Leaders of the Americas Programme Scholarship**, which had taken him to the St. Lawrence College in Kingston, Ontario,

Canada, departed the island on Mother's Day, barely having time for lunch with his mum, Lisa Alleyne, the Bursar for the Cave Hill Campus, before setting off for this new adventure.

"I arrived in London at six o'clock the next morning. I was actually one of the first to get in and we had orientation that same day. We pretty much got uniforms the next day and started what immediately turned out to be an amazing experience. I don't think there are any words I can use to actually describe it. I just think it was an amazing experience."

Not only did he meet leading members of the Royal Family, but he also had "inspiring and lively conversations" with the Queen, Prince Charles and Prince Harry during his stay at Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle.



Jonathan Alleyne (right) and Jamaican colleague Rusheda Brown

"Prince Harry is an extremely down-to-earth person. Conversing with him felt like having a conversation with one of my own friends. He commented on my age and the fact that I look very young. When he found out that I had just turned 22 about a week before I left [Barbados], he commented on the fact that I was the youngest of the scholars. When he heard that I had just finished my bachelor's [degree], he was surprised and encouraged me to keep going," he said.

"I liken the conversation with the Queen to having a conversation with my grandmother because she is a very caring individual. I told her about some of the places that I have worked before and she commented that, though that is really good, I need to keep going. Prince Charles actually got my jokes and I was able to interact with him for an even longer period than the other scholars because I got to work with his team for a while. One day, in the middle of June, we had the hottest temperatures in the United Kingdom in about 50 years – even hotter than Barbados. Prince Charles came up to me and asked me what I thought about the temperature and I informed him that it was hotter that day than back home."

Not surprisingly, Johnathan indicates that he would welcome any opportunity to be part of the staff at Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle.

Now pursuing a Master's Degree in Project Management and Evaluation, and treasurer of the **Cave Hill Association of Postgraduate Students (CHAPS)**, he is advising young Barbadians to apply for the hospitality scholarship or any opportunity that would help them improve.

"You never know where it could take you and it is important to do what makes you happy while trying to stay out of trouble. There are ways to do things. There is the quick way which quite often gets you into trouble. I try to stay out of trouble so I tend to go the long way" he said.

"Before I wanted to run and manage a hotel, or even run and manage an airline or ferry service. But now I think I just want to focus on tourism projects because, here in Barbados, tourism is our main industry and we rely heavily on it. So, I really want to turn Barbados into a state where we can have a lot more successful tourism projects which is the only way we can earn more foreign exchange." ♦

Creating a Welcoming Environment for Students with Disabilities

An inclusive environment that especially caters for students with disabilities is earmarked to become a prominent feature of the region's higher education landscape.



(l-r) President of UWICAPD, Miranda Blackman chats with Minister of Foreign Affairs Senator Maxine McClean and Principal Professor Eudine Barribeau.

Spurring this transformation is the establishment, in March 2017, of an association at Cave Hill to raise awareness and advocate on behalf of people living with disabilities; a move, it is hoped, that will be replicated across all University of the West Indies' campuses.

The launch of the **University of the West Indies Cave Hill Association for Persons with Disabilities (UWICAPD)** coincided with the annual observance of Month of the Disabled and is the brainchild of Miranda Blackman, now a final-year student in the Faculty of Science & Technology.

Explaining that the association was conceptualised based on her experiences and those of fellow students with disabilities, Blackman has committed to working with the university to ensure that the mandate outlined in the campus's disability policy and the objectives of the association are achieved. She remains driven by a singular focus to ensure that the association's efforts and influence do not wither after she has exited Cave Hill for the next stage of her life's journey.

"We are excited to carry our mission, which is to empower and educate through initiatives and innovations," said Blackman, a passionate advocate, who envisions equality as well as equity for persons with disabilities.

"Some of the objectives of UWICAPD are: to encourage, between educators and the general public, such united efforts as will secure every student with a disability the highest advantages academically, physically, socially and spiritually; to educate and promote empowerment among members; to keep members and other students informed of modern methods and developments in the field of education as it relates to disabilities and [the rights of the disabled]; to promote closer cooperation between administration of The University of the West Indies Cave Hill and students with disabilities."

In 2014, the campus adopted **The UWI Cave Hill Student Disability Policy** and later introduced its **"Procedure for Implementing Accommodations for Students with Disabilities"**, a document setting out

systems to ensure that students with disabilities enjoy the same level of access to all aspects of university life, as their fellow students, without fear of disadvantage or discrimination.

"You have a right to be treated without discrimination on the basis of race, creed, nationality, sex, disability or place of origin; you have a right to have academic materials in classrooms, libraries and laboratories presented in a format which you can access; you have a right to be examined in a format that is not disadvantageous to you; you have the responsibility to attend classes and undertake the coursework necessary for the successful completion of your studies," Blackman said in a message to fellow students.



The association hopes to receive firm support from all quarters within The UWI, including the academic staff where it has already found in its faculty advisor, Dr. Colin Depradine, a sterling champion and committed activist for the differently abled.

Principal and Pro Vice-Chancellor Eudine Barriteau acknowledges that the campus has made some strides

towards making Cave Hill a comfortable environment for the differently abled, but admits that much more remains to be done.

"We will not rest on our laurels," the Principal pledged. "We will continue to closely monitor our learning and leisure environment to ensure that, over time, all impediments to their progress are removed."

She noted that in spite of the campus annually observing the United Nations' International Day of Persons with Disabilities, and making several special provisions for students with disabilities, this information has not filtered throughout the local and regional communities as widely as was hoped.

"... perhaps that lack of widespread knowledge has kept away some prospective students with the aptitude and ability to achieve excellence in higher education, in spite of their challenges," Professor Barriteau stated.

The campus currently provides special accommodation to students with visual impairment, hearing impairment, paraplegia and dyslexia, among other disabilities, and has been making efforts to address the needs of persons with dyslexia, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, bipolar disorder or who experience other learning challenges. Support has also been rendered by providing assistive devices and specialised furniture, and retrofitting campus infrastructure such as bathrooms, sidewalks and walkways.

Principal Barriteau noted, *"A reluctance to disclose their need for special assistance may be hampering some members of the differently-abled community from accessing the service to which they are entitled."* However, she stressed that *"the campus intends to work with **UWICAPD** to overcome this in order to properly serve all students."*

She appealed for assistance with the sponsorship of an advanced Braille tutor to supplement the Braille classes offered through the Office of Student Services' Vision and Fortitude programme, and revealed that the campus is exploring the offer of Caribbean Sign Language as a co-curricular course. ♦

A Caribbean experience promises an unparalleled encounter of envy for residents of Nordic and Scandinavian countries, and with the added allure of Cave Hill's academic brand, many young citizens from that European region have been seizing the chance to live and study in Barbados.

Finns Keep Coming



Finnish student Arttu Perrello

In this regard, **Cave Hill Campus** and the **Laurea University of Applied Sciences**, Finland, are continuing to deepen their long-existing alliance which, among other things, provides for an exchange of students.

Conrad Lyaruu, Planning Officer, International Affairs at Laurea University, reaffirmed Finnish commitment to the agreement during a recent site visit at Cave Hill. He sees the arrangement as a win-win for students from both regions as they gain exposure to vastly different cultures and pedagogical styles.

Exposure to complementary teaching and learning styles has helped to enrich the student experience through a balance of practical application and theory-based, traditional pedagogy.

"The [Finnish] students have been very happy in terms of their studies here. It's something new to them



Conrad Lyaruu, Planning Officer,
International Affairs, Laurea University

which is the reason why we think this cooperation is great," Lyaruu said. "They sit in a classroom or auditorium and listen to a professor teach. That's a dream come through. We believe in learning by doing while Cave Hill develops the theoretical and traditional ... and this is really a great complement for an exchange programme.

"If it's a marketing and communication module, there

will be an actual company which has a real problem. Maybe its marketing and communication plan is not working and it needs a new one. The professor will give an introduction of the module in a classroom of around 35 students maximum. After that, the students will be placed in groups of a minimum of three and maximum seven. We don't tell the students 'go and read this theory'. The theory has to be found by the students because we are trying to get our students to understand how to solve a problem if they're really working in a company."

During the period, the students are allowed to organise personal meetings with professors and deliver presentations, with the professors/lecturers providing the required guidance.

"As another example, our hospitality management students

are the ones running our student cafeteria. So they would go to the class, do the theoretical introduction, then they would go to the real kitchen where they have to act as if they're working in Hilton hotel or wherever. They make the food, serve the food and have to evaluate themselves. If they want to experience à la carte, we have à la carte restaurants for everybody — both students and lecturers."

With an enrolment of approximately 8,000 students, each classroom providing for between 25 and 40 students, Laurea University of Applied Sciences provides a great learning opportunity for Cave Hill students.

However, while Finnish students have been eagerly taking up the opportunity to further their education in Barbados, their local counterparts have not shown similar enthusiasm, owing to prohibitive costs. Lyaruu is keen to see on par reciprocity.

The planning officer estimated that it could cost regional students around € 5,000 a semester to study at his Finnish university.

"I think the biggest challenge is finance. The other constraint, I believe, is marketing the exchange programme. I think there are people who can afford it because if they can pay US \$300 per month for accommodation here, it's very possible they can manage accommodation at two of our campuses that are a little bit further away — about 54 and 60 kilometres away from the city centre — which are a

little bit cheaper," said Lyaruu, who disclosed he was working to remedy the situation of unaffordability.

"We have some grants from the European Union and that has helped a bit to facilitate this programme. We already have one student from here [Cave Hill] and we're hoping for more in the future. From our university to Cave Hill, there has been an influx of students, endless, because Nordic students love to go to sunny places, and for us, it's just very important that our students are exposed to different cultures and different learning methodologies. In Finland, they have a lot of opportunities to challenge the teachers, which is allowed. However, everybody must observe a certain level of behaviour. So, when we send them to countries like Barbados or South Africa, Chile, Mexico or even Germany, it's very common that the professor is listened to courteously and discussions are held with a high level of discipline, because if you question your professor too much, it may be construed as rude in some cases and cultures."

Lyaruu also explained that Finnish applicants undergo a rigorous screening process before going abroad.

"We don't send everyone who applies to go to Barbados. Before they visit, we

meet with them and we evaluate them. We have a three-level evaluation system. They would apply and evaluate themselves; we receive the applications and we check the students through lecturers; then we interview the students. Every year, I have about ten to fifteen students who want to come to Barbados. A maximum of three can come here at one time. Some of them have not travelled very much, and [for] coming to Barbados, they would need to have a level of awareness of what's happening in the world, not only the European area."

Based on feedback, Finnish students have largely enjoyed themselves at Cave Hill, and have given rave review on their return home.

Seeking to maximise the current scholarship arrangement which facilitates student, lecturer and staff exchanges, Lyaruu has pledged a commitment to ensuring that both universities derive mutual benefit from their complementary systems, and also to staging joint activities. ♦



Finnish student Emilia Karjalainen



Law Student Argues Benefits of Judicial Internships

By Renette M. Dimmott

A critical feature of student life is gaining exposure to the world of work. This often enables students to better assimilate the theories and concepts being taught. This practice is as valuable in the legal environment as other spheres of industry. A Memorandum of Understanding signed on 7th July 2017 by Chief Justice of Barbados, Sir Marston Gibson, and Principal of The UWI Cave Hill Campus, Professor Eudine Barriteau, will give students further insight into regional jurisprudence. As noted by Sir Marston, *"these internships will assist judges, the registrar and the masters of the court with*

research for the month" in which the intern is present. He further noted that students will also attend court hearings. They will add to the training opportunities students currently enjoy by interning in local legal chambers.

As the proud winner of the Faculty of Law **Constitutional Law Reform Essay Competition** for 2017, I was given the opportunity to intern with a reputable law firm in summer, 2017. I strongly believe that this experience was an invaluable one and will use the benefits of that experience to explain the significance of interning. This article will critically examine the reasons why a legal

internship would be beneficial to law students. Firstly, it will critically define what constitutes an internship. Secondly, it will espouse the importance of interning under the management of a law firm. Thirdly, it will discuss the far-reaching goals that are achievable under the guidance of a judge and legal administrative staff. Fourthly, it will outline the benefits of applying the principles of law and theory to the practice of law in an internship setting. Fifthly, it will examine the utilisation of the fundamentals of legal research in the criminal justice system. Sixthly, it will describe the importance of honing excellent legal writing skills, which is greatly needed as a law student and throughout one's career. Finally, it will outline the significance of utilising this experience to assist students in deciding on their preferred area of law, upon completion of their degrees.

Firstly, an internship is a specialised period of job training geared towards facilitating a practical experience in a professional working environment. It is extremely beneficial in more than one regard and is highly recommended. A legal internship is a specialised area of legal training, designed to expose law students to the legal framework of the law. It will provide hands-on and first-hand experience from all perspectives.

Secondly, interning under the management of a law firm will provide invaluable experience and facilitate an environment for learning. It is critical to be exposed

to all areas of the firm since the experience can be beneficial in the long term for new attorneys who wish to establish their own practice. It exposes the student to the law and administrative aspects of legal work, and it can encourage the student to apply the principles of law to any case law assignments. Also, early exposure and a clear understanding of what every person does in any law practice can serve as a precursor to a potential practice when individuals become attorneys. It will create an opportunity to be surrounded by attorneys; some recent and some who have been in the profession for a long time; but nevertheless, all working under the same legal system to meet the firm's legal practice goals.

be exposed to how submissions are delivered in the courtroom from both legal teams and will be better equipped to handle their submissions when they become practising attorneys. Also, students will come into contact with a cadre of attorneys who will be working on different cases, thereby familiarising themselves with their legal team, legal terminology, legal arguments and other aspects of the law. Moreover, interning will allow for valuable networking which is necessary for building positive future relationships among peers. Overall, all of this will facilitate a greater dialogue and communication for all involved.

Fourthly, students will be able to apply the theoretical knowledge of the principles of law to the practical aspect since internship provides the opportunity to apply the learning of the law that was articulated and mastered in the classroom. Additionally, it creates a teaching environment for students to ask questions to facilitate the correct application of the law and will encourage them to apply key concepts in the administration of justice.

Fifthly, the utilisation of the fundamentals of

research in every aspect of the law is extremely important. Legal research is the process through which one finds the law, statutes and academic opinions. Students will be engaged in research to find the relevant case law to the legal issues that are being argued. A judicial internship will therefore

give students the platform to hone their research skills.

Sixthly, having excellent legal writing skills is also critical as a law student, as an attorney-at-law, and throughout the judicial system. Students will be placed in a position to utilise these skills on a daily basis. They can be called upon several times to write memoranda and formulate other legal documents relevant to the area of law. Being able to write effectively and efficiently, leaving a lasting impression, will definitely be admired by those in the legal fraternity.

Lastly, interning will expose students to different aspects of the law, thereby helping them to decide on the area of law that they rather pursue. This is absolutely important to students because they need to know their area of interest early in their chosen career in order to assess, plan, implement, and evaluate their progress. This would also assist in shaping their future by focusing on relevant courses.

This article provided an overview of the benefits of interning in a law firm, under the guidance of a judge and legal administrative staff. It examined the principles of applying the law to the practice in an internship setting, discussed the utilisation of the fundamentals of using research and effective writing skills that were honed in the classroom, outlined the valuable experience of networking, and emphasised the importance of early exposure which would assist students with deciding on their areas of interest in law. It discussed the overall benefits of judicial internships. ♦



(l-r) A law student listens attentively to Director of PAHO Dr. Carissa Etienne who delivered a lecture on law and public health at Cave Hill last October. Dr. Etienne urged the need for greater legal acquaintance and legal advocacy on public health issues.

Thirdly, working closely with a judge will facilitate guidance and allow students to achieve short-term and long-term goals. It will expose them to the management, culture, style and day-to-day administration of the law courts in which the judge presides. They will observe court proceedings,



Russell Nicholson on Life in Barbados

1. How did you find out about the Student Exchange Programme?

I first heard about The University of the West Indies when my home institution, Haverford College in Pennsylvania, advertised UWI as its “Study Abroad Program of the Month”. A few other Haverford students had studied in Barbados before me, so I heard more about the opportunities provided by the program through them. One of them in particular, the 2012 Haverford graduate, Lindsay Ryan, played football (what we call “soccer” in the States but being in the Caribbean has changed what I call it) during UWI Games, and in an email, she inspired me by writing, *“It was a ton of fun meeting other people from the Jamaican and Trinidadian campuses.”*

2. Why did you choose the Cave Hill Campus?

After learning about it, UWI Cave Hill was an obvious choice because I am interested in marine biology, I love playing football, and I love adventuring. I am majoring in biology, so courses in the ecology and sport science

departments both counted toward my major and were unique courses not offered at my college. The natural wonders of the island were also a big selling point for me. Considering my love for music and dancing too, I didn’t want to entertain studying anywhere other than at Cave Hill.

3. How would you describe your Cave Hill experience?

There are so many aspects of my experience that made it memorable: the eye-opening courses; the new cultural events; wildlife all around me (we don’t have mango trees outside of our halls at Haverford). But the experience was absolutely made by the classmates, hallmates, and teammates that I met. I don’t think I have ever met students so concerned with making the world better, hall residents so caring, and athletes having so much fun playing their sport than I met at Cave Hill. This doesn’t even include the professors, coaches and staff who looked after me and brought the best out of me. There are too many people and too many good times with them in my mind to write about all of them; but in all, their company completed my Cave Hill experience.

4. How would you describe your Barbados experience?

I still think about Barbados every day. I think about the green monkeys scampering in the trees and along the sidewalks. I think about riding the ZRs and walking down Swan Street in Bridgetown. I imagine myself back at Crane Beach and Boscobelle and beside the crashing waves in St. Lucy. I miss the catamarans cruising at sunset, the insect sounds of the night, and my alarm clock of either rooster calls or cricket bats in the morning. And I will never forget the gracious Bajans who were patient with an American who didn’t know what he was doing at the bank or the bus stop. I really do think about Barbados every day.

5. Did you have an opportunity to explore the island?

I explored the heck out of Bimshire! Sometimes with Bajans from class, more often with other exchange students; and a few times on my own, I rode the buses to a destination in just about every parish.

6. What are some of the places you visited?

Highlights from adventuring were snorkelling the reefs at Folkstone Marine Park, hiking in the Chalky Mount district,



and spelunking through the lesser-known Coles Cave. Classmates of mine from Coral Reef Ecology invited me to a picnic in Holetown, and we had a blast taking underwater group pictures and swimming over deep coral drop-offs. Two exchange students from the Netherlands and another from the States followed me to Morgan Lewis Beach on the East Coast - a trip that ended up being less of a hike and more of a desperate search back to civilization (which we found in the form of a friendly rum shop and dominoes). Coles Cave, a half-mile underground river lined with pure clay and slavery-era artifacts, is Barbados's best-kept secret. I encourage Mrs. Paula Jarvis to keep sending her exchange students there.

7. Have you noticed any differences between your campus and Cave Hill?

Almost all of the students attending Haverford live in dormitories on campus; so, although we are more likely to have friends from different departments, there isn't as strong a bond between hallmates as among the family of students remaining on campus in Phillip Sherlock Hall at UWI. Worrellites can say what they like, but sharing a bathroom and kitchen among all my brothers and sisters on my floor brought me very close to them as lifetime friends. Cave Hill also takes great pride in its Student Guild, which is equivalent to my campus's Student Council, except I believe the Guild and its members go above and beyond to provide for the student body with sponsored fetes and services that the administration at Haverford would control.

8. What are some of the extracurricular activities you got involved in while you were here?

I played on the UWI Blackbirds men's football team, participated in the Halls Pageant, and audited a fisheries biology

course at UWI's Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES). It was truly a privilege and an honor to play with the island's best in the Digicel Premiere League, and I still catch myself saying, "Leh we go!", or "Hard luck!" when I am playing on the Haverford varsity team. The Halls Pageant, although overwhelming at times with long dress rehearsals and hours of planning, turned out to be the capstone of my time on Sherlock Hall. (My friends at Haverford still ask me about the "James Bond" photoshoot pictures I took for the pageant.) And the highlight of the CERMES course, taught by the brilliant Hazel Oxenford, was the fieldwork with a local fisherman - this further encouraged me to pursue marine science as a profession.

9. Can you describe your typical day on campus?

"Cockle-doodle-doo!" That was usually the first thing of the day I heard, since one rooster loved to position himself right below my window each morning; but I learned to love this wake-up call. I'd then make a fried plantain and egg breakfast or savour the sweet, cinnamon-flavoured, Jamaican-style porridge at the cafeteria. If I wasn't learning about coral polyp anatomy or conducting our reef research down at Brownes Beach, I was enjoying an International Environmental Politics lecture by Kristina Hinds-Harrison. I don't normally like normal lecture classes, but she spoke vividly about the problems she sees in the world and, more locally, in Barbados; so I was wired awake even after eating a big TNT Barbecue lunch. If I had time after class before football practice, I'd take a van into town and pick up some fish for dinner. The mackerel and flying fish dinners I made, with some help from Sherlockites, were some of the best seafood meals I've ever had. Finally, if I was in a good place with schoolwork, I'd

get dressed up for a fete ... most weekend nights had one. All I had to do was ask around and follow the sound of the music.

10. Would you recommend the Student Exchange Programme to other students?

Of course! I would especially recommend the Student Exchange Programme to other students who are not afraid to jump into a very new experience, freely accept the customs of a new place, and befriend another student even if they talk too quickly for you to understand at first. We all have so much to learn from each other, and UWI Cave Hill is an expansive blend of cultures from which I learnt more about the Caribbean and beyond, each and every day. ♦



Coping with Campus Life

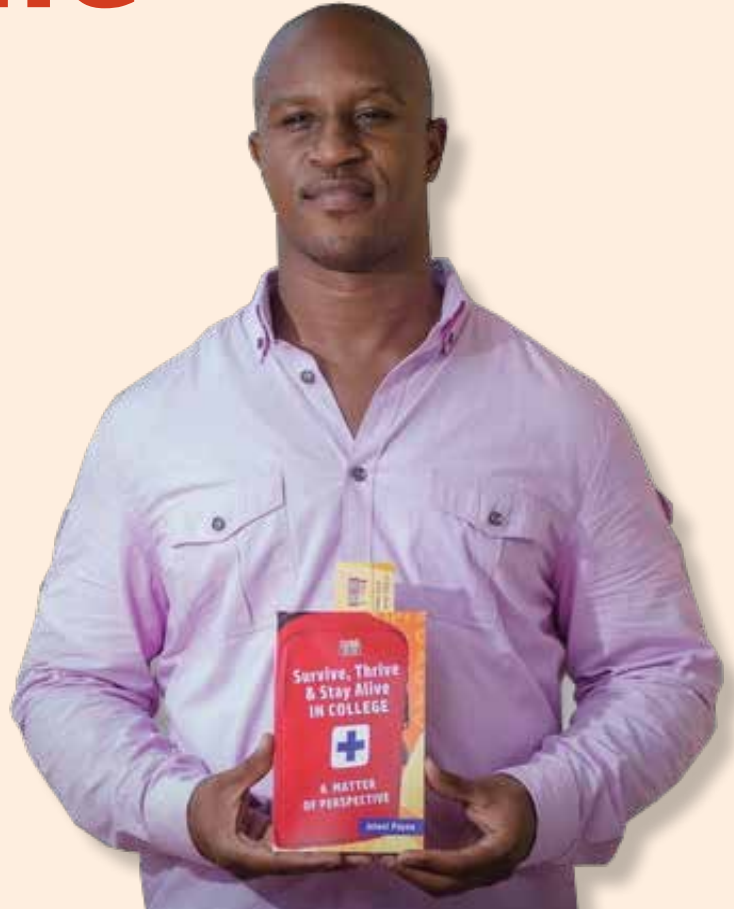
By Krystal Penny Bowen

Twenty-seven-year-old Jelani Payne gives a voice to one of the most misunderstood generations of this era. He is one of the few active, millennial, regional writers narrating his story about his trials and triumphs of college/university life.

In the 11 chapters of his book, *Survive, Thrive and Stay Alive in College — A Matter of Perspective*, Payne takes his readers on a personal journey of student life at The University of West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad. A Barbadian in an unfamiliar island, he quickly learns how to adapt to diverse cultures and develop effective social coping mechanisms to overcome daily obstacles. The book, which is separated into three sections (survive, strive and staying alive), examines some challenges of university life, dealing with lecturers and students, examinations and adapting to a new environment. The author seeks to illustrate the power of managing one's circumstances, whether good or bad, through positive thinking and building strong social networks within the tertiary education system and beyond.

"[University] is someplace that you give a lot to. You should give a lot more of yourself on campus, that is the striving part," explained Payne, who studied Mechanical Engineering and the AAS Electronics & Computer Engineering. He has also worked in several areas such as: heating, ventilation and air-conditioning; submersibles and marine management; and is presently in the field of energy management solutions.

Payne's brief guide to navigating campus life foregoes instructions on managing workload, social and personal life outside of the classroom, overcoming adversity and failure, like other college manuals. Instead, he employs



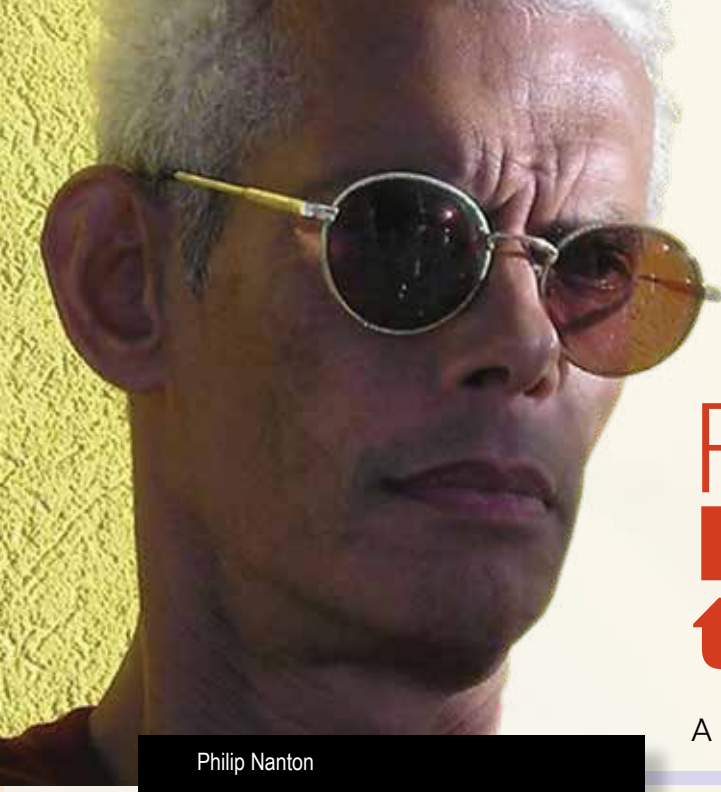
Jelani Payne

what he terms AP+ and OP+ or open and abundant perspective philosophies. Strong-headed persons or those resistant to new thought may find the book hard to follow. Unlike other college/university guides, it is not a guide on what you should not do.

In his book, the millennial audience will be able to identify with Payne's personality traits as he displayed openness, diversity, a determined work ethic and a hopeful outlook. It is a book of life's ironies, achieving maturity and understanding, as well as a view into the world of a young man preparing to embrace his future, regardless of its hurdles.

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Book Review



Philip Nanton

Philip Nanton's **Frontiers of the Caribbean**

A review by Bridget Brereton

Born in St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) and Barbados-based, Philip Nanton is a poet, social scientist, literary scholar and all-round multimedia practitioner. His earlier book, *Island Voices from St Christopher & The Barracudas* (2014), is a witty, affectionate and often laugh-out-loud, funny collection of dialogues and sketches about life in SVG (lightly disguised in the book's title).

Nanton's new book, *Frontiers of the Caribbean*, is a more academic book but it is a highly original and unconventional study of SVG, past and present. It reflects Nanton's personal journey away from formal social scientific methods to the use of forms of creative expression for social analysis, as is the case in *Island Voices*; some of Nanton's poems appear in the *Frontiers of the Caribbean*, as well as one by the Vincentian jazz musician and poet, Shake Keane.

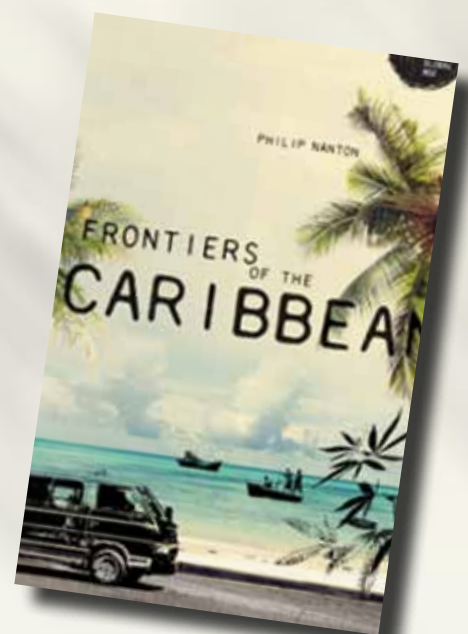
Drawing on history, geography, biography, literary studies, as well as social and cultural analysis, *Frontiers of the Caribbean* is very much a multidisciplinary study. Using the idea of "frontier society" as his framework, Nanton closely examines SVG, "an under-researched, multi-island, Caribbean society". (He is right, of course, that the smaller Caribbean islands have received much less scholarly attention than larger islands such as Jamaica or Trinidad.)

By "frontier", Nanton means a society on the edge, at the meeting place between what is seen as "civilised" (order, calm, control) and what is seen as "wild" (disorder, anarchy). The frontier advances, extending the reach of the "civilised" at the expense of the "wild". He argues that the frontier process never ended in the Caribbean, and has left significant traces in present-day SVG society. In his view, the concept can help us to re-imagine the Caribbean and how its trajectory can contribute to debates

on the impact and meaning of globalisation. It might help the shift away from "nationalist" history and analysis, and also challenge the notion, so strong in postcolonial theory, that everything that happens in the Caribbean is speaking back to the Empire.

Though complex, this is a short book; so I can only give a couple

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of illustrations of how Nanton seeks to link the SVG society to his frontier idea. He examines a few contemporary SVG residents whose lives, he thinks, reflect this tension between order and disorder. One is Junior Cottle, SVG's marijuana pioneer, a "contemporary frontiersman". A former convicted criminal, ganja farmer, businessman, lobbyist for the legalisation of the weed and liaison between growers and government agencies, for Nanton, Cottle exemplifies a man who moves freely over the "frontier" between the legal and official, and the illegal and "wild".

For Nanton, SVG's Spiritual Baptists, also known as "Shakers", are an indigenous group which has crossed the frontier in recent years. In colonial times, they were seen as "wild", uncivilised, too "African", lower-class, rural, hard to control — hence the 1912 Prohibition Ordinance, the model for the one passed in Trinidad and Tobago a few years later. But after the 1960s, the sect gradually won wide acceptance, membership increased, and Spiritual Baptists entered mainstream SVG society. They came to "town", they crossed the frontier, while retaining their unique forms of belief and worship which had been seen as "uncivilised".

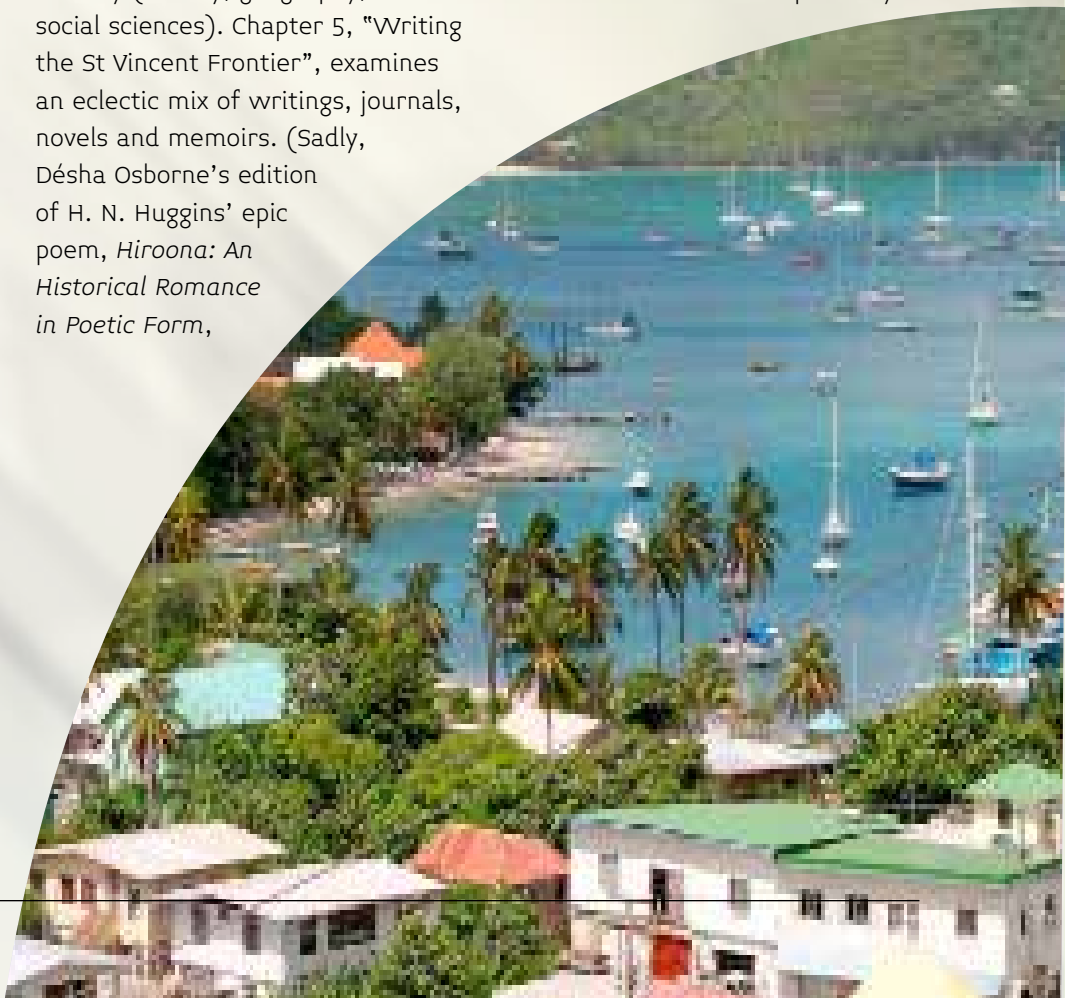
Another theme is what has happened to some of the Grenadines — SVG has 32 islands, many uninhabited. In the recent past, these little, neglected islands were a true "frontier"; the people were left to their own devices,

largely self-sufficient (farming, fishing, seafaring). Canouan, for instance, had no electricity until the early 1990s. But over the last 15 years, massive foreign investment has turned Canouan into a high-end resort island. As Nanton puts it, in just a few years Canouan has moved from being a remote, neglected frontier, in the traditional sense (periphery of a periphery), to a state of "frontier exclusivity and exoticism". Private developers are permitted, indeed encouraged, "to exploit the notion of the exotic frontier"; "wild nature" is made into a carefully managed commodity for wealthy visitors.

One of Nanton's many hats is that of the literary scholar, and for him, it is just as important to probe the SVG of the imagination (literature, the arts) as it is to probe the "real" country (history, geography, the social sciences). Chapter 5, "Writing the St Vincent Frontier", examines an eclectic mix of writings, journals, novels and memoirs. (Sadly, Désha Osborne's edition of H. N. Huggins' epic poem, *Hiroona: An Historical Romance in Poetic Form*,

apparently came out too late to be included; Nanton's take on this remarkable epic poem about the Black Caribs of St. Vincent, written between 1878 and 1895, would have been interesting.)

Nanton considers how SVG has been represented by outsiders: a journal kept by a Scottish magistrate who worked there in the 1830s; and *Bodily Harm*, the little-known novel by the famous Canadian writer, Margaret Atwood, that is set in St. Vincent. He also explores how SVG is represented by insiders: a novel by G. C. H. Thomas, *Ruler in Hiroona: A West Indian Novel*, which is a fictionalised biography of Ebenezer Joshua, SVG's labour leader and independence-era politician; and two published memoirs by James Mitchell and Ralph Gonsalves, a former and the current prime minister of the nation respectively.



Though these two politicians were, and are, very different personalities with very different political ideologies, Nanton makes the case that the rhetoric of their self-representation has much in common: each is self-constructed as a twentieth-century frontiersman of SVG, a grand pioneer, a charismatic hero, struggling to implement his version of "civilisation" against the forces of wildness, opposition and disorder; each is the all-powerful champion of a small state against the Goliaths of the world.

Nanton's interesting and often provocative book provides new ways of thinking about the Caribbean, and about how a microstate like SVG can be a metaphor for globalisation itself. By combining different genres

of writing and seeing, *Frontiers of the Caribbean* is a multidisciplinary study that incorporates both the "real" and the "imagined" worlds of SVG. Through his use of the frontier concept, Nanton moves beyond nationalist island studies and complicates conventional postcolonial theory, which tends to interpret everything happening in former colonies as part of a dialogue with the former metropolitan power. As he concludes: "A frontier perspective that alters and enlarges the frame of analysis to include history, literature and culture extends the ground of the debate and increases the visibility of otherwise relatively insignificant island states." ♦

"Coping with Campus Life" continued from page 66

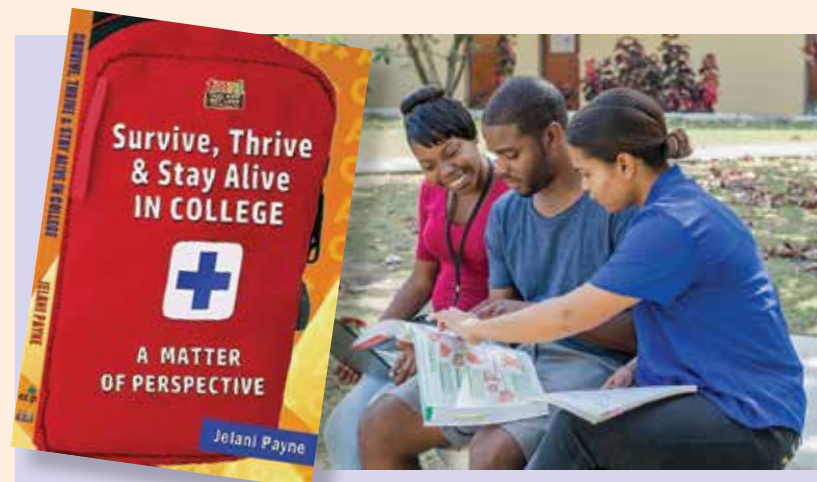
Payne's conversational tone and honesty about his emotional state, balancing of friendships and student/ hall annoyances are relatable and, at times, humorous. *Survive, Thrive and Stay Alive in College: A Matter of Perspective* is not only a story of a maturing, young adult, but a blueprint of emotional competence for university life and life beyond campus. For the new student making the rite of passage from secondary school to tertiary education, this book is an easy read as it sheds light on the life of university, its freedoms, hardships, opportunities to succeed and to grow into a productive and socially well-adjusted human being.

Payne describes his book, a two-year project, as compact and succinct, saying it does not promote cultural ideologies or require extensive reading, and asserts that many students do not have the time to read large texts. Describing it as "*the ultimate college survival guide*", he says it does not tell people what to do; but it examines the benefits and opportunities of tertiary education which can enhance their personal and professional lives.

Payne believes a student's university experience should be enjoyable and explained his personal adaptation, while being in Trinidad, to culinary differences, social customs, campus diversity, and public safety challenges when travelling throughout the country.

Payne used the framework of his final-year thesis to design his book, commending John Goddard and

Carol Pitt of **Caribbean Chapters Publishing** for their assistance throughout the writing, drafting, designing and publishing process.



"When you are doing something for yourself, you feel so empowered. If something [troubling] is happening in your life [and] you have something that you can drift into ... it becomes fun," said the young author, who has always loved books, and speaks passionately of a youthful diet of literature featuring the Hardy Boys, Nancy Drew, Archie comics and children's author, Enid Blyton.

Since publishing, Payne has been dedicated to giving back and has donated a few copies of the book, which is available in e-copy on Amazon.com, to secondary school students. ♦



Principal Eudine Barriteau, Director of CDRC Professor Alafia Samuels, Lady Sylvan Alleyne, Sir George Alleyne and Minister of Health, John Boyce

The Barbados-based Chronic Disease Research Centre, a leading agency in the fight against chronic diseases, was renamed in honour of prominent health official and academic, Professor Emeritus Sir George Alleyne, the immediate past Chancellor of The University of the West Indies. Sir George demitted office in July 2016 on completion of his second consecutive seven-year term.

A Lasting Tribute to Sir George



Sir George Alleyne - UWI Chancellor Emeritus

At the renaming ceremony, Barbados's Minister of Health, John Boyce, and Principal of the Cave Hill Campus, Professor Eudine Barriteau, praised the former director of the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) for his yeoman service to The UWI, the region and the international community.

"He is thoroughly deserving of our highest accolades and recognition. Sir George has given magnanimous public service and continues to do so to this day," said Professor Barriteau, lauding his sterling contribution to public health and medicine.

"Sir George has been a consummate academic who believes resolutely that research should drive policy development in healthcare. His views on the value and significance of research are not only aligned with, but are in the vanguard of

those in the academy who see research as the determining feature which separates universities from other tertiary level institutions.

"Research can improve Caribbean people's lives, accelerate regional development and ought to be an integral part of any university's existence. At The UWI, research constitutes part of our core mandate. Indeed, I can think of no more enduring form of recognition

*with which to grant our revered Chancellor, than to link his name in perpetuity to our foremost, internationally acclaimed medical research unit. From today on, this will be known as the **George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Centre.**"*

The Minister of Health praised the work of the centre which celebrated its 25th anniversary last year. He noted that it has

been an invaluable partner for his ministry in conducting health research in Barbados, and for the country's success in tackling non-communicable diseases.

The renaming "recognises Sir George's legacy and will ensure that his name is associated with an institution that seeks to embody the scholarship in and dedication to medicine and public health which he has demonstrated throughout his life," Boyce said.

The university also held a gala dinner in Sir George's honour in which his family and friends gathered at Cave Hill to celebrate his career as Chancellor of The UWI. Current and former colleagues from The UWI paid glowing tribute to the physician, scholar, research scientist, orator, regional ambassador and progressive public health leader.

In response to the tributes, Sir George credited The UWI with shaping his keen sense of being West Indian. He said the institution enabled him to fulfill "the canons of proper socialisation" and he described The UWI as "an inextricable part of my identity which I carry throughout my life".



Part of the audience in attendance at the renaming ceremony.

"For the past thirteen and a half years, I have been Chancellor and ever conscious of the responsibility that came with following in the footsteps of persons of eminence and distinction. There was a princess of royal blood followed by three eminent West Indian lawyers, different in style perhaps, but all displaying the deep and fierce concern for the well-being of the institution as a whole, and absolutely committed to upholding and enhancing its reputation. I have been privileged to witness the remarkable growth of the university and the addition of the Open Campus."

Speaking at the gala event, Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles described the outgoing Chancellor as a model of commitment and caring.

"He has given of his best ... It does not take cash to care, it takes consciousness. Sir George is driven by this value – care for The University of the West Indies that cared for him, a lesson in loyalty to be admired and celebrated. This caring at times called for caution and, other times, for creativity; but in all circumstances, it called for commitment. This will be, in my judgment, his legacy." ♦



Sir George Alleyne greets Minister of Health John Boyce.

Throughout his accomplished career, Sir George has received numerous awards including prestigious decorations and national honours from many countries of the Americas. In 1990, he was made Knight Bachelor by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for his services to medicine, and in 2001, he was awarded the Order of the Caribbean Community, the highest honour that can be conferred on a Caribbean national.



Vice-Chancellor Sir Hilary Beckles presents a farewell gift to Sir George Alleyne.



(l-r) Head, Nita Barrow Unit, Institute for Gender and Development Studies (NBU/IGDS), Dr. Letnie Rock; UWI lecturer, Dr. Halimah Deshong; EU Head of Delegation to Barbados, Ambassador Daniela Tramacere; UWI lecturer, Dr. Tonya Haynes; UWI lecturer, Sonia Mahon; board member Eastern Caribbean Alliance for Diversity and Equality (ECADE), Rene Holder and board member ECADE, Maria Fontenelle.

Livity Project Receives EU Grant

The Institute for Gender and Development Studies: Nita Barrow Unit (IGDS:NBU) has been awarded a €400,000 grant to assist with coalition-building exercises and projects aimed at strengthening Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

The grant which was awarded by the European Union (EU), following the submission of proposals, will support the initiative entitled “**The Livity Project: Supporting Eastern Caribbean Civil Society Organisations for Social Change**”, and will facilitate the development of a leadership academy and

an annual policy forum, as well as provide extensive technical support for CSOs throughout the region.

The four-year project will be managed in collaboration with the **Barbados Council for the Disabled** and the **Eastern Caribbean Alliance for Diversity and Equality (ECADE)** in St. Lucia. The IGDS:NBU was one of six awardees at the **Human Rights & Civil Society Grants Award Ceremony** held in February 2018 at the Grande Salle, Central Bank of Barbados.

For the past three years, the EU has supported the efforts of civil society and human rights organisations in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean States through grants targeted at: increasing employment opportunities for disabled persons and at-risk youth; providing vocational training; supporting the fight against domestic violence; enhancing sustainable livelihoods through climate-smart agriculture; and protecting marine biodiversity, among other areas. ♦

Student Research Flourishes

Postgraduate students are helping to maintain a vibrant research culture at Cave Hill as the campus continues to make strides towards becoming a research-oriented institution.

According to Pro Vice-Chancellor, Graduate Studies and Research, Professor Dale Webber, the Class of 2017 showed that Cave Hill had the highest ratio of graduate students among The University of the West Indies' campuses, a significant number of whom had undertaken original research work during their studies.

Based on graduate degrees awarded, Cave Hill was within striking distance of the targeted range of 30 percent of its overall graduates comprising students who received postgraduate awards and degrees.

“Within that 30 percent of graduate students, once we get there, our goal is to have 30 percent of those in research degrees. So, the aim is for 30 percent as graduates, and along with that, 30 percent in research. This year, Cave Hill had 28 percent (of postgrads among the total number of graduates),” he said.

Professor Webber made the disclosure while addressing a breakfast ceremony held last November for the postgraduate scholarship awardees for 2017-2018, where four students received UWI postgraduate scholarships, while 11 received postgraduate, fee-waiver scholarships.

He noted that despite a fall in enrolment numbers at Cave Hill, the university has maintained the number of scholarships being awarded to its students, a development that Principal and Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Eudine Barriteau found pleasing.

Acknowledging the steep competition for academic scholarships, Professor Barriteau said “*Cave Hill believes in investing in its students,*” whom she suggested represent some of the Caribbean’s best assets.

She also pointed to the importance of pursuing quality research, noting that a sound culture of research was what set universities apart from tertiary level colleges.

“All of you are carving an area that’s not been pursued and producing knowledge that would benefit Caribbean societies and, in fact, what you do in your various studies would underscore and strengthen the reputation, image, credibility and viability of The University of the West Indies,” she said in brief words of encouragement to the awardees.

The Principal urged them to ensure their research was new and different and, on successful completion of their area of study, to give back to the society. ♦



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