



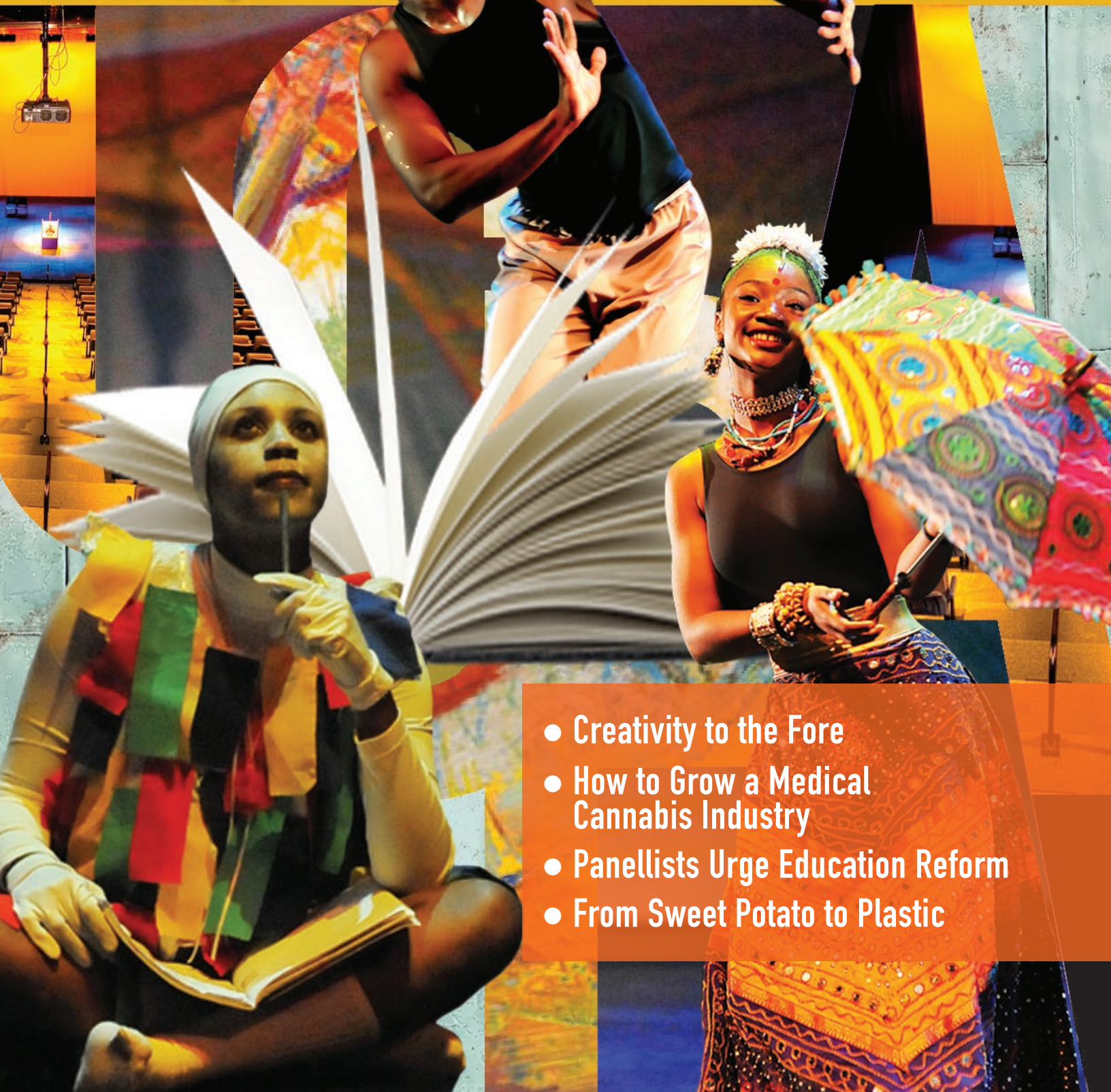
UWI

Cave Hill Campus

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news

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- Creativity to the Fore
- How to Grow a Medical Cannabis Industry
- Panellists Urge Education Reform
- From Sweet Potato to Plastic

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ADVANCING A 21ST CENTURY LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The dawn of a new decade, albeit the third in the current millennium, has reignited debate about the transformational requirements of a twenty-first century education, more particularly the innovative adjustments that are needed to shape the future of higher education.

P olicymakers, educators, captains of industry and commerce along with myriad stakeholders have weighed in on the issue of how to reshape education to make it better suited to the times and fit for purpose. What has emerged is a preponderance of evidence and opinion that favour increased learning of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), given the growing global impact of new technologies. Increasing scientific application to human endeavour has unleashed an unwavering spread of technological solutions that now include artificial intelligence (AI), robotics and a range of cyber activity on our societies. The sci-tech juggernaut shows no signs of abatement.

At Cave Hill Campus, we have assessed what is required for us to remain the epicentre of higher education provision in the Eastern Caribbean. While we recognise the significance of STEM studies to staying abreast of careening global developments, there is mounting evidence that a liberal arts education continues to be of great significance. Not only are liberal arts graduates quite adaptable to changing circumstances, their critical thinking skills and sophisticated research capabilities prove invaluable to the achievement of success in a wide range of occupations across multiple economic sectors. Furthermore, a liberal arts education provides the foundation for careers such as creative writers, poets, archaeologists, educators, journalists and historians.



Professor the Most Honourable
V. Eudine Barribeau
Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal
The UWI, Cave Hill Campus

This is why, even as we seek to refurbish our deteriorating Faculty of Science and Technology facilities, we are moving with equal purpose to establish a new Faculty of Culture, Creative and Performing Arts. These developments reaffirm our commitment to support the scientist and the artist with similar dedication. The future of a university is that of a multidimensional, multifunctional enterprise. A university of the future, therefore, should not only align education with career prospects but also provide opportunity for cultural expression to flourish while enabling cultural practitioners, budding and seasoned, a chance for professional advancement through their art form.

The future also demands of us a special obligation towards the digital natives and the digitally savvy whom we serve. Millennials and Generation Z, the postmillennial generation who jointly comprise the majority of our student body, experience a digitally connected lifestyle. This seeks from their higher education provider a delivery of services that adheres to their expectation.

Leveraging the **Smart Campus** experience to catapult Cave Hill into the future, we offer students a learning environment that comprises services ranging from smart classroom technology to apps that facilitate electronic exam check-in and, soon, real-time tracking of their shuttle commute. These are all steps that show a campus which has a trajectory that is heading in the right direction.

The more mature segment of our student cohort is not being left behind in our technological revolution. A newly established graduate laboratory with state-of-the-art workstations and equipment offers simulations that mirror real-world experiences in the use of data-analytic and research tools and technologies to improve the practical nature of their curriculum.

Efforts to address the challenges of our regional community have led to the establishment of a **School for Governance and Public Policy** and a **Centre for Biosecurity Studies**. Cries for public sector training grow increasingly, and there is no more compelling evidence for the need to safeguard our regional biosecurity than the increasing global emergence of multiple pandemic threats such as bird flu (H5N1 avian influenza), severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), Swine flu, Ebola, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), chikungunya, Zika and the current rampaging coronavirus (COVID-19).

We have observed that, intermittently, calls are reactivated, urging programmatic change to strengthen curriculum relevance and enhance student experience. Our proactive initiatives on both counts are equally steadfast and unrelenting. ♦

*Transforming the delivery of higher education through an array of technologies remains high on Cave Hill's agenda, with significant progress being made in this quest. With enhancement of the student experience, a core mandate, software technologies are encompassed in the **SMART Campus** initiative that seeks to bring about improvements in all areas of campus operations. This is in keeping with its guiding framework to "... leverage the potential of technology to effect change and to positively transform itself in response to continuous learning."*

Smart Progress

Officially launched at the start of the 2017-2018 academic year, the **SMART Campus** initiative continues to gather momentum. During the **2019 Summer School** examinations, the campus launched the pilot phase of its **Electronic Exam Check-In** technology that electronically scanned students' identification cards to permit them entry into examination rooms. A full-scale roll-out was later introduced in the current academic year. In previous years, students were admitted to examination rooms by displaying printed cards, but the new technology eliminates the need for such cards, resulting in

significant cost, time and other resource savings. Electronic data collected with this **SMART Campus** initiative facilitates better management of the overall examinations process, allowing related reports on students' attendance and student engagement to be easily generated.

Another major feature of the **SMART Campus** transformation at Cave Hill is the implementation of innovative classroom technology. These include smart projectors and smart boards that enhance interactive teaching and learning experiences. In addition, some teaching spaces are already equipped for remote video conferencing to facilitate





virtual attendance by students and their participation in class sessions. Further, Cave Hill employs audio/visual technology with monitors strategically placed around the institution to display upcoming campus-related events and other important information. Connectivity has also been improved with free campus-wide Wi-Fi, to help facilitate study, research or online engagement. Additionally, student engagement has been enhanced by The UWI, Cave Hill **Campus app**. Launched in July 2018, the app serves to promote student activities, shares their concerns, as well as provides campus updates.

Plans are also in place to convert the campus's main administration building to a *Smart Energy* building. Key features of this upgrade include:

- ▶ building an automation system with a control tower for efficient building management and to assist with functions such as monitoring, controlling, analysing, forecasting and

assessing the energy consumption level within the building; and

- ▶ installing a 150kW solar photovoltaic car park on the outside of the Department of Management Studies to offset the office load on weekdays.

The conversion work has already begun with the installation of thirteen *Smart Panel* meters and two hundred and eighty-six current transformers throughout the building.

Other initiatives in various stages of development include:

- ▶ the Banner System that manages student and finance operations on the campus. The system was recently upgraded and migrated to a cloud platform, a move that improves both its resilience and its performance. While the administrative functionality is already underway for this system, the self-service functionality will

be implemented shortly, providing a “modern, mobile-friendly user interface with the enhanced user experience expected of a contemporary university management system.”

- ▶ the campus bus shuttle management system that features key areas of functionality for efficient use of the service. These include real-time tracking to ascertain the location of the bus. There is also electronic check-in of students boarding the buses that makes it possible for shuttle administrators to collect information on the ridership. Another key feature in place is fleet management reporting that allows shuttle administrators to derive information useful for maintaining the buses and determining how best they could be deployed based on expected need.

- ▶ energy and resource conservation technologies such as solar panels to power buildings, charging stations for electric cars and photovoltaic wind/hybrid systems for students to charge mobile devices.

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the campus Professor the Most Honourable V. Eudine Barriteau has stressed that “the main focus is revolutionising the education system. We will do so through diversification of content and widespread application of information technology, while maintaining vigilance over investment, quality assurance and student centeredness. We will further emphasise smart learning, using technology to enhance the student experience, to reach a wider audience and to achieve better communication,” she noted.

She notes that given its challenges, the campus must “undertake a radical restructuring ... to ensure relevance and survival deep into the 21st century.” ♦



St. Joseph Hospital Gets New Lease

After lying abandoned for decades, the St. Joseph Hospital in Ashton Hall, St. Peter could soon be put back into use.

The Government of Barbados is retaining minority ownership and vesting larger control of the facility to the Cave Hill Campus, with a mandate to develop a specialised centre that focuses on care for the elderly. The refurbished hospital will also provide increased clinical capacity for the campus's expanding medical sciences programmes.

The former state-operated health facility has been closed twice, in 1986 and 1995. The defunct property is one of two assets being vested in the campus by the Government of Barbados, the other being 33 acres of the Lazaretto lands at Paradise.

These two assets are expected to significantly strengthen the balance sheet of the campus that has already taken a number of internal measures to reduce its expenditure, while at the same time, generate income.

"We are in the process of setting up a company to receive that 70 percent ownership [in St. Joseph Hospital]. The Government of Barbados will retain 30 percent ownership," Principal Professor Eudine Barribeau revealed. *"The Government has looked at the Cave Hill and UWI strategic plan and has identified the synergies between their national development agenda priorities and the Cave Hill plan."*

Principal Barribeau recalled that at The UWI's Grants Committee meeting held last 3 April, Prime Minister Mia Mottley expressed satisfaction with the campus's management and work being carried out by the institution, especially in areas of the Blue Economy such as climate change, renewable energy, marine resources, coral reef protection and water resource management, among others.

She said the university is showing signs of improved financial fortunes in spite of forfeiting millions of dollars in a debt write off.

"Even with the financial crunch and the fact that we had [to undergo] a significant debt forgiveness, the Government has found selective ways to support the campus. We all know about the reintroduction of tuition fees that has caused the numbers at Cave Hill to climb for the second year in a row."

"We have worked collectively to operate within cost constraints, and we have had a reduced allocation from the Government, but in other ways, the support which we have received strengthens our balance sheet." ♦



Principal of the Cave Hill Campus, Professor Eudine Barribeau (left) and Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley

SALISES PAYS HOMAGE TO **SIR ARTHUR LEWIS**

The distinguished Caribbean economist, Sir Arthur Lewis, has been memorialised yet again. In February, the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) at The UWI, Cave Hill Campus unveiled a life-size figure of the noted Caribbean intellectual to commemorate the 105th anniversary of his birth.

Principal and Pro Vice-Chancellor of the campus, Professor the Most Honourable V. Eudine Barribeau praised the work of the St. Lucian-born intellectual whom she likened to an “[academic] colossus due to his seminal work in economic growth and development planning”.

She urged those attending the ceremony to consider the telling relevance of Sir Arthur’s work for the period in which he lived, adding: *“It is incumbent on us that we use Sir Arthur’s work as a catalyst that propels us towards relevant research that seeks to foster indigenous solutions to our Caribbean situation.”*

Director of SALISES at Cave Hill Dr. Don Marshall, who chaired the ceremony, also shared similar sentiments about the importance of continued recognition of Lewis’s work in the Caribbean. He promised that the institute’s recognition of Sir Arthur would go beyond placing his name on their door, to include their academic pursuits through publications as well as policy-related work and research.



Dr. Don D. Marshall, Director, Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social & Economic Studies (SALISES)

The ceremony was attended by Sir Arthur’s nephew Sir Vaughn Lewis, who is a former Prime Minister of St. Lucia and was accompanied by his wife Shirley Lady Lewis; their daughters, Claire Lewis and Louisa Lewis-Ward; and granddaughter, Gabriella Ward.

Artist Art Edwards expressed his gratitude to SALISES for investing in his art form and urged those present to also seek ways to invest in similar artwork as a means of contributing to this kind of industrialisation.

Sir Arthur Lewis is most widely known for his contribution to the field of development economics for which he received the 1979 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences. The Caribbean stalwart has already been



Life-size figure of the late Sir Arthur Lewis

honoured in numerous ways within the region and internationally. A community college in St. Lucia is named after him, along with other SALISES departments at the Mona and St. Augustine Campuses. A portrait of Sir Arthur is also on the \$100 bill of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States. ♦



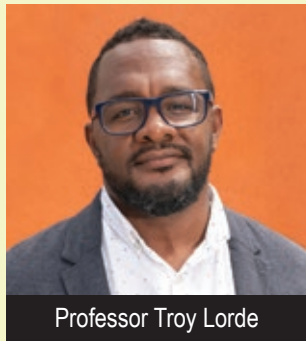
Artist Art Edwards



Relatives of Sir Arthur Lewis (second from left): former Prime Minister of St. Lucia Sir Vaughn Lewis and wife Shirley Lady Lewis; Gabriella Ward, Dr. Norma Degoumois, Claire Lewis, Louisa Lewis-Ward and David Nelson



Professor Philmore Alleyne



Professor Troy Lorde

Two New Social Sciences Professors

Two senior lecturers from The UWI, Cave Hill Campus, Faculty of Social Sciences have been promoted to the rank of professor. They are Head of the Department of Management Studies Dr. Philmore Alleyne and Head of the Department of Economics Dr. Troy Lorde. Both appointments were announced in February.

Professor Alleyne's career at Cave Hill began in 1999 as a lecturer in Management Studies. A chartered accountant by profession, and a Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (FCCA), he brought a wealth of practical knowledge to the classroom over the last twenty years. His scholarly work has gained him many awards of recognition including the **Emerald Literati Award for Excellence** for his article "**Antecedents of taxpayers' intentions to engage in tax evasion: evidence from Barbados**" that was published in the *Journal of Financial Reporting and Accounting*. Professor Alleyne was also the recipient of the **Principal's Award for Excellence 2012-2013 for Research and Publications**.

Professor Lorde, who joined the faculty at Cave Hill as an assistant lecturer in 2004, has since expanded his academic role to include teaching at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, co-supervising students who are working on their doctorates, and Programme Coordinator of the Masters in Financial and Business Economics. He has also published extensively across several journals including the *Global Economy Journal*, the *International Trade Journal*, the *International Journal of Social Economics* and the *Journal of Eastern Caribbean Studies*. According to the **Research Papers in Economics (RePEc)**, his publications earned him third place out of eleven economists in Barbados, placed him among the top 16 percent in Central America and the Caribbean and in the top 18 percent in Latin America.

These new appointments bring the total new professors in the Faculty of Social Sciences to three within the past year, after Dean of the Faculty, Professor Justin Robinson received his promotion to professorship last June. (Please see page 67.) ♦

Barrow Papers Acquired

Prime Ministerial papers belonging to one of the architects of regionalism and longest serving prime ministers of Barbados are now part of the specialist collection at the Sidney Martin Library of the Cave Hill Campus.

The acquisition of the documents of the **Right Excellent Errol Walton Barrow, National Hero and father of independent Barbados**, has been hailed as an invaluable educational resource by university officials.

Barrow was instrumental in the formation of the **Caribbean Free Trade Association (CARIFTA)**, which became the Caribbean Community (**CARICOM**) following the collapse of the West Indies Federation in 1962.

The Sidney Martin Library also holds the microfiche collection of the documents of **Prime Minister Maurice Bishop** and the **People's Revolutionary Government of Grenada**. Bishop overthrew the then administration in a military coup in 1979 but was himself slain years later. That revolution was the focus of a symposium and the **34th Elsa Goveia Memorial Lecture** held at Cave Hill. (Please see page 18 "**Lessons from a Revolution**".)

Other papers that provide critical information on the political, economic and social history and governance in the region come from another of Barbados's longest-serving prime ministers and Professor of Practice, the **Right Honourable Owen Seymour Arthur**.

The library also has the papers of the first woman prime minister in the Commonwealth Caribbean, **Dame Eugenia Charles** of Dominica; Barbados's first female Governor General, **Dame Nita Barrow**; internationally renowned scholar, **Professor George Lamming**, and others.

To add to these notable acquisitions, the campus is hopeful that the estates of other former prime ministers will make their prime ministerial papers available to its special collection, as this would enable researchers to study the evolution of the political, economic and social history and governance of the region. ♦

Over 80 tourism experts and academics converged on Cave Hill Campus last December to brainstorm on the state of the industry.

Navigating Future Destinations

They were participants in the 4th Caribbean-International Tourism Conference held during 11-13 December in partnership with the University of North Carolina Wilmington; California State University, Northridge; University of Sunderland, University of Guyana and University of St. Martin.

The conference is a cross-campus initiative and was first hosted at Cave Hill in 2009, followed by St. Augustine in 2012 and Mona in 2014.

Among the countries and states represented were China, France, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, Poland, the Netherlands, Solomon Islands, Jamaica, Cayman Islands, Trinidad and Tobago, and The Bahamas.

This conference was held under the theme **Navigating the Destination of the Future** and provided a forum for critical



Dr. Andrew Spencer

discourse on the factors, challenges, trends, innovations, policies, opportunities, and practices that were likely to have the most influence on the destinations.

Some of the session themes examined over three days were **Niche Tourism: Products and Markets; Tourism and Governance; Tourism and Technology; Sustainable Destinations through Education and Communities; Tourism**

Impacts: Social, Economic, Cultural; Tourism Marketing and Service Experiences; Tourism: Citizenship, Ethics, and Responsible Practices; and Tourism: The Economy, Strategy and Investment.

Keynote addresses were delivered by Dr. Andrew Spencer on the topic “**Future Destination: Assured Destination**”, Dr. Nikolaos Pappas from the University of Sunderland on “**Tourism Development and Generated Crises**”, and Professor Tazim Jamal on “**Navigating New Realities and New Normals in the Sustainable Destinations of the Future**”.

One of the principal organisers, Senior Lecturer in Tourism and Deputy Dean, Research from the Faculty of Social Sciences at Cave Hill, Dr. Sherma Roberts, said the event looked at cutting-edge issues that would affect the future of tourism, strengthened collaboration with other universities with whom The University of the West Indies has memoranda of understanding, provided publication opportunities for participants with high-quality journals and exposed students to a different research environment.

In reflecting on the conference, Dr. Roberts stated that the intellectual, experiential and practical exchanges were rich, and the discussions provided an opportunity for academia and industry to confront together the multiplicity of transformations that are taking place at the micro and macro levels, and to craft solutions that stakeholders hope would influence destination policy and practice. ♦



Conference participants (from left): Karen Hana, Dr. Mechelle Best, Dr. Nikolaos Pappas, Dr. Sherma Roberts (conference Chair), Dr. Alexia Franzidis, Dr. Leon Mach and Dr. Acolia Lewis-Cameron

Creativity to the FORE

A new era is being ushered in at Cave Hill Campus from this year when a Faculty of Culture, Creative and Performing Arts is launched on 1 August, a date which commemorates Emancipation Day in the region.

The move raises the curtain for Caribbean indigenous art forms to be spotlighted in an unprecedented manner on the highest academic stage, and is being heralded by veteran cultural activists, including long-time advocates for the creative arts sector, to receive more formal recognition.



Dr. Cynthia Wilson

"I think it's an excellent idea though a bit long in coming," said **Dr. Cynthia Wilson**, an acclaimed Caribbean cultural arts practitioner whose work in the industry spans over five decades.

The icon is the recipient of Barbados's second highest national recognition, the **Companion of Honour**, and has had an arts lecture theatre in the Faculty of Humanities and Education at Cave Hill renamed in her honour.

Stalwart entertainer and cultural icon the **Most Honourable Anthony Nicholas "Mighty Gabby" Carter** described the development as forward-thinking: *"I want to congratulate whoever decided to take this initiative because it's like the embryo of great things to come, not just for Barbados but the entire Eastern Caribbean and even further afield, because people would also come to learn about Caribbean culture."*

The Mighty Gabby is one of Barbados's cultural ambassadors and was one of two persons to recently receive the country's first indigenous and highest national honour, the **Order of Freedom of Barbados**. He also holds an honorary doctorate from The UWI.

Renowned author and academic **Professor George Lamming** has welcomed the move while suggesting that teaching of arts be inculcated in primary schools and honed further at the secondary stage. He also suggested the creation of synergies between the **Barbados Community College** and **The UWI, Cave Hill** to harness the talent of creatives and enable the new faculty to achieve major impact.



Professor the Most Hon. V. Eudine Barriteau

Acclaimed poet and Lecturer in the Faculty of Humanities and Education at the campus **Dr. Margaret Gill** also gave full support to the new faculty once it *"promotes the survivability of artists and the art we produce"*.

It was on 31 October 2019 that the highest decision-making body of The UWI, the institution's Senate, approved the establishment of the new faculty that will offer multidisciplinary and cross-faculty teachings, becoming the seventh faculty at Cave Hill and the ninth within The UWI system.

It will be driven by a focus on deepening critical studies of Caribbean culture and identity as well as global economic imperatives that centre the creative industry within the academy.

The aim is to empower graduates to generate personal and national wealth, local intellectual property rights, new employment opportunities, jobs and businesses regionally. It also opens a new



Dr. Margaret Gill

conversation regarding the Caribbean as an owner and rights holder rather than a participant in the global creative economy that today accounts for USD\$2.225 billion or three percent of the world's gross domestic product.

Observing that a majority of artists in the Caribbean were operating seasonally rather than year-round, Vice-Chancellor of The UWI, **Professor Sir Hilary Beckles** said: "Far too few are on the international stage producing outputs and generating revenues from global production, marketing, and distribution from a home-based commercial enterprise that is generating employment opportunities, building new sectors and earning foreign exchange for the domestic economy."

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the Cave Hill Campus, **the Most Honourable Professor V. Eudine Barriteau** said the faculty's establishment is an acknowledgement by The UWI that the Orange Economy represents the business of the region's immediate future, including the creative industries such as film, animation, the gaming industry, theatre, dance, painting, sculpture, performance, the music industry and video production.

"The faculty endorses The UWI's commitment to develop these sectors for intellectual, economic and aesthetic purposes and assures that there will be an emphasis on both greater research into Caribbean culture and the business of the creative industries."

Artists also see benefits of recognition and respect being accorded to industry practitioners.

"When you say you're doing anything

"We are steeped in colonialism and neocolonialism. We were led to think that if you didn't excel in academia, with mathematics and science and things like those, you were secondary, which is far from the truth."

the Most Hon. Anthony Nicholas
"Mighty Gabby" Carter

in the arts, some people often respond, 'Why don't you get a job?' So it would legitimise not only people's work but the people themselves," Principal Barriteau said, adding that culture is civilisation and there must be recognition that it defines us as a people.

Dr. Gill thinks the faculty will further institutionalise culture rather than legitimise practitioners, thereby creating a space for artists and their work to blossom: "I hope that this institutionalisation will give focus. It will give more Barbadians an opportunity to take the microphone and help to grow local self-confidence because there is a tremendous attack on the confidence of people who produce at very high levels in this country."

She pointed out that the **Economic Partnership Agreement**, which was signed in 2008 between the **European Union** and the **Caribbean Forum (CARIFORUM)**, has had little success relative to exporting culture on a significant scale. Nonetheless, she noted that advancements have been made at the national level.

"We have a high number of individuals at the policy level who promote culture, yet the artists still feel left behind. I want to

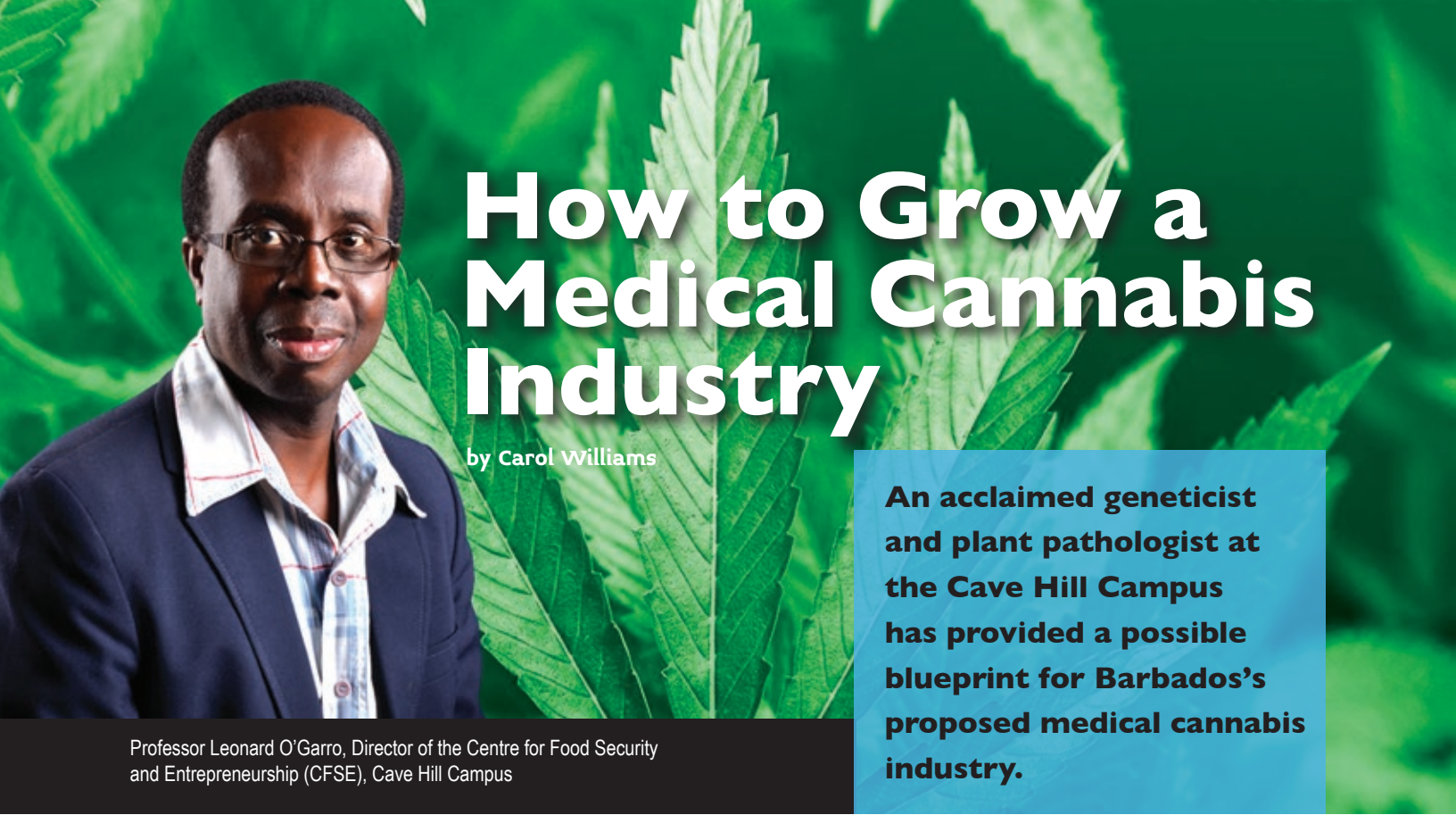


Professor George Lamming

praise what is happening at the **Barbados Community College** where their music programme is receiving considerable acclaim. If we can have a Faculty of Culture that can do something similar for the arts, not to compete with the community college but strengthen the programme offered to artists, then I look forward to seeing what the Faculty of Culture can do."

The Mighty Gabby recalled a culture of disrespect meted out to those in the industry who continue to fight for legitimacy of the work therein: "We are steeped in colonialism and neocolonialism. We were led to think that if you didn't excel in academia, with mathematics and science and things like those, you were secondary, which is far from the truth. If there is one Caribbean country where that perception is disproven, it is Cuba. The Cubans have equated culture with everything else they have."

"As this develops, it's going to help the economies because research has shown that the Caribbean has to thrive on culture. So it's just that we are about to take baby steps that would lead to giant steps where culture is concerned. I want to congratulate Professor Eudine Barriteau on this initiative. She has achieved a lot in a very short time. There are people who will be reluctant, as has been the case in the past, to put financial backing behind the idea, but there are others who are thinking differently and understand the importance of culture to a country. I see this as being the impetus that would help the economy, alongside tourism and other industries. It's time to diversify and take culture seriously." ♦



How to Grow a Medical Cannabis Industry

by Carol Williams

Professor Leonard O'Garro, Director of the Centre for Food Security and Entrepreneurship (CFSE), Cave Hill Campus

An acclaimed geneticist and plant pathologist at the Cave Hill Campus has provided a possible blueprint for Barbados's proposed medical cannabis industry.

Renowned scientist Professor Leonard O'Garro said the Government should ensure that food security remains a top priority in the pursuit of the lucrative industry, while serious thought must be given to a financial mechanism to accommodate related businesses.

Titled **"Medical Cannabis: Going After the Economic High or Crashing Low"**, the lecture by Professor O'Garro not only looked at the relevant laws and associated standards that would govern Barbados's industry but outlined ways it should be treated to become sustainable.

He noted that Barbados needed 14,000 acres of arable land to meet its food security target and argued that the Government should not pursue a medical cannabis industry at the expense of this.

"If we are going to promote field cultivation of medical cannabis on a significant scale, this is the only land we can draw from. The point is that we should not advance medical cannabis at the expense of food security. What I suggest is that the licence fees be set at a sum which provides sufficient money to improve agricultural productivity whilst you incorporate medical cannabis cultivation. There is significant benefit in improving productivity, but it requires funding."

The Director at Cave Hill's Centre for Food Security and Entrepreneurship (CFSE) underscored the importance of having a financial mechanism to handle industry-generated funds, given the reluctance of financial institutions in some international jurisdictions to handle such proceeds.

"There is fear in trade, particularly if it involves US institutions. Banks and airlines are concerned about participating in medical cannabis trade whilst it is not sanctioned by their federal government. It's Barbados that must sort these things out so that foreign investors can feel free to move and invest money and move their products in cross-border situations not having to fear sanctions."

"Barbados has to decide how it's going to do this; whether it's going to set up a new bank, because I have read that some of the commercial banks and credit unions have said they're not going to get involved in it. That is a problem for investors because they need to move money; they need to borrow money; they need to trade and so forth. This is something the country has to work at."

Starting a medical cannabis business could cost upwards of BBD\$4.5 million, according to the CFSE head, with the most significant expenditure being the

construction of the production facility and obtaining the necessary equipment. Each of these aspects could cost around BBD\$2 million. The wages and salaries of regular managerial staff could likely run up to BBD\$1.7 million annually, and specialist oversight was estimated at BBD\$550,000.

As it relates to the actual plant, Professor O'Garro said the sale of dried flower buds could cost BBD\$3,750 per pound. Painting a broader picture, he said the average yield per square metre of those flower buds is 750 grams, which could rake in up to BBD \$11.25 million annually.

However, rather than limiting itself to supplying the raw material, the expert believes attention should be paid to value-added production, which would bring in more money.

"Israel is the trailblazer for innovation in medical cannabis and the local medical cannabis sector must embrace innovation as a built-in component from inception," he said. "If you don't set up medical cannabis as an innovation system, it will not deliver the kinds of benefits you are interested in, because it fits into an innovation system."

The professor did not exclude from his lecture the monumental challenge of chronic non-communicable diseases (CNCDs) and other health challenges facing Barbados. He noted the findings of a Ministry of Health and Wellness report which concluded that about 33 percent of the adult population would be affected by CNCDs by 2020, and the diseases would account for 86 percent of deaths ten years later.

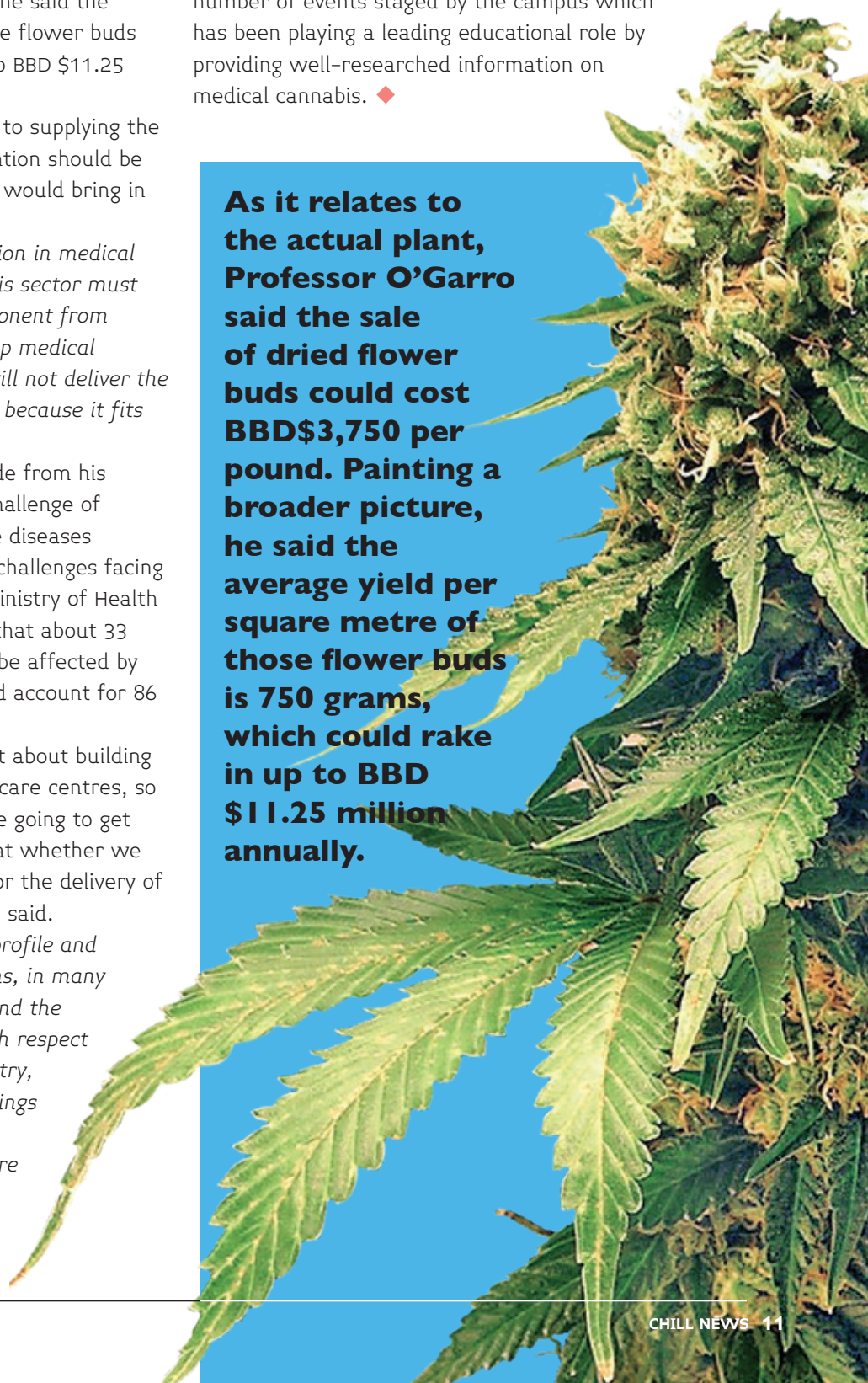
"It is obvious that the solution is not about building more hospitals or building more healthcare centres, so we now have to think about how we're going to get medicines to people. We need to look at whether we can develop a well-regulated system for the delivery of medicinal cannabis," Professor O'Garro said.

"With respect to the demographic profile and the health burden impacting Barbadians, in many ways this is a very specific situation, and the question is how do you cater for it with respect to medicine. The pharmaceutical industry, generally, will produce medicine for things that are common, but if you have very peculiar situations in your space, they're not going to adjust production for you. Even if [medicine] is available, it is going to be exorbitantly expensive.

Therefore, we now have an opportunity to see how we can use the advent of medical cannabis to develop new drugs and to cater for peculiar demographics. If a lot of other people do not suffer significantly with the ailments, you are not going to get the drugs; so you now have to see how you can customise this to deal with some of your health burdens."

The lecture by Professor O'Garro was among a number of events staged by the campus which has been playing a leading educational role by providing well-researched information on medical cannabis. ♦

As it relates to the actual plant, Professor O'Garro said the sale of dried flower buds could cost BBD\$3,750 per pound. Painting a broader picture, he said the average yield per square metre of those flower buds is 750 grams, which could rake in up to BBD \$11.25 million annually.





Panellists Urge Education Reform

A probing analysis of Barbados's school system has found it deficient to meet current needs, with participants in a panel discussion recommending drastic change.



Mr. Peter Wickham, Director of Caribbean Development Research Services (CADRES)



Dr. Ian Marshall, Lecturer in the School of Education

Director of Caribbean Development Research Services (CADRES) Peter Wickham, a renowned pollster and radio talk show moderator, took particular issue with the **Barbados Secondary Schools Entrance Exam (BSSEE)** that is commonly known as the Common Entrance or 11-Plus Examination.

"It is creating educational ghettos and a culture of academic snobbery", Wickham said during a panel discussion organised in October 2019 by the Office of Alumni Relations, an office within the Student Enrolment and Retention Unit (SERU) of the Cave Hill Campus.

The discussion was titled **"Developing**

Education that is Fit for Purpose" and featured Lecturer in the School of Education, Dr. Ian Marshall; veteran educator and Principal of Queen's College, Dr. David Browne; and President of the Cave Hill Guild of Students, Thacher Loutin.

Wickham lamented that the focus appeared to be passing the BSSEE and aspiring to attend a 'good school' rather than identifying and nurturing skills in children.

"So, you basically administered an exam which seemed to be fair because everyone, regardless of their economic background, had the opportunity to enter a grammar school and to be able to have the best opportunities in life. I appreciate there

was a time that was probably appropriate [but] I think we have gone way past that. We are still struggling with this essential burden that we have placed on ourselves called 11-Plus. It is the root of certainly many problems," he said.

"When you move from there [primary] to the secondary school and you have excellence being defined in terms of CXC, CAPE and a number of subjects, the level of academic snobbery that starts with the 11-Plus is taken forward into that level. It is about the number of subjects, a particular type of subject, and you need to get those in order to move on. As I said, it introduces a certain level of snobbery."

In his assessment, Dr. Marshall said the system was elitist from inception and could

not be fixed overnight.

The lecturer predicted that those who have benefitted from the system would fight 'tooth and nail' to maintain the status quo.

"The only way to address this is to change how we, as a people, view education. We are talking about a generational shift in mindsets. Finland took about 40 years to achieve what is the envy of the world, so we have to start thinking about second-order rather than first-order change. First-order change merely tinkers with the system, leaving its roots and supporting framework firmly intact.



Dr. David Browne, Principal of Queen's College

However, second-order change uproots, dismantles and rebuilds on new foundation.

"If change must come, it must come at a cost. The things we hold dear and the things that define us as a people will have to go through a seismic shift, and that will take years. There are no quick fixes. The elitist system we inherited was birthed way back in slavery and some would argue, before."

To bring about lasting change, Dr. Marshall said the narrative about 'good school, bad school' must come to an end

and schools of excellence created to meet the specific needs of the society.

"Children would still complete certificates but assessment will be driven by competency-based standards, with focus on students who can seamlessly transition to the relevant sectors," he added.

In his contribution, the Queen's College Principal lamented the apparent deterioration in societal values and morals, and questioned whether educators should only be devoted to teaching educational material.

A well-respected historian, Dr. Browne



Thacher Loutin, President of the Cave Hill Guild of Students

agreed that education was for the elite in the colonial and post-colonial period.

"The whole idea of educational reform has been on the books for the longest while. I have the white paper from 1995 and that was a statement of intention by the Ministry of Education then, to have fundamental educational reform. We are still debating it, so I'll say there's no quick fix for educational reform."

"In changing an educational system, it is more than turning out certificates and Barbados Scholarship and Exhibition

*winners. In 2011, at Queen's College we adopted the **Ideal Caribbean Person** concept. So apart from our values-based education, we have been adopting those concepts. I strongly believe that if we adopt that concept and push it in schools, not as part of the curriculum but to create well-rounded individuals, it can work."*

The concept of the **Ideal Caribbean Person** was formally adopted by the CARICOM Heads of Government in 1997 and describes the qualities such an individual should possess. These include, among other things: respect for human life; being emotionally secure with a high level of self-confidence and self-esteem; awareness of the importance of living in harmony with the environment; and having a strong appreciation of family and kinship values, community cohesion, and moral issues including responsibility for and accountability to self and community.

The Guild President, a former teacher in her native country, Jamaica, pointed out that many school leavers lack critical thinking, problem solving, communication, collaboration and creativity skills.

"It seems sometimes that we're trying to show that our children are getting smarter; and with better grades, they will magically be able to cope with everything that is put in front of them. Absolutely not! Pursuit of knowledge should be encouraged, but it needs a radical rethink if knowledge is no longer giving businesses what they need," Loutin said.

"To put it simply, it is no longer what you know, it is what you do with what you know, and just as we have refined our way of assessing academic knowledge, we must find a way to better evidence these critical soft skills."

Loutin concluded that all stakeholders have a critical role to play rather than making this the sole responsibility of educators. ♦

The Common Entrance or I I-Plus Examination is creating educational ghettos and a culture of academic snobbery.



Humanities: To Die or Not to Die?

by Margaret Gill PhD

After attending the 33rd Annual West Indian Literature Conference held at Cave Hill Campus in 2014, I allowed myself to think, for the first time, something that for me was previously unthinkable: If the humanities is to die, why not let it die? It may be a measure of my disconnection from reality that I experienced this as a profoundly shocking thought; after all, it is the common word in many places inside and outside of Barbados. Why not let the humanities die?

More than five years later, the debate over whether to preserve the humanities as tertiary-level study is still fresh, especially energised by the growing promotion of the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) disciplines.

The conference showed, I felt, a greater than usual anxiety and concern for the relevance of the humanities, in this case literature, and demonstrated this by the number of presentations that sought to show connection with the sciences. Several presenters coming from the United States of America (USA) shared that they often team teach with lecturers from faculties of science and technology, in pursuing concerns with environmental issues highlighted by artists of various sorts. The conference also radiated this anxiety by the dependence of many

presenters on the theory called ecocriticism, which is concerned with the uses of the environment in literature. Further, it struck me that a few presentations gave no apology for their complete lack of connection with any literature, oral or written, and just spoke in film or pictures accompanied by explanation by the presenter. It was as though the mode, rooted in film and photography technology through which they captured and presented their data, legitimised the exercise for a literature conference in these times.

I declare early my difficulties. Though I accept the validity of those practices just mentioned, that is, the uses of science and the non-literary in attempts to make meaning in critical practice, I am unconvinced that they justify relevance of literature or of the humanities. If anything, these positions cede ground to the primacy of something called 'science' (and technology) that few appear willing to sufficiently question, least of all the

people who ask about the relevance of the humanities.

To clarify the subject on the operating table before we go further, we shall name its parts - not a satisfactory way perhaps of defining any entity, but this method serves the sciences well and is, therefore, commonly acceptable. Let it serve for now. My *Oxford English Dictionary* might also serve the purpose of defining, though that too is suspect because of its ignorance of its own nation language/potwa (patois) status, but let that too serve: "*Humanities - plural noun deriving from humanity, the human race, and sharing meaning with compassion or benevolence - Learning or literature concerned with human culture, especially literature, history, art, music and philosophy.*" This definition makes the inclusive gesture towards human culture which allows us to add that, in The UWI, humanities includes languages and theology. (Traditionally, languages mean French and Spanish but now include Portuguese and Chinese, and theology means essentially Christianity.) Cultural Studies is a new addition which, if one takes its usual objects of study, is concerned with all the culture that was left out of the Eurocentric notion that some humans had culture and some did not.

The UWI faculty (at Cave Hill) that houses the humanities is currently called The Faculty of Humanities and Education, which is a merger that happened in 1996 between the Faculty of Arts and General Studies and the Faculty of Education. The specification, "and Education" was introduced in the faculty name in 2002 and suggests that education is perceived as separate from the humanities. Given that no one is questioning the relevance of education, that area is unlikely to face the demise bearing down on the humanities. This faith lies in the fact that education is conceived as concerned with teaching methods, modes of thought about teaching, and training of teachers in the craft. This appears to be the mandate and ethos of education. However, if we consider humanities also as training in practices, modes of thought and ways of relating, which is something that the *Oxford English Dictionary* enables, problems arise for me and bring forth what I did not want to consider: indeed, let humanities die. No? Yes?

The **33rd Annual West Indian Literature Conference** made me ask myself whether we are satisfied that humanities, as presently conceived, and the practices that give it meaning in our University of the West Indies really fit the cultures and humanities we have created in the crucible of this Caribbean. For example, I do not know why I feel that knowledge on a world scale (meaning wider than the Caribbean) about Vodun or Rastafari theologies has not been significantly impacted by contributions that studies out of the Caribbean have made to such development - a curious thing, given that these theologies are Caribbean creations. Popular thought on Vodun appear completely dominated by Hollywood depictions. As to Rastafari, is there any responsibility our humanities could bear in the apparent reduction, if not disappearance, of Rastafari Talk? Or did we not think that worthy of study beyond the

handful of studies on Dread Talk?

Should we not, in humanities, have made it a training practice to empower students and members of our communities, in general, to participate with established literary critics in the production of books/e-books? If production of critical books remains a foreign concept to most UWI graduates or other people for that matter, then might the current practice in the total university culture of linking book production to promotion and pay not bear significant responsibility? This practice effectively makes works of the creative imagination objects, like a frog, and the critic the scientist. We know that the frog does not come out of this exercise alive or knowing. Let us not talk of the scientist. It also makes the production of the book, as a thinking place, the domain of certain university workers almost exclusively. For some thinkers, the question may just be one of confidence in navigating the waters of publication, which could be solved by training and mentorship; but that confidence only happens in some waters, and is strange in some others.



I must say that the last time I offered the position above in relation to publishing poetry to a poet and scholar visiting Cave Hill, he asked me, 'Who is stopping you?' That is a very appealing counter. Taken positively, it means find your own way to find an audience. It could mean find your own

mentor, but in our present humanities' culture of promotion above all else, who has time or interest in mentoring? And in a global culture that tells young people to find your own money to educate yourself, who has the time to think, period?

Apart from the absence of any questioning about our ways of doing business as I suggest above, I felt discomfited at the literature conference by the already accepted and confirmed subordination of ecocriticism to science. This appendage status highlighted for me the palpable absence from our **33rd Annual West Indian Literature Conference** of not only the physical bodies of First Nation peoples of the Americas but of their literature or orature. After all, the theme of the conference was **Literature, Culture and**

... Continued on page 16

I do not know why I feel that knowledge on a world scale (meaning wider than the Caribbean) about Vodun or Rastafari theologies has not been significantly impacted by contributions that studies out of the Caribbean have made to such development - a curious thing, given that these theologies are Caribbean creations.

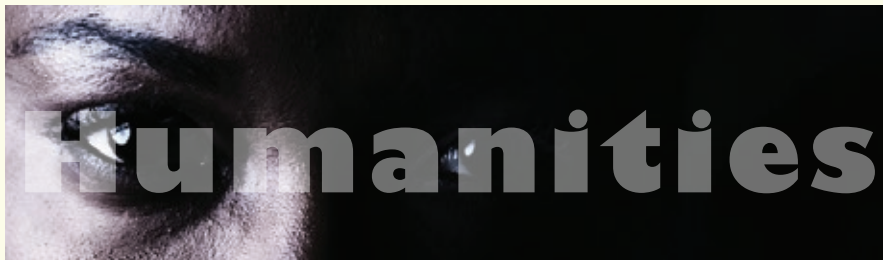
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the Environment and so much emphasis was placed on ecocriticism. Perhaps if First Nation people or African Americans had been there, then an explanation offered about ecocriticism would have raised flags in discussions.

That explanation was that ecocritics found that the theory which arose in the USA is different from that being done by Caribbean critics who have, in its use, raised issues about how history has already marked and ravaged landscapes and lives, so it is difficult to think of them in romantic or purely aesthetic terms. But then First Nation Americans, or those who are called African Americans, would have, I imagine, brought that knowledge forward also, long before the theory left its shores. Hence, the explanation about that difference between Caribbean ecocriticism and USA ecocriticism would have been forced to recognise the extreme limitations of the theory in a long-globalised world where massive displacements and replacements of peoples have not stopped happening. (It has been globalised certainly since 1492; but Ivan Van Sertima argued convincingly that Africans came before Columbus, and we know from historian Dr. Karl Watson that the so-called Amerindians of our region were doing it since biblical times, perhaps.)

And who to blame and who to pay? And ain't nobody ever going to have to say sorry or attempt to fix it through the very humanities? Just a small, small example: Might it not be urgent that some African language be taught at Cave Hill?

It feels as though Caribbean people, and people still called Third World and Developing, will always experience our humanity out of old metaphors and categories of master/slave, one in charge of thinking and the other of becoming - barely.



It feels as though Caribbean people, and people still called Third World and Developing, will always experience our humanity out of old metaphors and categories of master/slave, one in charge of thinking and the other of becoming - barely. And when one raises this critique, it feels very odd that it should be countered, as one deservedly well-respected speaker at the conference countered by making a call for us to just leave these categories behind us. It is as though differences created through colonisation and racism can be erased just by the saying. Really, these categories are what have forced us to think that science cannot be what the frog does by living, but is what the scientist does who cuts it up to learn about its nature. It is what makes us believe that it is only through this thing called science, but by which we really mean a particular conception of science, that the humanities will regain relevance, if humanities only would pay homage. Although, I admit, a course called Caribbean disasters in literature and history, created with inputs from the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) along with the Department of Language, Linguistics and Literature and the Department of History and Philosophy could well excite students.

I tired. If only it were

possible to think in nation language without constantly having to defend it. Maybe then we might begin to see that the only thing that disciplines do is discipline you. Maybe then I can ask serious questions without being called "troublemaker", and I could be more benevolent in my critiques. I am always being called that, and I am always acerbic in my critiques of stuff I hear and see.

I admit I feel alarmed whenever I see a dying. When the demise is caused by a slow, tortured death, perhaps it may very well be time to allow this particular humanities to die. Might a new one be reborn that is equal to and true to Caribbean livy? ♦

Dr. Margaret D. Gill is a locally and internationally awarded poet and has received the 2016 Barbados Oshe Emeka (Great Deeds) Award for her contributions to the development of culture.

Undergraduate research has found a direct association between the performance of secondary school students and the involvement of parents in their education.

Study: Parent Role Key in Educational Performance



The results of the study “Parental Involvement, Family Functioning and Academic Engagement in

Caribbean Secondary School Students”

which was conducted by Lois Ward, were presented at the **14th Annual Child Research Conference (CRC)** held in November at the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre.

The CRC was hosted by the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES), Cave Hill Campus and the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF).

Clinical Psychologist and Lecturer in the School of Education Dr. Mia Amour Jules presented the findings on behalf of Ward, her former student, who had argued that student engagement was vital for any country to achieve sustainable development goals.

“She’s saying students need to be engaged in their learning so that they can develop and foster ways of creating



Dr. Mia Amour Jules, Clinical Psychologist and Lecturer in the School of Education, Cave Hill

a sustainable world. She argues that the family unit is key. It is a small piece of the puzzle, but depending on the demographic we’re dealing with, it might arguably be the most important,” Dr. Jules said.

To gather the data, Ward conducted a survey and utilised self-reporting methods by students. Some 347 students from two secondary schools took part in the study, 44 percent male and 56 percent female.

The study sought to answer five questions: (1) Is there a relationship between perceived family function and

academic engagement? (2) Is there a relationship between perceived parental involvement and academic engagement? (3) Is there a relationship between students’ form-level and academic engagement? (4) Do students perceive mothers’ and fathers’ level of involvement differently? and (5) Are there gender differences with regards to students’ academic engagement?

Analysis of the data allowed Ward to conclude “yes” to the aforementioned questions. Data also indicated that students’ level of academic engagement decreased as they got older and went through higher forms. Dr. Jules said most of the answers were unsurprising and confirmed what has long been suspected.

“Mothers were also seen as the primary individuals giving support to the child as it pertains to homework and so on, not fathers,” she said.

“Female students were again more engaged than males. We don’t want to stereotype that females prefer the classroom and males don’t. I think part of the issue, when looking at these differences between genders, has to do with the variable of student engagement. In the study, student engagement was measured by focusing more on class-based activities. But on reflection, we should have gathered a wider breadth of information so that we capture the unique experiences of both male and female students as they engage in all school activities, not just in the context of the classroom.”

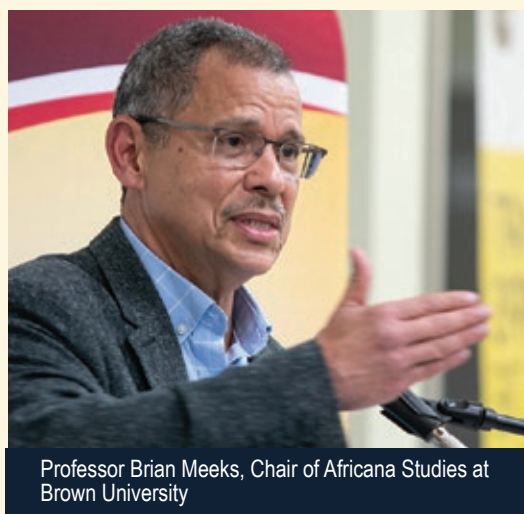
The lecturer said the results raised some critical questions, and added that Ward had suggested workshops and discussion forums in response to some of the issues.

Ward has since obtained her BA Psychology degree from The UWI and is an associate teacher at the **John Watson School** in Oxford, England. ♦



Lessons from a REVOLUTION

Some 40 years ago, the people of the region were riveted as one of the most tumultuous periods in recent Caribbean political history played out in Grenada.



Professor Brian Meeks, Chair of Africana Studies at Brown University

It began in 1979 with the overthrow of the Government of Eric Gairy by the Maurice Bishop-led New Jewel Movement and ended in 1983 with the entry of military forces led by the United States.

Now, historians, political scientists and other academics say there are lessons to be learnt from **The Grenada Revolution** in which dozens of people were slain, including revolutionary Prime Minister Bishop.

The events of the four-and-a-half-year period and its legacy came under the

spotlight at two major events that Cave Hill Campus staged last October to mark the revolution's 40th anniversary. These were the **34th Elsa Goveia Memorial Lecture** and **The Grenada Revolution Symposium**.

The lecture was delivered by Chair of Africana Studies at **Brown University** in the United States, Professor Brian Meeks, who noted, among other things, the robust performance of the Grenada economy in the 1980s, unlike neighbouring countries.

However, this was not the thesis of his presentation. Instead, the visiting academic said there were three main lessons to be learned from the revolution: the need for alacrity and flexibility in leadership, credibility, and the importance of democracy and transparency.

Professor Meeks pointed out that the Bishop regime had altered its approach to development from one that was community-based to a foreign investment-led model, with the construction of an

airport leading the way. This came after the realisation that the relatively high consumption level on the island would create difficulties.

“The ability and willingness of the leadership to pivot, to bob and weave, to the exigencies of the global economy had yielded enormous benefits in the choice of the airport model, and this flexibility augured well for the future,” he said.

Additionally, the Jamaica-born academic noted that the regime quickly earned a reputation for being credible and honest when, after taking office, it opted not to dismiss public servants supportive of the former prime minister, who was known for his authoritarianism and arbitrary actions.

“There was no credible narrative of corruption from the leadership to be found in the archival records or any of the many commentaries.”

He added, *“More than anywhere else in the Caribbean, up to that moment in time, the revolution sought to bring people into the process of economic planning and management through a*

layered process of critiques, proposals and responses that began in zonal councils, went up to parish councils and ended in national budget debates of which three were held. The mystery of the economy and of economics was slowly being unravelled.”

Professor Meeks agreed there were still many unanswered questions about the event that left lasting trauma and significantly changed the trajectory of the Grenada society.

“In the period between 1979 and 1983, there were extraordinary steps to make Grenada a more cohesive country in which people were involved in deciding their future. Many of these were not government-led; they were led by people taking their lives into their own hands. After 1983, this continued but in distorted ways as a result of what happened.”

The event was discussed further at the symposium that featured an esteemed panel of academics and professionals.

Senior Lecturer in Political Science and Head of the Department of Government, Sociology, Social Work and Psychology at Cave Hill, Grenadian Dr. Wendy Grenade, who has published on the revolution, presented on the topic **“Governance & Democratization in Post-revolutionary Grenada: Possibilities, Contradictions & Lessons”**.

She linked the events of the period to

what is occurring in present-day Grenada and stated there continued to be an entrenched culture of political tribalism and a bitter political divide, antagonistic state/society relations across sectors and an absence of consensus on large national issues such as constitutional reform.

In addition to Professor Meeks and Dr. Grenade, the other panellists were retired managing editor of **The Nation Publishing Co. Limited**, Tim Slinger, who covered the revolution, its post-military intervention court trial and related events; and Dr. David Hinds, Associate Professor of African and African American Studies with a concentration on Caribbean and African Diaspora Studies at Arizona State University.

Having written extensively on the events after interviewing some of the key figures and following the subsequent trial, Slinger was able to recount some of his experiences.

In his contribution, Dr. Hinds said it was instructive that the Grenada revolution occurred at a time of rebellions and insurrections across the Caribbean, including in Union Island, Dominica, St. Lucia and Suriname. ♦

Panellists from left: Dr. Wendy Grenade, Professor Brian Meeks, Tim Slinger, Dr. Henderson Carter and Dr. David Hinds



In Celebration of Nurses & Midwives

by Dr. Wendy Sealy



Dr. Wendy Sealy

Two critical healthcare professions are receiving global attention this year, designated **International Year of the Nurse and Midwife**.

On 24 May 2019 at the **72nd World Health Assembly**, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** designated the year 2020 as the **Year of the Nurse and Midwife**. Over the decades, a number of achievements have been made. Within the context of the development of modern nursing, however, this recognition by WHO is signal, for it is the first time in history that nations will unite in celebration of the benefits that nursing and midwifery bring to the health of the global population.

This decision was supported by Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus,

Director General of WHO who, in his statement following the announcement of the designation, indicated that WHO was proud to nominate 2020 as the **Year of the Nurse and Midwife** since these two professions are invaluable to the health of people everywhere. He further stated that without nurses and midwives, the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or universal health coverage would not be achieved.

Prior to this announcement, the **Nursing Now**, a three-year global campaign jointly coordinated by the **International Council of Nurses (ICN)** and the **WHO**, launched the **Nightingale Challenge 2020** that calls for every employer of nurses globally to provide leadership and development training for young nurses and midwives. The overall goal is for at least 20, 000 young nurses and midwives throughout the world to benefit from this initiative in 2020. The aim of the **Nursing Now** campaign is to improve health globally, while empowering nurses to enhance

gender equality and to build stronger economies.

In Barbados, the **Nursing Now** campaign was launched in December 2019 by the **Barbados Nurses Association**, in collaboration with the **Ministry of Health and Wellness**, and will be hosting a number of activities throughout the year to recognise and support the work of nurses in Barbados.

At The UWI, Cave Hill, which registered its first cohort of students for the Master of Science in Nursing (Education/Administration) degree in September 2018, activities are being planned for a year-long celebration of nurses and midwives from Barbados and the Caribbean region. ♦

Dr. Wendy Sealy is Programme Coordinator, Master of Science in Nursing Programme at the Cave Hill Campus and former Chief Nursing Officer in the Ministry of Health and Wellness.



2020
INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF THE NURSE AND
THE MIDWIFE



Dr. Kenneth Connell, Lecturer in the Faculty of Medical Sciences

Connell the New Campus Voice

Cave Hill Campus has a new Public Orator.

Dr. Kenneth Connell, Lecturer in the Faculty of Medical Sciences and former Deputy Dean (Preclinical) assumed the position in January, replacing former Senior Lecturer in Law and Deputy Dean (Postgraduate) Jefferson Cumberbatch who has taken up a new appointment as a Justice of Appeal at the Supreme Court of Barbados.

Speaking on his new appointment, Dr. Connell shared that he was always captivated with the art of public speaking: *"I still remember the uninhibited excitement of delivering the welcome [address] at the Sunday School Christmas concert at the age of 5 years old."*

The opportunity has further significance for Dr. Connell as two of his clinical mentors – Professor Sir Henry Fraser, Professor Emeritus, Medicine and Clinical Pharmacology, Cave Hill Campus; and Professor Surujpal Teelucksingh, Professor of Medicine and Endocrinology, St. Augustine Campus – previously served as public orators at their respective campuses.

"I am very blessed to have studied at the feet of giants at our great university, and to have witnessed at the clinical stage, with Ciceronian eloquence, the satisfaction of celebrating the healing art," he added.

His appointment officially began in January 2020 and is expected to run three years from this date.

The public orator is a traditional, official post at universities, acting at Cave Hill as the voice of The UWI on public occasions. ♦

Adams Awarded for Excellence



Dr. Peter Adams, Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences

The Faculty of Medical Sciences at Cave Hill Campus had much to celebrate last October when one of their own received The UWI Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence.

Dean of the Faculty Dr. Peter Adams, whose research includes a focus on aspects of chronic non-communicable diseases and sexually transmitted infections relevant to the practice of family medicine, received one of the two **Globalisation Awards for International Collaboration**.

Dr. Adams is recognised as one of the lead persons on the **Eastern Caribbean Health Outcomes Research Network (ECHORN)** project. The project is a collaboration between **Yale School of Medicine, The University of the West Indies** (Cave Hill and St. Augustine Campuses), **University of the Virgin Islands** and the **University of Puerto Rico**. The research study is the first of its kind in the English-speaking Caribbean and examines the lifestyles, eating habits, and health behaviours associated with cancer.

The second **Globalisation Award for International Collaboration** was conferred upon the **Global Access to Postsecondary Education (GAPS)** project that is based at the Mona Campus. ♦

An indefatigable medical practitioner and a prolific psychology researcher were the two academics among six recipients honoured with the **2019 Principal's Award for Excellence** at The UWI, Cave Hill Campus.

Lecturer in Clinical Pharmacology **Dr. Kenneth Connell**, who holds an exhaustive list of local, regional and international positions, was recognised for **Outstanding Public Service** and **Professor Donna-Maria Maynard** was honoured for **Outstanding Research Accomplishments** during the campus's Annual Staff Awards and Retirees Ceremony on 23 November.

Dr. Jennifer Hurley and **Veronica Jones** were awarded for **Outstanding Service to the Campus Community** in the administrative, technical and service staff category, while **Dr. Yolande Cooke** and **Chelston Lovell** were recognised for **Outstanding Service to the Campus and University Community** from among the professional staff.

Six Saluted for Excellence



Dr. Kenneth Connell

Outstanding Public Service

Even on a campus full of high achievers, it would be difficult to overlook Dr. Kenneth Connell who is constantly on the move in local, regional and international medical circles, contributing significantly to public education in the management of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

A medical consultant who lectures in clinical pharmacology, his passion for treating and researching hypertension sees him serving as consultant in charge

of the Hypertension Clinic at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Barbados and a member of the World Health Organization's (WHO's) Hypertension Guideline Development Group for Diagnosis and Pharmacological Treatment of Hypertension in Adults.

He enjoys a stellar international profile: Invited Fellow of the American College of Physicians (FACP), Fellow of the International Society of Hypertension, Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (FRCP) and Invited Fellow of the American College of Cardiology (FACC), the latter based on his contributions to hypertension and cardiovascular science.

He became the youngest Governor of the American College of Physicians Caribbean Chapter in 2015 and has served as President of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Barbados since 2017. Dr. Connell also chairs the Barbados Drug Formulary committee and is a member of the Barbados Medical Council and the Healthy Caribbean Coalition.

At the campus, he chairs the Principal's Task Force for International Outreach

for the Faculty of Medical Sciences as well as the Cave Hill Campus/University of Ghana transnational programme articulation agreement committee.



Professor Donna-Maria Maynard

Outstanding Research Accomplishments

With a research agenda comprising three overlapping strands – clinical, counseling and educational – Professor Donna-Maria Maynard generates a commendable body of published works.

In the past five years alone, she has published 28 pieces of scholarship, of which 13 were refereed journal articles, three non-refereed journal articles, three technical reports, one encyclopedia article and eight online publications.

One of The UWI's most recently promoted professors, Dr. Donna Maynard has taught psychology and counselling in the Caribbean for the past 19 years. Over that time, she has provided research and clinical supervision for psychologists and counsellors in training.

Her work focuses on adolescents and emerging adults, identity development, sexuality, psychological assessment and psycho-educational issues affecting students and teachers, and has informed several policy recommendations within the education sector at many levels.

A widely cited scholar with cross-faculty and multi-centric collaborations that extend in the region and beyond, she also contributes to the future of the scientific and culturally relevant knowledge base of psychology in the Caribbean by providing research supervision for students.

She is currently conducting research with international collaborators that is geared towards the promotion and support of early detection of children with learning disabilities and learning difficulties. The goal is to develop culturally relevant, effective interventions to assist students with these learning challenges.



Mrs. Veronica Jones

Outstanding Service to the Campus Community

Demonstrating creative leadership that is lauded beyond the boundaries of Cave Hill Campus, Veronica Jones's contribution at the Institute for Gender and Development Studies: Nita Barrow Unit (IGDS:NBU) enables it to deliver a quality of work that belies its small size and resource constraints.

She is described as a consummate administrator and event planner who has been instrumental in astutely managing funds for research and outreach projects, some of which are regional in scope and include addressing juvenile justice, civil society organisation strengthening, gender and infrastructural provisions to ensure sensitivity to persons with disabilities.

Jones's appointment to the IGDS:NBU in 2015 was seen as her return to the realm of gender relations, having started her career at the Women and Development Unit in 1982. Her knowledge of work across various departments has enabled her to facilitate an efficient workflow and improve communication across the campus.

International partners have demonstrated a high level of confidence in her project management skills that are credited as one of main drivers for the institute's ability to attract and undertake a growing number of research and outreach projects.



Dr. Yolande Cooke

Outstanding Service to the Campus and University Community

One of Cave Hill's most aspirational capital projects at present, the revitalisation of the Faculty of Science and Technology, has Dr. Yolande Cooke as a driving force in its vanguard. Renowned for her great efficiency in project implementation, she possesses a track record of successful execution of several major university events.

Dr. Cooke joined the University Office of Planning and Development in 2012. Since 2014, she has held the post of Programme Officer in the Office of the Principal, playing a pivotal role in carrying out projects such as the opening of the Mandela Freedom Park, the inaugural Biosecurity Symposium and the Barbados Launch of UWI Global Giving Week.

Often lauded for her attention to detail, foresight and going beyond the call of duty in her undertakings, Dr. Cooke's engagement with local and international stakeholders has yielded unanticipated progress.

She is one of the university's foremost resources in guiding staff on the writing of grant proposals, served on one of the working groups that supported The UWI's reaccreditation process and is a leading figure in the oversight committee established to seek funding for the revitalisation of the Faculty of Science and Technology.



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Dr. Jennifer Hurley

Outstanding Service to the Campus Community

Keeping track of a dozen projects with researchers all over the Caribbean is no easy task, but Dr. Jennifer Hurley does it with consummate ease as part of her vast range of administrative duties.

Dr. Hurley has been Administrative Assistant in the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) since 2008, having started off as a secretary in 1990.

She is well-respected for her administrative and financial acumen, sharp analytical mind, unflappable demeanour and renowned for her support of that department's very active applied research, development and outreach programme. She is often acclaimed for her ease in adapting to and discharging complex project requirements. Her quiet dependability is a signature quality that her colleagues can rely on in the daily operations of the centre.

That calmness of spirit is nurtured outside of her work life by walking her dog, gardening and reading French literature in which she has her degrees.



Mr. Chelston Lovell

Outstanding Service to the Campus and University Community

Advising and coordinating media strategies in support of the university's objectives, Chelston Lovell has been credited for the successful implementation of several communication initiatives that have significantly improved the campus's public profile.

Lovell joined the university as Communications Officer in 2004 and was promoted to Director of Marketing and Communications last August. His active participation on numerous campus event committees and canvassing of the media landscape for promotion opportunities facilitate sustained media coverage of university activity and accomplishments.

Under his tenure, the introduction of a vibrant campus magazine that highlights staff and student engagement and achievements as well as the provision of media engagement guidance to university management, researchers and student leaders have positively impacted stakeholder perception of university operations. ♦

From Left: Dr. Kenneth Connell, Professor Donna-Maria Maynard, Mrs. Veronica Jones, Principal V. Eudine Barribeau, Dr. Yolande Cooke, Dr. Jennifer Hurley and Mr. Chelston Lovell





Call for Fairer Trade Governance

Fifteen years after a Caribbean state won a historic trade dispute against the United States for which they still await compensation, a trade specialist is calling for greater inclusion of small states at the negotiation table of world trade governance.



Dr. Jan Yves Remy, Deputy Director of the Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy and Services

“Rule making at the international trade arena should incorporate the needs of small states, and the rules should be fair and proportionate,” Deputy Director of The UWI, Cave Hill’s Shridath Ramphal Centre Dr. Jan Yves Remy stated.

She offered the remarks while presenting on a panel discussion at a **World Trade Organization (WTO)** public forum held in Geneva last October. The WTO is an intergovernmental organisation that is concerned with the regulation of international trade between nations.

The panel discussion, entitled **“Plugging the WTO into Today’s World with Flexible, Multi-Stakeholder and Pro-Compliance Approaches”**, sought to

address the ways in which the WTO system can be strengthened with flexibilities, inclusiveness and compliance.

Small, vulnerable economies account for approximately 15 percent of WTO membership but only contribute one percent of total global trade.

Making the case that issues of small states must be addressed in the decision-making process at the WTO, Dr. Remy said: *“There is a need for greater representativeness in WTO panels and the Appellate Body (AB), especially through an unbiased and representative selection process and selection from a more diverse pool.”*

She also pointed out the need for inclusiveness of small states in the discussions regarding arbitration as governed by Article 25 of the WTO’s **Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes**, also known as the **Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU)**, and how this could replace the Appellate Body (AB).

Article 25 contains rules for resolving disputes arising under WTO agreements and provides for *“expeditious arbitration within the WTO as an alternative means of dispute settlement”*. This is fast becoming recognised as an alternative means of

dispute resolution as the long-standing Appellate Body became inoperable by the end of 2019, mainly because the United States continued to block appointments to the Appellate Body over a variety of concerns that were related to the body’s independence and activism.

This development has significant implications for small states that are already disadvantaged in dispute settlement issues because of limited resources and their inability to effectively retaliate.

Antigua and Barbuda is still waiting to be compensated after winning its dispute with the United States (US) since 2005. The small island state built up an internet gambling industry to replace declining tourism revenues but found itself excluded from the world’s biggest gambling market. It took its case to the WTO in 2003 and eventually won the right to compensation of US\$21 million annually, after the WTO judges upheld its complaint that US laws were discriminatory. However, the Caribbean nation is still waiting for the US to comply with the rulings and recommendations of the WTO’s **Dispute Settlement Body (DSB)**. ♦

PLANT HEALTH IN SMALL ISLAND STATES: A PLANT PATHOLOGY PERSPECTIVE

by Dr. Angela T. Alleyne



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
PLANT HEALTH

2020



Dr. Angela T. Alleyne

What does this mean for us?

When faced with the notion of a year of plant health, many persons may ask the question, “*What is plant health?*” However, more importantly, I believe we need to ask the question, “*What does it mean for us in the small island states (SIS) in the Caribbean?*” As plant pathologists, biologists, or persons involved in plant and agriculture-related research, we first need to locate and place plant health in a local context if we are to achieve the goals of **IYPH 2020**. Plant scientists at The University of the West Indies (The UWI) should therefore ask: “*What is the significance of IYPH in the context of plant, environmental, and agricultural research into plant disease in the region?*” The answer to this question would lead us to locating our research, advocacy and daily work on agriculture, ecology, biodiversity, plant pathology (the study of plant disease) and horticulture, among the various themes for **IYPH 2020**.

For many, the term plant health has little or no real immediate meaning. Of course, mention animal health or human health, and we are all committed to reading further and trying to figure out how this affects us personally. Well, **IYPH 2020** hopes to do just that for those persons who ignore the importance of plants and simply

assume our food comes in a container from overseas and lands on a supermarket shelf. Even as we import more food products, the safe handling and storage of fresh food is increasingly important. It is hoped that with a focus on plant health in 2020, we could adopt or develop better traceability systems for our agriproducts and food supply chains.

In addition to food crops, there are tremendous economic and social benefits to be derived from non-food plants. These include horticultural and landscape plants as well as grasses. Horticultural plants provide an aesthetic essential to our tourism product and our event-planning and cultural products. So, to dispel the sometimes-low regard for plant disease research or plant pathology, academics, farmers, landscapers, policy makers, students, teachers and the general public should all refocus attention to promoting plant health and plant protection in our societies.

As part of my own work in food crop diseases at The UWI, Cave Hill, which includes research into the devastation of yam anthracnose (a fungal disease), continuing work on viruses in sweet potato and the impact of diseases such as cassava superelongation (a fungal disease), I will explore several aspects of plant pathology and **IYPH 2020** as it seeks

The United Nations, through the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), has designated 2020 as the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH). During this year, the FAO hopes to increase awareness by showing how protecting plant health can help end hunger, reduce poverty, protect the environment, and boost economic development (FAO 2019).

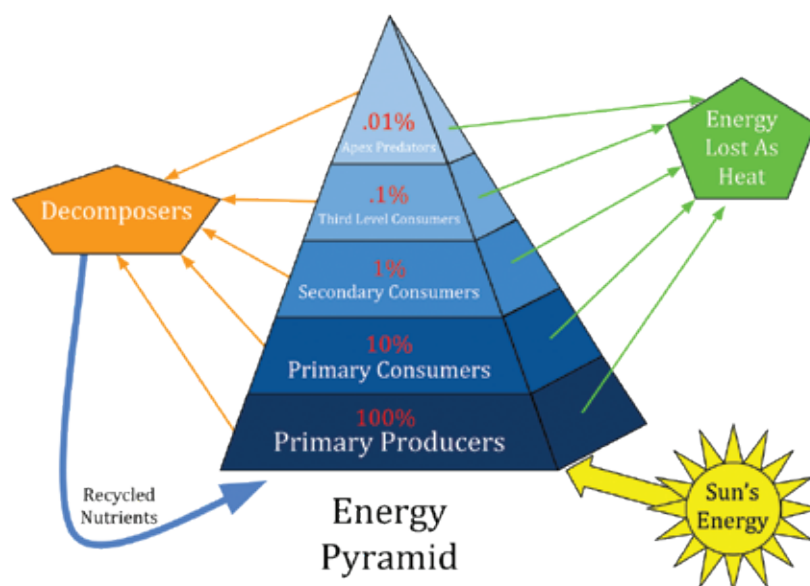
to address the themes of food safety, biosafety, biosecurity, and climate change. Therefore, this article examines some aspects of plant pathology and asserts that *plant health is our health*.

Healthy Plants and Their Benefits

A healthy plant is one that is generally free of disease and damage, firm in structure, and productive with flowers and fruits or other storage organs working efficiently. If we examine the base of any ecology food pyramid, we will find plants are essential (Figure 1). If we use the foundation of a house as an analogy, we know that it is critical to the structural integrity of that house. The same can be said of marine and terrestrial ecological food pyramids, also called food chains. An ecological pyramid comprises energy relationships between organisms in an environment, ecological niche or ecosystem. In fact, plants are described as the producers in such a network. Without the producers, the whole pyramid or network can fail. Energy is also constantly moving up the pyramid, hence the current economic, social and environmental value we have rediscovered in our use of biofuels in the 21st century. Essentially, biofuels are defined as fuel sources derived from a variety of biomass sources. As plants are the largest producers in our food network, many biofuels, for example ethanol, methane and biodiesels, are derived from plant sources such as sugarcane, corn or maize, and green algae. So, healthy producers are key to the success of the entire global food network on which we thrive and increasingly use as external energy sources.

Threats to Plant Health

There are several threats to plant health. These include microbial pathogens, insect pests, unexpected weather and climate change, environmental disasters, and human actions. Plant damage by insects may result in the transmission of



Energy pyramid CC-BY-SA-4.0

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ecological_Pyramid.svg

viruses that cause diseases as well as physical damage to visible plant parts such as leaves and fruits, among others.

In 2019, scientists generally estimated that the world average yield loss due to pests and diseases, at the production stage of major food crops like maize and rice, is approximately 30-40 percent. Yield losses can be measured in either biological terms (declines in plant productivity, reduction in physiobiochemical plant features) or economic terms (financial losses), or both. Human activity and abiotic factors, such as environmental damage, all intensify the impact of microbial diseases in plants, leading to yield losses during production. These losses sometimes cause declines or decrease in agricultural trade. While major food crops are important for trade, for small-scale farmers, reduction in yield of short-term vegetable crops can be much higher, as they too are very susceptible to bacteria, viral and fungal diseases and many insect pests.

A very good example of the importance of plant health in the 21st century is the impact of Black Sigatoka Disease (BSD) on bananas that is caused by a fungus

called *Mycosphaerella fijiensis*. As noted in a 2019 FAO and Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) Study titled *Study on the State of Agriculture in the Caribbean*, the disease spread rapidly between 2001 and 2012 in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, and the banana-producing countries of the Eastern Caribbean (Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent) and Guyana.

"In 2007 St. Vincent and the Grenadines exported 22 657 tonnes of the fruit, valued at EC\$29 128 451. BSD was first discovered there in 2009 and just two short years later, banana export was a mere 1 750 tonnes, a decline of nearly 90%. In Guyana the situation was even worse. Since its first case of BSD in 2008 the industry has been decimated. The country has registered a 100% decline in the export of plantains within 2-3 years, and in fact has resorted to importing bananas to meet local demand" (FAO and CDB 2019).

The story of bananas and BSD is a recurring one.

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Black Sigatoka Disease symptoms (licensed under CC PDM 1.0)

Historically, we have faced similar threats to important crops such as cacao; the fungal diseases, witches' broom disease in Trinidad and Tobago in the 1960's; yam anthracnose disease in Barbados; bacterial leaf spots disease to anthurium in the French islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe; lethal yellowing disease of coconuts in Jamaica; invasive species such as mealy bug infestation and the giant African snail on agriculture in Barbados and other SIS. These form part of an extensive body of research at the Cave Hill Campus and our sister campuses. Consequently, as we continue to see the emergence of pathogens throughout the region, for example citrus greening in citrus fruits, and the newest threat to bananas worldwide, which is simply known as Tropical race 4 (TR4) that is caused by the fungus *Fusarium*, IYPH 2020 becomes even more important for us.

Biosafety, Biosecurity and Biodiversity

Biosafety and biosecurity complement each other. The former refers to the implementation of good laboratory

practices and procedures when working with potentially infectious microorganisms and other biological hazards. Agricultural biosecurity, however, is the protection of farms, farming systems and the environment from indigenous and/or emerging plant pests and diseases. As such, both biosecurity and biosafety are twin features of the IYPH, and these both have impacts on biodiversity. The Caribbean islands are designated as biodiversity hotspots, being host to many unique species of plant and animals.

Plant quarantine is an official examination of a plant and/or plant product that aims to prevent the spread of plant and animal pests from one territory to another, through import or export, at territorial borders. Internationally, regulation of plant pests is governed by separate legal international agreements such as the **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity (2000)**, the **International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC 1952)**, and the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD 1992)**, and by national laws and regulations. National laws and regulations are usually derived from these agreements that, by their nature, need to be adapted to the

legal frameworks of the jurisdiction. For example, in Barbados, the main sublegal instrument is the **Plant Protection Act (2007)** and its regulations. Newer laws relating to biosafety frameworks and other environmental regulations are also applicable. Scientific research plays an important role in supporting quarantine and plant management strategies by using pathogen and pest identification techniques; understanding, implementing and improving pest/disease management strategies and improving biosafety. Biosafety is therefore an integral part of laboratory training and is necessary for persons engaged in the allied scientific workforce.

In this year dedicated to plant health, let us remember that the transboundary movement of plants may also result in the movement of their pests and diseases. We should therefore familiarise ourselves with national regulations aimed at protecting plants from diseases or pests brought into the country during import/export or general travel. A simple task would be to practise complying with laws relating to biosafety, plant quarantine and phytosanitary regulations locally and regionally. National Plant Protection Organisations (NPPOs) are devoted to preventing or minimising the spread and establishment of plant pests in new areas. In the Caribbean, these are generally our plant protection services in the Ministries of Agriculture. When in doubt, they should be consulted.



In this year dedicated to plant health, let us remember that the transboundary movement of plants may also result in the movement of their pests and diseases. We should therefore familiarise ourselves with national regulations aimed at protecting plants from diseases and pests brought into the country during import/export or general travel.

Managing Healthy Plants and Climate Change

Our environment is a critical factor in maintaining healthy plants. Clean water, air and healthy soils are essential to maintaining fit plants and for good plant growth, and these must be considered when examining plant diseases.

The Caribbean islands – part of the group of small island developing states - are at the vanguard of many climate change scenarios. Hurricanes, floods and drought are among the more commonly known annual metrological events that threaten the Eastern Caribbean islands. These could overwhelm local or national capacity and might require some additional or external assistance. Agriculture in SIS consists mainly of small landholdings between two and five hectares. In these agricultural systems, the damage caused by tropical depressions, storms and hurricanes is often severe. Crop farms could be destroyed, and consequently, the number of plant diseases could increase and spread. Climate models have shown the Eastern Caribbean to be vulnerable to future changes in climate, and as such, the region's tourism and agriculture sectors are predicted to be at risk, resulting in adverse impact on the islands economies. Integrating strategies

to mitigate and promote healthy plants in the region is therefore critical as we build resilience to climate change.

Healthy Plants for a Healthy Society

Research into new diseases, pathogen and pest risk analyses, complying with international agreements such as **Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)**, and working together with policy makers to improve the productive cycles in agriculture by addressing modern disease diagnostics with biotechnological tools, genetic and data science, are strategies that need to be adopted in SIS. Some aspects of these are currently being done. But in the future, scientific research in plant pathology will continue to play a large role in the pursuit of healthy plants and thus a healthy society, once we understand the importance of plants to the sustenance of our daily lives.

Let us all do our part in **IYPH 2020** to advocate for plant health education. Our own health and livelihoods depend on it. ♦

Dr. Angela T. Alleyne is Senior Lecturer, Biochemistry in the Department of Biological and Chemical Sciences, Faculty of Science and Technology at The UWI, Cave Hill Campus.





Blackfish Caution

by Camille Russell

Scientists have cautioned blackfish consumers in St. Vincent and the Grenadines after discovering high levels of mercury in these species.

Recent research based at The University of the West Indies (The UWI), Cave Hill campus found that mercury levels in these mammals, particularly the killer whale, had the highest levels of mercury ever recorded worldwide. The samples of these blackfish, including false killer whale, killer whale, short-finned pilot whale, and Risso's dolphin, were collected from the waters of St. Vincent and brought to Cave Hill for analysis. For all the species sampled, the study found the average concentration of mercury in the muscle tissue significantly exceeded the recommendation of the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)** and the **World Health Organization (WHO)** by an average of between three and



Dr. Russell Fielding, visiting Lecturer in Environmental Studies at The UWI, Cave Hill

forty-eight times the suggested upper limit, depending on the species.

Project leader of the study Dr. Russell Fielding said samples of meat and other parts of the mammals that are used for consumption were collected during

the course of a year. They were sent to the laboratory at the Cave Hill Campus for initial analysis and subsequently shipped to the United States for further tests.

"We found that not only were the mercury levels high enough to be of concern, but for certain aspects of the analysis, we were finding the highest numbers recorded on earth."

He stressed that for the killer whale (orca) being hunted in the region's waters, the mercury values recorded were the highest ever for orcas: *"This is comparing them to other samples from other parts of the world, including places where there are not even consumed."*

Dr. Fielding expressed concern about the findings, since these whales are used as a food in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. From the recommendations of the study, he advised the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to consider the establishment of dietary recommendations and/or whaling policies to mitigate this apparent public health risk. Dr. Fielding added that the local government is keen to understand the issue in the interest of preserving the country's food security and public health.

Dr. Fielding is a visiting Lecturer of Environmental Studies and researcher at The UWI, Cave Hill.



Major contributors to the study included Meaghan A. McCormack and Jessica Dutton of **Texas State University**, Jeremy J. Kiszka and Valeria Paz of the **Florida International University**, Brian P. Jackson of **Dartmouth College**, and Don R. Bergfelt of **Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine** in St. Kitts and Nevis. Key collaborator from the Cave Hill Campus was Dr. Emma Smith of the Department of Biological and Chemical Sciences who said that, while the campus was happy to

facilitate the research, the results do merit concern and the campus looks forward to facilitating the next stage of research to investigate the effects on the consumers.

This study comes at a time when focus is intensifying on the region's blue economy, with the hope that prudent, sustainable management of its marine resources could see the sector become an even greater contributor to regional development. ♦





As the region forges ahead with efforts to achieve sustainable consumption and production arrangements, an undergraduate-student initiative to produce biodegradable plastic from sweet potatoes is yielding significant results.

From Sweet Potato to PLASTIC

by Camille Russell

The applied research by final-year, Cave Hill student Kerri-Ann Bovell has garnered widespread attention at a time of increasing global cries for countries to retreat from waste-generating, extractive, industrial economic models in favour of a waste-free, pollution-free model. This type of production model, with an aim of optimal waste elimination, could underpin a regenerative or highly touted circular economy where every resource is recycled or repurposed for continual use.

Bovell's research coincides with an imminent ban on petroleum-based (petro-based) plastic in Barbados as the Government pursues a policy to create a one hundred percent green and carbon-

neutral economy by 2030 and to further preserve the island's coastlines and marine environment.

To fill the void left by the ban on petro-plastic, while introducing products to reduce marine degradation, renewed interest has been placed on discovering alternative products that are environmentally friendly.

Bovell's interest in the environment and its preservation started at a young age. As a child, she was fascinated with books about animals, the universe and geography. This fuelled her desire to attend Harrison College to cultivate her love of the sciences and then to The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus to attain a degree in Chemistry.

Although not her official course

of study, Kerri-Ann maintains a keen interest in the study of Environmental Chemistry and Materials Science. It is therefore no surprise that she became an active member of the Cave Hill Environmental Club where she observed the problems posed by single-use plastics, especially on beaches, and resolved to find an environmentally-friendly solution.

“As a young person, you need to look around you and see where the issues lie and try to find a way you can solve them,” Bovell advised. She became determined to use her education to solve real-world issues instead of merely *“regurgitating stuff, taking tests, having an employer, doing the same thing every day.”*

Local Adaptation

The idea of using sweet potatoes as a source for plastic was inspired by similar work being done by other scientists globally.

“It is not purely my invention; I just fit it for our local economy,” she stated noting that although starch-based plastics were common in some parts of the world, she knew of none made locally from sweet potatoes.

Bovell realised that many local factories use starchy ingredients such as breadfruit, cassava and sweet potatoes to make products, such as flour. The skins of the provisions are discarded completely or, at best, used for compost. She came to the realisation that there may be another effective way to utilise this waste product in a food-secure manner and, hence, the idea was born.

The process of creating plastic from sweet potatoes is a careful and complex science: *“The starch is extracted from the vegetable itself or from the skin then using acetic acid, distilled water and glycerol as my main ingredients, I go through the science in the lab using correct temperatures, perfect ratios and percentages,”* Bovell explained. Once she has a transparent mixture, it is poured into the mould that is currently a flat surface, and a material similar to a plastic wrap is formed.

Bovell’s vision for her research is to create pellets that can be used to make plastic bags, cups, pep bottles and other products. However, further testing is needed to make the product a perfect substitute for petro-based plastics, as not all bio-based plastics are the same.

Bovell’s vision for her research is to create pellets that can be used to make plastic bags, cups, pep bottles and other products. However, further testing is needed to make the product a perfect substitute for petro-based plastics, as not all bio-based plastics are the same.

She explained, *“We still have to test it to ensure it is insoluble at certain temperatures and conditions for food; so if you have something hot and you put the plastic on it, it will not melt.”*

Bovell’s research was featured late last year at the launch of **Blue Lab**, an initiative of the **United Nations Development Programme** to promote, among young people, innovation and experimentation as it relates to sustainable development in the Caribbean.

She maintained that her focus is not on being recognised but on learning as much as possible from her teachers and postgraduate students. Bovell advises other undergraduates to surround themselves with stalwarts in the field to gain insight and inspiration from their work.

Looking towards the future, Kerri-Ann plans to pursue postgraduate studies in Food Science or Materials Science. So far, she is interested in programmes at universities in Germany and the Netherlands. However, Kerri-Ann is determined to return to Barbados to practically apply the knowledge she acquires.

“I do intend to go overseas but still come back, because this is the emerging market here ... Why not come back and bring all the information you’ve learned,” she declared.

Bovell remains hopeful that the ‘take, make, waste’ model of production will be shunned by her compatriots in favour of one that repurposes materials to help Barbados become a vibrant Caribbean example of sustainable green living. ♦



Kerri-Ann Bovell, Student Researcher

Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Latin America & the Caribbean

by Chelcéé Brathwaite



Chelcéé Brathwaite, Research Assistant at the Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy and Services

While some still consider AI to be beyond the grasp of developing countries, our South American neighbours have been shattering that stereotype. AI is being deployed in a number of their endeavours: to speed up artefact findings in Peru; to increase crop yields in Colombian rice fields; to boost security and enhance customer service in Brazil's banking sector; to create vegan alternatives with the same taste and texture as animal-based foods in Chile's food industry; to predict school dropouts and teenage pregnancy in Argentina; and to forecast crimes in Uruguay.

Some of the push in AI adoption in these countries has come from academics and researchers, like the ones at the University of Sao Paulo who are developing AI to determine the susceptibility of patients to disease outbreaks; or the National Engineering University, Peru, where robots are being used for mine exploration to detect gases; or the National Scientific and Technical Research Council, Argentina, where AI software is predicting early onset pluripotent stem cell differentiation.

These and other truths were revealed to me at a Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) workshop on AI organised by **Facebook Inc.** and the **Inter-American Development Bank** in Montevideo, Uruguay in November 2019. I was the lone Caribbean participant, presenting my paper entitled **"AI & The Caribbean: A Discussion on Potential Applications & Ethical Considerations"** on behalf of the Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy and Services, The UWI, Cave Hill.

Defining AI

While AI has no universally accepted definition, it describes machines and systems that can acquire and apply knowledge, and execute intelligent behaviour. Beyond robots and autonomous hardware devices, AI's application also extends to software-based operations in the virtual world like **Siri**. At the heart of AI is technology that exhibits cognitive capability.

The term AI was first introduced in 1956 in the context of work done by computer scientists like John McCarthy, Alan Turing and Marvin Minsky. Its rise to pre-eminence today can be attributed to a number of factors, including unlimited access to computing power and the growth of big data. In the last six decades, the world has witnessed a trillion-fold increase in computing power, and worldwide data is expected to grow from 33 zettabytes to 175 zettabytes by 2025.

Towards AI's Ethical and Legal Considerations

Despite the hype, adoption of AI provokes a number of ethical and legal questions like: Where should responsibility lie for deaths caused by an autonomous vehicle that intentionally decides to crash? Who should own the copyright on content created by AI, especially in legal regimes where such protection extends only to human-created content? How would you prevent an AI-powered hiring system from exacerbating gender and racial inequalities in specific job roles?

This LAC AI workshop attempted to examine these and other ethical issues by providing a forum not for engineers and software developers but for academics, philosophers and lawyers who debated topics such as those mentioned below.

Data Governance and Privacy

AI runs on an enormous amount of data. But, in a context of eroded public confidence in data-collecting organisations and data-consuming technologies, it is questionable whether current data governance frameworks are sufficiently flexible, yet still robust to maintain privacy protection. Moreover, not enough of an understanding exists about the impact of data monetisation models on privacy.

We could dream of a day when Fedo, a risk stratification AI system for predicting patient susceptibility to non-communicable diseases (NCDs), is used in the Caribbean's health sector where NCD mortality is highest in the Americas; or when Dragon Medical Virtual Assistants assist the region's critical nurse shortage that, in 2010, measured 1.25 nurses for every 1,000 people.

One potential solution mooted is the use of data trusts – legal structures providing independent stewardship of data, where third-party users are responsible for using and sharing data in a fair, safe and equitable way. Notwithstanding the model's challenges, particularly with compliance considerations, data trusts would go some way in allaying concerns about how sensitive data is held and used by AI technologies.

Bias and Discrimination

AI facial recognition systems worked better for white men than black women, an online chat bot became racist, and **Amazon's AI** recruiting tool showed bias against women. In all three cases, a European

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study found a common contributor to be the training data used. This finding questions whether the quantity and quality of our data could avoid biased outcomes, and whether algorithms could be prevented from creating profiles that discriminate against certain social groups.

If AI technologies follow the 'garbage in, garbage out' rule, then tackling biased and discriminatory outcomes must begin at the data input level. Here, research points towards controlled distortion of training data, integrating anti-discrimination criteria into classification algorithms, post-processing the classification model once extracted, and correcting decisions to maintain proportionality among protected and unprotected groups. Recognition that preconceived ideas derive in part from an algorithm's design means that algorithms must be audited for their susceptibility to discrimination, and that there must be full transparency, even if that itself raises issues of intellectual property and national security.

Rogue AI and Unintended Consequences

The **Avengers: Age of Ultron** shows a case of AI application gone wrong. While not as dramatic, self-driving cars running red lights and autopilot systems gone wrong portend disastrous consequences. Even more alarming are reports of autonomous weapons systems being developed to aim and fire at "human enemies".

Prospects of errant application force the issue of

AI design. Some AI research and development (R&D) guidelines propose incorporation of controllability, transparency, safety and ethics from inception. But the proliferation of **non-mandatory** guidelines compared to other normative frameworks casts doubt on enforceability and compliance. In turn, the question of who is responsible for unintended consequences arises: should blame be laid at the feet of developer/user, the machine, or neither? Transposing existing regulatory schemes to advanced technological developments also proves challenging. Although product liability traditionally focuses on negligent design/manufacture or breach of duty, AI's autonomous and evolving nature makes it difficult to identify the point of defect or predict dangerous outcomes, therefore making it difficult to assign liability.

Lessons for the Caribbean

So what is happening here in the Caribbean?

AI remains at best nascent, with limited R&D. Reports of its limited application in The Bahamas, Belize and Guyana and the absence of policy discussions belies the significant potential for AI here.

We could dream of a day when **Fedo**, a risk stratification AI system for predicting patient susceptibility to non-communicable diseases (NCDs), is used in the Caribbean's health sector where NCD-mortality is highest in the Americas; or when **Dragon Medical Virtual Assistants** assist the region's critical nurse shortage that, in 2010, measured 1.25 nurses for every 1,000 people. How about **See & Spray**, a weed control AI robot that could reduce herbicide expenditure by 90 percent, or AI harvest robots replacing 30





workers in the Caribbean's agricultural sector, where the food import bill is expected to reach US\$8 billion to US\$10 billion by 2020? Would we ever see AI systems developed by **Google LLC**, **Harvard University** and the **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** that could predict earthquake aftershocks, flooding and hurricanes as part of the Caribbean's disaster management and mitigation efforts, to save lives and reduce potential loss?

Instead of dreaming, I propose the following three steps that the Caribbean could take to better position itself to harness AI's potential:

We must develop an appetite for such technologies.

South America's engagement in this field is a testament of the region's innovative capabilities and appetite for such technologies. This cannot be done without firms and governments that are willing to adopt and utilise these systems in their provision of goods and services. In addition, we need research and studies that demonstrate how AI could be leveraged to solve some of the region's development challenges. **It falls to the region's academia and private sector to find innovative AI solutions and spur demand for their subsequent development and adoption.**

We must form strategic partnerships.

Google LLC is developing an AI system to predict and send flood warnings in India; **Unilever** is testing various AI solutions in South America; the **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)** and **Harvard University** are hosting AI R&D conferences in Uruguay; but, who are we partnering with in the Caribbean?

Recognising the importance of strategic partnerships and taking steps to reach out to organisations like the **Inter-American Bank (IDB)** to fund such initiatives, companies like **Facebook Inc.** and **Google LLC** to develop and test AI solutions in the region, or AI R&D centres and universities to partner with are all potential avenues for overcoming existing financial and resource constraints that hinder our progress in this field.

We must initiate AI-related policy discussions.

Realising the wider ethical and legal considerations arising from the application of AI, we must ask probing questions such as: "Are the existing frameworks capable of addressing our concerns? And how can we mitigate risks and instil public confidence in such technologies?"

Beyond technologists like engineers and developers, the discussion must involve policymakers who must be on the front lines in developing adaptive and anticipatory frameworks. Similar to Mexico's move towards an AI strategy, which aims to transform the country from an observer to a key actor, we must look towards the development of holistic approaches.

While not exhaustive, these steps are a start to riding the AI wave. It is now up to us to either learn how to ride it, like our South American neighbours are doing, or we get washed ashore. ♦

Chelceé Brathwaite recently graduated (with distinction) from the Masters in International Trade Policy Programme of the Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy and Services, The UWI, Cave Hill Campus. For her postgraduate research paper, she developed a cross-border e-commerce trade policy for Barbados. She is a past intern at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade in Barbados and a current intern at the Caribbean Community Secretariat's Office of Trade Negotiations.



STUDENTS PROPOSE URBAN UPGRADES

Tourism students have captured the attention of policymakers by presenting innovative plans for Barbados's major towns utilising advanced technology.

They propose transforming the capital city, **Bridgetown**, into a **Smart Wellness Destination** and repositioning **Speightstown** as a **Cultural Heritage Tourism Destination** featuring year-round events. Another proposal is the installation of a **Virtual Reality Marine Park** at **Folkestone** in **Holetown** and revamping the traffic, sewage, and security system at **Oistins** where they suggest installing a pier that would cater, in part, to solar-powered, smart ferries.

The recommendations by students enrolled in the **Master of Science (MSc) in Tourism** degree programmes were presented in November 2019. The activity was attended by Minister of Labour and

Social Partnership Relations Colin Jordan and Minister of Maritime Affairs and the Blue Economy Kirk Humphrey.

The judges were tourism consultant Dr. Kerry Hall; Chief Product Development Officer at the **Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc. (BTMI)**, Marsha Alleyne and financier, tourism consultant and resort specialist Michael Phillips.

The students were required to create dynamic and innovative products that would transform the four towns and ultimately increase the country's slice of the proverbial tourism pie.

The challenge to come up with the ideas came amid worry by local tourism stakeholders about increased competition from other regions that offer what is now regarded as an outmoded sun, sea and

sand model to the far more discerning tourist.

In general, Barbados has fared well, according to data from the BTMI. In 2018, there were 681,197 arrivals by air, 17,686 more than in 2017. The Barbados Port Inc. welcomed 826,267 arrivals for both transit and homeporting visitors. Visitor spending was up almost 10 percent based on statistics from the **Caribbean Tourism Organization**.

The students were hoping that by enhancing and increasing the product offering, visitors would not only come to the country's shores in increased numbers but also spend more.

The proposal to transform Bridgetown into a fully accessible wellness destination was presented by **21 Consultancy**, a team

comprising Joshua Bishop, Kelsey Brereton, Sharisse Crick, Teresa Inniss and Jamaal Reifer.

Under their **Vision 2030 Bridgetown Reimagined Transformational Plan**, they suggest the redevelopment of Bridgetown to specifically target millennials and Generation Z.

They intend to do this by creating a sky bridge, strategically woven through the city, that would utilise integrated smart technology to engage and educate visitors through self-guided tours.

Also on their cards is the transformation of the arrivals hall of the **Pelican Village** into *“a space which marries augmented reality with traditional Barbadian culture”*. The incorporated **Princess Alice (Lower Green) Bus Terminal** would offer a transportation service facilitated by electric buses throughout the island.

The group wants to introduce a kinetic boardwalk that would be located between the **Drill Hall Beach** and the **Pelican Village** that dually acts as a sea wall against beach erosion while, at the same time, capturing and converting steps into electrical energy to power various amenities throughout Bridgetown.

They propose introducing a holistic wellness hotel brand, even by **InterContinental Hotel Groups plc (IHG)**, which could be located in the former NIS Building as part of efforts to revitalise older derelict buildings around the city.

The introduction of a **Pride of Barbados Wellness Centre** at the former Ministry of Health building on Jemmotts Lane, St.

Michael, has also been planned. This would offer a multilevel organic food market that would be supplied by local agriculturalists. The centre would also feature wellness amenities.

The proposal by **21 Consultancy** is vastly different from plans by Donna Blackman, Aquila Williams and Alvin Mayers, the other group to present on Bridgetown. The trio agreed that millennials and the 36-45 group should be targeted more but made culture the focus of their initiative.

Blackman, Williams and Mayers made a case for a three-phase plan to be carried out over ten years, with **Pelican Craft Centre** as the marquee attraction. They suggested that the centre be transformed into a cultural heritage, leisure tourism hub and information centre.

Aside from repainting the area to make it more tourist-friendly, they recommended installing a multi-purpose jetty in the shape of a trident that could accommodate statues of cultural figures, and special events such as weddings and fashion shows. The trio also suggested redoing the garden at **Trevors Way** to incorporate topiary that pay homage to the pelican, the green monkey and other local animals.

While they were supportive of the current **Festive Friday** initiative, they suggested new events and tour packages.

A third group, Phalesta Toussaint, Novarra Fiedtkou, Lauren Simmons, Lucia Parris, Shakera Williams and Shakera Hall, focused on redeveloping **Speightstown**, known as Little Bristol because it was once one of the busiest ports with ships sailing directly for

England, particularly Bristol.

Though many of its buildings date back to the early settlement of Barbados, the town has seen a serious decline in commercial activity amid complaints about its deteriorating physical structures and limited entertainment offering.

The group proposed creating an ecosystem for the heritage and millennial market by repositioning Speightstown as a **Cultural Heritage Tourism Destination**.

A main attraction would be The Speightstown Spine and Boardwalk, a structure that would include an extension of



the boardwalk and an upgrade of the current jetty. It would be utilised for weddings, parties and other activities and facilitate schooners that shuttle visitors, among them being cruise passengers. The Pride of Barbados flower and other flora would be incorporated on both sides of the spine, as well as sitting areas.

The group created an events calendar to support the revitalisation drive. **For the Love of Speightstown** would be held from January to March, **Green Speightstown** from April to June, **Crop Over in Speightstown** from July to September and **The Speights of Life Festival** from October to December.

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Other plans include an open-air theatre, art gallery, running park and eco-lodge, and a state-of-the-art community arts centre.

The team said the BTMI and residents in the area would be key stakeholders.

Turning to **Holetown**, students Natasha Best, Tammy-Ann Blackett and Vanessa Bobb cited slow economic growth, lack of internal attractions and poor drainage as



Dr. Sherma Roberts
Senior Lecturer in Tourism and
Coordinator, MSc in Tourism programmes,
Cave Hill Campus

some of the challenges the town faced.

While noting ongoing work by authorities to remedy the drainage problem, they focused on breathing new life into the area. They recommended the beautification of Holetown and staging a monthly street fair.

At the **Folkestone Park and Marine Reserve**, they suggested one-way entry and exit.

Their plan would rely heavily on technology with the creation of a **Virtual Reality Marine Park**, while there would be a gaming zone to include an adult entertainment complex that would contain aspects of virtual reality.

The trio also proposed having a restaurant and bar on the water as an added attraction.

Oistins: Where Culinary Meets Culture was the theme of KJT's **Consultancy**. The members, Jesse King, Stuart Mayers, Kimberly Lovell and Tanisha Bowen focused on revitalising the area already known for its weekend entertainment and culinary delights.

In outlining the rationale for the changes, the students explained that the area faces serious issues of traffic congestion, visitor overcrowding, improper drainage of rainwater, inadequate sewage management and irregular garbage collection and disposal.

The focal point of their revitalisation thrust is the

construction of **The Mermaid Pier**. On arrival and departure at this pier, patrons would be exposed to the history of Oistins.

A 24-hour restaurant, reef ball snorkelling, international sporting events and the cultural festival **40 Days and 40 Nights of Oistins** were included in their proposal.

As it relates to transportation, they suggested having a solar-powered, smart ferry system; re-routing traffic, introducing a park-and-ride system, and metred and executive parking as part of efforts to improve ease of access to the town.

For sanitation and waste management, they plan to construct 40 additional wheelchair-accessible restrooms that are outfitted with solar panels, a waste treatment plant, an enclosed garbage room, and introduce labelled recycled bins throughout Oistins.

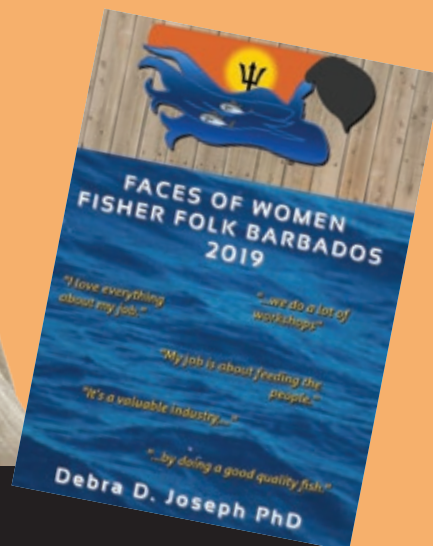
Explaining the rationale for the challenge to the students, Coordinator of the MSc in Tourism programmes and Senior Lecturer in Tourism, Dr. Sherma Roberts, said the tourism consumer is becoming far more discerning, and if Barbados fails to produce innovative products, it would be left behind. ♦



Women in Fisheries: Breaking the Silence



Dr. Debra Joseph



The author said there was need to protect these women, that is, to ensure rights of expression, rights of association, freedom of enterprise, better access to financing and health care, and provide for their involvement in decision making.

"The capacity of small-scale fishers to voice their needs should be strengthened through recognition and organisation at local, national and regional levels," Dr. Joseph said. *"Most of their participation is often not recognised through the value chain and is undervalued from actual fishing, processing and marketing. In the Caribbean, women's role in small-scale fisheries has been poorly documented despite their important contribution to this sector. That is why something has to be done and this has to be turned around somehow. A gender-sensitive lens is needed that will provide sustained livelihood for all."*

The magazine project was done in partnership with the **Gender in Fisheries Team (GIFT)**, a research team led by CERMES. The team seeks to facilitate and support the implementation of the **2014 Food and Agriculture Organization-led Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries** in member states of the **Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism**.

Lauding the magazine as a milestone for GIFT, CERMES Director Dr. Patrick McConney said it was important to record and understand the importance, to the Barbados Economy, of gender in the fishing industry, as well as the ways men and women relate to each other and society in general.

"It struck me that gender in fisheries in the Caribbean is so under-researched and poorly documented, that it was an opportunity for many people who shared the same interest to look at gender from our own lens and perspectives," he said. ♦

The untold story of Caribbean women in fisheries is being chronicled in print and film.

Lecturer and Coordinator of Social Work in the Department of Government, Sociology, Social Work and Psychology in the Faculty of Social Sciences, Dr. Debra Joseph has produced a research magazine titled ***Faces of Women – Fisherfolk Barbados 2019***, that has given a voice to women whose contributions to the sector have largely gone unrecorded.

The publication was done in collaboration with the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) with a grant from the Department of Graduate Studies.

Dr. Joseph interviewed a dozen women in fisheries and produced the 32-page magazine in addition to 12 films. At the

launch of the magazine last October, she said journal articles and book chapters were pending.

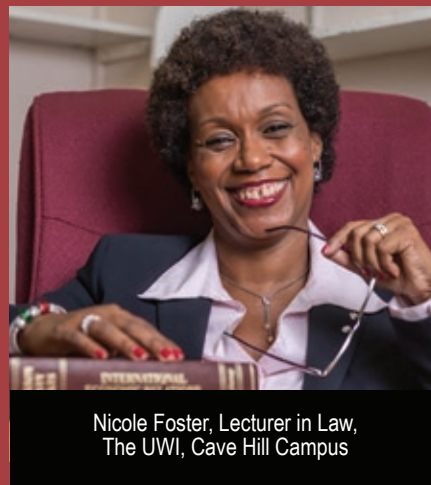
The project, described by the researcher as a labour of love, sought to discover and examine the challenges facing the women, highlight their successes and provide recommendations for improved and enhanced quality of life and sustainable livelihood. It also aims to influence social policy.

Research has found that women account for half of the fisheries workforce and over 90 percent of those in the processing sector. Despite this, women fisherfolk in developing countries often earn less than men.

Healthy Food at Schools May Be Legally Enforced



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) can be a useful tool to guarantee healthier food options for children on school premises, says Lecturer in the Faculty of Law and Policy Advisor for the **Healthy Caribbean Coalition**, Mrs. Nicole Foster.



Nicole Foster, Lecturer in Law, The UWI, Cave Hill Campus

Delivering a presentation during the **14th Annual Caribbean Child Research Conference** held last November, she argued that the convention provides countries with the legal basis to further protect their children from obesity, among other issues, that can lead to deadly outcomes.

The conference was held by the **Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES)** and the **United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF)** and coincided with the 30th anniversary of the **Convention on the Rights of the Child**.

Foster presented on “**Childhood Obesity and Regulation of School Food Environments in the Caribbean: What Role for the Convention on the Rights of the Child?**”

“We have to recognise that this problem is not simply a public health concern but really a legal one, one which is based on our respective states’ obligation to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of the child. The rights of the child, therefore, I argue, can be a valuable source of legal authority and guidance for efforts to regulate the school food environment, and its reporting mechanism can also play an important role in ensuring greater accountability in this area.”

“Of particular note in this regard is the rights of the child to the highest attainable standard of health under Article 24 of the Convention as well as the ‘best interests of the child’ principle, which is found in Article 3.”

According to the World Obesity report titled **Atlas of Child Obesity (October 2019)**, The Bahamas, Dominica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines were among the top 20 countries worldwide at highest risk of having or acquiring a significant childhood obesity problem in the next decade.

To help fight the epidemic, the **Heart and Stroke Foundation of Barbados** launched a campaign in which residents are encouraged to “Switch Up” what they drink and consume more water. The foundation also piloted a programme in six schools that not only focuses on reducing the consumption of sugary drinks but the provision of healthier food options.

The World Health Organization has estimated that cardiovascular disease and diabetes are directly costing Barbados \$64 million, with the indirect costs projected at \$145 million.

The attorney-at-law said the obesity problem is mirrored across the Caribbean and is driven by modifiable risk factors, in particular, unhealthy diet and inadequate physical activity.

Foster’s paper was among numerous presentations delivered during the conference, some by children as young as eight years old. The topics were wide-ranging and included the “**Evolution of Public Support for Corporal Punishment (2004-2019)**”, “**The CRC Impact on Early Childhood Development in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean**” and “**It’s Not Single Mothers: Exploring the Link between Family Structure and Child-discipline Practices**”.

“The legacy of published output, research collaboration, annual regional student and child research participation and popular dissemination altogether contribute to building a region fit for children,” said Dr. Don Marshall, Director of SALISES at Cave Hill, who was one of the convenors of the conference. ♦

Students Enlisted to End Gender-based Violence



STOP
THE
VIOLENCE
NOW

Barbadian students are being encouraged to join efforts to end gender-based violence.

"The world's most critical and urgent voices at this moment are those of young people," lecturer in gender studies Dr. Tonya Haynes told a recent workshop on dating, violence, and youth. *"If we are to transform the world, you must take the lead."*



Dr. Tonya Haynes, Lecturer at the Institute for Gender and Development Studies, Nita Barrow Unit, The UWI, Cave Hill Campus

She was speaking at **It's Gender We Talking**, which was a workshop for youth held on 10 December 2019. It convened over 30 teenagers to have frank conversations on consent and the use of technology in intimate relationships. The workshop was a joint initiative between the **Institute for Gender and Development Studies: Nita Barrow Unit (IGDS:NBU)** and the **Bureau of Gender Affairs**, and formed part of an IGDS:NBU gender-based violence awareness project that was funded by the British High Commission, Bridgetown.

The lecturer informed participants that the Caribbean held three places among the top ten for reported rape globally,



with the rates for Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago being higher than the average worldwide.

"In nine Caribbean countries, 48 percent of adolescent girls' first

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sexual experience was 'forced' or 'somewhat forced'. Intimate partner violence, sexual violence, child sexual abuse and other forms of gender-based violence are daily occurrences in Barbados, [and] the majority of this violence goes unreported and unaddressed."

Senior students from six secondary schools, namely, The Alleyne School, the Combermere School, Parkinson Memorial Secondary School, St. Leonard's Boys' Secondary School, Lester Vaughan Memorial Secondary School and The Ellerslie Secondary School participated in the day's events. They benefitted from a robust discussion on the use of the cellphone as a tool of coercion in relationships, gendered roles and expectations in intimate partnerships, as well as consent and healthy relationships. In addition, they created their own anti-violence awareness campaigns through song, poetry and drama.

"In nine Caribbean countries, 48 percent of adolescent girls' first sexual experience was 'forced' or 'somewhat forced'."

The day's activities were rooted in a short film, titled **Passwords**, that was created for the activity under the guidance of the IGDS:NBU. The film centred on an argument between a couple over access to each other's phones. The script was written by Matthew Murrell and featured Cave Hill graduate Karissa Harte and current enrollee Triston Gollop.

"It is our intention that [the short film] will serve as a teaching tool on how unequal relations of gender drive intimate partner violence and forms of surveillance and coercive control in our media-saturated, hyper-connected times ...," Dr. Haynes noted in her

remarks. *"Your active participation and commitment to putting in practice the knowledge and skills you will learn here today are key to ensuring a gender-just future."*

She added that the workshop was part of an established tradition of coordination between the university, government entities and non-governmental organisations, especially during **16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence** that is celebrated annually from 25 November to 10 December to bring awareness to the issue.

British High Commissioner to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Her Excellency Mrs. Janet Douglas said the High Commission was pleased to support events of this nature. She also urged the students to play their part in stamping out violence in their schools and communities.

"You will be taking part in a workshop to talk [not only] about the issues the film raises [but also] about how do you go back into your schools and spread the message to your friends that it is not okay to hit someone; it is not okay to abuse your partner; it is not okay for you to sit and watch someone else abuse your friend or even someone you don't like. It is just not okay; it is never okay," she said. ♦



Barbados's Minister of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs Hon. Cynthia Forde delivering remarks at the workshop



Her Excellency Janet Douglas, British High Commissioner to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean

Nurturing Emotional Intelligence



Helping young people to manage their emotions in order to counteract the island's growing culture of violence. This was one of the aims when the Faculty of Humanities and Education joined forces with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to celebrate World Children's Day last 20 November, by hosting an inaugural Pop-Up Festival at The Ellerslie Secondary School.

Deputy Dean Professor Donna-Maria Maynard spearheaded the initiative with a team comprising student volunteers and faculty members, including Ms. Lisa Yarde, Dr. Sheron Burns, Dr. Grace Fayombo, Dr. Mia Jules, Dr. Chloé Walker, Ms. Zoanne Evans and postgraduate student Melena Simmons.



Professor Donna-Maria Maynard, Deputy Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Education, The UWI, Cave Hill Campus

Professor Maynard said, "... given the *incredulous increase in violent behavior and gun crime among the youth of Barbados, it is necessary for us to take action and prepare our children to manage their emotions and respect each other, their environment, and their future. The Pop-Up Festival's goal of building emotional intelligence in our youth was seen as an ideal channel for initiating training in emotional intelligence.*"

Emotional intelligence (EQ) is the ability to recognise your own emotions, understand what they're telling you, and realise how they affect others in your environment. EQ also involves your perception of others and understanding how they feel; this allows you to manage relationships more effectively. Most importantly, EQ is teachable, learnable, and measurable.

Research shows that increased EQ correlates with increased well-being, decision making, relationships and effectiveness. For children and families,

increased EQ leads to improvements in the long-term physical health, social relationships, and academic achievement for children.

The **Pop-Up Festival** brought children and adults together at The Ellerslie School to share and learn, using fun, engaging activities that help the children learn about emotions, well-being, and children's rights. This year, the **Pop-Up Festival** was a proud supporter of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

World leaders, informed by over 10 million citizens, developed a comprehensive set of goals to make the world a better place – a place with a sustainable future – by 2030. The goals are broad and deep, calling for the end of hunger, equality for all people, and peace in the world. We chose to focus on eight of the SDGs that we viewed as being of great importance to Barbados (1 - no poverty, 3 - good health & well-being, 5 - gender equality, 6 – clean water and sanitation, 7 - affordable and clean energy, 8 – decent work and economic growth, and 13 - climate action). Learning about the SDGs is all about growing the skills for a better life and a better world: grow friendship, reduce conflict; grow self-awareness, reduce volatility; grow connections, reduce isolation. ♦

Historians Mark St. Vincent and the Grenadines 40th Anniversary of Independence

In keeping with its mandate and outstanding tradition of outreach to the Eastern Caribbean, Cave Hill Campus brought into focus “*Women and the Development of St. Vincent and the Grenadines*” when the campus hosted a seminar presentation to celebrate that country’s 40th anniversary of Independence last October.

The event was held by the Department of History and Philosophy of the Faculty of Humanities and Education and the Institute for Gender and

Development Studies, Nita Barrow Unit (IGDS:NBU). The seminar presentation was delivered by doctoral student from the Faculty of Humanities and Education, Ms. Afi Martin.

Head of the Department of History and Philosophy Dr. Henderson Carter, in his opening remarks, urged attendees “to look back to consider the struggles that our people have endured, and the victories won along the way. I also urge you to consider another question – What can I do to advance the nation-building project in St. Vincent and the Grenadines?”

Applauding MacShawn Phillips, an MPhil student in history under his supervision, who had returned to the island nation to make a contribution in public service, he added: “Besides public service, however, Phillips, Ayana Bobb and Afi Martin have set out on a journey to obtain their PhDs and, through their publication, to contribute to the development of the historiography of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.”

He also issued a special plea: “I would like our Caribbean political leaders, and our people in general, to understand that developing nations not only need STEM [science, technology, engineering and mathematics] for advancement, but solid histories,



Ms. Afi Martin, Doctoral Student, Faculty of Humanities and Education

written from below, that analyse the trajectories of our people. It is these histories that build social cohesion and inspire our people to face the global community with confidence and leave their mark ...”

The seminar was chaired by Dr. Halimah DeShong, then Head of the IGDS:NBU, whom Dr. Carter praised in his opening remarks for her ambassadorial appointment to the diplomatic staff of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Mission to the United Nations. He also congratulated another UWI graduate, Dominic Brisbane, who will serve the Mission.

Ms. Martin’s presentation on women’s activism in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, in the wake of international agreements on the status of women, was well received as she played clips from her oral history project with a number of Vincentian feminists. She indicated that even as gains had been made in that country’s accession of a number of these United Nations’ instruments concerning women, more work needed to be done to bring women into the project of social and political development in the island nation.

The session closed with a small concert and reception to celebrate the anniversary of Independence. ♦



Easing Attitudes to Medical Cannabis

As a medical cannabis industry takes root within the region, Cave Hill has emerged as a leading voice of enlightenment in the shifting conversation amid the sector's global exploration.

Within the past few years, the campus has fostered discussions to help weed out misinformation about the growing industry, helping to clarify, for instance, that the potent property sought from the much-maligned plant in question was not tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the chemical that induces psychoactive effects, but the compound called cannabidiol (CBD) that has several therapeutic effects.

From the 2016 symposium at Cave Hill entitled **Marijuana: Perpetual Problem, or Potential Problem Solver for Barbados?**, these discussions have long moved away from whether or not marijuana should be decriminalised to a current focus on the implications of a medical cannabis industry for the region.

In 2019, the campus accelerated its outreach to educate regional medical professionals and the general public on the cannabis industry. In May and June, medical training was provided to practitioners, pharmacists and nurses in Barbados's healthcare industry. The training was done through Cave Hill's Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Wellness. Workshops addressed the use of medical cannabis in chronic pain syndromes, palliative care, and the legal framework for medical cannabinoids in Barbados.



Professor the Most Hon. V. Eudine Barribeau
Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal
The UWI, Cave Hill Campus

Minister of Health and Wellness Lt. Col. the Hon. Jeffrey Bostic described the workshops as timely, given the intention of the Government of Barbados to introduce five approved cannabis-derived medicines to its drug formulary in April 2020. Principal and Pro Vice-Chancellor of the Cave Hill Campus, Professor the Most Honourable V. Eudine Barribeau, highlighted the findings of academic research that suggest the medical cannabis industry *"could usher in a seismic shift in the region's fortunes, with significant economic benefit accruing to many, including state and healthcare professionals"*. She also spoke of the current work being done by staff and student researchers of the campus to explore the potential economic benefits of the industry.

Much of this work was highlighted at the 20th **Annual Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) Conference** held in May 2019. Several lecturers shared their research on the implications of cannabis for Barbados. In his paper ***"Economic Model of the Incremental Approach of Medical Marijuana Legislation in Barbados"***, Lecturer in the Department of Economics at the Cave Hill Campus, Jeremy Stephen, said the island could be earning

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From left: Sister Keturah Babb, Ichirouganaim Council for the Advancement of Rastafari (ICAR); Dr. Alana Griffith, Lecturer in Sociology; Brother Rudolph Asher, The Twelve Tribes of Israel; Ras Iral, ICAR; Ras Simba, Afrikan Heritage Foundation; and moderator Dr. Tennyson Joseph, Senior Lecturer in Political Science

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millions annually from consumption tax, import duties and the issuing of licences within that industry. He based his projection on an *"informal sector currency demand model"* proposed for Barbados in 2008, which showed that a consumption tax, using the value added tax (VAT) model, between 2008 and 2018 could have earned the country between a minimum of \$27 million and a maximum of \$137 million annually from the medical marijuana industry. The economist also added that the Government could have gained further revenue of between \$7 million and \$34 million yearly during that same ten-year period, through the use of licences.

Also at the SALISES conference, Lecturer in Sociology Dr. Alana Griffith cautioned that systems would have to be put in place to avoid any spillover of product between the formal and informal markets. Further, she made the case that legislation should be put in place, with careful consideration, to protect authorised persons from prosecution. Dr. Griffith also advised that policymakers should be prepared to make adjustments to related policies, given the dynamics of the industry.

Dr. Damian Cohall, Senior Lecturer in Pharmacology, who also presented at the conference, made a case for a regulatory framework that facilitates implementation in phases, starting with finished products approved by the US Food and Drug Administration. He suggested that phase two would be to import other formulations of medical cannabis. A third phase would focus

on cultivation and *"how cultivation can lead to the development of products that will be developed locally"*. These guidelines were framed in the joint paper by Griffith and Cohall titled **"Conceptualising a policy framework for the implementation of medical marijuana in the Caribbean territory of Barbados."** The paper also formed a part of the Department of Government, Sociology, Social Work and Psychology's *Inaugural Policy Brief* dated December 2018.

In addition to her conference presentation, Dr. Griffith facilitated a public panel discussion that engaged the Rastafari community, in particular, on the topic **"Don't Panic, It's Just a Plant: Perspectives from Rastafari on Cannabis Policy Reform in Barbados"**. The 19 November 2019 event sought to provide a platform to the Rastafari community to share their views on the current developments around cannabis and related policies in Barbados, given their perceived, long-standing association with cannabis. Panellists used the opportunity to air their concerns about the provisions of Barbados's **Sacramental Cannabis Bill** that was debated in the Barbados Parliament the

Professor Barriteau has stressed that, as discussions on the medical cannabis industry progress in the region, Cave Hill is ready to move full steam ahead to conduct on-campus research into marijuana for medicinal purposes.



Members of the Rastafari community in the audience at panel discussion, **"Don't Panic, It's Just a Plant: Perspectives from Rastafari on Cannabis Policy Reform In Barbados"**

Friday preceding this panel discussion. President of the **Afrikan Heritage Foundation** Paul Simba Rock criticised this Bill that makes provisions for Rastafarians to grow marijuana “sufficient for their use” in the precincts of their places of worship. However, they must seek an exempt permit if they wish to use the sacrament at any religious event away from the temple, recognised as their place of worship. Rock stated that, in the Rastafari religion, the first place of worship is actually the home, which is currently not acknowledged in the Bill as a place of worship.

Dr. Griffith questioned the need for such a Bill, arguing that the Constitution already guarantees citizens’ rights to practise their religion. She noted that the **CARICOM Regional Commission on Marijuana** had recommended the expungement of criminal records for some marijuana-related offences, an initiative that would correct what was deemed past injustices to Rastafari.

The panellists also addressed the Government’s intention to hold a referendum for Barbadians to decide on the recreational use of marijuana. This move was strongly criticised, as the panellists argued there first must be a major public education programme to help dispel the misinformation people have received about cannabis over the past years. According to Rock, *“So if you are speaking about a referendum, the first thing ... that you would have to do is to have a comprehensive national educational programme which has not been done. So you can’t just come and say you are going to have a referendum ... we [are] setting up the people again, because there has been, for 50 years, a lot of misinformation directed at the people.”*

During a debate in the House of Assembly in mid-November last year, Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley stated that all Barbadians will have a chance to be able to vote on the matter, and the country would abide by the outcome.



Dr. Alana Griffith, Lecturer in Sociology, The UWI, Cave Hill Campus



Professor Leonard O'Garro, Director of the Centre for Food Security and Entrepreneurship (CFSE), The UWI, Cave Hill Campus

Rounding out the year, Professor O'Garro of the Cave Hill's **Centre for Food Security and Entrepreneurship** made a presentation in November 2019 on the emerging industry. His presentation focused on the economic potential of the cannabis industry, particularly in light of its value, implementation approaches, international developments, and trade environment. Against this background, he presented a model of what a medical cannabis sector in Barbados could look like. This model explored the customisation required for potential success, while avoiding pitfalls.

Public discourse addressing the implications of a medical cannabis industry for Barbados could continue well into this new decade, with the campus again being at the forefront as its Faculty of Medical Sciences prepares to host a regional **Medical Cannabis Master Class** titled **Seed to Sale**, during 12 – 15 March 2020.

The Principal of Cave Hill Campus has stressed that, as discussions on the medical cannabis industry progress in the region, Cave Hill is ready to move full steam ahead to conduct on-campus research into marijuana for medicinal purposes. However, she has made an urgent call to regional governments to implement the requisite legislation. She argues that if cannabis is going to be exploited for medicinal purposes in this region, governments in Barbados and the rest of the Caribbean should be at the forefront of the development. ♦

Blackbirds Soaring High in Women's Volleyball

by Marsha Boyce

The UWI Blackbirds Women's Volleyball Team has big plans for 2020, after capping off a stellar local season. Just two years since gaining promotion to the top flight of local volleyball, the Blackbirds ladies clinched the 2019 Goddard Enterprises Limited Division 1 Volleyball League title.

To win a national league title is no mean feat; to do so without losing a game is all the more impressive. Captain Dania Hamilton says determination was one of the pillars of their success.

"We prioritised volleyball this year, and we made that sacrifice [so] that we would be at every single game because we had a plan to be victorious as we were heartbroken over last [2018] season."

The Blackbirds finished the 2019 League competition with a 14-0 record. In fact, their only defeat of the entire season was a tough loss in the Knockout final to Chargers, denying them the opportunity to become double-crown champions. That defeat, which both Hamilton and coach Renier Grace described as their worst performance

of the season, might have incidentally spurred on their winning run in the League.

"When we lost that [Knockout] final," says Grace, "the way we lost it, you could have seen the hurt on the girls' faces. We knew we could have done better than we did. So we just refocused game by game. When we realised that we could win this [League] tournament, we decided that we would try our best not to lose any games – no matter how hard it got."

The 2019 season marked Grace's coaching debut. The former Barbados national player took over the reins from long-standing coach John Stuart, who could now focus on the men's team while still assisting the women in the capacity of assistant manager.

The victorious season was not without its challenges - from having to balance academic and work commitments with a

To win a national league title is no mean feat; to do so without losing a game is all the more impressive.

hectic competition schedule, to several players battling illness during the season and even losing some members who returned to their respective countries for the Christmas break that occurred after the examination period; it all threatened to derail their unbeaten run.

However, they agree the achievement was an all-round effort, driven by the commitment of the players and supported by the motivation of trainer Desmond Grant. Constructive criticism, self-evaluation and mutual respect are key features of the close-knit, drama-free unit that is built on honest and open communication. The bonds extend



off the court with the captain even tutoring one of the young, outstanding members of the team, Tenielle Chapman-Goodluck, a student of The St. Michael School.

Having led the Blackbirds for the past ten years, Hamilton has seen the programme grow from simply a UWI Games team to national champions. However, she believes their on-court success is only a part of what makes them unique.

*"The **Blackbirds** is a brand," she says emphatically. "It's not just any other team! We set ourselves apart, and not just because we have The University of the West Indies' full force behind us and the Academy of Sport supporting us, but because we have built something!"*

"We have what other teams don't have – we have that togetherness. When you become a member of the Blackbirds you are encouraged. You are given the advice that you need to help you to advance in your career. You get academic assistance from persons. It's an all-round cohesive unit. We help you; we mould you into an athlete, into an academic, into a scholar."

"The Blackbirds is a brand. It's not just any other team! We set ourselves apart, and not just because we have The University of the West Indies' full force behind us and the Academy of Sport supporting us, but because we have built something!"

UWI Blackbirds teams have gained a reputation as "the ones to beat" in several local competitions. Aundrea Wharton, Sports Coordinator at the Academy of Sport, Cave Hill, who is also Team Manager, says this recent success, added to the women's Knockout title victory in 2017, augurs well for the Academy of Sport's volleyball set-up.

"We are at a transitionary stage. So we need to be able to bring through some younger players to work with this current group with the intention of carrying on the excellence when some of them do decide to move on. As it stands for the programme overall, we are in a good position to continue to attract stronger players and still continue to be competitive on the court for at least another two years."

Although the next Division 1 season

is unlikely to start before August or September, plans are already underway for their title defence. This includes preseason training from February in preparation for an invitational tournament in Trinidad and Tobago in May. The players will also engage in a community outreach initiative, in partnership with the local primary schools' volleyball competition.

In terms of long-term impact, coach Grace believes the volleyball programme can strive to build a legacy beyond winning the local tournament by developing players to bolster their respective national squads across the Caribbean. The Blackbirds are already pumped for the 2020 season, and in the words of captain Hamilton, *"there's no stopping us unless we stop ourselves."* ♦



The UWI Blackbirds Women's Volleyball Team celebrating after winning the 2019 Goddard Enterprises Limited Division 1 Volleyball League.

Blackbirds Team Captivates Sailing Community

by Franchero Ellis

With the echo of waves breaking on the shore, the **Blackbirds Sailing Team** of Franchero Ellis (captain and tactician), Colville Thompson and Nevin Roach posed for selfies in the parking lot at the **Barbados Yacht Club**. That sinking feeling of running late for our encounter with the starting horn caused many an anxious glance at our watches. Such a feeling was truly satisfied only when we were on board the yacht, under full sail and heading to the start line in the **Barbados Sailing Week Regatta 2020**.



Posing before the start of the Round Barbados Race on Errol Barrow Day are Colville Thompson, Nevin Roach and Franchero Ellis.

Having just completed the **Coastal Series** that comprised five races, the Blackbirds were about to start the **Mount Gay Round Barbados Race** already quite satisfied with a fourth-place finish in the **Coastal Series**. The team was then augmented by the veteran Joshua Clarke and rookie Chloe Brathwaite, who are both students from the Faculty of Social Sciences, and Harrison College teenager Franchero Ellis II. This was the Blackbirds' third year participating in the annual **Barbados Sailing Week**, and we were

once again a hot favourite in the hearts of rivals and spectators.

In the slightly frigid, early morning of 21st January, Errol Barrow Day, forecasted conditions of very strong winds with big waves accompanied small craft warnings and did not quite prepare the participants for the larger than 15-foot-high waves at the south of the island. The seven o'clock start of the big race from Carlisle Bay was deceptively sedate with insufficient wind and fairly flat seas, easy conditions for an escort to Oistins by the motor yacht of Mr. Ralph "Bizzy" Williams.

As the conditions intensified after Long Beach with higher winds and bigger waves, the Blackbirds leveraged their local knowledge to navigate a channel in the southern, fringing reef that the other competitors needed to sail a few extra miles to avoid. These conditions caused enough damage to some boats rounding the southern tip of the island, forcing them to abandon the race and whittling the fleet of competitors to fewer than twenty.

Built of marine grade aluminum, **Oiseau-noir** was safe in the trying conditions; but in heavy seas, she

also likes to sail in big winds. This became a major challenge after rounding East Point as the winds died considerably, and the Blackbirds lost momentum as wave action became more pronounced. As tactician, the captain became concerned with the loss of speed and tried many techniques, including *sailing by the lee*, to take advantage of every puff of wind.

Reaching North Point some two hours after our three o'clock target meant that the hope of beating our previous times evaporated. The evening wind speed continued to fall, but the team was buoyed by knowing that we were finally on the home stretch.

Mother nature is never to be trifled with, and any hope of transiting the channel through the reef at the north of the island was quickly abandoned as a prevailing north swell had produced extremely long breaks that curled monstrous waves across the entire reef.

Skirting the danger zone, the team proceeded doggedly as the sunset waned and early stars began to populate the evening skies. The journey was long and the finish line beckoned a tired crew. Eventually, under the cover of darkness and with a cheering crowd ashore at **Dippers Beach Bar**, the Blackbirds yet again sailed into the hearts of the sailing community, finishing 12th place in the 2020 **Mount Gay Round Barbados Race**.

Counted among our achievements this season was our remarkable persistence at being first to cross the start line in all but the final race. This is no small feat as vessels circled like

Counted among our achievements this season was our remarkable persistence at being first to cross the start line in all but the final race. This is no small feat as vessels circled like sharks during the five-minute countdown of the starting sequence.

sharks during the five-minute countdown of the starting sequence. A captain needs to be able to time his vessel's speed so as to cross the start line at the sound of the horn, while avoiding the jostling of other vessels that are also vying to cross. Crews have to be calm and observant, being ready to spring into action as they follow the precise commands of their captain.

At 19 feet, six inches, yacht **Oiseau-noir** is not likely to be a race winner, but the team is always happy to compete. We consider our mission to be showing other members of the university community, as well as Barbadians at large, that sailing is a fun pastime in which all persons can participate regardless of the size of the vessel.

During any weekend, we can be found cruising along the coast of Barbados in our bright yellow boat. These practical training sessions prepare the team to compete in local regattas that require a serious application of the rules of sailing and an understanding of navigation, in order to manoeuvre the vessel between points on the race course. The theory related to the use of these skills is taught on Friday evenings at the **Usain Bolt Sports Complex**.



Blackbirds receiving their Perseverance Award, flanked by Rose-Ann Blenman-Abange, Commodore (L) and Donna Chandler (R) of the Barbados Cruising Club; and Chesterfield Browne, Mount Gay Representative (in red cap)

The **Blackbirds Sailing Team** welcomes expressions of interest and extends an invitation to new recruits. You can reach the team by WhatsApp on (246) 260-2204, or by email at uwisc2@gmail.com for your opportunity to try sailing. ♦

A Gift Worth Sharing

An everlasting memento that can be shared with family and friends around the world and preserved for descendants unborn.



That's what the Class of 2019 at The UWI Cave Hill received last October when each graduate was gifted a video clip that captured them crossing the stage and receiving their scroll, a proud moment which they shared by posting to social media.

The social media initiative gave immediate impetus to the Cave Hill's alumni engagement efforts, with immediate and positive feedback from among the hundreds of recipients.

"Thank you. Wonderful idea. UWI is definitely punching above

its weight in academia. Keep up the great work," remarked Dr. Antonio Joyette, an adjunct lecturer at the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) who earned a newly minted Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree from the Faculty of Science and Technology.

Another PhD recipient, Dr. Margaret Gill, who graduated from the Faculty of Humanities and Education stated: *"May I take this opportunity, not only to sincerely thank you for this incredible gift, but to register my appreciation for this innovation by The UWI, Cave Hill Campus. It is not only a*

creative and thoughtful act that I treasure, it can bring attention and hence students to our university. It also has the great potential to [increase] attachment and hence support to the institution through the Alumni Association."

In expressing their deep pleasure and gratitude, many pledged to share the personalised recordings widely as well as to "tag" and "keep close to" The UWI.

"I am truly grateful and elated for this video clip; it was definitely my proud moment to cherish," remarked Anthony Headley. ♦



It is well known that a UWI degree will take you far, your destination determined, in large measure, by how much you dared to dream. What many discover on the journey of obtaining a Pelican education is that it can often awaken within them passions that they never knew existed.

A Journey of Self-Discovery



Cara Michaela Nichols

Take the case of Class of 2019 graduate **Cara Michaela Nichols** whose initial ambition to dance later changed to becoming a doctor, until climate change concerns, while studying at Cave Hill, fuelled her fervour for training in food and environmental studies. Now in the Netherlands, closer to a world of wooden clogs rather than ballerina shoes, she is passionately pursuing graduate qualifications in development studies.

Yet, who would have thought that a casual scroll on a social media page would trigger her transition from Cave Hill with a BSc in Chemistry to read Agrarian, Food,

and Environmental Studies at **Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR)**? While perusing Instagram one day, Cara saw a **National Geographic** post on food production in the Netherlands with a feature on **Wageningen University**.

"So I applied to both Erasmus and Wageningen Universities. I [was accepted] at both universities, but I ultimately chose the International Institute of Social Sciences at Erasmus University because I thought it was a better fit for what I wanted to do. I am concerned with what food production will look like as it pertains to climate change and how climate change will affect the way we grow our food."

This is not even her first time stepping out of her comfort zone. Back in 2013, Cara left Barbados to pursue a degree in dance at the **University of the Arts**, Philadelphia. For her, dance was therapeutic and a way of inspiring others. She therefore grasped the opportunity to pursue this goal.

However, injury struck and cut short her aspirations of a career in dance. After many medical consultations, she had to consider an alternative course of study. That's when she decided to become a doctor and enrolled at the Cave Hill Campus to study biology and chemistry, but would soon follow her interests and make chemistry her sole major.

It was during the second year of her programme when she experienced the

"eureka" moment on her Instagram news feed - fate would introduce her to the wide possibilities of food science.

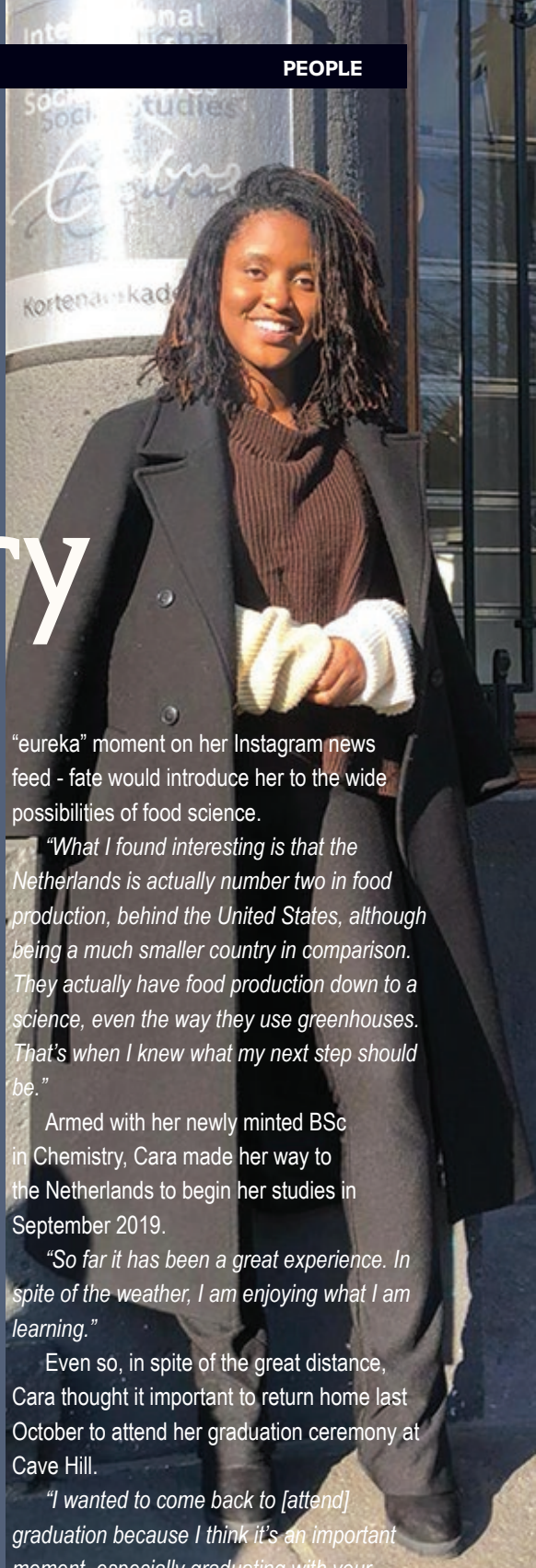
"What I found interesting is that the Netherlands is actually number two in food production, behind the United States, although being a much smaller country in comparison. They actually have food production down to a science, even the way they use greenhouses. That's when I knew what my next step should be."

Armed with her newly minted BSc in Chemistry, Cara made her way to the Netherlands to begin her studies in September 2019.

"So far it has been a great experience. In spite of the weather, I am enjoying what I am learning."

Even so, in spite of the great distance, Cara thought it important to return home last October to attend her graduation ceremony at Cave Hill.

"I wanted to come back to [attend] graduation because I think it's an important moment, especially graduating with your undergraduate degree. It's one that should be celebrated. Also, I have really come to appreciate Cave Hill and The University of the West Indies ... the lecturers there, the students there. I think I have a much greater appreciation for the region." ♦





Any dossier on millennials that captures persons 30 years of age or under who are destined to succeed will likely feature Cave Hill alumna Dr. Jamilah Forde among its pages.

Extolling the Beauty of Modern Medicine

Showing sufficient confidence and talent to wear a tiara and stethoscope with equal poise, the 29-year-old has etched her mark in both the medical field and the world of pageantry.

It is no surprise, therefore, that the ambitious trailblazer was able to merge her two areas of interest and create a viable niche in the field of medical aesthetics.

The inspiration to venture into medical aesthetics came to Dr. Forde, quite appropriately, while competing in a **Miss Barbados Universe** beauty pageant. She was approached by one of the pageant sponsors, Saadiya Nakhuda of **Lotus Touch**, who broached the idea to become a medical aesthetician. Although engaged in full-time medical practice and in her final

year studying for a master's degree at Cave Hill Campus, the young medic took up the challenge and began her training in this new area.

For many, undertaking these three activities at the same time might seem daunting. While indeed it proved challenging, Dr. Forde demonstrated that she was a hardworking student who persevered and completed both her UWI studies and the course in the United States simultaneously.

Medical aesthetics is a field that Dr. Forde sees offering much opportunity for growth. She currently offers to her clients, procedural aesthetics that include services such as fillers, body contouring, hair loss restoration and scar removal. These procedures are normally non-invasive, giving clients an opportunity to return to

their normal duties sooner than traditional cosmetic surgeries.

"People don't necessarily have the downtime anymore for surgery ... People just want to maintain or correct a little bit to try to be their best self. You are never going to look like 20 forever, but you want to age gracefully at the same time," she explained.

As a participant on the local pageant scene, Dr. Forde recognises people's desire to look their best in life: *"I appreciate that your outward appearance and how you feel about yourself has so much to do with your self-esteem ... I am not trying to make people into something else; I want them to be happy the way they are."*

Dr. Forde encourages others in the medical field to look beyond the traditional career paths in medicine, as those areas are heavily saturated in Barbados: *"In terms of general practice, in which I am still engaged, that in itself is oversaturated ... You need to figure out your niche and market."*

Apart from medical aesthetics, Dr. Jamilah has a love for family medicine. After gaining an MBBS degree at Cave Hill, she worked as an intern at a medical clinic, as the areas in which she was first interested were all filled. Dr. Forde became drawn to family medicine and decided to enrol at this campus for postgraduate studies in Family

she was disappointed to learn that she was too young to pursue medicine at The UWI, St. Augustine Campus. However, instead of waiting a year to be admitted to that campus, she decided to seek entry to the Cave Hill Campus, as part of its inaugural undergraduate cohort.

Dr. Forde has seen much progress in the medical programme at Cave Hill where the Faculty of Medical Sciences recently celebrated its tenth anniversary and, over the years, has recorded outstanding student performances and achievements.

"The faculty has grown... We are producing more and more graduates, and they are getting into residencies; they are

Dr. Forde looks back at her Cave Hill years with contentment and to her future with expectation. Her time at The UWI, Cave Hill Campus has encouraged her to further pursue medical education and to capitalise on her love of teaching.



Dr. Jamilah Forde

Moreover, she speaks of the need to understand that the field is more than expressing vanity: *"People just think boobs and butt ... but they do not think about the burns or people in severe accidents who are disfigured or who are born that way and need corrective surgery to have a chance at a normal life."*

Medicine. She realised she had an aptitude in this area and achieved her master's degree with distinction. She decided to further her studies in the field and has since graduated with the Doctor of Medicine in Family Medicine.

Having been recognised for her outstanding academic achievements, Dr. Forde was invited to tutor at Cave Hill. Eventually, word of her teaching skills reached officials at another Barbados-based medical university who approached her to ply her services there.

Success, it seems, is second nature to Dr. Forde. She wrote the Common Entrance Examination (11-plus Exam) at 10 years old and gained entry to the highly acclaimed Harrison College. Gaining a Barbados Scholarship at age 17, she entered Cave Hill's newly minted MBBS programme as one of its foundational students. At the time,

going overseas and they are doing well in their fields. I think the faculty is on the right track," she remarked with pride.

Dr. Forde looks back at her Cave Hill years with contentment and to her future with expectation. Her time at The UWI, Cave Hill Campus has encouraged her to further pursue medical education and to capitalise on her love of teaching.

"I still remember being the student and being totally lost and overwhelmed," she admits, while expressing an understanding of the students' need for assistance and vowing to continue to provide this through her teaching.

With a skillful mastery of examinations from the classroom to the clinic, combined with her love of helping others, Dr. Forde has clearly demonstrated why she is one for the books. ♦

Master Gardener Signs Off

It's not unusual for visitors to the Cave Hill Campus, whether first-time or repeat, to be struck by and remark on its well-manicured lawns and neat gardens.

Often, they might even have seen the diminutive figure of Harold Boyce tending to these plants with a protective, almost paternal care. Beautifying the campus was his calling for over 39 years until his retirement last October.



Harold Boyce

Mr. Boyce's life of service began in November 1979 when he was offered the position of gardener for the building that houses the biology section of the campus. There, he was the lone landscaper tasked with transforming the grounds around that building, an undertaking he diligently performed for seven years. His work flourished, and he was promoted to the then Maintenance Department to oversee all the grounds of the campus.

Mr. Boyce was renowned for his attention to detail while

gardening, a skill he describes as a "supernatural" bestowal. In fact, he admitted that there is a heavy spiritual influence on his work, and is quick to credit God for his talent and achievements.

"I can't take all the praise for all the work that was done," he said earnestly, "it was God leading me all the time."

Indeed, he believes it was God's guidance that led him to leave his private landscaping job for the role at The UWI, all those years ago.

Even after attaining the role of supervisor, Mr. Boyce felt connected to the ground. He never

thought his new station meant he was simply to give orders while lounging in the shade. Instead, even in his clean white shirt, he could be found trimming hedges and forking the soil. He maintains that he did not believe in standing and giving orders as a supervisor. Rather, he focused on working alongside his team and leading them by example.

His philosophy of putting your hands to the plough and shoulder to the wheel comes from his experience growing up on a farm as a young boy. After the death of his father, Mr. Boyce took over the farming of their rented, one-acre

Even after attaining the role of supervisor, Mr. Boyce felt connected to the ground. He never thought his new station meant he was simply to give orders while lounging in the shade. Rather, he focused on working alongside his team and leading them by example.

plot. He grew potatoes, beans and carrots and made a living selling his produce. His love affair with the land continued into adulthood, and he began offering landscaping services to the communities in the Husbands/Warrens area before becoming the Cave Hill Campus's leading and award-winning horticulturalist.

He acknowledges his own diligence, admitting that he was careful not to let his personal farming ventures conflict with his responsibilities at The UWI. He prides himself on never having called in sick just to attend to his farm. Instead, he was always honest and transparent with his superiors if ever he needed a few hours to reap his produce. As a supervisor, he made sure to arrive early in the morning to prepare for his team's work for the day.

Mr. Boyce hopes his philosophy and example will inspire others to create beauty through hard work. At times, he felt discouraged by the attitude of some younger workers.

"The younger people don't really have the love for it," he bemoaned. *"They can't take the sun and want to work half days."*

He wonders about the upkeep of the grounds once he leaves the university as many people would approach him to say, *"When you*

are gone, I don't know what the grounds will look like."

Consequently, Mr. Boyce is willing to extend his service to the university for another two years, if needed.

His retirement plans so far involve helping his friend with his landscaping business. At age 65, Mr. Boyce shows no sign of slowing down: *"When God gives you the strength you have to use it when you have it,"* he stated. God's blessing of good health has made it possible for Mr. Boyce to

carry out his calling at The UWI for nearly 40 years. He is confident that his time at Cave Hill was ordained; that he did not come by accident but was sent by God to do his work at the university.

This belief has been reflected in Mr. Boyce's work through the years. It is no surprise then, that upon his retirement, the **Lifetime Service Award** was bestowed upon him by the Cave Hill Campus in recognition of his hard work and commitment to beautifying the campus.

Mr. Boyce advises that whatever you choose to do in life, learn to love it and you will be successful. He leaves these parting words: *"Work hard and always be honest in what you do. Do the job to the best of your ability."*

We are sure that the flora and green pastures across the campus can attest to the merit of Mr. Boyce's advice and his God-anointed hands. ♦



Harold Boyce receives the Lifetime Service Award from Principal, Professor Eudine Barribeau.



Gender Specialist Appointed to UNITED NATIONS

Dr. Halimah DeShong

Growing up in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, a chic Halimah DeShong once dreamt of opening a clothing boutique that she imagined could become her apex of achievement. Life took a different course, however, leading her into the world of academia and now diplomacy. On 1 January this year, she officially took up an ambassadorial posting at the United Nations on behalf of her native country.

Her Excellency Ambassador Dr. DeShong is a key member of the team appointed by the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, a country with its population of 110,000 and the smallest to secure a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) back in June 2019. It will hold the seat for two years ending in December 2021.

Just prior to her appointment as Ambassador and Second Deputy Permanent representative in her country's Permanent Mission to the United Nations, she was Head of the Institute for Gender and Development Studies: Nita Barrow

Unit (IGDS:NBU) at the Cave Hill Campus.

Asked if she ever imagined such a career move, Ambassador Dr. DeShong laughingly replied, “no”. Yet she has no doubt that her academic career has adequately prepared her for the transition.

She recalled applying to study at The UWI as a youth on two separate occasions but being forced to scrap her plans due to lack of funds. At that time, she was teaching at a secondary school. Among her extra-curricular activities was netball where she captained the National Under-23 Team and the National Senior Team of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

It was that commitment to serving her country, coupled with the foresight of some

“The work on gender-based violence, in particular, would be extremely useful going forward. I’ve been asked to cover the West and East Africa files as well as those on women, youth and children in armed conflict. There’s work to be done in the area of gender-based violence in the context of war, particularly rape.”

key individuals, that led to her becoming the first national of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to obtain a national sports scholarship to pursue tertiary education.

“I’ve had a lot of important turning points in my life but also great mentors”, said Dr. DeShong, who also earned a Commonwealth Scholarship on her academic journey.

With a PhD in the Sociology of Gender and Violence from the University of Manchester, Dr. DeShong has focused on research that centred mostly on gender-based violence, feminist research methodologies, and anticolonial/decolonial feminisms, and she has earned numerous awards and accolades.

She believes that her work caught the eye of the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines when it successfully completed its 10-year campaign to secure the UNSC seat.

“We were very clear that there should always be a place for Small Island Developing States on the council, particularly how we’re made vulnerable as a result of climate change and a range of other external shocks.”

In an interview done on the cusp of taking up her ambassadorial post, she told the CHILL Magazine: *“It’s an opportunity for me to learn a different kind of work around feminist and gender analysis and organising. I’m anxious, excited, encouraged, humbled. I’ve been working at The University of the West Indies in the Institute for Gender and Development Studies, and I don’t think I could have had a better place to prepare me to enter this new space and do a new kind of development work.”*

“I’m excited for St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the Caribbean. I can now explore a new dimension of the work I’ve done over the years on gender-based violence and violence in general.”

In her new role, she will oversee a number of matters, including several relating to women, peace and security; youth peace and security; and children and armed conflict.

“The work on gender-based violence, in particular, would be extremely useful going forward. I’ve been asked to cover the West and East Africa files as well as those on women, youth and children in armed conflict. There’s work to be done in the area of gender-based violence in the context of war, particularly rape. More and more, what is becoming of serious concern is the extent to which peace and security work doesn’t necessarily engage women for whom peace and security are fundamental. I think the council is becoming more cognizant of the need to include women in the response, the policy framing and general action plans.”

She commended The UWI for helping to educate the people of the region on the implications of the historic step by the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines under the leadership of Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves.

“Apart from agreeing to my secondment, The UWI hosted a Vice-

Chancellor’s forum on what it means for St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the Caribbean to have a space on the [United Nations] Security Council. That generated some important discussion and also gave the Prime Minister, on behalf of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, an opportunity to share with the region the process of being voted onto the council and the vision as well. It’s a historic moment and to be asked to be part of that is extremely humbling.

“What is encouraging for us in St. Vincent and the Grenadines is the tremendous support we’ve had from the Caribbean countries, partners in Latin America, Africa, Asia and the global north. We are the smallest country to have ever served in this capacity, but we have a huge imagination which gives us a particular vantage point. We can learn from Jamaica which was on the council twice in the early 1980s and then in the 2000s.”

The ambassador spoke glowingly about the work of the IGDS:NBU and its staff, and gave heartfelt thanks for the support and lifelong friendships she has developed while at Cave Hill.

She also praised numerous academic mentors who include one of her IGDS:NBU predecessors, current Campus Principal Professor the Most Honourable V. Eudine Barribeau; Head of the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies at Cave Hill, Dr. Don Marshall; Head of the Department of Government, Sociology, Social Work and Psychology, Dr. Wendy Grenade; Deputy Dean, Research, Faculty of Social Sciences, Dr. Sherma Roberts; Senior Lecturer, Department of History and Philosophy, Dr. Richard Goodridge; and former Head of the IGDS:NBU, Joan Cuffie. ♦

Barriteau Awarded HIGHEST HONOUR

by Carol Williams

An entire life in education spent studying, teaching and in administration has enabled Professor Eudine Barriteau to acquire an enviable number of firsts.

Last November, the first woman to assume the title of Principal at The UWI, Cave Hill Campus continued on that path breaking trajectory when she was named among the first two recipients conferred with the **Order of Freedom of Barbados** in celebration of the country's 53rd anniversary of Independence, sharing this highest national honour with famed Barbadian entertainer Anthony "Gabby" Carter.

Professor the Most Honourable Violet Eudine Barriteau admits that she is still getting accustomed to the honorific and all it entails.

"When I move around and people say, 'the Most Honourable', I'm like, 'Who are they talking about?' On the day [of the bestowal] itself, I felt overjoyed, but I haven't adjusted to the fact that 'normal' would include official recognition in the protocols in formal meetings as 'the Most Honourable'. Half the time, I feel like saying, 'Don't say that, it just sounds too grand and ostentatious'. But I also recognise that these things are not only about the individual, they're larger than you; so if I say 'Don't say it', it may sound like I'm rejecting it when that is not the case. It's just that I feel you can call me Professor Barriteau, if you don't know me, or Principal if it's formal; but if you know me, call me Eudine."

The acclaimed academic was presented with the option of assuming the title Dame or becoming the recipient of the inaugural, indigenous award that carries equal distinction.

Being a proud regionalist, the message of freedom and emancipation in the new honour resonated heavily with the Caribbean feminist, scholar and activist who opted against adopting a vestige from the island's colonial past.

"Barbados is 53 years old as an independent nation, and I was very pleased that it had designed an award that shows confidence in itself as a nation and as a people. I felt the Order of Freedom spoke to my personality and, more importantly, spoke to how I feel

about Barbados and the region. I don't look down on knighthoods and damehoods at all, and I don't disrespect them. I fully understand the reason we have them was based on a particular relationship that existed before, and they have become part and parcel of who we are. So I'm not rejecting it, but I'm saying I am very proud Barbados has its own award, and I was offered the choice and was very pleased to choose the Order of Freedom."

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A month after the national recognition, Professor Barriteau scored another first for a regional academic when she received a **Medal of Honour** from the **China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL)**. The accolade was for her *"outstanding contribution to the development of Sino-Barbadian friendship, support of the Confucius Institute established by CUPL and The UWI, Cave Hill Campus and promotion of in-depth cooperation between [the] two countries"*.

She said of the CUPL award: *"Any kind of recognition is really humbling because you do what you have to do. You're not doing it for recognition. For me, it's a motivation. I am committed to service and, wherever possible, opening doors and serving as a catalyst because so many doors have been opened to me."*



The Grenada-born career academic migrated to Barbados as a child in 1966, the year the latter country attained political Independence. During her 48 years as an educator, she has received numerous national, regional and international awards and recognitions.

While all hold special meaning, she acknowledges she was deeply touched when she was bestowed **The Order of Grenada Gold Award for Excellence** at Grenada's 42nd Independence anniversary celebrations in 2016.

"That really spoke to my soul too. I'm Grenadian but left Grenada as a child and to still be recognised as a Grenadian made me feel extremely honoured. I can't describe how I felt going to Queen's Park that day to receive that award. I lived in River Road [where the park is located] and had a sister who was a national netballer and a high jumper, and as a little girl, I used to go to the park where she was practising; Queen's Park was my playground. Here I was, so many years later, going to the park as a guest of the Government of Grenada, being saluted and recognised by a lot of these Grenadians who really didn't even know me. I can't describe that feeling of belonging and being owned and claimed. When you are from one country and live in another, the country that you were born in is always home, and after a period of time, you have a nostalgia for a place where only very old people recognise you, because your school friends have migrated. That award from Grenada really made me feel Grenada still claims me, still recognises me."

At the age of 17, fresh from high school,

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Dame Sandra Mason, Governor General of Barbados, presenting Professor the Most Honourable Eudine Barribeau with her award at the Independence Parade

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"I have never been daunted by anything I've decided to do. I don't know if I would be the best at it, but I'll do it once I've accepted. I try to surrender to the fullness of whatever the existing conditions and that is how I work."

Barriteau began teaching at **St. George Secondary School** in 1972.

In quick time, she went to **Erdiston Teachers' Training College** before going on to Cave Hill where she gained a BSc honours degree. But she had a love for politics and wanted to work at the United Nations. With this goal in mind, she applied to the then **People's Revolutionary Government** in Grenada.

But as fate would have it, by the time they offered her a job as a foreign office cadet in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it was too late. She had already been accepted as a research assistant with respected Grenadian scholar **Patrick Emmanuel** at The UWI.

After years of service and commitment, including to the now named Institute for Gender and Development Studies: Nita Barrow Unit which she headed for 15 years, she was appointed Principal of The UWI Open Campus and, months later, Principal of The UWI, Cave Hill.

"When I'm introduced at functions and I hear the things I have done, I say, 'Wait, when did this happen?' When I was actively publishing and I had a chapter to write, I'd work on it, and once it was submitted, I'd close the file, take it off my desk and I'd



Professor the Most Hon. V. Eudine Barriteau receives the Medal of Honour from Ma Huaide, President of the China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL).

move on to the next thing. Thank God, I've had very good staff members. Some people may find it pretentious though the people who know me know it's not so. I don't see myself as carving a path. I'm at the end of my formal career, so to speak; so I guess if you look back, you'd see me carving a path, but I didn't set out ostensibly to carve a path. Whatever task I had or job I had to do I've launched myself into and try to give it my fullest.

"I have never been daunted by anything I've decided to do. I don't know if I would be the best at it, but I'll do it once I've accepted. I try to surrender to the fullness of whatever the existing conditions, and that is how I work. I've always been confident in my abilities; I expect to do well at any task. The other thing is that I'm not afraid to plunge in, even if I don't know the solution."

The Cave Hill Principal has taken no time to reflect on her time in education. As she puts it, that could be done on her retirement from The UWI. The holder of an MPA in Public Sector Financial Management from **New York University**, a PhD in Political Science from **Howard University** and author of an extensive

body of published work remains focused on strategising on the way forward for the campus.

Yet, when asked about her greatest accomplishment, her reply is unequivocal: *"I am most proud of my son. I don't care how many books I've written; I don't care how many awards I've received. Nothing gives me pleasure as much as seeing my son walking towards me smiling. He's a normal human being; not perfect, but he's a good, decent Caribbean young man and I'm extremely proud that I played a part in raising somebody who is a good citizen. He's one of my best friends and gives input on some of my papers."*

Cabral Fanon Barriteau-Foster, 32, currently lives and works in Jamaica, a wistful reminder of what might have been, with further pursuit.

"I don't do regrets, but if there's one thing that I'm sorry that I didn't have, though it's not a deep sorrow, is more children. I like children and I would have loved to have had three. I come from a large family. It may have affected my career, but children felt very natural growing up in my family, and children represent the future." ♦

Malikah Triumphs Over Tragedy



Malikah Pino beaming with pride at her achievement

For the past five years, the campus grounds have been teeming with exuberance for one Saturday in each October. It's when hundreds of proud parents, relatives and well-wishers came to bear witness to the momentous occasion of graduation, previously held at a venue outside of the campus.

Among last year's cheerful graduates stood Malikah Pino for whom the moment was bittersweet. Only her mother was in attendance as her father had died mere days before she was scheduled to embark on her Cave Hill journey. This tragic event affected her outlook on life and altered the dynamic of her large but close-knit family.

It all began in 2016 when

Malikah was excitingly preparing to leave her homeland, Trinidad, to commence studies in Barbados. Three days before her scheduled departure, she suffered the devastating loss of her father. This was particularly difficult for Malikah who enjoyed a close relationship with her dad whom she considered her best friend.

She also credits him as the person who shaped her into the individual she has become: *"He was very intelligent,"* she recalls with pride in her voice. *"He knew everything under the sun."*

Malikah was also inspired by her father's activism in her home country. She saw him spearhead many projects, including a farming initiative that has seen tremendous growth and success in Trinidad.

Indeed, Malikah's father was the inspiration and motivating force behind her decision to leave Trinidad to pursue studies in another island: *"He was a really hard worker, and he believed that education was the only way to*

move forward."

Armed with this belief, Malikah was able to continue her journey to Barbados to begin her studies at Cave Hill.

Her father's sudden death initially left her in a daze: *"All I remember is finding out that he passed away and there were little blurry moments ... and the next thing I knew is that I woke up in Barbados."*

Having to adjust to a new country was even more difficult while mourning the loss of her beloved dad. At times, Malikah felt lonely and depressed. Luckily, she was able to turn to her mother as a source of strength.

"She is the strongest person I know ... she is my backbone and was always supportive," Malikah proudly stated.

The mutual loss shared and distance apart drew the pair closer, and Malikah now considers her mother her best friend. As a

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Inspired by her father's example, she decided to use her time on campus to become an agent for change. She became the first elected President of the Political Science Students' Association (PSSA) at Cave Hill.

qualified preschool teacher, her mother instilled in her the value of education.

Unfortunately, tragedy struck her family again in 2017, when she lost a cousin to cancer and an uncle died a short while later. Following these setbacks, in the final year of her studies, Malikah began suffering

from an autoimmune disease that caused her to tire quickly and her body to become injured easily.

Beset with repeated tragedy and failing health, Malikah attracted speculation about whether it was reasonable to expect her to continue her studies. However, she was determined not to let her life goals be completely derailed by these misfortunes. Instead, she conditioned her mind to live in the moment and be present in the paradigm of change. Her philosophy to life was *"there are multiple ways to get to the same destination, and if you keep driving around, eventually, you'll get there."*

Moreover, inspired by her father's example, she decided to use her time on campus to become an agent for change. She became the first elected President of the **Political**

Science Students' Association (PSSA) at Cave Hill. In 2018, when discussing the role of the organisation in *The Signpost: Cave Hill Freshers' Guide 2018-2019*, she described it as *"an association that encourages us as students and future leaders to be critical and independent thinkers as we engage national, regional and international affairs."* Malikah views her time as leader of the association as *"one of the most amazing experiences that I have ever had."*

Determined to excel both in her studies and as a leader at Cave Hill, Malikah felt she was no longer doing this for herself but to honour her father's legacy and the values her loved ones instilled in her.

"I feel as though [given] everything I've been through [along with] the legacy of my father, [I was] continuously remembering that I am not doing this for me but for my parents and my family and this big community that believes in me."

Having completed her BSc in International Communications, Malikah left Cave Hill with plans to enter the workforce before deciding the next step in her educational journey. Like her father, she believes she can make a change in the world beyond the scope of the university's campus.

Although only her mother was physically present with her on graduation day, Malikah knew there was tremendous joy for her success back home in Trinidad. Moreover, she remains confident that the spirit of her father, and those of other family members who had gone before, were fondly looking down and joining in her celebration that day. ♦



Malikah shares the proud moment with her mother Lynette Corraspe-Pino.

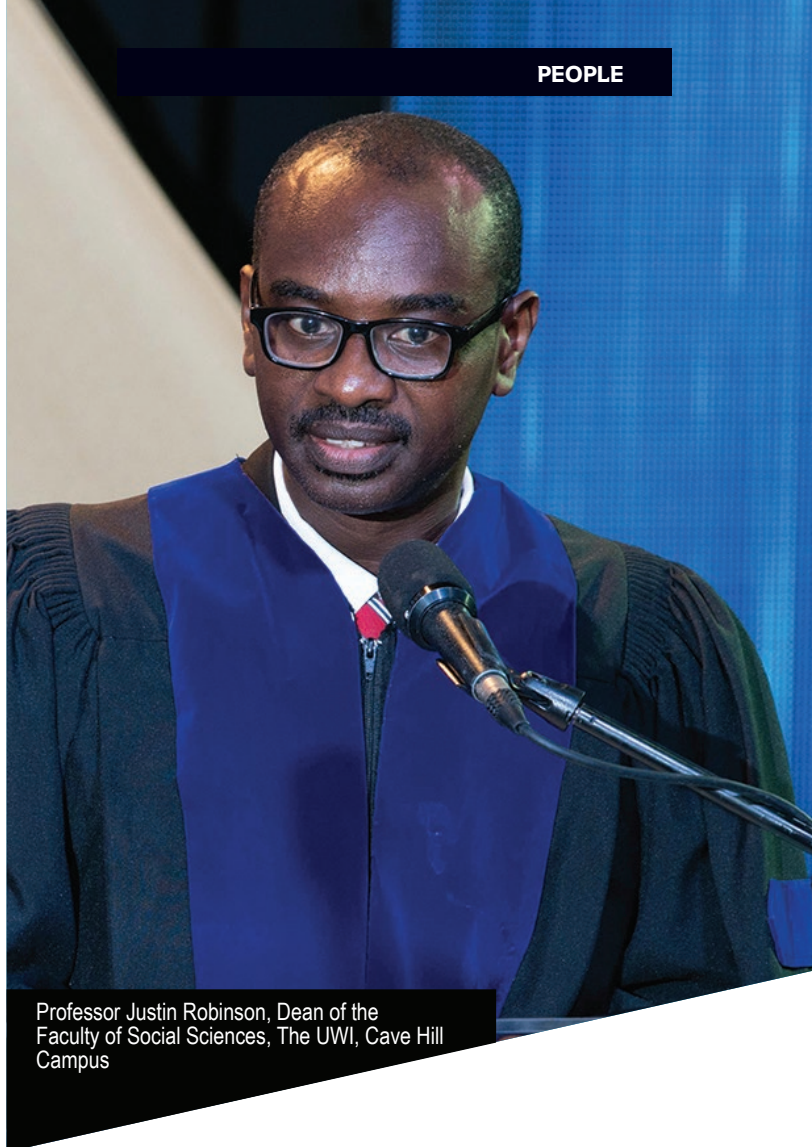
Within academia, one achievement is regarded as a coveted mark of distinction, the other a badge of pride. Attaining both in quick succession can trigger considerable and sustained celebration.

Robinson's Double Delight

Last year marked a rare feat of such dual achievement by Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences Professor Justin Robinson, after 22 years of service at The University of the West Indies. He reached the academic's 'holy grail', a personal professorship, and was also awarded the apex symbol of appreciation when he received the **Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Service to the University Community, Contribution to Public Service and All-Round Excellent Performance.**

"It was very humbling. As an academic, the professorship is the highest level you can attain so, certainly, it was very humbling and pleasing to record that achievement. It has taken a while, but it was pleasing to be eventually recognised by my peers regionally and internationally as being worthy of that honour.

"It was a double pleasure to receive the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in the same year. At The UWI, that's probably the highest prize you can achieve for your service to the university. My award was interesting in that it was for outreach, public service and service to the university. It wasn't an award in the traditional academic category of teaching



Professor Justin Robinson, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, The UWI, Cave Hill Campus

or research," he stated, acknowledging academics' triple mission of teaching, conducting research and rendering public service.

Professorship is the highest academic rank at The UWI and is usually bestowed on an applicant only after endorsements from internal and external assessors who rigorously review the candidates' original works and contributions to the wider society.

Robinson, whose appointment to the rank of professor took effect from last October, received high commendation for his contributions to the university and wider society, which included research in areas such as corporate finance in developing countries; capital markets and market efficiency in developing countries; and national culture and organisational management.

Professor Robinson joined the Cave Hill Campus in 1997 as a lecturer in the Department of Management Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences. He became Deputy

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Dean for Distance Education and Outreach within this faculty followed by Head of the Department of Management Studies, an office that he held for five years. In 2012, Professor Robinson rose to his current position of Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences.

His university administrative duties include chairing the University Committee of Deans, the Campus Bookshop Management Committee and the Student Entrepreneurial Development Advisory Committee. He is also Interim Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Cave Hill School of Business and Management and is currently a member of the University Council.

At the national level, he has chaired the National Insurance Board, serves as First Vice-President of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society, is a director of the Barbados Independent Film Festival, a member of the Central Bank of Barbados and has acted as Financial Advisor to the Barbados Co-operative & Credit Union League Ltd. (BCCUL) since 2009.

Revealing his enthusiasm for outreach, he disclosed: *"I enjoy my work, in particular, with the arts. I've been a long-time member of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society; that's one of my passions. I'm currently First Vice-President, so I certainly get a lot of satisfaction out of that. Working*



Section of the audience at the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence ceremony

with the Barbados Independent Film Festival has been one of [my] major achievements, and I also work with the Slow Food movement. Those are some civil society organisations [that] I'm involved in and certainly would like to continue. From time to time, different political administrations have asked me to serve in different capacities, and once I'm asked to serve, I would do so."

Dr. Robinson credits advice he received in his native St. Vincent and the Grenadines for guiding his actions throughout his personal life and professional career. Through it all, he remained thankful for the support and love of his family and colleagues.

"I remember [while] growing up in St. Vincent my parents and family always said, 'try and make yourself useful, boy'. So there was always the sense you had to be useful to the people around you [and to] the country. I've always been guided by that. I've tried to be useful to my family, my friends, where I work and the community that I'm a part of. Right now, it's The UWI, it's Barbados, it's the Caribbean as a whole."

"I would like to thank my family for the support they've given me over the years. I couldn't do the million and one things I'm involved in if I didn't have a supportive family network – my wife, my children, my extended family and so on, and my colleagues at The UWI and the different organisations. In my time with the university, I've really experienced nothing but love and support; so I'm thankful for that." ♦



Vice Chancellor Sir Hilary Beckles (left) presenting Professor Justin Robinson with his award for All-Round Excellence in Public Service and Service to the Community



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