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Cave Hill Campus

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- PM Mottley Sits Down with Prof. Sachs
- Vaccines Fears Unfounded
- Medical Scientists Dominate Awards for Excellence
- International Internships for Three Marketing Students

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CREATING VALUE FROM OUR IDEAS



Professor Clive Landis
Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal
The UWI, Cave Hill Campus

As I begin my term as Principal of The UWI, Cave Hill Campus, I wish to acknowledge and thank my predecessor, Professor the Most Honourable Eudine Barriteau for her mentorship in my formative years as Deputy Principal and for her steadfast leadership of the campus during very challenging times. My job has been made easier by the good management of the campus by my predecessors and my senior management team whom I wish to recognise: Deputy Principal, Professor Winston Moore; Registrar, Mr. Rommel Carter; and Bursar, Ms. Lisa Alleyne.

I commend the Cave Hill community for its cohesion and unflinching determination, in recent times, to continue delivering higher education services in the face of truly daunting challenges: a global pandemic, natural disasters, and adverse financial circumstances. I believe the experience in confronting these challenges has cemented the bonds and purpose of the community of students, staff, alumni, retirees, and supporters as we deliver on the campus's mission to revitalise Caribbean development.

The value of The UWI is well appreciated in society, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, when members of the university community took on prominent roles with ministries and policymakers to help guide and assist the collective response to an unprecedented health threat. I am truly honoured to serve this campus community as Principal.

I am calling on the same sense of purpose and can-do spirit as we embark on the new **UWI Strategy Plan 2022-2027**, "The Revenue Revolution". Cave Hill's Vision within The UWI Strategy is themed "**Creating Value From Our Ideas**" as we draw upon the deep pools of knowledge and innovation within the campus to create value for society and also for the university itself. This is a time to deploy our best creative thinking across all domains of university life, in teaching, research and outreach. New approaches will be called upon as we seek to enter the international student marketplace, as we develop support systems to translate research ideas into innovation, and as we seek to undertake business opportunities in collaboration with the private sector. This is an exciting time in the evolution of the Cave Hill Campus, and I invite all members of the community to contribute their skills and energy to implement the Medium-term Vision, "Creating Value From Our Ideas". ●

Prime Minister MOTTLEY

– New Realities for Forging a Nation

by Carol Williams

One week after she spearheaded Barbados's transition to a republic, Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley credited The UWI, Cave Hill Campus for its contribution to cementing Caribbean identity and providing a platform for intellectual thought and leadership to flourish.

The Barbadian leader indicated the campus contributed to her intellectual development as she had visited in her formative years to listen to scholarly discussions and presentations that featured a multitude of perspectives from people across the region.

In her speech entitled,

"Forging A Nation:

Confronting New Realities", Prime Minister Mottley singled out notable Caribbean personalities, including Grenadian-born academic Patrick Emmanuel in whose honour she was speaking, as being among the trailblazers of Caribbean nation-building.

The message by the first female prime minister of Barbados was delivered during the **16th Patrick**

Emmanuel Memorial Lecture held virtually on 8 December 2021, and centred on hope, ambition, and trust.

She said although the transition that took place on 30 November 2021 was 'a golden moment', the business of nation-building was not a one-off, but rather, an inter- and intra-generational process of



baton passing with, each generation committing to run its best race.

"What my government has had the privilege and duty to do is to run our leg by finalising the process of removing our country from the colonial premises now. We have completed this process and moved it to full republican governance with a Barbadian head of state that we are proud to call our head of state."

Prime Minister Mottley explained there was no time to bask in the achievement since the country faced an uphill battle due to numerous challenges, among them the COVID-19 pandemic that affected the education of many of its citizens.

"While I fully endorse and appreciate the importance of online learning, it is clear that the disruptive impact, which the pandemic has had on face-to-face teaching for our primary and secondary students, in particular, has created a situation where many students are unable to cope with the new system because their home environment lacks the human as well as the technical resources for them to cope, far less function efficiently. Absence from school also robs them of the opportunity for the development of themselves at a social and emotional level."

... the business of nation-building was not a one-off, but rather, an inter- and intra-generational process of baton passing, with each generation committing to run its best race.

Prime Minister Mottley noted the necessity for education reform and spoke of the need to address unemployment and poverty alleviation. But she cautioned that cash grants and short-term work programmes were not sustainable to solve these problems. Instead, she said this required long-term approaches predicated on a return to a functioning and productive economy and bolstered by appropriate training and educational programmes for residents.

Her address touched on many other issues that she suggested remained stumbling blocks to achieving success. These included violence, climate change,

inadequate access to financing on the international market, and non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Added to the foregoing were supply chain problems that led to a worldwide shortage of products and skyrocketing prices. The Prime Minister said this underscored the importance of the local agricultural sector and achieving food security.

"The COVID-19 epidemic has exploited these existing vulnerabilities and has caused us to remember that if we want to make sure that there is not the proliferation of comorbidities in our society, then we would do well to attain this food and nutritional security. The reality is the benefits that we get will more than outweigh those which we want. Perhaps this is a funny way to make sure that the healthy lifestyles that we need are literally now inculcated in all of our citizens."

The prime minister also addressed issues of economic empowerment, land ownership, jobs, the digital and knowledge economies, political reforms, and the green economy.

She said Barbadians needed to disabuse themselves of the culture of contentment that seemed to have taken root over the last 20 years and become active and responsible citizens, with everyone bearing a measure of responsibility.

"For small island governments, the moment is now, my friends, to be brave and to be strategic; to build new frameworks of economic enfranchisement for our people, recognising that we can do so just not only through renewable energy but through embracing and understanding and deconstructing the power of the digital for our people to be able to democratise so many more; to no longer be afraid of speaking and striving towards wealth creation. We need a generation of Caribbean millionaires and billionaires if we are going to sustain these economies in the region. We need a generation of Caribbean, young entrepreneurs that convert our particular sensibilities and approaches into billion-dollar global businesses." ●



CDB Governor Points Way to Regional Revival



President of the **Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)**

Dr. Hyginus "Gene" Leon has proposed a West Indian-centred model of development to revive Caribbean economies post COVID-19.

While lamenting the persistent challenges that issues like climate change and natural disasters pose to countries, he said what was needed was a resilience model that tapped into the intellectual and human capital of the people of the region, with particular focus on innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology.

Key to achieving that vision would be the completion of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy where one of the significant components, trade integration,

"remains a hybrid and incomplete state", according to Dr. Leon.

He outlined the measures and his vision during his delivery of the inaugural **Distinguished Owen Arthur Memorial Lecture** entitled, **"Re-designing Economic Growth Strategies"** on 8 September 2021.

The signature event, held in honour of the country's longest serving prime minister, regionalist and respected economist, was co-hosted by the **Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy and Services (SRC)** and the **CDB**.

With 35 years of experience in economics, financial policy development and executive management, Dr. Leon said the sustainable development approach should meet the current needs of states without hindering the ability of future generations to meet theirs.

"It is vital that policies implemented for short-term recovery effort be consonant with the policies required for a transformative long-term vision to avoid the conflict of a short-term policy fix becoming a challenge for a long-term necessity."

The CDB President reported that the economies of borrowing member countries were struggling. The majority contracted in 2020 while there was an increase in the average debt-to-GDP ratio.

Against this backdrop, he projected *"significant scarring"* from the current pandemic and noted the lengthy time taken for regional states to bounce back after global economic crises, such as what occurred in 2008.

Despite this, the economist was optimistic about the prospects for recovery and expressed confidence that the new economic paradigm envisioned by the late Arthur could be achieved.

Given the importance of innovation, he posited that institutions needed to look beyond the traditional science and technology-based concept to embrace experiential learning.

*"I see a post-COVID Caribbean region that is driven by knowledge and innovation, which leverages diagnostics obtained from knowledge accumulation and transforms knowledge diagnostics into strategies for economic diversification of products and markets — what I have labelled the **KIDS** process. We can label this the industrialisation of knowledge, creating viable economic opportunities across all segments of the knowledge-creating value chain. These innovations will be most effective if anchored on building resilience and directed to realise the notion that regional integration can be both a conduit and a driver."*

"Knowledge combined with innovation increases our chances to react to changes, positive and negative, and to discover new opportunities. This becomes the basis on which we can contemplate the new paradigm which Arthur envisioned. It is the basis through which we can create products, markets, and industries that can drive nimbleness and agility, promote opportunities for economic diversification, and leverage our lack of comparative disadvantage in knowledge creation; in essence, promoting the industrialisation of knowledge."

Dr. Leon said intellectual assets, supported by technology, have the potential to create a competitive and comparative advantage. To facilitate this, he suggested that policies be put in place at the national level to sustain innovative product and process development.

Additionally, he explained, *"Tapping into external change agencies is indeed the most meaningful way for small economies to spur technological change. Channels such as foreign direct investment, trade, and strategic partnerships can facilitate the transfer of knowledge and access to the latest innovations. This exchange is critical as the competitiveness of regional economic agents hinges on their ability to meaningfully integrate into value chains regionally and globally."*

On the issue of intellectual property rights, he said this area has the potential to drive growth once it is given the necessary support and protection.

The event was also addressed by Minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator Dr. Jerome Walcott; UWI Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles; Pro-Vice Chancellor and Principal of Cave Hill Campus, Professor Clive Landis; and SRC Director, Dr. Jan Yves Remy.

All speakers paid homage to the contributions of Professor Arthur who passed away in 2020 at the age of 70. Appreciative remarks were delivered by his widow, Julie Arthur. ●



PM MOTTLEY Sits Down With PROF. SACHS to Talk Sustainable Development

The university community had yet another prime opportunity to listen in on a prime ministerial conversation.



Following a well-received exchange with students, faculty and staff in **"A Conversation with the Prime Minister"** in October 2018, Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley returned to Cave Hill last June for a dialogue with one of the world's leading experts on sustainable development in an event entitled **"A Conversation on Sustainable Island Futures"**. On the latter occasion, the Barbadian leader was a joint discussant with Director of the **Center for Sustainable Development** at **Columbia University**, Professor Jeffrey Sachs, in a session billed

as a Vice Chancellor's Forum and Distinguished Arthur Lewis Virtual Event.

Professor Sachs, an academic and bestselling author, was twice named among *Time* magazine's 100 most influential world leaders and ranked among the world's three most influential living economists of the past decade by *The Economist* magazine. He serves in several positions at the **United Nations**, including President of the **UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network** and is a Sustainable Development Goals advocate for Secretary-General António Guterres.

In an engaging exchange, Prime Minister Mottley advocated for

a debt repayment system for Caribbean countries similar to that granted to Britain after World War II, which allowed it to have fiscal space to return to a path of development. Lamenting the absence of such provisions in the international financial system, she argued that the COVID-19 pandemic has set back middle-income countries by at least a decade.

The Prime Minister pointed out clear disparities in the global financial system that provided developed countries with significant leeway to access financing at minimal repayment terms, compared to that of

developing countries, and to make financial decisions that have a global impact without any consultation.

"There has to be something fundamentally immoral about a global community that is prepared to use proxies that are convenient to them and economists and bureaucrats, but bear no relationship to the quality of life of our citizens which we set out to protect; set out to protect in the charter of the United Nations being established in 1945; set out to protect when the UN accepted that development is an inalienable right; set out to protect each time we meet and each time we bring these high-sounding declarations," she said.

time, and as such, said *"Our perspective isn't being captured sufficiently, and then our voice is not seriously reflected other than for the record."*

Professor Sachs said the instability of that time seem modest compared to the shocks currently being experienced, adding that countries around the world needed to work together, rather than practise divisive, winner-takes-all politics that he described as dangerous.

"The discussions that we're having these days in the world are really consequential. I think they're the most consequential discussions that the world would have had since the end of World War II because the end of World War II ... required fundamental reorientation. One of the best things that happened then was the formation of the UN ... We're probably at a similar point in history with a number of tectonic plates moving in the world. Things are shifting so dramatically that unless we are able to take a cooperative perspective on them, we will lose not only a historic opportunity but tremendously endanger ourselves and the world."

Prime Minister Mottley continued to lobby for a re-examination of the constitutional arrangements that informed the **United Nations**, the **Bretton Woods Institutions**, the **World Health Organization**, and others.

The **Bretton Woods Institutions**, comprising the **World Bank** and the **International Monetary Fund**, were established at a meeting in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, United States of America in 1944.

The Barbadian leader explained that many countries, including Barbados, were colonies at the

The respected economist specified these tectonic shifts related to digitisation that has dramatically changed how business is conducted, geopolitics with the rise of China as a more dominant force and climate change.

Vice-Chancellor of The University of the West Indies, Sir Hilary Beckles, noted the historic significance of the Mottley-Sachs conversation: *"It's the most important conversation facing all of us in the world today. How do we look at these postcolonial states in a globalised economy*

that insists upon a certain control over the world's resources? How do all of these people who are demanding their fair share and dignity in this world proceed? What's the most effective path? What's the nature of resistance and partnership? How do we combine seemingly contradictory forces to achieve collaboration and justice?" ●

Campus Remains on the Frontline in COVID Fight

by Marie-Claire Williams



OMICRON
SARS-COV-2 VARIANT

code: B.1.1.529



As the region continues its now two-year battle against the COVID-19 pandemic, The UWI, Cave Hill Campus remains unflinchingly on the frontline. Medical and other scientific researchers have provided critical input to the ongoing campaign that has aided the prescriptive policies of regional governments.

At the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, regional governing health bodies sought the assistance of researchers at Cave Hill to model a COVID-19 healthcare demand strategy that helped to guide several national responses. In early February 2021, the academic institution stepped forward once again when student volunteers participated in the Barbados-based **'Operation Seek and Save'** that was launched as part of an island-wide initiative to help identify positive cases of COVID-19, following a spike in the country's numbers.

Late last year, the Government of Barbados once again turned to the campus to request assistance with modelling healthcare demand as the threat of Omicron, the latest and most transmissible variant of the virus, loomed.

Deputy Chief Medical Officer Dr. Anton Best reported in an online and televised conference that the university team presented its findings to the **Ministry of Health and Wellness** on 3 January, which proved quite useful as health authorities braced for Omicron's impact. On the basis of the scientific prediction, health officials were able to issue a sombre warning to the nation about the anticipated surge in COVID-19 positive cases as a result of Omicron's presence.

Regarding hospitalisations, Dr. Best noted that the best-case scenario projected that 1.2 percent of COVID-positive patients will be hospitalised, while the worst case will see the hospitalisation of three percent of cases totalling an estimated 700 patients. The average hospital stay was expected to be seven days.

Given the high volume of cases anticipated, even in a best-case scenario, health officials anticipated that the healthcare system could be overwhelmed by cases of the Omicron variant. They therefore recommended continued focus on home isolation, a programme that began in August 2021. Dr. Best advised that self-monitoring and self-isolation would also be critical for the country in containing this variant.

"Additionally, our colleagues recommended that we have to pay very close attention to large-scale isolation in terms of our capacity," he said, adding that The UWI scientists' forecast had prompted state planning for additional sites to accommodate an expected surge in hospital cases.



Dr. Anton Best
Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Barbados

Close attention was also being paid to the potential impact of Omicron on children, and Dr. Best stated that the **Ministry of Health and Wellness** was in regular discussion with the **Paediatrics Department** of the **Queen Elizabeth Hospital** on the matter.

A key recommendation with respect to responding to Omicron was strengthening the country's vaccine programme. In this regard, Cave Hill contributed significantly to the national vaccination drive as part of efforts to protect the population from severe illness and death from COVID-19. The campus hosted on-site vaccination drives for students, staff and the wider community, last August and September. On 19 August, Cave Hill was the site of the rollout of the Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA vaccine, after government received a gift

of 70,200 doses from the United States.

Co-coordinator of the **National Vaccination Programme** Dr. Elizabeth Ferdinand was impressed with the turnout: *"I'm extremely pleased with the response to introduction of the new Pfizer vaccine, and I hope it will continue and that all of Barbados will get immunised. I'm very happy; the entire team is working very hard, as you can see, under sometimes trying conditions. But everyone is trying their best, and we are getting there slowly,"* she said. ●

Republic Move Comes Under Fire

Some members of the academic community have frowned on the exclusion of ordinary Barbadians in the process that led to Barbados's transition from a constitutional monarchy to a republic on 30 November 2021.



Director of the **Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES)** Professor Don Marshall described the transition as soulless, while President of the **Barbados Economic Society (BES)** and Assistant Lecturer in the **Department of Economics** Dr. Simon Naitram said the failure to hold a referendum was extremely ironic and unfortunate given that the process was supposed to be about making the country more democratic.

The two spoke at a virtual town hall meeting held on 14 October 2021 entitled **"Constitutional Reform and the Republic: Symbolism, Substance, and Implication"** that was jointly hosted by the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Social Sciences.



Professor Don Marshall



Dr. Simon Naitram

The other panellists were Caribbean Policy Analyst and Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Economics, Dr. Dalano DaSouza; Senior Lecturer in Political Science in the Department of Government, Sociology, Social Work and Psychology, Dr. Tennyson Joseph; and President of the Law Society, Mr. Pierre Cooke.

Professor Marshall said during the process of decolonisation, the matrices of social and economic power should ultimately be dismantled, thereby giving rise to new patterns of wealth creation and economic classes.

However, he said specific, social, elite classes and racial groups continue to dominate Barbados and intergenerational wealth continues to elude Black Barbadians.

"We have run our economy on the basis of FIRE, which has to do with finance, insurance, import trading, and real estate. The commercial and merchant capital juggernaut in Barbados remains the same; that is why we have a soulless republican transition. Deep in the bone marrow of the Black majority in Barbados, we have not yet made the transition to see the rise of a new economic class of entrepreneurs seized by the fact they can pursue new

models of entrepreneurship, not necessarily in areas that were already dominated by elites at the time of independence.”

BES President Dr. Naitram said the absence of wider engagement was a missed opportunity to make a democratic decision, and the failure of a referendum in other Caribbean countries was not a reason to bypass the vote. Despite these issues, he did not foresee any significant direct economic impact for Barbados due to its break from Britain.

“It’s not going to have any genuine economic impact directly either negatively or positively. I don’t think there will be serious change in external relationships, particularly given that we haven’t seriously received any special treatment from our ‘parent country’, the United Kingdom, and they are increasingly becoming a weaker force in the international sphere.”

Director of the **Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES)** Professor Don Marshall described the transition as soulless, while President of the **Barbados Economic Society (BES)** and Assistant Lecturer in the **Department of Economics** Dr. Simon Naitram said the failure to hold a referendum was extremely ironic and unfortunate given that the process was supposed to be about making the country more democratic.

What may change, Dr. Naitram suggested, is Barbadians demanding greater accountability in government.

The President of the Law Society said he was excited about what the transition could mean for not only restructuring the legal and democratic system of the country but also shaping the Barbadian identity and ‘Caribbeanness’. However, he said the symbolism and significance of the change needed to be supported with engaging conversations at the community level.

But political scientist Dr. Joseph contended that the government had already indicated it would undertake a long, detailed examination of the Constitution and suggested that the issue was not widely discussed on the ground level because it was not a revolution taking place, but rather, an evolutionary transformation.

“Persons almost feel that everything substantive was done already. But I think that if you are decolonising and you are making a statement of a clear break with the British, that the head of state is a British monarch, and you’re bringing that to an end, that cannot, in my view, be just symbolic in any way.”

Dr. Joseph was hopeful the move by Barbados could set off a chain reaction in the region.

“If Little England can make the break, [and] decide to replace the British head of state with a local president, then one of the implications I hope comes out of this is that the other English-speaking Caribbean countries follow suit.”

Caribbean Policy Analyst Dr. DaSouza agreed there was a need for deeper conversations in the region beyond the issue of symbolism.

“The conversation has to be about where we go from here. We need to address things such as our governance structure [beyond] changing the Governor-General.”

“What happens the day after we become a republic? Is it more of the same? Would we be living in a time where the cost of living exceeds what we make on a day-to-day basis? That is a concern, and I believe, more so for the Barbadian public.” ●





New Unit to Focus on Law and Health Research

A new legal unit has been established at Cave Hill to help combat regional health challenges, including non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

The **Law and Health Research Unit** seeks to develop a comprehensive toolbox to guide law and policymaking and assist in the identification of good-practice laws and policies for governments to adopt.

The unit was launched last July and comes amid ample evidence of effective legal advocacy geared to protect the health and well-being of individuals; for example, seat belt legislation, laws to ban smoking in public spaces, and ongoing agitation for food labelling.

The research unit is the brainchild of Deputy Dean in the Faculty of Law, Nicole Foster, and is supported by a six-member advisory committee that includes: Professor Simon Anderson, Director of the George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Centre; Justice Winston Anderson, Judge of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) and Chair

of the CCJ Academy for Law; Dr. Kenneth Connell, the Faculty of Medical Sciences representative; Dr. Margherita Cinà, Institute Associate at the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law, Georgetown University; Maisha Hutton, Executive Director of the Healthy Caribbean Coalition; and the Dean of the Faculty of Law at the Cave Hill Campus as an ex officio member.

The **O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University**, with which the Faculty of Law has partnered, has contributed US\$140,000 to the initiative.

Foster said the unit will build awareness of and advance the use of law as a tool to protect and promote health and support a more health-focused approach to policymaking and legislative action. More specifically, its work will focus on academic scholarship to allow for knowledge generation and

awareness building in the areas of law and health; and on capacity building through education and training to create a cadre of legal professionals who can provide technical support and advocacy on law and health, and technical assistance to governments and civil society actors on law and policy reform and implementation as well as possible strategic litigation.

Then Principal of the Cave Hill Campus Professor the Most Honourable Eudine Barriteau said the establishment of the unit underscores the commitment of the campus to revitalise and protect Caribbean societies. She stated that a multidisciplinary strategy is needed to address the complexities of NCDs, while noting that interdisciplinary research opportunities and collaborations



Professor Emerita the Most Honourable Eudine Barriteau
Former Principal, Cave Hill Campus

are necessary for scholarship to flourish. She suggested that the unit introduce an annual joint legal and medical conference where scholars from the legal, health and medical sectors meet to present their research and create new public health policy aimed at improving the quality of life and well-being in Caribbean societies.

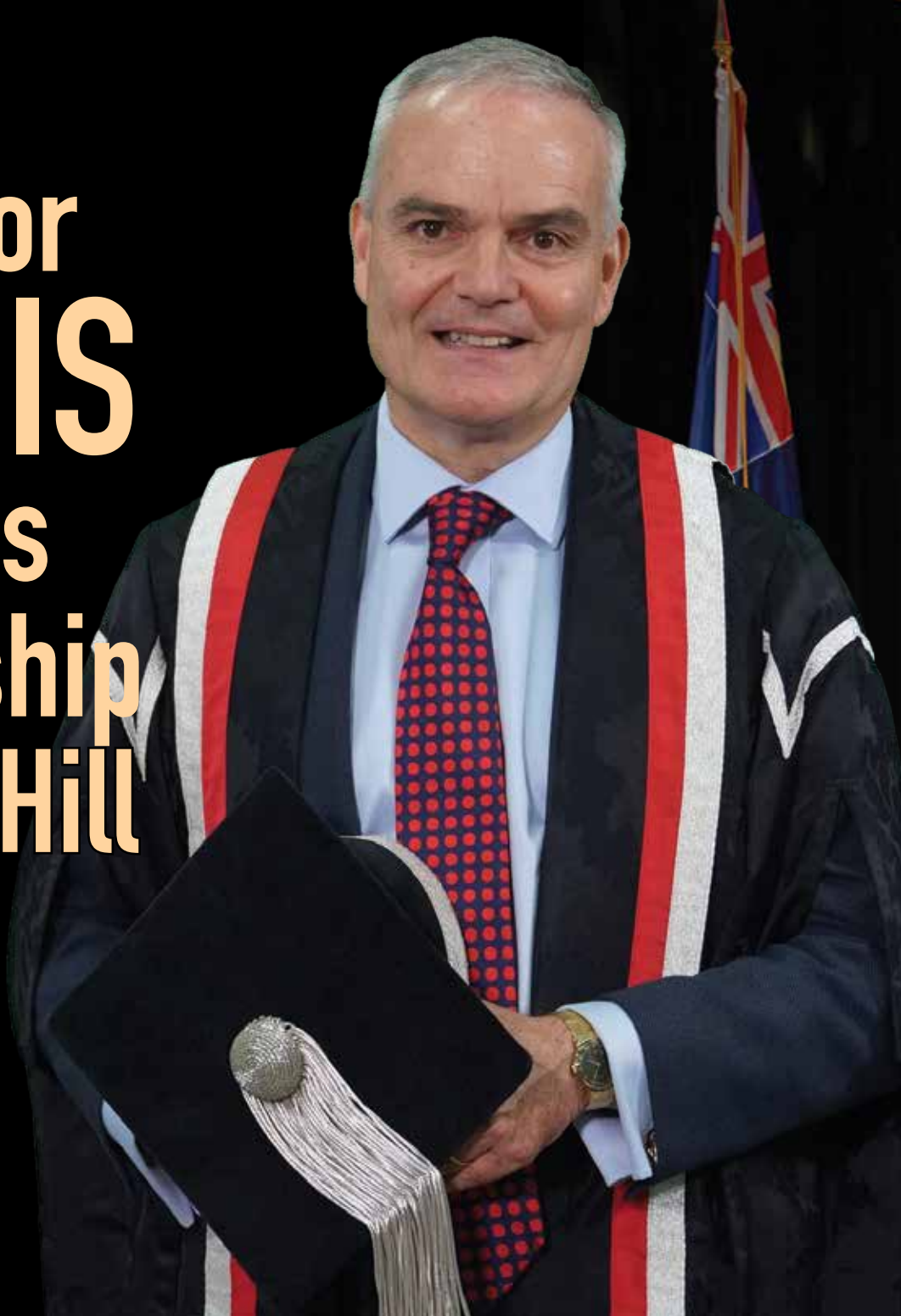
As part of its capacity-building work, the **Law and Health Research Unit** has teamed up with the **Global Center for Legal Innovation on Food Environments** at **Georgetown University** to offer a series of short courses on various aspects of global health law. The first course, **Introduction to Global Health Law**, was held from 6th October to 10th November 2021. A second instalment in the series is scheduled to run from 3rd to 30th March 2022, focusing on **NCDs and the Law**. ●



Nicole Foster
Deputy Dean, Faculty of Law, Cave Hill Campus

Professor LANDIS Assumes Leadership at Cave Hill

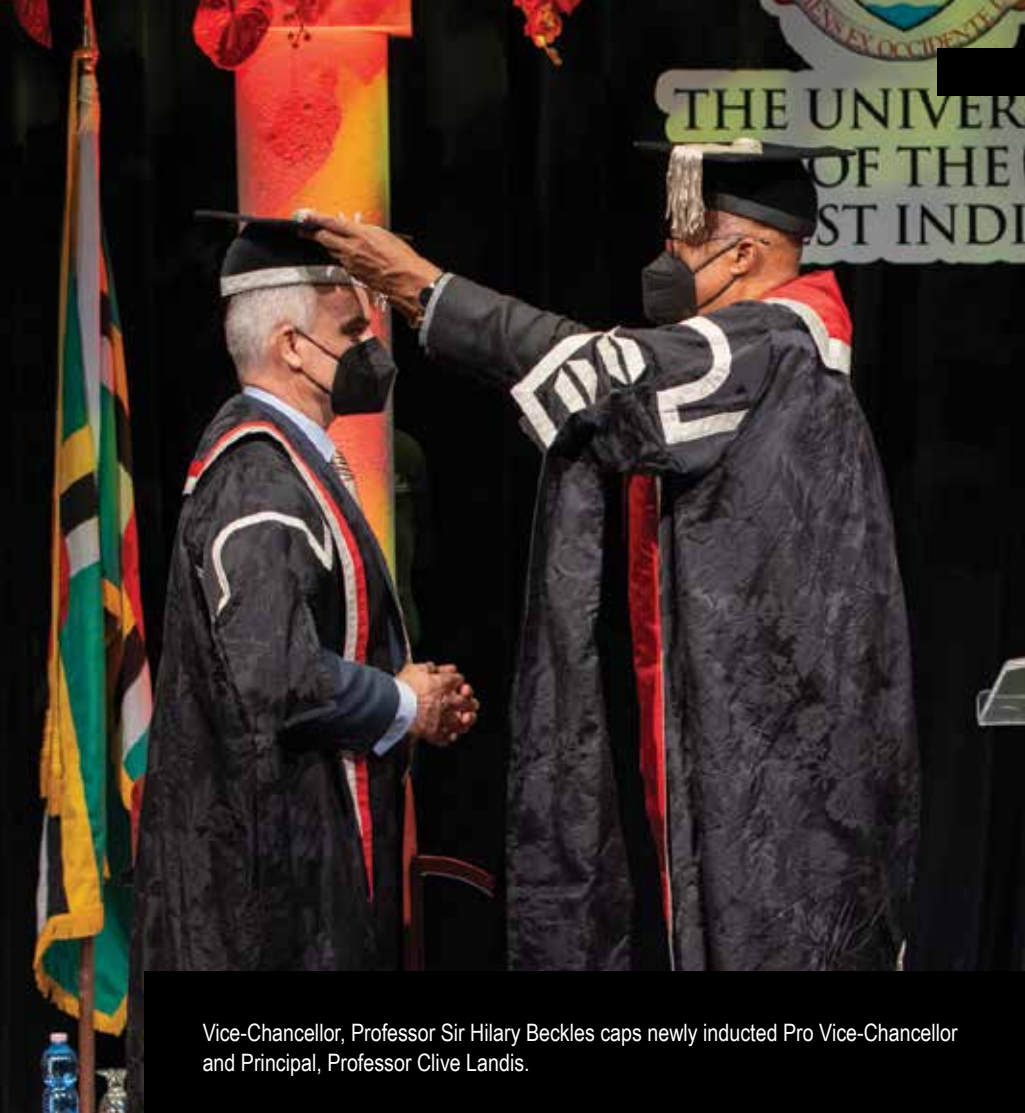
The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus has a new Principal. Professor R. Clive Landis took up the post on 1 August last year.



Landis, a former Deputy Principal at Cave Hill who also served as Pro Vice-Chancellor, Board for Undergraduate Studies at The UWI prior to assuming his current role, has outlined internationalisation and innovation as twin pillars of his primary strategic focus for taking

the campus forward.

He has prioritised and intensified engagement with universities on the continent of Africa to capitalise on global post-pandemic recovery efforts. Groundwork is currently being laid to leverage access to that vast market to target more international students and



Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles caps newly inducted Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Clive Landis.

to collaborate with university academics in the area of research. The initiative falls under the ambit of a **UWI Cave Hill Africa Health Strategy** that would, among other things, oversee the expansion of preclinical medical training offered at Cave Hill to students from the **University of Ghana** initially, eventually expanding to include other universities in Africa.

As envisioned by Professor Landis, bilateral educational programmes in disciplines such as health economics and health disparities research will also be pursued, including an ethical biobanking initiative to garner the benefits of pharmaceutical drug development for peoples of the African diaspora.

P rincipal Landis unveiled his vision as he was inducted as the sixth Principal of the Cave Hill Campus on 13 November 2021 and, since then, has provided further details of his plans to the university community and beyond.

His plans under the innovation banner include developing new products for monetising as well as forging closer ties with industry in income-generating initiatives. These will be effected in accordance with a wider UWI revenue revolution strategy intended to raise millions to help finance the university's operations.

During his induction ceremony, Professor Landis pledged to

draw on the campus's focused vision of revitalising Caribbean development, to seek novel ways for the institution to demonstrate service to the community, and to implement cross-campus teaching strategies to reduce the cost of programme delivery without compromising the Caribbean experience for students.

The Principal said the diversity offered at each campus of The UWI bolstered the resilience of the institution during the COVID-19 pandemic, thereby allowing the continuous delivery of service to students while providing a regional research platform to support policymakers for evidence-based decisions.

On the issue of community outreach, he said there would be an increase in the years ahead and cited the highly successful **'Operation Seek and Save'** initiative that involved over 400 students collaborating with the **Ministry of Health and Wellness** to visit Barbadian households in a bid to contain the COVID-19 outbreak.

"In my vision for the Cave Hill Campus, I intend to tap into this burning fire to serve the region, to open new avenues through which staff and students can find meaning and fulfilment through service in the community."

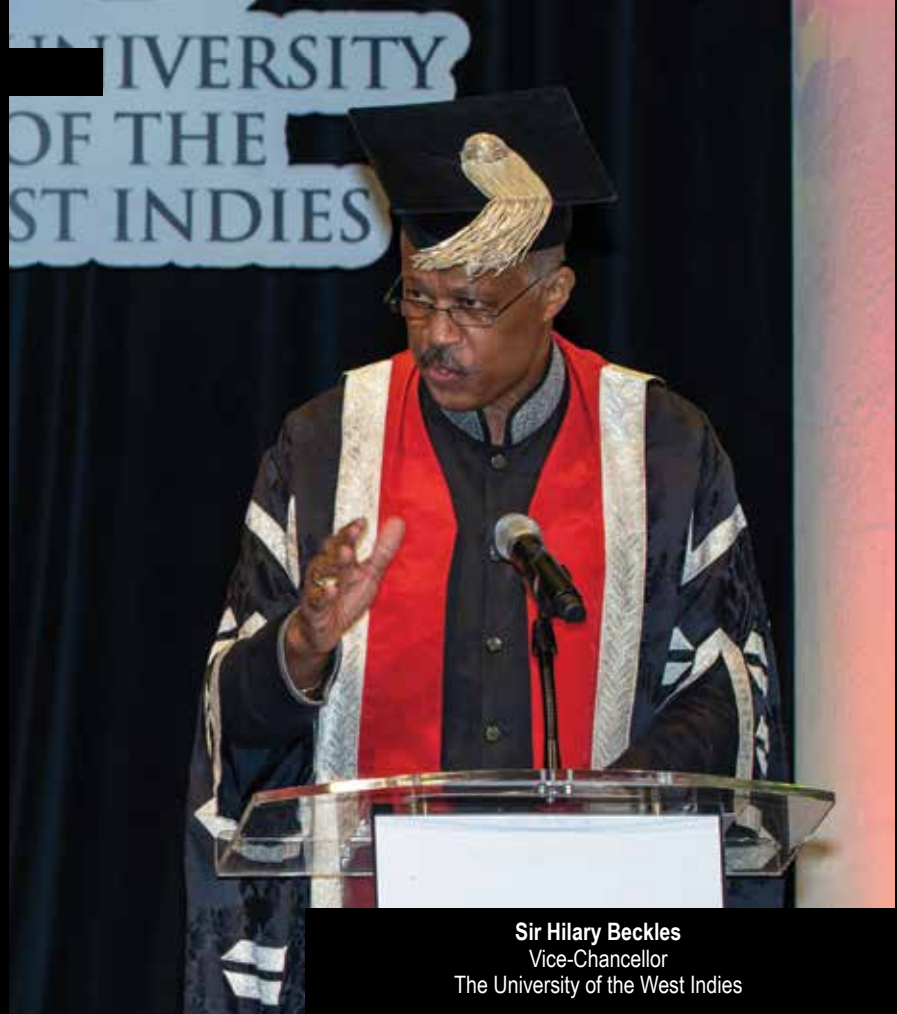
The scientific researcher and administrator, who has served The UWI for nearly two decades, signalled a willingness to work with all parties for the advancement of the university.

He indicated his readiness to engage the Government of Barbados and the private sector on the development of an innovation policy to strengthen systems that could help buttress the creativity of Caribbean people, as well as deepen partnerships with African countries in the area of health.

During the ceremony that included the usual pomp and circumstance associated with the signal event, the Principal was praised for his wealth of experience, visionary leadership, extensive research, and principled stance.

In his speech delivered after robing the new Principal, Vice-Chancellor Sir Hilary Beckles said Professor Landis has not only demonstrated intellect but integrity of purpose and citizenship within The UWI.

"We are proud of his record of achievement and commitment. We respect him, we admire him, and we salute him on this day. He is a man of the moment, there is no doubt. He possesses all the relevant skillsets to lead this distinguished campus. Not only is he competent, but his consciousness will enable his dramatic impact upon the leadership of the campus and this university. I am confident that Cave Hill will continue to thrive under his leadership because we know of his judgment, we know of his temperament and, critically, we are



Sir Hilary Beckles
Vice-Chancellor
The University of the West Indies

comforted by his impulse for social justice."

Speaking on behalf of the Government of Barbados, then Minister of Education, Technological and Vocational Training, Santia Bradshaw, expressed hope that the new Principal would continue the campus's focus on training,



Santia Bradshaw
Former Minister of Education, Technological
and Vocational Training

innovation, and entrepreneurship necessary for post-COVID recovery in the region. She said the government remains committed to supporting the investment in higher education despite competition for scarce financial resources.

"Linkages formed between The University of the West Indies and the Government of Barbados have not only significantly advanced the island's educational development but also the economic and social well-being of Barbados," she added.

Chairman of Campus Council, Sir Paul Altman, spoke of Professor Landis's distinguished track record of research, teaching, and outreach, and said he was confident the new Principal would continue the exemplary leadership of his predecessor.

"In replacing the Most

Honourable Eudine Barriteau, the former Principal, Professor Landis is taking on this position at a time when he, better than anyone else, understands the new reality: the reality of remote teaching, the reality of not only maintaining the status and ranking of Cave Hill at such a time but joining with Cave Hill's sister campuses to build a global university."

The principals of the four sister campuses of The UWI indicated their willingness to work with their newest colleague to achieve the goals identified by Sir Paul.

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the Five Islands Campus, Professor Densil Williams, said the new Principal was a progressive academic with a global outlook, while Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the Mona Campus, Professor Dale Webber, said he could be counted on to take a principled stand on simple or difficult issues. Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the Open Campus, Dr. Francis Severin, said Professor Landis's experience as a senior university administrator and track record had thoroughly prepared him for his new role, while Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal, St. Augustine Campus, Professor Brian Copeland noted that he listens, engages, and keeps people front and centre, which are three qualities that are critical for any leader.

Representatives of national and regional agencies, UWI staff, and current and former students also paid tribute during the two-hour ceremony that was scaled down due to the ongoing pandemic but maintained a high measure of splendour.

Secretary of The UWI, **Cave**

Hill Guild of Students, Adalia Nembhard, said the leadership provided by the new Principal should inspire students to be resilient, innovative, and committed to the region; and President of the Administrative, Technical and Service Staff Division of the **Barbados Workers' Union**, Geoffrey Mapp, pledged to work with him in the interest of workers and students.

One of the more poignant moments occurred when Senior Lecturer

in the **George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Centre (GA-CDRC)**, Dr. Kim Quimby, paid heartfelt homage. She spoke on behalf of herself, Dr. André Greenidge of **The Edmund Cohen Laboratory for Vascular Research** at the GA-CDRC; and Director of the **Best-dos Santos Public Health Laboratory**, Dr. Songee Branch-Beckles, all former PhD students of Professor Landis.

"We are simply using ourselves as examples to show what authentic and inclusive leadership can accomplish," she said. "We have a principal who epitomises The UWI Mission Statement: To advance learning, create knowledge and foster innovation for the positive transformation of the Caribbean and the wider world."

President of **Lenstec (Barbados) Inc.**, Ian Hickling, recalled that he has known Professor Landis for around a decade and said he was not just a theoretician but someone who got things done. Therefore,

"We are proud of his record of achievement and commitment. We respect him, we admire him, and we salute him on this day. He is a man of the moment, there is no doubt. He possesses all the relevant skillsets to lead this distinguished campus."



Dr. Kim Quimby
Lecturer, George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Centre (GA-CDRC)

he said, the professor was well placed for today's world where universities were increasingly called on to provide solutions to societal needs.

Having known Professor Landis for almost the entirety of his time at the university, Executive Director of the **Caribbean Public Health Agency**, Dr. Joy St. John, explained that she had sought his input on health-related issues on numerous occasions. She noted the tenacity and strategic thinking he brings to the leadership position. ●

PLAYWRIGHT Urges Deeper Understanding Of Cultural Heritage

As Caribbean leaders consider tapping into traditional and non-traditional resources to strengthen economies and emerge from the current crisis, they are being advised that decisions should not be made without a true understanding and recognition of the historical significance of arts and cultural heritage to the region.

Respected regional playwright and director Rawle Gibbons, who has been involved in the decades-long struggle for the legitimisation of the arts, drew attention to the matter as he noted the penchant of some administrators to view the creative industry solely through the lens of dollars and cents.

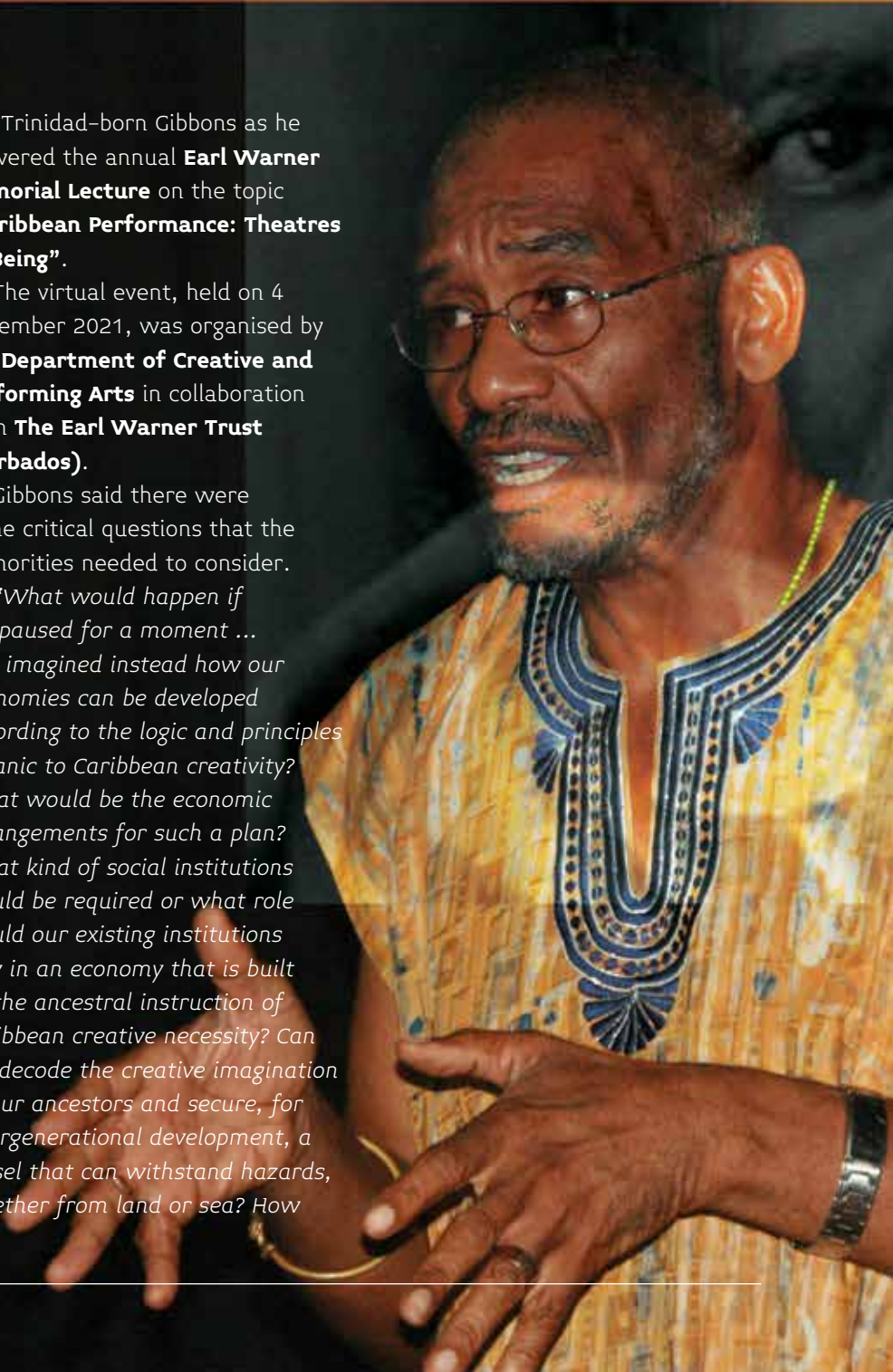
"We've sort of headed pell-mell along the path of creative sector development as a way of boosting that sector and our overall economy and that can be problematic," said

the Trinidad-born Gibbons as he delivered the annual **Earl Warner Memorial Lecture** on the topic **"Caribbean Performance: Theatres of Being"**.

The virtual event, held on 4 November 2021, was organised by the **Department of Creative and Performing Arts** in collaboration with **The Earl Warner Trust (Barbados)**.

Gibbons said there were some critical questions that the authorities needed to consider.

"What would happen if we paused for a moment ... and imagined instead how our economies can be developed according to the logic and principles organic to Caribbean creativity? What would be the economic arrangements for such a plan? What kind of social institutions would be required or what role would our existing institutions play in an economy that is built on the ancestral instruction of Caribbean creative necessity? Can we decode the creative imagination of our ancestors and secure, for intergenerational development, a vessel that can withstand hazards, whether from land or sea? How



do we weave their legacy as we wind our way into the future, and can we as a region undertake this alone?"

He reflected on the history of artist activism in the region which was instrumental in shaping identity and retaining traditions and that led to the emergence of a type of theatre that was community-based, had its own aesthetics in opposition to that of the West, and took a more diversified and interdisciplinary approach.

Gibbons recalled the contributions of pioneers like Guyanese historian and scholar Walter Rodney who shared his knowledge and experience with people from all strata in Jamaica in the late 1960s, including the underclass, a process he described as groundings.

"All of this influenced the kind of theatre that we made, the communal grounding, the integration of the artforms, the admission of what is called yard theatre in Jamaica.

"I feel that when this period is assessed as being just a question of young people with too much energy or being fashionable by following America and so on, it doesn't do justice in any way. It's another form of denial of the past, of widening the gap of absence. So we have to affirm what was done in that period as revolutionary, nothing less than that in terms of the impact upon the lives that we lived."

Gibbons said the groundwork for that type of activism was laid by Errol Hill, Beryl McBurnie, Derek Walcott and the ideology of Frantz Fanon, C.L.R. James and others. He said Earl Warner continued

the search for Caribbean aesthetics in the arts and went on to establish himself as the first professional director in the region.

The profound impact that Warner had on Caribbean theatre was recognised by the Principal of the Cave Hill Campus, Professor Clive Landis, and Head of Department of Creative and Performing Arts in the **Faculty of Culture, Creative and Performing Arts**, Andrew Millington.

Landis said The University of the West Indies remains indebted to Warner and is building on his legacy by laying the foundation for the establishment of the performing arts as a flourishing industry that offers significant economic and financial benefit to practitioners and Caribbean nations. He stated the Faculty of Culture, Creative and Performing Arts has a pivotal role in this regard.

Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the lack of opportunity and appreciation for artists, Principal Landis said there were reasons to be hopeful, referencing the 2021 valedictorian address by Iyka Dorival when she declared her intention to advocate for creatives.

Millington described Warner as a gifted and talented theatre director who spent much of his life contributing to nurturing and the provocation of the Caribbean intellectual imagination. He said Warner seldom played to the box office but made attendees confront issues of truth, integrity, and their imagination. ●

The governments of Barbados and six Eastern Caribbean states may find little opposition from their citizens if they removed the death penalty from the statute books, research has revealed.

Little Desire for DEATH PENALTY

This was one of the significant findings of a study conducted in 2020 that also involved 100 opinion formers in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The individuals of influence were drawn from politics and the higher civil service, criminal justice and legal practice, leadership of religious organisations and civil society.

Only one in five of the respondents thought there would be demonstrations of strong public dissatisfaction as well as repeated calls for the reinstatement of the death penalty. Moreover, they suggested that public expression of the dissatisfaction in the lead-up to the abolition would die down and most people would immediately accept the decision once the move had been completed.

The research shared in a paper entitled “**Sentenced to Death Without Execution – Why capital punishment has not yet been abolished in the Eastern Caribbean and Barbados**” was conducted by Dr. Florence Seemungal and the late Professor Roger Hood. It was co-funded by the **European Union** in partnership with **The Death Penalty Project, The University of the West Indies, the Greater Caribbean for Life,**

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Human Rights Association and the **World Coalition Against the Death Penalty.**

The research findings were presented by **Professor Carolyn Hoyle** of the Centre for Criminology and Director of the Death Penalty Research Unit at the **University of Oxford** during an online event hosted by **The UWI, Faculty of Law** at Cave Hill on 23 November 2021, where it was discussed among key regional stakeholders.

Professor Hoyle said knowing what opinion formers understand about crime and justice and what they believe the death penalty provides that other non-irrevocable and more humane punishments may not is crucial to shaping discourse and, ultimately, policy.

According to the findings, just over half (52) of the opinion formers favoured the abolition of the death penalty, with those in the criminal justice or legal positions less supportive of the punitive measure than persons in any of the other categories. For those favouring retention, the most significant reason was it would act as a deterrent. In contrast, two-thirds of those who favoured abolition did not believe the death penalty had any extra deterrent effect.

Asked why governments had not abolished the measure, the majority of opinion formers said governments believe the public favours the death penalty and abolition would make them



Dr. Florence Seemungal



The late Professor Roger Hood

unpopular. They also suggested that governments value national sovereignty and view their countries as culturally exceptional.

Questioned about what policies might best control violent crime, the overwhelming majority of respondents showed a preference for better educating young people against the use of violence.

"There is clearly not an appetite among opinion leaders to jump-start the death penalty in this region and, indeed, the findings of this report point in the other direction. Governments can really stop worrying about the public. They're

not likely to be well-informed about the administration of capital punishment, about the unacceptably high risks of it being arbitrary and unfair, about its failure to reduce serious crimes. And there's really no evidence to suggest the death penalty can deter violent crime, but there is a great deal of evidence to suggest that it's unfair, disproportionate, and arbitrarily applied to most disadvantaged and vulnerable defendants, not just to the worst of the worst," Professor Hoyle said.

"Meantime, the region is stigmatised by holding on to a punishment that most other countries have abandoned without any ill effect. The region has proven it does not need the death penalty. There is, therefore, absolutely no rationale for keeping it on the books. All it does is damage the reputation of each country in the region among the international community."

Of the countries surveyed, St. Kitts and Nevis was the last to carry out a death penalty execution in 2008. None of the other countries has carried on similar executions for over 20 years.

Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director at **The Death Penalty Project** Saul Lehrfreund said although all countries in the Commonwealth Caribbean have retained the death penalty in law, they are in the minority globally where 109 have abolished it

in law and a further eight have abolished it for ordinary crimes. While 81 countries still retain it, the **United Nations** has said that 50 have not carried this out in the last 10 years or more.

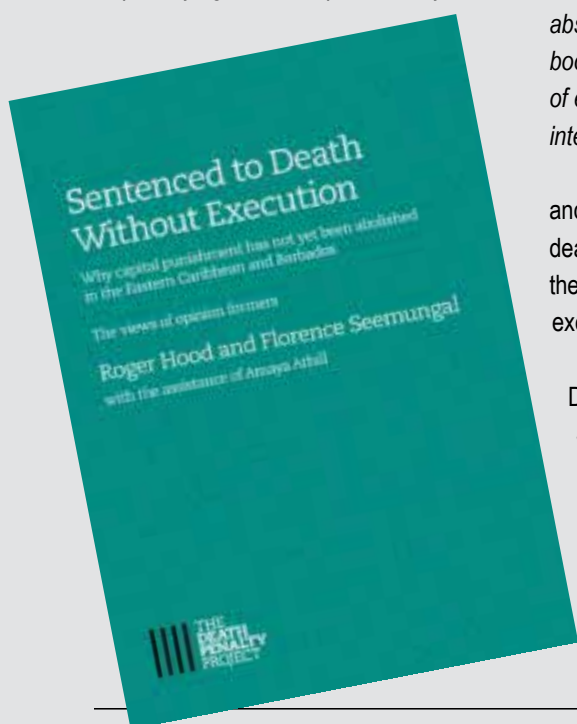
"Where does the Caribbean stand? As far as the diminution and the frequency of executions are concerned, the Caribbean is parallel with the global trends. What differs is the willingness to abolish the death penalty de jure, altogether. The question pertinent to the region is why countries resist the appeal to abolish the death penalty."

Lehrfreund said this is an important human rights issue for which there has been a notable absence of political leadership in the region.

Dean in the Faculty of Law **Professor Eddy Ventose** said he expects the report to be useful to those interested in policy formulation concerning issues surrounding the death penalty in the Eastern Caribbean and the wider Caribbean in general.

"While progress has, indeed, been slow, this study provides some insight into the public perception on the retention of capital punishment in the Caribbean."

"Issues arising from litigation of the death penalty cases have been around even longer from De Freitas v Benny in 1967, Pratt and Morgan in 1993, Newton Spence in 2000, and Nervais in 2018. While, no doubt, the Faculty of Law will be around for the next 50 years, I sincerely hope that the death penalty will not. In this small way, the Faculty of Law continues its outreach by assisting in such activities towards the complete abolishment of the death penalty." ●





Engaging Learning Disabilities in Higher Education



Dr. Andrea Dennison

Underscoring the campus's commitment towards inclusivity, staff at Cave Hill have received guidance on how they can better assist students with learning disabilities to reach their educational goals.

Educational Psychologist **Dr. Andrea Dennison** explored the issue last April during a lecture hosted by the **Office of Student Services** on the topic "**Disability Inclusion in Higher Education: Learning Accommodations**". The focus was

on dyslexia and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) that, according to her, are often undiagnosed or misdiagnosed.

"Unfortunately, in schools across the world, sometimes children who are slower to learn how to read or have difficulty with reading, even into teenage years ... are mislabelled as being defiant or naughty or not very intelligent, when actually, it's a genuine difficulty that they have with reading which we tend to call dyslexia," she said.

Dr. Dennison, therefore, recommended several accommodations that lecturers can make to facilitate their students. However, she explained this does not mean giving them an unfair advantage over their peers, but rather, it's about removing barriers to learning.

"If you know there are students with learning disabilities or difficulties, try to be sensitive about that especially if you're giving a group tutorial or doing a group reading activity; you're maybe not going to go to the person with dyslexia first."

She also suggested giving the students information beforehand, particularly if a new topic is being introduced. Another recommendation is to adapt the way information is imparted to the student.

"For example, variety is the key. If you're going to stand up and talk at students for an hour, they're not going to respond as well as if you were having a more interactive element or a more visual element to it. [Further], a lot of text and reading isn't great for students with dyslexia. And for students with ADHD, if you change the variety of what you do, that's going to keep them engaged," she said.

Dr. Dennison, who is also a member of the **Barbados Society of Psychology**, noted that there is a stigma against learning disabilities and mental health issues, and the organisation is working to change that.

"We haven't really got a robust system yet here in Barbados for what I believe is most important, which is early intervention. Because if we can help parents and teachers at that early age, then that's going to help."

"I don't actually know if there's a solution. I think part of it is on a wider society level — about having conversations about disability. And actually, we all have difficulties in some things, we all have strengths ... But I think there's also another conversation that may be needed at a higher level about helping persons, whether they're children or adults; when they're finding things difficult, to actually be able to seek the services and get the help that they need."

She told the online audience, however, that she is encouraged by the signs of an increasing awareness of disability and mental health issues.

"I do sense that things are shifting. I'm not from Barbados, but I've been here nine years and I've certainly seen a shift in some things in relation to mental health; not a huge shift, but in my opinion, things, from what I observed, are kind of going in the right direction," Dr. Dennison said. ●



Vaccines Fears Unfounded

Chair of The University of the West Indies COVID-19 Task Force Professor Clive Landis has dismissed claims that COVID-19 vaccines were rushed and that international health regulatory agencies took shortcuts in their haste to get people inoculated.

Rather, the Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the Cave Hill Campus has given his stamp of approval to the steps and procedures that were followed and said they are already yielding immeasurable benefits by protecting human lives.

Professor Landis was among a team of health experts from the Cave Hill Campus who addressed a town hall meeting on the topic **“From Virus to Vaccines: Dispelling myths and misinformation about COVID-19”** held on 26 August.

Other panellists included Senior Lecturer in Immunology and medical practitioner, Dr. Kim Quimby; Lecturer in Public Health and Epidemiology and Head of the Public Health Group in the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Dr. Heather Harewood; Resident Medical Officer, Head of the Student Health Clinic and Part-time Tutor in the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Dr. Tania Whitby-Best; and Psychological Counsellor, Office of Student Services, Dr. Jacqueline Benn.

Professor Landis explained that the vaccines were under development for years following the transmission of other types of coronaviruses, such as severe acute

respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) from animals to humans in 2003 and 2012 respectively.

“It’s no coincidence that the Pfizer vaccine was the first one to be approved. With these smart vaccines, their development is intrinsically quicker. I should also point out that they’re intrinsically safe because there is no virus component in them.”

The scientist said when the **World Health Organization** declared COVID-19 a global pandemic, regulatory agencies prioritised COVID-19 vaccines for approval. He lauded the transparent review process of the Pfizer vaccine by the United States **Food and Drug Administration**.

“Absolutely no steps have been, in any way, rushed or anything like that. The



Professor Clive Landis
Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal
The UWI, Cave Hill Campus

phase one studies were done, looking for hyperacute reactions. Phase two looked at safety, adverse reaction and dose-ranging studies; and phase three involved big clinical studies with several countries, multiple ethnicities, a diverse range of participants ... When those results were put out, that's when the regulatory agencies had enough to go on. The normal procedure is to give emergency use authorisation. That's done for every vaccine.

"If hypothetically, they had rushed straight to full approval, I would have said 'they're cutting corners.' They did not cut corners; they did everything according to the normal process."

The medical researcher said he was also satisfied that the benefits of taking the vaccine far outweigh the risks, which have proven to be minimal. Additionally, he noted that the risk-benefit ratio is continuously monitored by regulators.

"The thing that defines the coronavirus disease is that it's thrombotic [characterised by formation of a blood clot]. So about a third of all people who have coronavirus and have symptoms will have thrombotic complications. I think people are looking for something unrealistic. Vaccines that we have used for hundreds of years all have the same risk-benefit calculation."

Professor Landis dismissed suggestions that new vaccines might be needed in response to the highly contagious Delta variant: "Because the Delta variant is so contagious, it causes more cases and, therefore, you get more deaths. But it's not because the case fatality rate is especially high; it's just more contagious and we expect this progression—more contagious, less lethal—to continue. And at some point, maybe a dozen years, maybe 100 years, maybe 1000 years, this virus will just be with us; and it wouldn't cause any harm."

The medical experts underscored the need for vaccinations to be supported by non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs), such as mask wearing, physical distancing, contact tracing and limits on social gatherings.

Dr. Harewood pointed out that this was done successfully in Malta and Iceland where vaccination rates were over 70 percent.

"NPIs rely on behaviour; it relies on things being done correctly and consistently and balancing that with fatigue because it has been a long time we've been saying to people 'you can't do this [and] you can't do that.' Sometimes, maybe it's the messaging that needs to be changed. I think part of the challenge is that, when we look

at areas where high transmission has been identified, there has not been the consistent use of protective measures," she said.

Meantime, Dr. Benn addressed the ongoing tension between vaccinated and unvaccinated persons, which, she agreed, has caused an already stressful situation to worsen. She argued it was possible for those with opposing views to hold rational discussions.

"The vaccinated want the unvaccinated to be vaccinated and the unvaccinated want the vaccinated to stop pressuring them. Then, you have those who are hesitant—not that they fall on the side of not wanting to be vaccinated, but they are still making up their minds.

"I think what we can do is to have more engagement with those persons who are hesitant to help them to understand. We can also engage with those who have made up their minds to find out what their fears are, why they've taken such a decision; not necessarily in environments where we are having arguments and shouting, but [where they are] more intimate type of personalised interactions. Those things tend to bring about more compromise and better understanding for both sides." ●



From left: Dr. Jacqueline Benn, Psychological Counsellor, Office of Student Services; Dr. Tania Whitby-Best, Resident Medical Officer and Head of the Student Health Clinic; Dr. Heather Harewood, Lecturer in Public Health and Epidemiology; and Dr. Kim Quimby, Senior Lecturer in Immunology

EMERGENCY POWERS IN A PANDEMIC

As lockdowns became a prominent feature of Caribbean life in a region fighting to stave off COVID-19, academics debated the appropriate legal framework for imposing such restrictions on civilian movement.



LOCKDOWN

during a Faculty of Law forum to examine the restriction issue amid growing debate about the use of such measures to curb public movement. His presentation focused on protecting human rights, democracy and the rule of law during a pandemic and was delivered as part of the faculty's **Eminent Speaker Series** in March 2021 when lockdowns had begun to take effect.

He made specific reference to the situation in Europe, notably Article 15 of the **European Convention of Human Rights** that explains that in times of war or public emergency, states may take measures derogating from the convention. However, there is a caveat that those measures must be proportionate to the exigencies of the situation.

"Although emergencies can damage human rights and damage constitutional norms—because we are sacrificing those constitutional norms by damaging human rights and we're allowing certain things that ordinarily wouldn't be permissible—I



Dr. Alan Greene
Senior Lecturer
Birmingham Law School, United Kingdom

Senior Lecturer at the **Birmingham Law School** in the United Kingdom (UK) and author of the book

Emergency Powers in a Time of Pandemic, Dr. Alan Greene said lockdowns are "100 percent necessary" though such restrictions not only affected individuals who are sick but the healthy as well. However, he argued that a formal declaration of emergency was the best route to take in the UK and neighbouring countries.

Dr. Greene was speaking

argue that they can also protect human rights by ensuring that we quarantine, and we limit those exceptional powers only to conditions that justify those powers. We're not allowing them in times of normalcy," Dr. Greene said.

He added a note of caution, stating that emergencies are a lot easier to identify when they begin than when they end. Furthermore, he said emergencies have a propensity to trigger other emergencies and pointed to the global financial crisis as an example.

"Unemployment was at record levels, and once the pandemic is over, it remains to be seen what the government response is going to be. Global economic crises and financial crises are the exact conditions under which you get civil unrest, and they are also the conditions in which you get government temptations to crack down on civil unrest ... So powers introduced to deal with the pandemic can potentially be applied to situations beyond it, and it might become a bit more difficult to identify when the emergency has ended."

Dr. Greene said there are also human rights concerns that relate to the rush to normalcy and that urgency has the potential to damage democracy. He once again used the UK as an example, explaining that the rush to resume in-person voting for parliamentarians put those with underlying health conditions at risk of contracting the virus.

In response, regional legal expert **Gabrielle Elliot-Williams** said a one-size-fits-all approach would not be applicable to the Caribbean. The Mona Campus Law Lecturer said countries in the region have taken two routes to restrict activities, both of which have strengths and weaknesses.

Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Lucia had opted to utilise the state of emergency (SOE) regime, while Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago went the route of limitation on rights provided in their respective constitutions in the interest of public health and safety. She said Trinidad and Tobago was managing under a colonial-era law, while Jamaica was utilising legislation from 2015. For her, the critical question is, *"Does one size fit all?"*

"Given that the underlying or unspoken message which the law communicates depends on shared symbolism or shared values and so on, that might cause us to assume that one size can fit all. The message which allows our legal regime might communicate [one way] in Barbados [but] might not be the same as the message communicated in Jamaica, [and] might not be the same as the message communicated in the UK. The messages may vary depending on differences in historical and contemporary uses of emergency

regimes," she said.

"In my view, whether a jurisdiction really needs the quarantining effect of an SOE really has to do with the nature of the system in each context ... does it have an independent judiciary with a strong record of protection of rights? Common Law lawyers and judges earn their living making fine distinctions, and there is robust protection in some of our jurisdictions."

Dr. Greene agreed that one size does not fit all, adding that he understood the reluctance by some countries in the Caribbean to utilise emergency powers given their adverse experiences under colonialism. ●

"... So powers introduced to deal with the pandemic can potentially be applied to situations beyond it, and it might become a bit more difficult to identify when the emergency has ended."

International Internships for Three Marketing Students

by Marie-Claire Williams

Three business students are gaining first-hand training in the operations of an international spirits company during a three-month internship with the **West Indies Rum Distillery (WIRD)/Maison Ferrand** at their offices in Europe and the United States.

The internships, which began in January, are an opportunity for the trio to broaden their knowledge in the areas of sales, marketing, brand building, and inventory management.

Jason Blunt, who is currently pursuing graduate studies in Financial and Business Economics, is based at the company's London office. This internship appears to be a natural next step in his career path, having learnt the operations of his family's rum shop in Kingsland, Christ Church as a youth.

"It's just amazing how some things line up and work for you because I grew up in a Bajan rum shop. That is my family's business. In my younger years I observed the daily activities in the shop, and as time went on, I noticed the growth in the business. So regarding spirits, I saw the movement from just having a few of the main brands to having a whole host of liquor brands and other products that are



Erica Hinkson (centre) poses with Gene Charness (left), Founder/Owner of Warehouse Liquors in Chicago and Victor Bouvier, Maison Ferrand Midwest Regional Director.



Jason Blunt

now competing for shelf space ... That's one of the major reasons why I decided to apply, and now I am fortunate enough to be [on the internship]," said Blunt, who is currently a teacher at The Ellerslie School.

Tourism and Sport Management student **Kelsey Brereton** believes the opportunity to learn from experts in the field while based in Dallas, Texas, will help her to better market events such as the popular **Food and Rum Festival**.

"In tourism, we are in the business of making people happy and finding new ways to do so. And Maison Ferrand and West Indies Rum Distillery are definitely all about that because they're focused on creating new products and looking at how they can innovate their products to please the consumer.

"I think that this internship will be filled with a lot of learning opportunities, not only



Kelsey Brereton

from a professional aspect where I'll gain skills in various areas like sales, marketing and brand management or inventory management, but I also think that I'll learn from their culture, the passion they have for their products, and how they market them to the consumers. So that can transfer into me coming back here and contributing to the tourism product, how we market the different types of rum that we promote at the [Food and Rum] Festival here, and even when we go into international trade shows," Brereton said.

The third intern, **Erica Hinkson**, who is pursuing an MSc. in Marketing, is based in Chicago, Illinois for the duration of the programme. She thanked her lecturers at Cave Hill and at The UWI Open Campus and said she was thrilled to be selected.

"I'm very excited to take on a new challenge, to learn under their managers

[who are] some of the world's best so that I could learn marketing from an international perspective.

"I have travelled a lot throughout my life, but I've never lived for a period of time in another country and had to work and interact with persons in the field especially in marketing, my own

discipline, on an international level. So I will take the experience; I will learn from it, and it will help me flesh out my experience and increase my job prospects ... I think it would put me in a better position careerwise, and advance my life for myself, my daughter and my partner," she said.

Announcing the internships last July, then Principal of The UWI, Cave Hill Campus, Professor the Most Honourable Eudine Barriteau, said it was part of a wider programme of collaboration between the campus and the WIRD. She also appealed to other employers to partner with Cave Hill Campus to create more training opportunities for students.

Vice President of Sales and Marketing at **Maison Ferrand USA**, Guillaume Lamy, reflected on his own career, having been hired as a young marketing student at that company 22 years ago. He said he was happy to partner with The UWI, Cave Hill to help students achieve similar success.

"When I was parachuted to the US, the idea was that I would do more than represent fine spirits; I would represent a culture and the French traditions that these spirits were made from.

"... Following the same model that I used to build my own career, I am very proud to finally bring in young, talented business students into our organisation, not to represent rum, but to represent the Caribbean traditions that these rums were made from," Lamy stated.

The students received a monthly stipend along with paid accommodation for the duration of their stay. ●



Former Principal, Professor Emerita the Most Honourable Eudine Barriteau speaking with Vice President of Sales & Marketing at Maison Ferrand USA, Guillaume Lamy

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck university communities in early 2020, no one in higher education could predict the scale or duration of the seismic shift that would ensue, transforming academic operations in the years thereafter.

Pandemic Proves No Match for Perseverance

by Camille Russell

Amanda Perry

CCOVID-19 severely curtailed personal interaction and affected every facet of normal education activity, enforcing a transition from traditional, in-person classroom learning to online platforms and online classes. In spite of the new challenges and unprecedented circumstances placed before them, student and lecturer alike made the necessary adjustments demanded by online remote teaching, while clinging to their pre-pandemic hopes and expectations.

Amanda Perry was among students confronting the challenges of a 'new normal', quickly mastering how to navigate and succeed in a new virtual environment. She did this with major accomplishment,

emerging after three years spent at Cave Hill Campus with a **Bachelor of Laws** degree at **First Class Honours**.

Like many students, Amanda had entered Cave Hill with high expectations of herself and the institution. However, almost overnight, the world in which she, and others, interacted was altered leaving her to quickly adjust to terms such as lockdown, social distancing and sanitisation as part of their lexicon and daily experience.

Her acceptance into the Faculty of Law in 2018 marked the first step towards realising a lifelong dream of following in her father's footsteps to become a lawyer. Her love affair with the law began as a student of **Queen's College** while preparing to sit the CAPE exams.

"I just fell in love with it. I fell in love with reading the cases and understanding how

judges reach certain decisions."

After adjusting to the teaching style in the first year, the challenges experienced in her second year caused her to rethink her decision to pursue a career in law. She even contemplated quitting.

"Going into UWI, [graduating with] First Class Honours was always my primary goal," she explained.

However, with a grade point average (GPA) of 3.3 in the first semester of her second year, this goal seemed unachievable. Despite her doubts, her family remained confident that she would succeed.

"My parents have been very supportive of my educational choices. They help wherever I need it, even if it is just a listening ear. They always encourage me to push myself, to be focused, and continue

to trust in God that I can be successful.”

Drawing support from her parents, Amanda began to cast her doubts aside and refocused on her goal when the pandemic struck.

“COVID hit and we had to switch to online school and it was hard ... The semester was extended because there was a break in the middle. [There was] a lot of uncertainty as to what was going on in the country, what’s going to happen at school, how we are going to take exams ... it was a lot to adjust to,” she recalled.

One of her most difficult adjustments was the transition to online learning: *“The biggest challenge was getting accustomed to the less engaging mode of teaching that would take place with online school ... I really enjoyed in-person classes because you felt more engaged in terms of having the lecturers right in front of you. You can see their expressions.”*

She also missed engaging with her classmates and the open communication which a physical classroom setting allowed.

“As much as teachers and lecturers would try to make the class engaging, it really isn’t the same as having them right in front of you and interacting with your peers one-on-one, in person,” she said, adding that at times, the technology in use added to the woes of some students and lecturers.

These technical hurdles included difficulty in viewing the lecturer’s

presentation on the online platform and even logging in, causing more time to be spent resolving technical issues before class commenced.

But thanks to her parents’ support and her renewed confidence, Amanda was undeterred. She decided to increase her course load by enrolling in an additional class in the midst of the pandemic, although she admitted it was a lot to take on at the time.

Her long-term goal is to focus on the academics of law and return to The University of the West Indies as a law lecturer.

“I do not think I really want to be too court-centred. I really want to get into the academia aspect of law ... I would really like to end up lecturing at the university,” she said.

Apart from her love of law, the new Cave Hill alumna finds pleasure in reading,

“I just fell in love with it. I fell in love with reading the cases and understanding how judges reach certain decisions.”

Her hard work and perseverance paid off, because in Year Two, her GPA improved from 3.3 in the first semester to 3.78 the following semester. Amanda’s grades continued to improve, and at the end of the final year, her GPA was 3.7. This allowed her the distinction of being among the 154 students with First Class Honours in the Class of 2021 that numbered nearly 1,400.

Her achievement came as no surprise to her family. As a lawyer, her father understood the value of hard work and determination.

Amanda has moved onto the next leg of her academic journey with an aim to achieve her Legal Education Certificate at the **Hugh Wooding Law School** in Trinidad and Tobago. Unlike her father, however, her dream is not to embark on the litigious side of law but to continue her studies in international law, a subject she became interested in during her second year of studies.

going to the beach, and playing the violin. In her circle of friends, Amanda’s love of makeup artistry has earned her the recognition as a beauty guru. She is also a proud owner of a puppy named Nala that she received during the pandemic.

Amanda’s drive and determination remains an inspiration to those around her. To students who may be experiencing difficulty with their studies or their personal life, she offers the following advice: “In times when you feel overwhelmed or you question whether you really want to continue, just go back to the place where you first made the decision that you wanted to be here because it is always important to remember why you are here. It helps you to continue to encourage yourself to push on to the finish line.” This is certainly an astute observation from a young student who relinquished self-doubt and remained undaunted in the face of a pandemic. ●

Navigating New Student Registration With a Buddy

by Sherry Maynard

Where should I start?
Who do I contact?
When?
What should I do?
Why?

Why the Registration Buddy Programme?

Becoming competent in using the Cave Hill Campus's technologies is a challenge new students face at the start of each academic year. While written guides, how-to videos and live introductory sessions help, it was my observation that when the new students actually started to engage the technology, it was clear that more needed to be done. New students still had many questions and gaps in their understanding of these technologies.

For the 2021-2022 academic year, I asked, "What if students could be introduced to the campus's

technology progressively and in a personalised manner, would that add further value for our new students?" The answer to this question led to the birth of the Cave Hill Campus's **Registration Buddy** programme.

What is the Registration Buddy Programme?

This programme is a system built to help our new students become technology-ready before their registration day. It connects new students with continuing students to become their Registration Buddies for a three-week period. The Buddies take the new students on a tech journey through the various campus technologies, with built-in check points on the path to ensure new students are on track in building the required skills. In addition, Buddies are available to help new students on their registration day. Utilising a fully online environment, new students are coached in areas such as: user credentials, email, the registration system (CHOL), the learning management system (MyCaveHill eLearning) etcetera, and going forward, how to get help as they use the technology.



To deliver the outcomes of the **Registration Buddy** programme, Campus IT Services teamed up with the **Office of Student Services** and the **Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning**, and at the end, we clearly made a positive impact on both our new and continuing students.

Impact on New Students

One thousand, three hundred and sixty-nine new students were assigned a Registration Buddy. At the end of the programme, 114 new students shared their thoughts: 77 percent felt more confident and better prepared for registration, and 75 percent said they would definitely recommend the programme to a friend. The open-ended feedback from the new students was also very insightful. In summary, they found:

- ▶ the information provided by the programme to be very useful;
- ▶ the Registration Buddies to be very amicable and helpful;
- ▶ the opportunity to connect with another student, who understood what they were experiencing, was valuable; and
- ▶ the timely response, availability and ease of getting assistance was appreciated

Additionally, they liked the personal nature of the interaction, and overall, they were thankful for the efforts to prepare them for university life.

"The feeling that someone cared enough to prepare me for UWI and avoid compounding my challenges of the new online campus experience [was invaluable.]"

The Joy of Giving Back

The 184 continuing students who participated in the programme found it rewarding to help new students transition to university life. They also provided feedback at the end of the programme and "amazing", "great initiative", and "totally enjoyed it" were some of the sentiments shared by the Registration Buddies. They lamented that such a programme was not available when they were new students, and they recommended that it should be an annual initiative in which they would gladly participate.

"Although it was a new programme, it was amazing, and I believe it is something that can be carried forward for future students. In previous years, students had to figure it out, but this was a great initiative especially in this virtual environment."

Institutionalising the Registration Buddy Programme

The **Registration Buddy** programme was a first at Cave Hill but, based on the experience of new and continuing students, it certainly would not be the last. We can build on a great start and utilise the lessons learnt to institutionalise this programme at Cave Hill Campus.

"This approach to helping new students is needed, so I'm glad UWI has started something like this." ●



Med Specialist Aims to Leave Distinct Mark

by Carol Williams

Susan Sookoo had her eyes set on being a banker during her teenage years, but that plan was derailed after she received an internship at a regional hospital. That fateful experience at age 19 set her on the road to what she sees as her true career calling – a radiographer.

Cast-
asting her memory back to that earlier point in her life, the Barbadian explained that after completing sixth form she had opted to take a year off from studying to gain work experience even though she had been accepted at an overseas university to study medicine. She soberly recollected sending out scores of applications to banks in Barbados as well as St. Vincent and the Grenadines where she had earned part of her secondary school education. None offered her employment.

Her fortunes changed when she got the opportunity to intern in the X-ray Department in the Kingstown General Hospital now

called the **Milton Cato Memorial Hospital** in St. Vincent. It was there that she developed an interest in radiography and found what she described as “her happy place” because it allowed her to interweave art and science.

This passion prompted her to pursue an associate degree at the **National Institute of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology** in Trinidad. On completion, the young Sookoo returned to work full-time at the **Milton Cato Memorial Hospital** where she spent an additional three years before she journeyed to Barbados and joined the **Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH)** as a radiographer.

"I can honestly say that I absolutely love my job. I love being of service to others and the art of displaying anatomy to demonstrate any hidden pathology is a skill I've continually honed over the years. Learning is never finite; we learn new things every day."

General X-rays, dental radiography, angiography (a type of X-ray used to check blood vessels), ultrasound, CT or computed tomography, and mammography are her favourite specialities. CT is a computerised X-ray imaging procedure commonly referred to as CT scans.

The mother of two retooled during her time at the QEH and completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Management with Psychology at Cave Hill. As she celebrated 20 years at the state-operated institution, Sookoo decided to further improve her skills and knowledge by pursuing the Master of Public Health (MPH) degree programme offered by the Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS), Cave Hill Campus.

Her academic performance earned her the **Arnott Cato/City of Bridgetown (COB) Cooperative Credit Union Scholarship** for 2022, which was announced on 18 January this year during a ceremony held virtually.

Sookoo was humbled and appreciative of the assistance: *"I am grateful to the FMS selection committee for honouring me with this opportunity as it bolsters my determination to succeed. That is why I must also thank my colleagues who, through the semester, have been a source of encouragement when the*

expectations seemed too daunting."

The radiographer has lofty hopes for the Caribbean, one in which this region becomes a reliable option in the global healthcare industry.

"Even though we may lack the financial resources as compared to developed countries, we own adaptive management power of the highest order. This has been [evident] especially during the pandemic era where there is high competition for supplies and skilled professionals."

She also noted challenges Caribbean countries face in replicating standards set by international bodies due to financial constraints, including in relation to CT. To help deal with this issue, she plans to investigate how using available resources can boost the healthcare industry within Barbados and extend that knowledge to the region.

"Within the radiological services offered at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, computed tomography (CT) is the gold standard by international guidelines for a plethora of diseases. Thus, it will be my primary focus of study, initially."

"I seek to methodically introduce cost-efficient and health-effective concepts in diagnostic and interventional radiological services to strategically compete with the global market. The Public Health Master's programme, over the past semester, has opened my eyes to the depth and breadth of the need for public health service within our region."

In congratulating Sookoo, Chairman of the **Arnott Cato Foundation** Professor Sir Errol Walrond touted the MPH programme as an important link in health training and the prevention of illnesses in the Caribbean. He said the current crisis presents an opportunity for students to acquire new knowledge and undertake novel research.

"You should be challenging orthodoxy where necessary and learning how political, economic and public health are to be managed; for it is only by understanding those interfaces that you can hope to minutely contribute to the challenging task of managing this pandemic and any others that may come."

Programme Coordinator of the MPH and Head of the Public Health Group, FMS, Dr. Heather Harewood said those who qualified for the MPH were drawn from diverse areas and nationalities and have gone on to become part of the agile workforce that has helped shore up the health response in the different Caribbean countries during the ongoing pandemic.

"The pandemic has underscored the role of intersectoral collaboration in health emergencies, and we recognise that although public health officials may lead the charge, success really requires suitably trained and equipped persons, who can contribute at multiple levels, at our communities and our organisations."

Sookoo said she intends to continue using her training to leave an indelible mark in her field. ●

Social Work Community Initiatives

by Thérèse James

Final-year Bachelor of Social Work students in the Department of Government, Sociology, Social Work and Psychology are mandated to complete one year of field education under the supervision of **Thérèse James**, Lecturer and Director of Field Education, who works closely with students on projects of national interest from conceptualisation in September until implementation in June, every year.

The field education component of the degree programme provides local, regional, and international students with the necessary exposure to hone their clinical skills as well as to give back to the wider society by engaging in macro-based projects during their tenure in field education. Students are required to conduct a thorough needs assessment and extensive research before initiating their desired project. Four macro-based projects being executed in Barbados, Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines are highlighted.



Thérèse James



Dawn Munroe

Dawn Munroe

and **Rasheena Grant** assessed the treatment of consumers in Barbados, which led to the creation of “**The Consumer Shield Project**”. The project aims to educate Barbadian consumers on their rights and responsibilities by posting educational information daily on social media that focuses on promoting consumer awareness, justice, and empowering Barbadians to advocate for consumer rights. It will also disperse relevant information through the **Office of Public Counsel**, the **Fair Trading Commission**, and the **Office of Supervisor of Insolvency**. These three agencies are well versed in consumer issues and are informed about the challenges that are presented daily.

This project will benefit the population of Barbados because with knowledge comes great power and Barbadians would be better able to make informed and intelligent decisions,

and where their rights are being infringed, they could challenge the situation to shield themselves from any injustice. From a social work perspective, “**The Consumer Shield Project**” allows for a level of collectiveness and citizens’ advocacy that is desperately needed in Barbados. It uses a positive approach to build consensus among the people as well as to create a sense of community spirit.

A series of biweekly presentations, commencing in February 2022 in collaboration with the **Office of Public Counsel**, will be showcased and social media platforms will be used to disseminate information regarding consumer awareness. This information will be uploaded every Tuesday and Saturday on Instagram and Facebook pages under @cspbarbados.

To foster sustainability, “**The Consumer Shield Project**” will progress from awareness to advocacy. The latter phase will be done by the 2022-2023 cohort of final-year Social Work students.



Rasheena Grant



Nikianna Williams

Nikianna Williams is completing a project in her native country, St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The project is entitled **“Unwedged”** and is guided by the mantra *“removing the wedge of unhealthy co-parenting”*. Co-parenting is defined as the process in which two divorced or separated parents work together to raise a child even though they are no longer together.

Through observation at the St. Vincent and the Grenadines **Family Court**, it was recognised that there is a significant number of parents who engage in unhealthy or

poor co-parenting, as evident in the number of custody, access, and maintenance cases brought before the court. Additionally, during observation and participation in mediation sessions, disagreements between parents show their lack of interest to co-parent and their lack of knowledge on the short and long-term impact of unhealthy co-parenting on their children. The court prides itself on gaining the best outcome for children. However, when both parents are not actively involved in their child’s or children’s lives, this can have significant negative effects. Unhealthy or poor co-parenting can affect children psychologically.

The project will host and broadcast a television series to address this issue. The show will be produced in collaboration with local television station, **Vincetian Cultural Connection Channel (VC3TV)**; non-governmental organisation, **Living in Full Effect (LIFE)**; and local online news page, **One News St. Vincent**. **“Unwedged”** is proposed to be broadcasted weekly on Sunday at 6.00pm. Recorded studio interviews will be hosted by Nikianna. Interviewees will comprise professionals, allowing for interactive discussions with parents, co-parents, and young persons who were raised in either healthy or unhealthy co-parenting relationships. The television programme is expected to be enlightening, inspirational, and entertaining.



Crystal Smith

Crystal Smith and **Michelle Williams** conceptualised **“Sustaining the Treasures of Our Nation Efficiently (S.T.O.N.E)”**. This project seeks to address the issue of elder abuse in Barbados, with the aim of educating the wider population about its various forms. It will also advocate for the relevant authorities to develop the necessary policies and legislations regarding this wrong.

In collaboration with the **New Testament Church of God**, Barbados; the **National Insurance Scheme**, the **Barbados Police Service**, and trained professionals, a series of webinars will be held *via* Facebook at *projectstonebarbados*. Also, social media, television appearances, flyers, and banners will be used to advertise this series.



Michelle Williams



Kadisha Douglas

Kadisha Douglas’s project will be completed in her native country, Grenada. Her research led her to realise that access to technology and related resources is lacking for persons over age sixty in Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique. Many older persons reside alone and are experiencing isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the lack of access to technology and digital devices has exacerbated the situation, impacting communication between the elderly population and their loved ones. Additionally, this demographic often is not competent in the use of technology.

This project, therefore, aims to educate the elderly in the use of technology *via* a local televised series entitled **Seniors Going Digital**. It has secured the assistance of the **Government Information Service of Grenada** which will be responsible for televising the series. **Digicel** and **Flow** will promote the project, various banking institutions will educate the elderly on the use of their digital services, and the ministry responsible for care of the elderly will have representatives educating and encouraging these persons on the use of technology. ●

UWI and Kenya Push Caribbean-Africa Talks

The relationship between the Caribbean and Africa could soon be subjected to critical analysis by academics from The University of the West Indies (The UWI) and their counterparts in Kenya.



UWI officials meeting with delegates who attended the inaugural CARICOM-Africa Summit

Representatives of the Government of Kenya and The UWI agreed on the need for such a discourse to critically examine the areas of cooperation outlined in a communiqué, which emerged from the staging of the inaugural **CARICOM-Africa Summit**, and to explore ways of holding countries accountable. The summit was held

virtually on 7 September 2021.

A subsequent meeting at the Cave Hill Campus involved Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kenya, Ambassador Raychelle Omamo; Secretary General of the Caribbean Community, Dr. Carla Barnett; Vice-Chancellor of The UWI, Sir Hilary Beckles; and Barbados's Ambassador to CARICOM, His Excellency David Comissiong. Other

participants included Ambassador Moi Lemoshira of Kenya; Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the Cave Hill Campus, Professor Clive Landis; and Deputy Dean in charge of Internationalisation and Recruitment, Dr. Kenneth Connell.

Sir Hilary said he would welcome such a discourse and spoke of the necessity to mend the rift between the two regions that he linked to a decision made by African leaders

some 20 years ago not to support the push by CARICOM states for reparations from European countries.

"I see the need for the intellectuals to deal with this matter because the intellectual community is trying to find a way to put this back together again," he said. "Our two universities and other universities in Africa have continued to bond over the years and we are very proud to deepen our bond with that space, so you have our commitment."

The UWI has been cementing its presence in the African continent in recent years, including through a number of agreements with the **University of Johannesburg**, the **University of Ghana**, the **University of Nairobi** and the **Kenyatta University**.

Barbados's Ambassador to CARICOM, His Excellency David Comissiong said leaders should commit to the staging of an annual **African Union-CARICOM Summit** in September to help ensure accountability.

The participants agreed the two regions could deepen cooperation almost immediately in the area of health care, using the **African Medical Supplies Platform** as an example. The platform was used by member states of CARICOM to source personal protective equipment and other medical supplies last year amid a global shortage.

During the meeting, Dr. Connell reported on the outcome of a visit to Nairobi, Kenya last year by a Cave Hill delegation. He said agreement was reached on the

migration of Kenyan nurses to service the healthcare needs of Barbados, to have joint reciprocal medical training, and on the exchange of artists and cultural practitioners. He explained the next stage of discussions between the **University of Nairobi** and the **Cave Hill Campus** would revolve around the formation of a joint articulation agreement committee.

Ambassador Omamo commended Dr. Connell and the other members of the Cave

Hill team on the work done in advancing the partnership in the area of health and pledged to move with alacrity on these issues.

"We aim to accelerate the execution of the framework document that would facilitate the implementation of these agreements so they can bear fruits quickly. There's urgency on our part. The next six to seven months are critical for us to lock things down."

She said Kenya was also keen on leveraging ICTs to allow Africans to tell their stories through 3D technology, gaming, and other areas, as well as to enhance cultural exchanges with the Caribbean.

Secretary General of Caribbean Community, Dr. Carla Barnett, said youth involvement would be imperative, particularly in the area of culture. ●



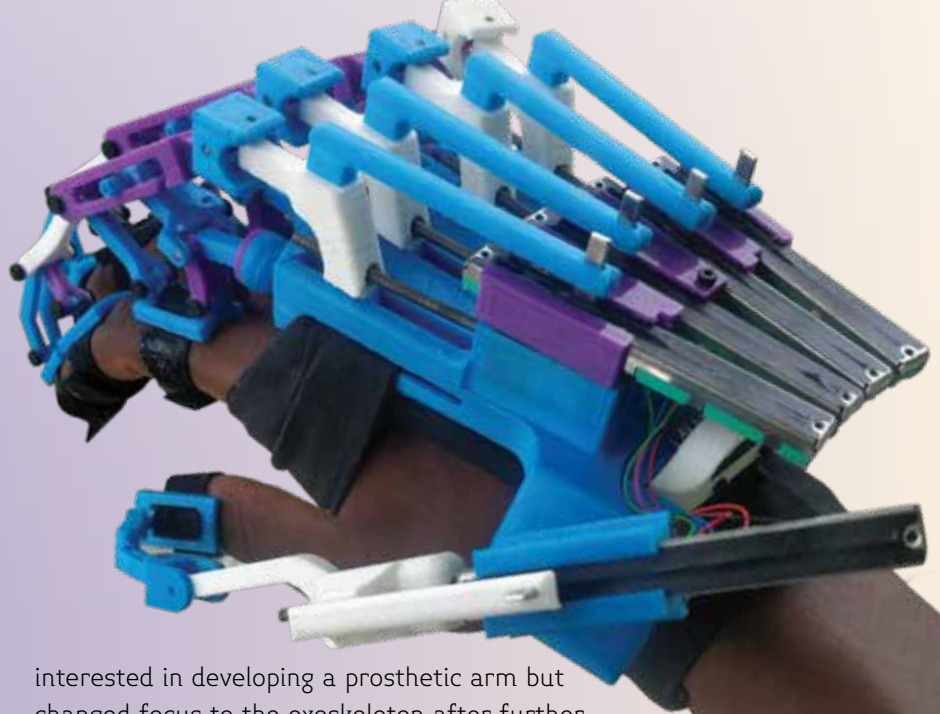
From left: Barbados Ambassador to CARICOM, His Excellency David Comissiong; Ambassador Raychelle Omamo, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kenya; Dr. Carla Barnett, CARICOM Secretary General; and Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice-Chancellor of The UWI



Evrico Inniss
(MPhil) student

Student's 3D Invention Can Assist the Physically Impaired

In an apparent first for the Cave Hill Campus, a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) student in electronics has created an exoskeleton arm using 3D printing to assist individuals who have difficulty using their own.



The invention by **Evrico Inniss** was done under the guidance of Lecturer in Electronics in the Faculty of Science and Technology, Dr. Ramon Sargeant.

The Barbadian student researcher said he developed an interest in the area after noticing that many people had lost mobility in their arms due to muscle weakness caused by strokes.

"As I was walking and driving [around], I saw a lot of people who had loss of movement on one side of their body after getting a stroke. Seeing that made me go in the direction; I wanted to develop an arm that could assist people with minor strokes in terms of recovery, rehabilitation and therapy."

Initially, the 24-year-old was

interested in developing a prosthetic arm but changed focus to the exoskeleton after further investigations. Prosthetics are artificial body parts, while an exoskeleton is a hard outer layer that covers and protects a part of the body.

Inniss said he opted to use 3D printing because it was compatible with his research and seemed the best choice for the development of a product that was lightweight, cost-friendly, and easy to use.

"Once you have a lot of creativity, you can do basically anything with 3D printing."

He co-presented his research with Dr. Sargeant during **Teaching and**

Learning Week of the **Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL)** held virtually last June. The title of their presentation was **"Re-Imagining the 21st Century Research Capabilities with 3D Printing"**.

Using **Autodesk Fusion 360** software, Inniss explained that he had designed a motor holder to lift and lower the hand. It also keeps the motor stationary and parallel to the upper arm of its user.

Additionally, electronic circuits necessary for the functioning of the exoskeleton were fitted within a small housing unit placed inside the hand area of the arm.

"I really like this because of the lightness of the material. Instead of using some sort of metal on top of the fingers, I used plastic which can basically do the same job as metal because we just want the fingers to move inward and outward when the person wants," he said.

The exoskeleton arm took approximately eight months to design and an additional six months to build. Though weighing about four and a half pounds, it was designed in a manner that would not feel uncomfortable or heavy when strapped to the individual's arm and upper body, Inniss explained.

"When you have the exoskeleton arm on someone, they wouldn't really feel the weight of the motor because of how it is positioned, and they wouldn't really feel anything else. It feels natural; it's not weighing down one side of the hand compared to if the person was using an all metal or mostly metal exoskeleton."

Dr. Sargeant said the innovation

displayed by Inniss is representative of what he has seen coming out of his department, where there is a strong focus on developing solutions to real-world problems.

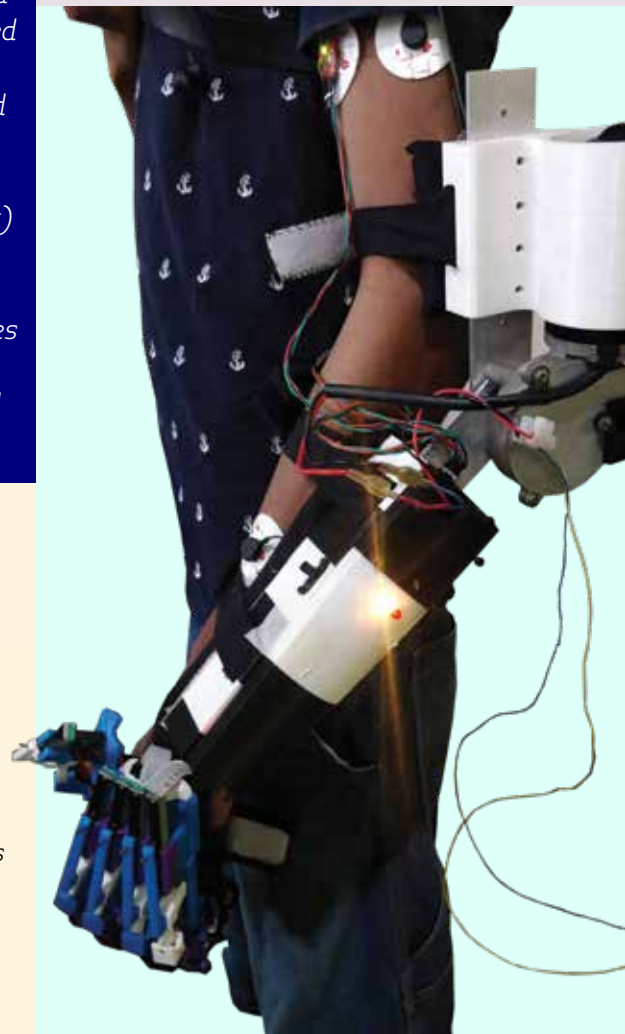
"Innovation is generally nothing new to electronics students. Almost all of the final-year courses in the electronics programme have some form of a project component to expose students to real-world problem solving. There are also research courses where students have to propose, design, build and demonstrate a workable solution to an assigned real-world problem. These research courses have produced projects such as a rotating LED clock, a 3D LED cube (Evrico's undergraduate research project) and a homemade aerial drone. I have found that the students who take these research courses generally express a desire to pursue higher level degrees and future study."

The lecturer said there is also emphasis on collaboration across departments in the faculty in the area of research.

"Currently the electronics department collaborates with other colleagues in the faculty, such as Dr. Adrian Als and his blue cane project to assist visually impaired individuals and Dr. Carlos Hunte with automating his physics experiments. There are also plans for further sensor development to help rehabilitate patients with motion injuries."

For Inniss, he is fulfilling his passion. He began tinkering with technology as a boy and started

honing his skill at the Barbados Community College, where he pursued the Associate Degree in Electronic and Computer Engineering. On completion, he attended Cave Hill Campus, thereby becoming the first among four siblings to attend university, and where he pursued a Bachelor's in Electronics degree, followed by a master's degree. With dreams of pursuing a career in medical engineering or academics, he decided to do an MPhil that he hopes to complete this semester. ●



Dissecting the Science of Our Eating Habits

As a high prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) continues to burden regional healthcare systems, a new island study is examining the availability of healthy eating options at food stores in Barbados. More specifically, PhD student Stephanie Whiteman is looking at items sold by wholesale outlets, supermarkets and grocery stores, and minimarts or convenience stores.

She argues that eating habits are not only influenced by availability of the products but other factors such as cultural preferences, accessibility, affordability, personal taste, nutritional quality, safety, labelling and promotion of these foods. Whiteman also contends that the issue is relatively unexplored in Barbados although studies have shown that 90 percent of the population consumes inadequate portions of fruits and vegetables that, along with the other food groups,

Stephanie Whiteman
PhD candidate

are essential to attaining optimal health.

In the first phase of her research, the doctoral candidate characterised and evaluated the community nutrition environment with a focus on the types, location, and accessibility of outlets, and between September and November 2021, she assessed the availability of healthy options, price, and quality of foods in 40 percent of the stores on the island across its eleven parishes.

Guided by the internationally accepted observational measures, the **Nutrition Environment Measurement Survey (NEMS) Tools**, data were collected on 19 categories of commonly consumed foods. This comprised the 11 items in the original NEMS survey for stores, which were fruits, vegetables, milk, ground beef, hot dogs, frozen dinners, baked goods, beverages, bread, chips, and cereal. The list was then expanded to accommodate eating habits in Barbados and included roots and tubers, rice, pasta, flour, canned vegetables, canned fruits, meats/seafood, and oil.

Whiteman said the healthful alternatives were in line with **World Health Organization** guidelines for a healthy diet and the food labelling guidelines were those of the United States **Food and Drug Administration**. The latter was chosen because many of the products imported into Barbados are from the United States of America.

Points were allocated based on the degree to which the food items and healthy alternatives were available as well as based on their pricing and quality. This meant that the higher the NEMS score, the more healthful the store. For example, healthier alternatives to pre-packaged food items like milk, bread, rice, and pasta were allotted two points, and one point was given if there were more than two varieties of healthy alternatives. In instances where there was expanded shelf space for healthier alternatives, a point was given. Further, points were given if the healthier alternative cost less.

At a medical student research symposium in January, Whiteman presented preliminary findings. The study is part of more comprehensive research that she is conducting entitled **"Assessing the foodscape of a small island developing state: The case of Barbados"**.

In the next phase, she plans to turn her attention to restaurants and eating patterns at the individual level. ●

Exploring Herbal Cocktails to Treat Infertility in Women

by Camille Russell



As concerned authorities urge a reversal of Barbados's low birth rate to stave off socio-economic fallout, medical research is underway to determine the extent to which underlying medical issues among women are a major cause and to offer possible remedies.



Marriana Shepherd
Postgraduate student

Postgraduate student Marriana Shepherd has begun a fertility pharmacology study looking at the use and effects of herbs and herbal cocktails on the management of key reproductive challenges in women. She entered The UWI, Cave Hill Pharmacology programme hoping to add to the growing body of research on the treatment of infertility issues in women.

The study specifically focuses on **polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS)** as this has been identified as the leading cause of female infertility and a precursor to other serious medical conditions

including obesity, type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and endometrial cancer. In her preliminary observations, Shepherd noted several biomarkers that are cause for concern, including hirsutism, acne, menstrual disorders, multiple metabolism issues, and insulin resistance in younger people.

Due to the multiple heterogeneous factors that characterise PCOS, it is treated on a symptom-by-symptom basis, and as such, there is not yet a specific cure for the syndrome.

Suffering from this reproductive disorder herself and with little success using existing medicine, Shepherd became interested in the use of herbs to assist with her own treatment. While supplementing her medication with the use of several herbs, she began to notice improvements. This sparked her determination to explore the use of herbs in the management of PCOS as she embarked on her

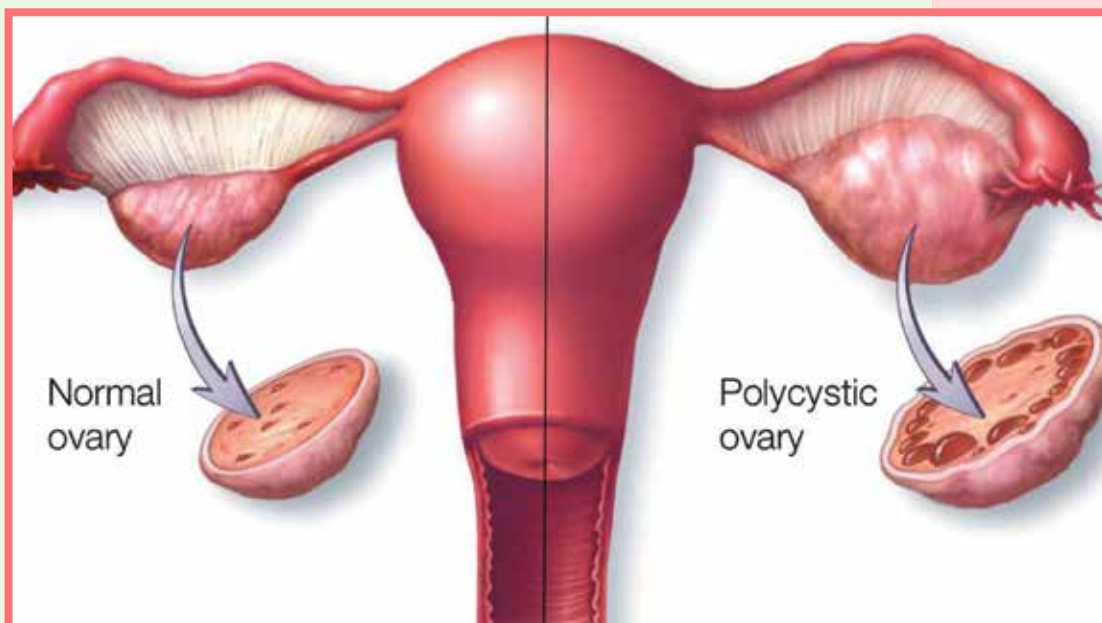
postgraduate studies. She chose herbs already well supported in literature and is observing the effects of multiple herbs or herbal cocktails to assist in this reproductive disorder.

The initial study is using PCOS-induced female Sprague Dawley rats to determine the effects of these herbal cocktails on key indicators, such as the KNDy neuropeptides and reproductive hormones. Coming out of the study, Shepherd hopes to identify multiple herbs to assist in the management of PCOS while also giving some insight into the declining birth rate in Barbados.

Barbados's birth and fertility rates have declined continuously since the 1960s, reaching below replacement levels in the 1980s. The island's ageing population has also become a cause of concern, as a declining labour force will burden the **National Insurance Scheme (NIS)**.

In 2014, former Minister of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation Ronald Jones urged women to be more reproductive. He argued that the population needed to increase to approximately 325,000 by 2024 to increase the number of individuals in the workforce so the island's standard of living would not be compromised.

His concern was later echoed in 2020 by current Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley in an address to the nation, when she stated that the current population had serious implications for stability of the country's revenue, the social security scheme, and the quality of life of its citizens. ●



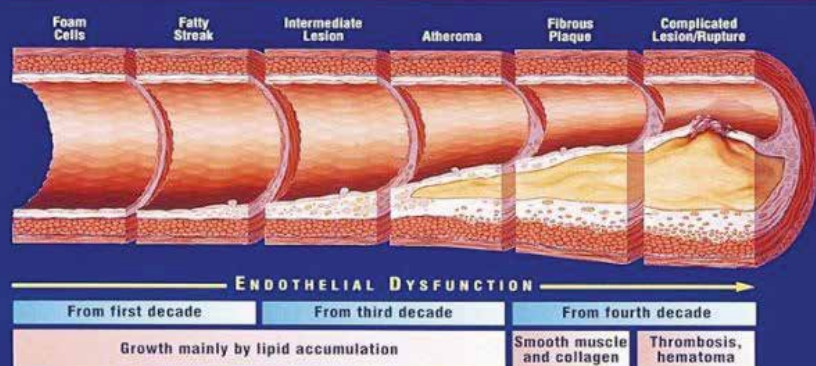
Improving Blood Flow With Cannabinoids

by Carol Williams

Amid efforts to build out medical cannabis industries in the Caribbean, a student at the Cave Hill Campus is researching whether cannabinoids, a type of compound found in the cannabis plant, could be used to treat **endothelial dysfunction**.

Atherosclerosis Timeline

VBWG

Adapted from Stary HC et al. *Circulation*. 1995;92:1355-1374.

Endothelial dysfunction occurs when there is an imbalance of the chemicals required to control the normal functioning of blood vessels. This occurs at the endothelium, the innermost cellular lining of blood and lymphatic vessels. This condition can lead to the development of coronary heart disease that is mainly caused by atherosclerosis, which is the buildup of plaque within a blood vessel.

Deidre Shepherd, who is pursuing a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Pharmacology, is investigating the link between endothelial dysfunction and hypertension. This can affect blood vessels as endothelial dysfunction can contribute to an impairment of endothelium-dependent relaxation of the vessels (relaxation of blood vessels caused by action of the endothelium). Previous research has shown that endothelial dysfunction may precede the development of hypertension, but it has also been found in patients with the condition.



Deidre Shepherd
MPhil student

Her research comes as statistics collected between 2000 to 2010 reveal that the prevalence of hypertension has doubled in low to middle-income countries when compared to high-income countries, and globally, 71 percent of the deaths recorded annually are attributed to non-communicable diseases of which cardiovascular diseases account for 44 percent.

Customarily, medical drugs like ACE (angiotensin-converting enzyme) inhibitors, beta blockers, and statins are used to treat endothelial dysfunction. But with cannabis already recognised as a treatment option for epilepsy, pain,

multiple sclerosis, and cancer, Shepherd believes investigations should extend to this condition.

Synthetic cannabinoids will be used in her research that focuses on what occurs at the cellular level in particular signalling pathways that contribute to the regulation of nitric oxide production and endothelial nitric oxide synthase (eNOS) activity. Nitric oxide is a molecule naturally produced by the body, and endothelial nitric oxide synthase is an enzyme that is found within the endothelium that produces nitric oxide.

Her study is entitled **"The Use of Cannabinoids to Modulate Endothelial Dysfunction"** and will be done in two phases. In the first, cell cultures will be used to investigate the modulation of the endocannabinoid system on nitric oxide production. Endocannabinoids are molecules made by the body that mainly act on receptors called cannabinoid receptors. In phase two, she proposes to use rats to induce endothelial dysfunction to determine the effect of the cannabinoids on their vascular reactivity.

In preparation for the fieldwork, Shepherd has been receiving training in cell culture techniques.

As with all university research, her study must receive institutional approval before proceeding, which will ensure ethical concerns are properly addressed.

The MPhil student outlined her research during the **9th Annual Faculty of Medical Sciences Graduate Symposium** held on 28 January 2022. ●

Early Warning System for Wildfires on the Cards

The groundwork is being laid for the development of a system to predict wildfires in Barbados that could significantly reduce the costs associated with this occurrence and its impact on health.

by Carol Williams



Dr. Kirk Douglas
Centre for Biosecurity Studies (CBS)
The UWI, Cave Hill Campus

The proposed **Wildfire Warning Index** is the brainchild of the **Centre for Biosecurity Studies (CBS)** at the Cave Hill Campus.

If realised, it would not only forecast the number of wildfires but where they could occur based on the climate forecast.

The CBS defines wildfires as fires that burn biomass or vegetation. This encompasses sugar cane, trees, grass, and rubbish fires.

Director of the centre **Dr. Kirk Douglas** said the index would only account for the influence of climate variables on wildfires and not the human factor nor spontaneous combustion, the latter two being unpredictable.

The centre has reached out to researchers of the **Climate Studies Group Mona** located at The University of the West Indies (UWI) Mona Campus. This group was instrumental in the development and presentation of a similar index for Jamaica.

The initiative is a key component in a pending research grant proposal to the **Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF)**.

Another significant aspect entails putting a dollar value on the cost of wildfires, with the expectation that this would spur policymakers to act.

Dr. Douglas explained, *"When you're looking at the economic impact, it is not merely about the vegetation that is burnt or the water that is used to extinguish these fires. You're also looking at manpower, [and] affected businesses and schools that have to close. Some people may have to go on sick leave because of exposure to the smoke; then you have to examine the economic impact of chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and the role this exposure is having on the healthcare bill of a particular country."*

This effort will be strengthened by the work of **H3E Caribbean Initiative** (Human Heredity, Environment and Health in the

Caribbean), a partnership comprising **The UWI Faculties of Medical Sciences**, the **Jamaica Cancer Care & Research Institute (JACCRI)** and **Harvard/MGH Center on Genomics, Vulnerable Populations, and Health Disparities**, and in which the CBS is involved as Co-Chair of the Environment Working Group.

This **H3E Caribbean Initiative** is exploring how climate change relates to the built environment, physical infrastructure, pollution, beauty products, food/nutrition, substance abuse, physical activity, and varied psychological and psychosocial stressors to which individuals were exposed from birth to the present, known as the exposome, and how these elements have impacted genomic DNA and its correlation

to chronic NCDs, including multiple forms of cancers, hypertension, strokes, asthma, and diabetes.

Dr. Douglas said their research proposal is supported by the **Department of Emergency Management** of Barbados and the **Barbados Fire Service**.

Buy-in would also be sought from the **Barbados Water Authority** given the link between climate change, fires, and the water supply.

Already, data were collected from the **Research and Planning Unit** of the **Barbados Fire Service** covering the 2006 to 2020 period, while climate data were obtained from the **Barbados Meteorological Services** for 2008 to 2020.

This data showed that most fires occurred in St. Michael, with St. Philip and Christ Church also recording notable numbers.

Researchers also conducted regression analysis (a process used to determine relationships between variables) that focused on five climatic variables – temperature, rainfall, humidity, relative humidity, and wind speed. The results showed that about 63 percent of rubbish fires, 53 percent of grass fires and 35 percent of sugar cane fires could be explained by variations in the climate.

Another part of the plan would see the provision of drones to the **Barbados Fire Service**.

*“What we thought we can do to help the Fire Service is to arrange to purchase some drones for officers to take into the field when they’re responding to calls. We will train select fire officers identified by the **Barbados Fire Service** to operate the drones. These drones would allow them to have an aerial view of the fire, and this*

can help them in terms of how they deal with the fire. This would also allow them to collect imagery, whether it be photographs and/or videos that they can use to estimate the burn size area. With the assistance of machine learning or artificial intelligence, they should be able to calculate the burn size area without having to do it manually.”

To support their work, Dr. Douglas said they plan to install remote air pollution sensors at an estimated ten hotspots around the island during the pilot phase. These sensors would provide air pollution level data from these locations and elucidate the impact of wildfires on air quality.

“In addition to providing the drones, training, and bringing together the different stakeholders, the aim is to purchase remote air pollution sensors [that are] powered by renewable energy. These would be placed at strategic locations that are known hotspots for these types of wildfires. For each location where these sensors are located, we would be able to track the activity in terms of air pollution. This would also be a good proxy for determining health exposure risks [to] persons living in that area. We can then link this to some of the health problems we have in the Caribbean like cancers, since air pollutants also increase the risk of NCDs.”

The work being done by CBS falls within the ambit of the **I Can’t Breathe: Caribbean Air**

Pollution Initiative that was launched virtually on 29 April 2021. Dr. Douglas said the **I Can’t Breathe: ...** initiative seeks to support Caribbean governments in tackling global warming caused by greenhouse gas emissions and a range of air pollution threats to human, environmental and ecosystem health. He explained that actions would involve monitoring, the establishment of baseline levels for air pollutants, and the development of a regional air pollution database and legal framework.

Presentations delivered during the launch revealed that countries in the Caribbean are at different stages of data collection and monitoring for air pollutants. The presenters were Jiselle Joseph, **Environmental Management Authority**, Trinidad and Tobago; Tashana Redmond, **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**, Guyana; Lianda Chapman, **Environmental Protection Department**, Barbados; and Meteorologist with the **Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology**, Dr. Andrea Sealy. They provided a synopsis of the current and active air quality monitoring programmes in the Caribbean. ●



Understanding the Link Between Dental Health, Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease

by Camille Russell



Desrie-Ann Parris

Research is ongoing to determine the possible relationship between dental health, diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

Two researchers at Cave Hill Campus, postgraduate student **Desrie-Ann Parris** and Programme Coordinator of the MPhil and PhD in Medical Microbiology in the Faculty of Medical Sciences, **Dr. Marquita Gittens-St.**

Hilaire, are exploring the correlation between periodontitis in Barbadian diabetics and the development of cardiovascular disease in these patients. Initial research indicates that effective identification of periodontal disease can predict the development of these medical conditions and guide the management of them.

A review of existing literature found that the invasion of bacteria into the bloodstream of diabetics increases the susceptibility to oral infection approximately three-fold when



Dr. Marquita Gittens-St. Hilaire
MPhil and PhD Programme Coordinator
in Medical Microbiology, Faculty of Medical Sciences
The UWI, Cave Hill Campus



compared to non-diabetics. Also, it revealed that the link between cardiovascular disease and periodontitis is caused by an invasion of bacteria species into the bloodstream.

According to Ms. Parris, who is enrolled in the MPhil programme, the link between bacterial invasion and cardiovascular disease is quite significant:

“The prevalence of cardiovascular disease is approximately 50 percent higher in individuals with periodontal disease than healthy individuals,” she shared as she made her presentation during the **9th Annual Faculty of Medical Sciences Graduate Symposium** held virtually in January.

Noting that although Barbados ranks higher than most small island developing states in terms of easy access to health care, Parris pointed out that it has one of the region’s highest prevalence for non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

In a 2021 **Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)** paper titled **“Addressing the adverse impacts of non-communicable diseases on the sustainable development of Caribbean countries”**, NCD-related deaths in the region range from 57 percent of all deaths in Haiti to 83 percent in Barbados.

In addition, according to the **Barbados National Registry for Chronic Non-communicable Disease (BNR)** of the **George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Centre**, not only did heart attacks and strokes in Barbados increase by 33 percent between 2010 and 2018 but these, along with diabetes and its complications, present additional burden to the healthcare system in Barbados. ●

A RISE for Educational Research

Education researchers have initiated a project that is expected to revolutionise teaching in this region. Officials involved in the **Research Initiative for Supporting Education in the Caribbean (RISE Caribbean)** said it will immediately impact an estimated 1,500 leaders in education, 10,000 teachers, and 200,000 students in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean.

The project, which is being coordinated by the **School of Education** in the Faculty of Humanities and Education, involves the re-establishment of a research facility within the faculty, with an expanded mandate to inform education planning, policies and practice in the Eastern Caribbean and Barbados.

The new **Caribbean Educational Research Centre** replaces the Education Evaluation Centre that was dormant for over a decade and will operate from the historic Mutual Building in Bridgetown. Some US\$3.6 million in funding is being provided by the **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**, with an additional US\$3 million in support provided by **The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus**. Another partner, the **University of South Florida**, is assisting with capacity building through mentorship and training.

Personnel at the Eastern Caribbean **Joint Board of Teacher Education** will receive training in research that would result in them being part of research teams engaged across the subregion.

During the launch of **RISE Caribbean** last 15 September, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the Cave Hill Campus, Professor Clive Landis, commended co-authors of the project proposal who are: Director of the School of Education at Cave Hill, Professor S. Joel Warrican; his colleagues Dr. Coreen Leacock and Dr.

Verna Knight; along with Associate Professor at the College of Education, **University of South Florida**, Dr. Patriann Smith. He added that the proposed areas of research were consistent with the UWI mission.

"As a premier tertiary-level institution in the English-speaking Caribbean, The UWI is a key stakeholder that, through its research, is able to guide the development of education in this region. The acute need for such research was brought into sharp focus in 2020 with the arrival of the unwanted visitor, COVID-19."



Professor S. Joel Warrican

Director, School of Education, Cave Hill Campus

Key areas identified for investigation include the impact of COVID-19 on teaching and learning, the impact of natural disasters on students' academic performance and psychological state for learning, the impact of examination practices in the region, and integration of technology in teaching and learning.

Already, research is underway on the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on students' learning experiences, which the principal investigators say appears to have widened the inequalities in education in the Caribbean and exposed the urgent need to examine the current models of education to make them more equitable and resilient in times of crisis.

Professor Landis said, *"Under the RISE Caribbean project, we are now able to use this information to contribute to and inform educational policy and planning in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean with evidence-based solutions. It is well known that COVID-19 has placed international higher education at a crossroads. The RISE Caribbean initiative gives regional context to the global challenges facing schoolchildren due to*

school closures, the learning gaps, loss of socialisation skills; rising levels of anxiety, depression and other mental health challenges."

Professor Warrican, who also serves as Chair of the Eastern Caribbean **Joint Board of Teacher Education**, said the project marked a new phase in the history of education in the subregion.

"RISE Caribbean is the response to the dearth of educational data for research purposes in the subregion. As we look around the education sector in the region, we constantly notice that there are many issues that plague us."

Professor Warrican said while research was being conducted in education, including by students attending the **School of Education**, the region was still facing a shortage of skilled educational researchers. He also noted experts recruited from other regions lacked the knowledge and understanding of the Caribbean context, thereby minimising innovative measures implemented by Caribbean educators.

"Under this initiative, we will rise to the need for more researchers and engage in capacity-building activities. Through training and support, teachers, ministry of education personnel, our graduate students in the School of Education, indeed across the campus and the wider university, will have opportunities to sharpen their research skills and [improve] their confidence to share their findings with different audiences."

"A major outcome is the generation of demand-driven research to meet the needs for research to inform educational planning, policymaking and practice in the region."

To ensure that relevant investigations are undertaken, the Regional Research Advisory Committee is being established to ensure issues that are deemed priority are planned and executed expeditiously."

The United States Ambassador to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, Linda Taglialatela, was hopeful that researchers would also explore gaps in education for disadvantaged children that could result in increased access to quality education that is safe, relevant, and promotes the social well-being of vulnerable youth.

"I also look forward to the collaboration among US universities and other regional and national partners to leverage resources, strengthen systems and develop capacity in local institutions," she said.

In commending **The UWI, USAID** and the **University of South Florida** on the partnership, Minister of Education, Technological and Vocational Training, Santia Bradshaw, welcomed the idea of placing value on findings that are relevant to the Caribbean context and using those findings to develop the best practices within education.

"The linkage that has been forged between USAID and The University of the West Indies can play a significant role in the development of education in Barbados and, indeed, the region."

"At this time, especially in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, a functioning educational research centre with an interdisciplinary research focus that supports decision making and policy development for educational innovation is indeed welcomed."

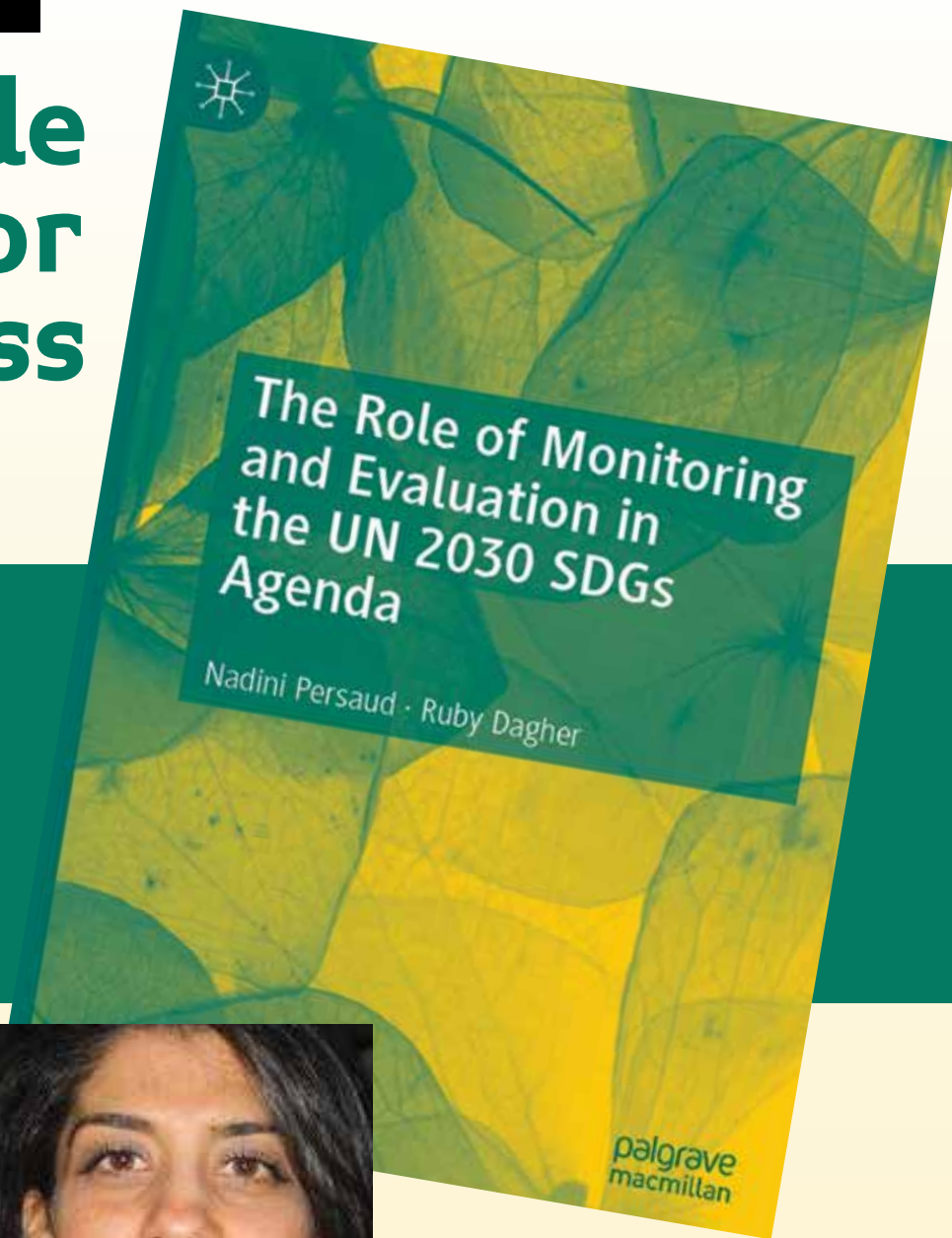
Director General of the **Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States** His Excellency Dr. Didacus Jules spoke glowingly about the **RISE Caribbean** project and noted that education in the subregion has made major strides, including collaboration among regional states. ●



New Guide to Monitor and Assess SDGs

by Camille Russell

The Caribbean has a new resource to assist in its efforts of achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Dr. Nadini Persaud



Dr. Ruby Dagher

Recently published book, ***The Role of Monitoring and Evaluation in the UN 2030 SDGs Agenda***, offers a critical examination of the **UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development** and its comprehensive, multistakeholder approach to achieving a more human rights-based and environmentally sustainable development process.

The publication is co-authored by **Dr. Nadini Persaud** of the Department of Management Studies at Cave Hill and University of

Ottawa's **Dr. Ruby Dagher**. It was launched last 12 August at a virtual event hosted by the Cave Hill School of Business and Management.

"Our book represents a very timely and important body of work to help those responsible for implementation to navigate the complexities of the **SDGs Agenda**, by helping to shed light on the goals and their apparent importance and the challenges with data collection and monitoring and evaluations, as well as the way forward to navigate this complex agenda so that realistic expectations can be achieved," said Dr. Persaud as she shared her remarks with participants at the book launch.

According to her, the book is also intended to assist policymakers as they implement monitoring and evaluation measures into national policy.

to provide in-depth understanding of how these came to be and why. We also wanted to address the challenges that evaluators face as well as advocate for increase attention and commitment towards investment in monitoring and evaluation," Dr. Dagher explained.

Book reviewer Ms. Ada Ocampo, President of **International Development Evaluation Association (IDEAS)**, in offering her remarks, heralded the book as a timely resource for the current times: "This book is both relevant and useful. It is very rare to see, in the literature of monitoring and evaluation (M&E), a book that not only focuses on M&E in the current political and socio-economic contexts but also deeply and rigorously analyses what institutional capacities are needed

the two authors for their critical analysis of the **SDGs Agenda**.

"... [they] have aptly succeeded in depicting the numerous and sometimes overlapping elements of this UN-initiated program. They managed to clarify the interrelationships of all components, emphasizing the intensity of the collaboration required to optimize chances for progress," Mr. Somlai offered.

The co-authors also received commendations for their work from fellow colleagues of the Cave Hill Campus.

Dr. Dion Greenidge, Head of the Department of Management Studies said the book is "extremely timely" for the Caribbean, adding: "When we consider the UN goals and what the Caribbean is going through with the pandemic, which has impacted macroeconomic development across the region, the book shares considerations that we need to have, not only to evaluate projects but on how we can even the playing field and what we can achieve for persons within our countries."

Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences **Professor Troy Lorde** stated that he "particularly enjoyed the innovative approach to the problem of project evaluation."

The virtual book launch was chaired by **Professor Dwayne Devonish**, Senior Lecturer in Management Science, Cave Hill who welcomed the opportunity not only to "promote the department's latest work of scholarship but to celebrate with colleagues their contribution to a space about which little is still yet known." ●

"Our overarching goal in producing this work is to help those tasked with implementation to understand that putting a plan in place is only the first step. The success of getting to completion is to understand your challenges and strategise to move toward success. As such, our book challenges policymakers to reflect on their implementation strategies, to think outside of the box, and to employ holistic thinking since the goals are highly interrelated and interconnected. It is now time to implement the agenda, and implementation is only possible when all involve understand what is required," said Dr. Persaud.

Co-author Dr. Dagher shared similar comments, stating the book is intended to provide a contribution to the development space.

"In addition to what Nadini has said, we wanted this book to allow for a space to assess the SDGs and

to implement M&E in the context of the humanitarian crises and particularly in the framework of the **SDGs Agenda**."

Mr. Iván G. Somlai, Associate, **Centre for Asia Pacific Initiatives, University of Victoria**, also shared his review of the book and complimented

Building the Case for Home Language in School

by Camille Russell



Dr. Korah Belgrave
Head of the Department of Language,
Linguistics and Literature

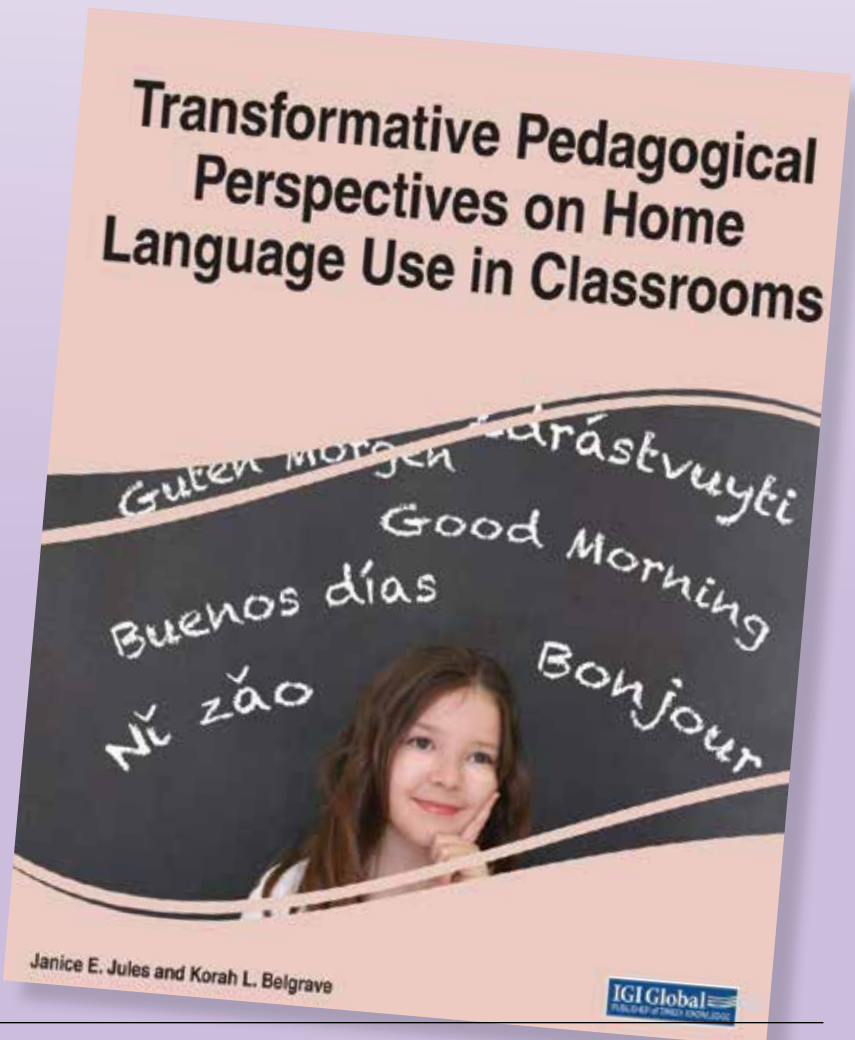


Dr. Janice Jules
Lecturer and Coordinator for Linguistics

An argument for incorporating home language into education systems across the Caribbean is getting fresh support. It has come from two prominent linguists at the Cave Hill Campus.

Head of the Department of Language, Linguistics and Literature **Dr. Korah Belgrave** and Lecturer and Coordinator for Linguistics **Dr. Janice Jules** recently published the book ***Transformative Pedagogical Perspectives on Home Language Use in Classrooms*** as a wide-ranging source of research materials and arguments from knowledgeable scholars and practitioners, both within and outside the region, on the effective use of home language in the classroom. The book also shows the significance of home language use to successful overall language development of learners.

According to Dr. Jules, home language continues to be marginalised and viewed as substandard to English in Caribbean countries. She has therefore dedicated a sizeable portion of her work to transformative pedagogy and provision of valuable insights into how educators can guide and assist learners in the development of critical thinking skills.



“Everything begins with language. However, we are still encountering the negation of the home language in both the home and institutional setting.”

She recalled undertaking longitudinal research in early childhood literacy throughout the Caribbean from 2016 to 2018 and realising that negative attitudes towards home language held by practitioners in education prevail throughout the region.

At one workshop held during the study, Dr. Jules noticed there was no reference to language on the agenda: *“We insisted [home language] be added to the agenda; and we spent our time making the other participants aware of the importance of the mother tongue and how it can be used to help children in their language development, especially since it is a language the child already knows. However, there was some initial resistance to the use of home language by many educators and ministry officials present at the workshop. [But] by the end of it, they had a different perspective altogether,”* Jules stated.

Dr. Belgrave, Lecturer in Linguistics and Communication Studies, also shared her perspective on the notion that home language is substandard to English: *“No language is superior or inferior. This inferior/superior idea comes when we place a value on language, and it is often a value that comes out of our prejudices and not necessarily from the language itself.”*

She insisted that home language, whether a dialect or creole, can be used to adequately communicate with others in any setting: *“You can think, you can reason, you can talk about literally anything; and usually in terms of linguistics, that is how we judge a language. It can do all the things that the people who speak it need it to do.”*

The two researchers are adamant that movement towards transformative pedagogy in the classroom is imperative, as this provides learners with language instruction fitted for their success.



“We are conscious of the detriment to learners’ psychological and cognitive well-being that can result from the rejection of their home language within the formal school setting. As a consequence, we reiterate the urgency of the movement to transformative perspectives in language instruction,” the two said in discussing the purpose of the book.

According to Dr. Belgrave, the transformative process starts with educators treating the language that the children bring to the classroom as legitimate: *“We are hoping that teachers would see home language as one to be valued like any other language such as German, French, [or] Spanish. Then the language that the children come with can be used to teach them literacy in that language and transfer those literacy skills to another language like English.”*

The publication builds on previous work done, particularly by distinguished linguist **Professor Emerita Hazel Simmons-McDonald**, on the use of native dialects in the education system across the Caribbean to improve students’ learning. The former

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of The University of the West Indies Open Campus has written numerous articles and book chapters on second language acquisition, vernacular literacy, language education

policy, and language and culture. Two of her most noted chapter publications include **“The Effects of Vernacular Instruction on the Development of Bi-literacy Abilities of Native Speakers of French Creole”** (2006) and **“Instructional Models for a Creole-Influenced Vernacular Context: The Case of St. Lucia”** (2014).

In the foreword, Peter Roberts, Professor Emeritus of Caribbean Language and Creole Studies, described Dr. Belgrave’s and Dr. Jules’s publication as *“another arm to the ongoing home language projects which have been implemented in the Caribbean where English is not the official language (e.g. Haiti, Aruba, Curaçao), and so helps to create a bank of expertise in workable procedures and processes on how to achieve greater equity for all in formal education.”*

“I appreciate this volume because many of us who have toiled in the vineyard for a long time and have had periods of despair on seeing what seemed like inequity in returns, can look forward to the effect this volume will have [on] the work of those who have worked conscientiously and without distraction in the service of students.”

Drs. Jules and Belgrave intend that the book lends further support to people who are already members of the transformative movement. Additionally, they expressed the hope that it will reach across the language education borders to disintegrate obstacles that hinder learners’ use of home language in the school environment. ●

Peace Sign

A laudable humanitarian project has seen The UWI, Cave Hill Campus become home to the first **Peace Pole** to be planted in Barbados.

A Peace Pole is an internationally recognised symbol of the hopes and dreams of humankind, and it stands vigil in silent prayer for peace on earth. Each Peace Pole bears the words “*May Peace Prevail on Earth*” in different languages on each of its four or six sides.

The **Peace Pole** project was launched internationally in 1955, and today, there are approximately 250, 000 such poles around the world.

The pole at Cave Hill was the initiative of the **Rotary Club of Barbados South** that is seeking to erect them at 60 schools across the island.

A ceremonial unveiling was held on campus on 4 January, attended by various officials including Chief Justice of Barbados and Patron of the **Rotary Club of Barbados South**, Sir Patterson Cheltenham; Minister of Home Affairs, Wilfred Abrahams; Senator Dr. John Rogers; Principal of Cave Hill Campus, Professor Clive Landis; Chief Education Officer, Dr. Ramona Archer-Bradshaw; Rotary International District 7030 Governor, Sonya Alleyne; and President of the Rotary Club of Barbados South, George Connolly.

Prof. Landis said the university was honoured to be chosen as the site of the island’s inaugural **Peace Pole**, adding: “*The inscription on the pole is deceptively simple, ‘May Peace Prevail on Earth’. As we reflect on that invocation, we recognise that peace can only prevail when conditions for peace exist.*

“As an example, a precondition for peace is that there is freedom; freedom from bondage of any kind, [and] also freedom to express yourself, and the freedom to disagree with someone in a peaceful manner. There can be no peace without these three freedoms.”

He added that it was fitting that the site chosen for the installation of the pole was near **Quaw’s Quest**, a monument that commemorates the life of **William Quaw**, one of the 295 enslaved people who, upon emancipation, occupied the lands on which the campus is now situated.

*“...we are grateful today [for] the advocacy of persons like **William Quaw** and many other women and men of peace down through the ages. We enjoy freedom of expression and the ability to express our will freely at the ballot box to elect a new government. **William Quaw** fought for these freedoms and therefore helped to generate the conditions for peace in Barbados.”*

Landis noted, however, that in today’s era of social media, the freedom to disagree with someone in a peaceful manner is under threat, as it is being eroded by a toxic mix of online hate speech, trolling, cyberbullying and censorship.

He told the audience the university has a key role to play in promoting peace in society by creating the widest possible didactic space in academe, to permit critical discourse to be conducted in a respectful and scientific manner for the advancement of knowledge and social enlightenment.

May Peace Prevail On Earth



A Peace Pole is an internationally recognized symbol of Peace on Earth
This Peace Pole is an initiative of
The Interact Club of Queen's College
sponsored by
The Rotary Club of Barbados South
Dedicated on January 04, 2022



From left: Senator Dr. John Rogers; Minister of Home Affairs, Wilfred Abrahams; Rotary International District 7030 Governor, Sonya Alleyne; Chief Justice of Barbados, Sir Patterson Cheltenham; President of Rotary Club of Barbados South, George Connolly; Interact President at Queen's College, Kenya Franklin; Principal of The UWI, Cave Hill Campus, Prof. Clive Landis; and Vice President of Rotary Club of Barbados South, Stephen Broome at the unveiling of the Peace Pole

"As a community of scholars, I will admit that our university is never averse to some disagreement. But disagreement is, in fact, central to the process of knowledge creation, as scholars and students test the validity of each other's assumptions and hypotheses.

"Indeed, the scientific method is underpinned by the so-called Falsification Principle articulated by philosopher Karl Popper. This states that for a theory to be considered scientific it must be formulated into a hypothesis that is both testable and capable of being able to be proven false. The freedom to disagree with someone in a peaceful manner is therefore a fundamental pillar of academia," Landis stated.

Alleyne told the ceremony that the **Peace Pole** project was in keeping with Rotary's vision for a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change across the globe.

*"It's represented here as we, through the **Queen's College Interact Club**, dedicate this **Peace Pole**, the first in Barbados. Our youth are at a crossroads; indeed, our society is. Let us use these symbols to step back and recognise that for peace to reign, it must begin with each and every one of us," she said.*

Additionally, the District 7030 Governor highlighted the commitment of Rotarians around the globe to focus on peace, and conflict resolution and prevention.

*"Through the **Rotary Peace Institute** and the awarding of Peace Fellows through the **Rotary Foundation**, we will make every effort to ensure we achieve this goal in some measure.*

"[This] is our opportunity to give peace a chance. Our young people make up 20 percent of our population; they also make up 100 percent of our future. Let us give them peace as our gift," Alleyne said.

The **Peace Pole** was unveiled by Patron of the **Rotary Club of Barbados South**, Chief Justice Sir Patterson Cheltenham; and President of the **Queen's College Interact Club**, Kenya Franklin. Interactor Jonathan Broome read an extract from the poem "Amazing Peace" by American poet and civil rights activist Maya Angelou.

It is hoped that this **Peace Pole** will also help to strengthen the bonds between **Cave Hill Campus** and the **Rotary Club of Barbados South**. ●

Students Gifted New Outdoor Study Space

by Marie-Claire Williams

A new outdoor space for study and recess awaits students on their return to physical classes.

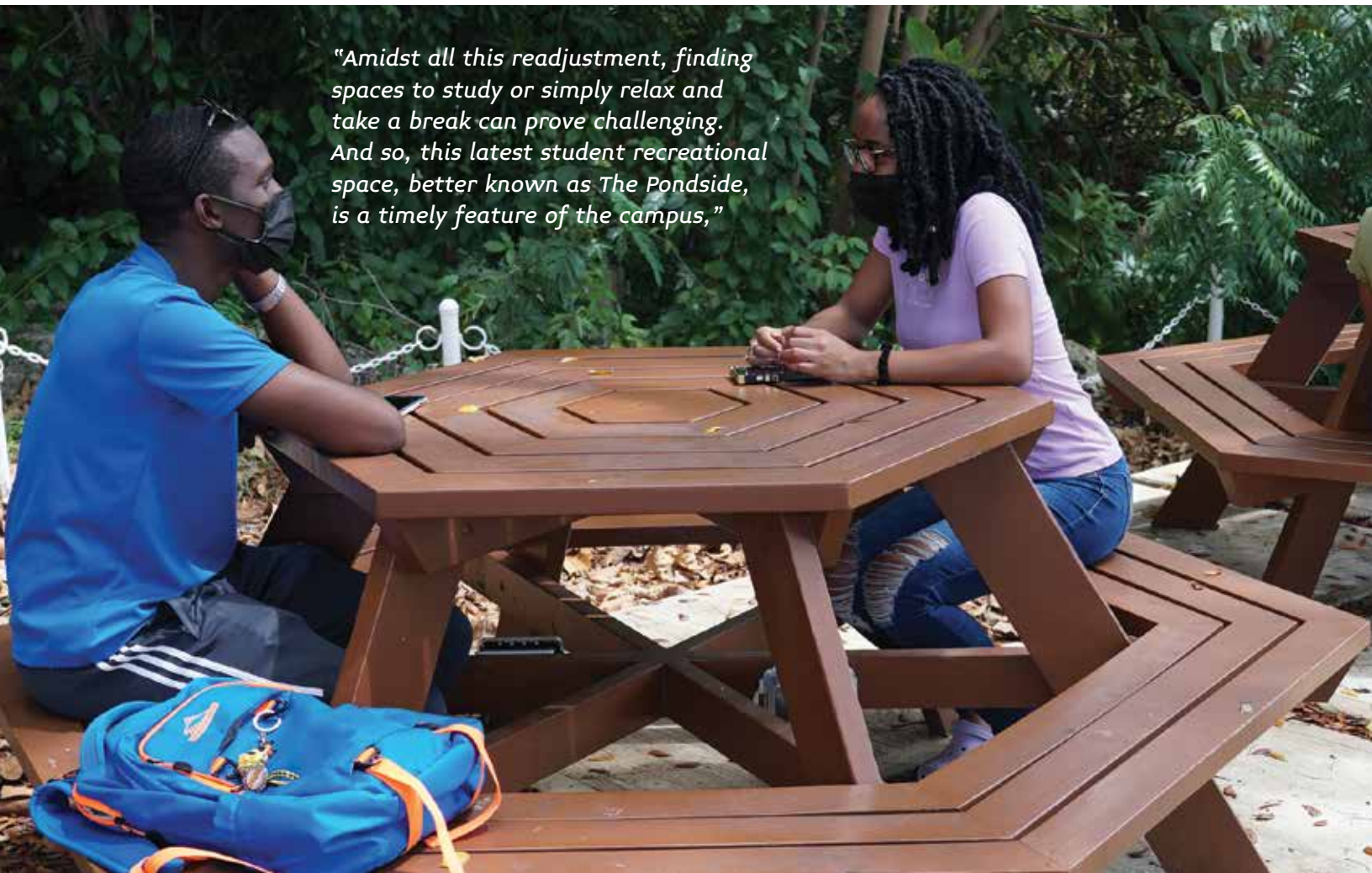
The Pondside, the latest outdoor recreational space for students was unveiled last September during a brief hand-over ceremony. It

was commissioned by the **UWI Alumni Circle** in collaboration with The UWI's **Office of Business Development** and the Student Enrolment and Retention Unit's **Office of Alumni Relations**.

Principal of Cave Hill Campus, Professor Clive Landis, welcomed the new facilities and dedication

of the area adjacent to the **Roy Marshall Teaching Complex**, noting the recommendation by health officials that spending more time outdoors during the current pandemic was healthier and safer, given the easier transmissibility of the coronavirus within enclosed spaces.

"Amidst all this readjustment, finding spaces to study or simply relax and take a break can prove challenging. And so, this latest student recreational space, better known as The Pondside, is a timely feature of the campus,"



“The need for such [open] spaces has been underscored by the challenges associated with living through the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We are well aware of the mental toll that persons in our campus community have experienced ... from the national lockdowns, curfews, isolation requirements, and the one that is particularly distressing to our students – physical distancing,” Landis said.

He noted that these circumstances have been mentally taxing, particularly on young people who are currently longing for the resumption of the traditional university experience.

“Amidst all this readjustment, finding spaces to study or simply relax and take a break can prove challenging. And so, this latest student recreational



Principal of the Cave Hill Campus, Professor Clive Landis; and Chair of the UWI Alumni Circle, Saskey Forde at the unveiling of the plaque

*space, better known as **The Pondside**, is a timely feature of the campus,” Landis added.*

Chair of the **UWI Alumni Circle** Saskey Forde said **The Pondside** was the first project to be sponsored under the campus’s beautification component of the **Giving Partners Circle**. She acknowledged the timeliness of the donation, considering the challenges wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic that she noted has brought the world to its knees, altered how we go about our daily lives, and changed how many of us view life.

“More focus is being placed on mental health, which includes our emotional and social well-being. How we think, feel and act can be impacted. Our mental health can determine how we deal with stressful situations, relate to others and make choices,” Forde said.

She also urged students to treat the area with respect and leave it free of litter so that others may also enjoy it.

The Pondside students’ recreational space consists of several tables, benches and paving stones located in an area with Wi-Fi access. The amenities were installed by **SBT Building & Construction Inc.** which also donated the seating. The campus’s **Office of Institutional Planning and Infrastructural Services (INPLAIS)** installed the electrical works and carried out the landscaping. ●



Tech-savviness Not Revealed on E-Learning Platforms

Many Generation Z and millennial students deemed tech-savvy by their use of social media are not showing a similar propensity in their use of technology for higher education learning.

Researcher **Dr. Glenda Gay** has drawn that conclusion after analysing data collected over several years from hundreds of students attending the Cave Hill Campus of The University of the West Indies. She disclosed that an anonymous survey of 228 students conducted in January 2020 found that not only were 65.8 percent of them not e-ready, but almost 90 percent of those 29 years and younger were also not technologically ready.

Technological readiness focused on the student's technological literacy, their device set-up, whether they had a dedicated network connection, access to the internet and knew how to contact the Campus IT Service Desk.

"It seems like even though our young people are technologically savvy and so on, they can't translate or seem to bring it over

to the learning environment. They were not technologically ready. This is the highest percentage [in all the categories]. They didn't have the software and the hardware to function properly."

The data was collected as part of an ongoing study by the Lecturer in Management Studies in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

The award-winning researcher has published numerous articles in several peer-reviewed journals on managing large online classes and readiness for online teaching and learning. She was honoured by the campus for her role in the institution's transition from face-to-face classes to emergency remote teaching in 2020.

The lecturer presented her initial findings while delivering on the topic **"Together Apart During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Evaluating Students' Preparedness for Transitioning**

to **Emergency Remote Learning**" during the **Annual Teaching and Learning Week** of the Centre for Excellence in Teaching in Learning (CETL) last June.

She explained, *"With social media, you get caught up because of the never-ending scrolling. With e-learning there's scrolling, but it's a static scrolling down; so there is a disconnect I'm finding with that transition from the use of social media. It's a different skill set, I believe. They [students] have to come here and learn, it seems, all over again how to do that in the online environment."*

The survey also looked at the students' study habits and learning preparedness. Study habits focused on their ability to use new applications for coursework, whether they had a private space to study, and if they had adequate time to focus on coursework. Learning preferences looked at the students' ability to study alone, meet assignment deadlines, and their preference for the structure of a classroom environment.

The majority of those surveyed (139) said they preferred online teaching as it allowed them to review the course material at any time, since many were unable to attend daytime lectures due to work commitments and transportation problems. On the other hand, those who preferred face-to-face classes said they needed the lecturer to explain details and preferred the environment of a lecture room/theatre as it removed distractions and allowed them to focus.



Dr. Glenda Gay
Lecturer in Management Studies
The UWI, Cave Hill Campus

As a result of her findings, Dr. Gay used the flip classroom approach. She created short videos, supplemented by reading material, and implemented a series of online review quizzes to constantly test students. In her lectures, she was able to review content that students were unsure about, go through tutorials, and apply additional exercises to provide support. WhatsApp and emails were used for communication.

After the national lockdown in March 2020 due to COVID-19, Dr. Gay conducted another survey to determine the most effective way to complete her teaching and conduct final assessments. In that survey, she sought to confirm the geographical location of the students, their network connectivity, the technology in their possession, installation of

applications to continue their coursework, ability to complete online assessments from their location, and perception of their time management skills.

She learnt that 13 foreign students had returned to their home country and the same number did not have privacy to complete their online assessments. Additionally, a further ten did not have internet access at home and had to use data on their iPad or mobile phones. Nine of these ten students were deemed not e-ready.

In contrast, those who were deemed to be e-ready had significantly higher technical readiness, better online study habits and management skills, preferred an online modality, and even completed their final assessment earlier than those who were not e-ready.

Interestingly though, both categories of students had similar final grades: *"It seems there was a sense of a levelling out where those who were ready suffered, in a way, and those who were not [ready] were able to gain a little traction and do better."*

Dr. Gay remains concerned that a significant number of students do not appear to be prepared for studying in a tertiary environment. She has since made several recommendations, including that those who are not e-ready seek assistance from the **Office of Student Services** on study habits and time management skills, and she continues to provide various learning modalities such as videos, audio, hands-on exercises, and tutorial questions. ●

Custom-Designed CURRICULUM

More than 50 new degree programmes have been added to the suite of academic offerings at Cave Hill.

The specially designed courses, added at the start of the 2021-2022 academic year, are being offered at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels to meet global demand and better position graduates for future employability.

Prospective candidates may now choose from among more than 500 degrees offered across the campus's seven faculties. The range of offerings is aimed at helping students better position themselves to actively participate in an increasingly technology-driven world that requires interdisciplinary knowledge and diverse language skills to accompany their core

competencies.

Some of the programmes are in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which served as a grave reminder of non-communicable diseases' (NCDs') threat to public health and has heightened health consciousness. The rise in childhood obesity, the call for a strong school nutrition policy and octagonal nutrition warning labels point to some of the health challenges the region faces.

New undergraduate programmes in health are intended to address the human resource capacity gaps within regional health systems, especially in the Caribbean where there exists a dearth of

trained nutrition professionals.

For example, a **BSc Human Nutrition and Dietetics** degree aims to breach that vast gap and supply a cadre of health professionals who can champion the role good nutrition plays in the prevention and management of NCDs.

Similarly, a new **Bachelor of Health Sciences** (Health Informatics concentration) degree programme, while facilitating the transition to electronic record keeping methods, will enhance electronic information storage that enables robust decision making and fosters improved data analytics.

The twinning of existing programmes with a foreign language recognises the importance of multilingualism that provides graduates with a competitive edge in the global

economy. The **BSc International Business**, **BSc International Tourism Management** and **BSc Political Science**, all with foreign languages, seek to arm graduates with this advantage.

It has been recognised that although several entertainers of Caribbean heritage have achieved international acclaim, the region's rich creative talent remains relatively untapped. The unique sounds, rhythms, movements and aesthetics of Caribbean music and dance are widely sought. The new **Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance**, as well as other programmes of the Faculty of Culture, Creative and Performing Arts, cultivates an academic understanding of the region's various unique art forms and positions graduates to become experts in the field and allows them to capitalise on the benefits to be derived from a burgeoning

orange economy.

The role of music in education is also being underlined. Music provides children with a well-rounded education, builds self-esteem, and promotes language acquisition and reasoning. Cave Hill's **BA Music with Education Minor** degree equips graduates to apply the learning and understanding of music as an important element in societal educational development.

The new suite of interdisciplinary programmes at the campus is designed not only to develop graduates who are skilled in their chosen field of study but to equip them to transfer these skills to new job roles that might emerge in or outside their area of expertise.



Recipe for Classroom Success

Amid growing fears that the coronavirus has been driving depression and altering our cognitive capacity, one lecturer in chemistry has cooked up a formula for teaching success.



Dr. Leah Garner-O'Neale
Lecturer in Inorganic Chemistry

Lecturer in Inorganic Chemistry **Dr. Leah Garner-O'Neale** introduced a strategy of infusing her courses with technology-based techniques, laced with empathy towards students, mindful of their additional challenge of navigating the COVID-19 pandemic. The methodology proved so successful that she plans to retain aspects on the resumption of face-to-face teaching.

Dr. Garner-O'Neale gave insight into her experience as she presented on the topic **"My Secret Recipe for Teaching Success During a Pandemic"** during the Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning's **Annual Teaching and Learning Week** held last June. The lecturer in the Department of Biological and Chemical Sciences in the Faculty of Science and Technology said her secret recipe involved *"a cup of flip, a tablespoon of Kahoot, a dash of WhatsApp and stir[red] with compassion, understanding and love"*.



Flip refers to the flipped classroom approach, a pedagogical style that moves traditional homework activities into the classroom, while Kahoot is a game-based learning platform.

At the time of her presentation, Dr. Garner-O’Neale had incorporated both initiatives in 15 months of emergency remote teaching. The strategy saw her receiving rave reviews in student evaluations. She opted for the new strategy after the pandemic forced the campus to adjust its operations, including the mode of teaching delivery. She said she did not believe she was giving students her best in the initial phase of the changeover, hence her decision to apply the flipped classroom approach.

The lecturer used the PowerPoint software to create videos that she uploaded to her YouTube channel, facilitating easier access for students with mobile devices. The students were required to watch these before classes. The classroom sessions then focused on applied learning activities and critical thinking tasks.

As compensation for students using their own time to familiarise themselves with the material, the time allocated for classes was truncated.

Dr. Garner-O’Neale said this approach allowed her to cover all the course material effectively.

“I did not [shortchange the students] with the content that had to be covered. The flip methodology worked in such a way that the students covered the content in their free time, and they felt

...“a cup of flip, a tablespoon of Kahoot, a dash of WhatsApp and stir[red] with compassion, understanding and love”.

motivated to do it. My one-hour session was to make sure that I created opportunities to clear up any misconceptions that they had, assessed those misconceptions, give them an opportunity for critical thinking and help them to remain engaged.”

With regards to Kahoots, the lecturer incorporated all the elements of her online videos

into a question aimed at ensuring that the students synthesised the information.

She said those who did not watch her videos beforehand learnt from their peers during the game. Kahoots also allowed her to assess their knowledge level as she was able to access individual student’s details from the gaming platform. This also allowed her to better plan her tutorials and guide her one-on-one interaction with students.

“It was fun, and I had classroom engagement. The students knew the material ahead of time, and therefore, they were ready and willing to go [and] they were motivated.”

To improve communication, Dr. Garner-O’Neale utilised emails and also created a WhatsApp group in which she invited each student to join. She explained that this enhanced the feeling of being involved in a learning community and offered a measure of reassurance to students. ●



Reflections on Remote Teaching Transition

Inspiring stories of creativity, innovation, resilience, and dedication came to the fore during the **Annual Teaching and Learning Week** coordinated by the Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) at Cave Hill Campus. The week was observed 7–11 June 2021 under the theme **Supporting the Continuity of Teaching, Learning and**



Dr. Sylvia Henry
Director and Instructional Development
Specialist at CETL

Assessment During the Pandemic.

CETL played a pivotal role during the campus's rapid three-week transition from in-person to remote teaching in March 2020, brought about by COVID-19. Amid many challenges and in a short timeframe, the centre conducted extensive training of more than 1,100 members of teaching staff.

Two employees who gave yeoman service during the transition received the **Partner Award** for outstanding contribution to the continuity of teaching and learning, particularly during the initial period of the pandemic. They were Lecturer in Management Studies in the Faculty of Social Sciences, **Dr. Glenda Gay**, and Chief Information Officer at the Campus IT Services, **Mr. Keith Inniss**.

It was the second major recognition for Dr. Gay in this regard after she received the **Principal's Award for Excellence** in 2020. She served on the



Dr. Glenda Gay
Lecturer in Management Studies

21-member **Campus Continuation Committee for Online Learning.**

Director and Instructional Development Specialist at CETL, Dr. Sylvia Henry, said the centre could not have accomplished as much as it did without the support of several partners.

"We can all say that we exhibited remarkable resilience for continuity. We all exhibited considerable creativity and innovation to ensure the continuity of teaching, learning, assessment, administrative processes and even research."



Professor Shannon Murray
University of Prince Edward Island, Canada

Dossier". The professor explained that this document could be used by educators to summarise their major teaching accomplishments and strengths. She said the document could make a difference to the individual's teaching development, and it could also be presented when seeking future employment, application for tenure, promotions, and teaching awards.

Over a dozen presenters spoke on a range of topics that included: **"My Secret Recipe for Teaching Success During a Pandemic"; "Together Apart During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Assessing Students' Preparedness for Transitioning to Emergency Remote Learning"; "Health and Wellness"; and "Ensuring Quality in Online Delivery: Policies to Guide Us During and Beyond the Pandemic".** ●

The importance of documenting such experiences was the focus of a presentation by **Professor Shannon Murray** of the **University of Prince Edward Island** in Canada. She spoke on the topic, **"Collect, Select, Reflect: Creating a Rich and Comprehensive**



Mr. Keith Inniss
Director, Campus IT Services

Special Recognition to Sport and Cultural Exemplars

Seven months after the Class of 2020 celebrated their achievements in a belated but inspiring virtual graduation ceremony in March 2021, it was the turn of the Class of 2021 to be showcased before a similar global audience, last October.

Denied the opportunity for an in-person celebratory event owing to the coronavirus pandemic, as had happened to their predecessors, hundreds from the 2021 graduating class, which numbered nearly 1,400, were spotlighted in a near three-hour spectacle that was streamed live.

As had occurred in March, the online audience in October was treated to a stimulating event that featured the procession of university dignitaries, entertainers and spectacular aerial images of the campus located in its picturesque environs.

During the ceremony, honorary degrees were conferred on three outstanding Caribbean citizens: Nicholas Brancker, musician extraordinaire; and the exceptional former West Indies cricket opening duo, Sir Cuthbert Gordon Greenidge and Desmond Leo Haynes, who, like Sir Gordon, later in the year similarly received Barbados's highest national honour becoming the Most Honourable **Desmond Leo Haynes**, a recognition equated with knighthood.

Brancker, an internationally acclaimed musician, was recognised for his contribution to culture, while Sir Gordon and his fellow International Cricket Council Hall of Famer were honoured for their contribution to sport. The nonpareil opening pair have a combined 250 innings in international cricket across all formats, that yielded 11,632 runs at an average of 49.49, a feat many pundits believe could well remain unmatched by any other opening pair.

Brancker, an accomplished piano, bass, and keyboard player, is known in the industry as *"the hit-maker"* and the *"musician with the Midas touch"*. He has more than 3,000 recordings to his name and



Nicholas Brancker

is considered one of the driving forces behind the evolution of ragga soca music in the region. He has toured with famed, Guyana-born, international recording artist Eddy Grant and produced for some of the Caribbean's biggest stars, including Barbadians Edwin Yearwood, Allison Hinds, Red Plastic Bag, TC, and Rupee, as well as Trinidad and Tobago's David Rudder and Machel Montano. Further afield, Brancker has collaborated with Roberta Flack, Fritz McIntyre of the band Simply Red, Cindy Lauper, Maxi Priest, and hip hop producer and keyboardist Salaam Remi, among others. In 1992, he received a Grammy nomination for *Love Is* by Sherry Winston. He is a recipient of several prestigious music awards and the Barbados Service Star from the Government of Barbados.

Greenidge announced his presence on the world stage as a West Indies Test cricketer, with a century on his first outing in 1974 when he played against India at Bangalore. Overall, he played in 108 test matches, scoring 7,558 runs. He amassed a further 5,134 runs in 128 One Day Internationals (ODIs) and was named 'Man of the Match' on at least 18 occasions. Sir Gordon represented Barbados, the West Indies, and played for teams in Australia, England, and Scotland. He has received numerous awards and accolades, including Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George (KCMG) in 2020 for outstanding contribution to sport, the Barbados Golden Jubilee Award in 2016, and he was named an honorary citizen of Bangladesh after successfully coaching the Bangladesh Cricket Team to win the International Cricket Council (ICC) Trophy in 1997. A primary school in Barbados has also been named in his honour.

Haynes, meanwhile, who was recently appointed Lead Selector of the West Indies Senior Men's Team by Cricket West Indies, represented the regional team from 1978 to 1994, serving in various positions



Sir Cuthbert Gordon Greenidge



The Most Honourable Desmond Leo Haynes

including captain and vice-captain. He scored 7,487 test runs and 8,648 runs in ODIs. He also held the record for the most runs in ODIs. The former Barbados batsman went on to play professional cricket in England, Scotland, South Africa, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, United Arab Emirates, New Zealand, and Australia. He has performed in numerous other sporting and political roles, including Chairman of the **National Sports Council**, Member of the **Commonwealth Advisory Body on Sports**, Chairman of Selectors of the **Barbados Cricket Association**, Manager of the **Barbados Cricket Team**, Sports Consultant with the **Ministry of Education and Sports**, and Senator in the **Parliament of Barbados**.

A stand at the Kensington Oval has been named after the two cricketing legends.

Brancker, who delivered the ceremony's feature address and also spoke on behalf of his fellow honorary graduates, said he drew inspiration from their exploits on the field of play as a young man watching from the stands. He appealed to the graduating class to work together as citizens, as a nation and as a region to ensure the collective success of the Caribbean and urged the graduating class to be mindful of the fact that "we are



Lyka Dorival
Valedictorian, Class of 2021

merely running one leg of a very long relay".

"Do not push out your chest [because of] what your achievement seems to be or what your role seems to be. Let us celebrate you - without you having to say it - by the way that you do what you do. That is what our forefathers taught us and what they expect of us. We are all standing on people's shoulders,"

Brancker said.

"My dream for my West Indies is that it will be a place from which people come, who function within a system that has been set up largely not to accommodate them, but who find ways to make that system bend to suit them, so that they and the people that are coming behind them have a chance [to excel]."

Valedictorian **Lyka Dorival** shared similar aspirations for the advancement of the Caribbean, in her

address to the ceremony: *"I implore us to never lose sight of the vision we saw for our region as students because I undoubtedly believe that this graduating class possesses the intellect, the innovation, the perseverance, and the vigour to institutionalise the active reform we desperately need."* ●

Cave Hill Wins International Award for Digital Transformation

Cave Hill gained global recognition for excellence in its IT developments when a leading higher education technology solutions provider presented the campus with a 2021 Ellucian Impact Award.

The campus was honoured by **Ellucian** for its laudatory use of technology-based solutions and its successful digital transformation initiatives that enabled it to adequately support students during the COVID-19 pandemic. The campus's top prize included a US\$25,000 grant.

The announcement was made during **Ellucian Live**, the industry's annual top global technology conference held last April. The **Ellucian Impact Awards** celebrate visionaries who are inspiring others to push the boundaries of higher education technology and innovation.

Last April, **Ellucian** recognised six institutions that represent excellence across the categories of student well-being, innovation and digital transformation. Cave Hill Campus won in the digital transformation category.

Other winners included **Community College of Baltimore County**, **University of Southampton** (United Kingdom), **Ajman University**, **University of Hartford** and **New Jersey Institute of Technology**.



*"It has been inspiring to see how these Ellucian customers are using technology to operate more efficiently, overcome challenges and offer a unique student experience. [The] **Impact Award** winners truly exemplify what it means to be a transformational, digitally focused and student-centred institution. I'm honored to recognize them for their remarkable efforts and look forward to continued partnership in navigating the future together,"* said Laura Ipsen, President and Chief Executive Officer of **Ellucian**.

"At Cave Hill, we strive to ensure a holistic student experience, and so, student centredness lies at the heart of all that we do to support our students on their academic journey, inclusive of their co-curricular activities and the provision of services for them," then Campus Principal, Professor Eudine Barriteau, said in acknowledging the award.



"We are aware of the significant role that technology can play in optimising the student experience, so we have embarked on a journey to incorporate technology-driven solutions into every facet of our campus operations. Technology also allows us to be agile enough to meet the development needs of the region in terms of research and programme offerings, as well as enhance access to university education in our region which has one of the lowest ratios of university graduates in the workforce in the western hemisphere."

Aiming to revolutionise its delivery of educational and other services, The UWI, Cave Hill launched its **Smart Campus Initiative (SCI)** in 2017, seeking to integrate information and communications technology into all aspects of its higher education provisions and related operations.

The university made this strategic investment to enhance the student experience, in addition to providing anytime/anywhere access to services;

engaging in data-informed decision making; and increasing both revenue and cost savings. As a result, the university was able to pivot quickly to support its students when the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the island. Student-experience, focused efforts included: working with local internet providers to offer "zero-rated" access to students; providing students with laptops and tablets to continue learning uninterrupted; offering its first-ever online new student orientation, which was received favourably by students and which saved the university over US\$35,000 at a time when the economy was declining due to falling tourism; integrating apps to track student movement against the spread of COVID-19 (at the time the award application was submitted, the university had no reported COVID cases on campus); offering online services like psychological and career counselling, health insurance support, and disability services; and providing students with an online student success hub to teach study skills and prepare them for academic success. ●

Caribbean People Urged to Claim Their Achievements

"We do not proclaim our achievements enough. Our modesty and timidity are our worst enemies."

This declaration, made by Professor Rose-Marie Belle Antoine, came during the annual **Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence** hosted by The University of the West Indies on Thursday, 25 November.

In a live, virtual awards ceremony, broadcasted via UWItv, seven staff members and one department from across the UWI system were presented with the awards which represent the regional university's highest accolade.

Speaking in her capacity as the new Chair of the Selection Committee for the Awards and Pro Vice-Chancellor of the Board for Graduate Studies and Research, Professor Rose-Marie Belle Antoine noted that from childhood, Caribbean people are taught not to boast.

"Unlike other cultures," she said, "we do not repeatedly affirm what is ours and sometimes lack confidence in our worth and in our work." She added, "Our history of subjugation and denigration exacerbate that tendency. It is difficult to believe that we are or can be the best globally; but we can, and this award of excellence highlights that."

A former Vice-Chancellor's Awardee herself, Professor Antoine spoke of several



Professor Rose-Marie Belle Antoine
Pro Vice-Chancellor of the Board for
Graduate Studies and Research

West Indian academics and innovators who have made huge strides for the Caribbean on the international stage, including current Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles whom she recognised for "blazing trails and reclaiming our dignity and reparations," and pioneer in solar energy, the late Professor Oliver Headley.

In his address to the 2020-2021 cohort, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles stated, "All fine universities are

distinguished for their excellence and ethical performance." He congratulated the awardees saying, "Today we celebrate the conduct and the performance of our colleagues ... You are the flag bearers of who we are. You are the standards we have set for ourselves. We thank you as we celebrate you for your excellence."

The **Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence**, established in 1993 celebrates outstanding achievements by academic, and senior administrative and professional staff members in the areas of teaching, research, service to the university community, contribution to public service, all-round excellence in a combination of two or more of these areas, excellence in multicampus research and excellence in international collaboration. There is also a departmental award, and Professor Antoine announced that a **new award for excellence in innovation and entrepreneurship will soon be established.**

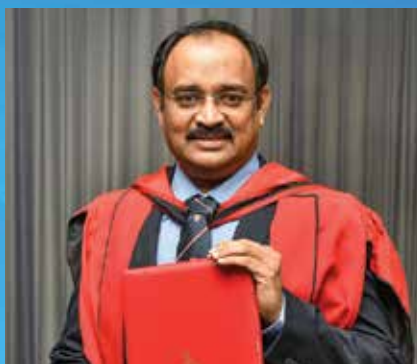
The awardees are peer-nominated and selected following a rigorous assessment process, first at the campus level, then by a university-wide selection committee for the final selection based on their work and the university's core values.

Professor Tannecia Stephenson, Head of the Department of Physics, Faculty of Science and Technology at the Mona Campus received this year's award for **Research Accomplishments**, while the award for **Teaching Excellence** was presented to **Dr. Venkateswara Penugonda**, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Physics in the Faculty of Science and Technology, also from the Mona Campus.

Three awards for **Service to the University Community** were given to **Ms. Allison Fung**, Executive Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor, based at the Regional Headquarters in Jamaica; **Dr. Heather Ricketts**, Deputy Dean in the Faculty of Social Sciences at Mona,



Professor Tannecia Stephenson



Dr. Venkateswara Penugonda



Ms. Allison Fung

together with **Mr. Compton Beecher**, Chief Forensic DNA Analyst in the Faculty of Medical Sciences, also from Mona. **Professor Cynthia Barrow-Giles**, Professor in the Department of Government, Sociology, Social Work & Psychology in the Faculty of Social Sciences at Cave Hill was awarded for her contribution to **Public Service**, while **Professor Marshall Tulloch-Reid**, Director of the Caribbean Institute for Health Research (CAIHR) at Mona was honoured for **All-Round Excellence in Research and Public Service**; and the **Office of the Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences at Mona Campus** received this year's **Departmental Award**. During the ceremony, the department was represented by Professor Russell Pierre, Director, Health Professions Educations Unit; Mr. Craig Hall, Facilities Officer; Professor Minerva Thame, Dean of the Faculty; and Dr. Annette Crawford-Sykes, Deputy-Dean, Teaching & Learning.

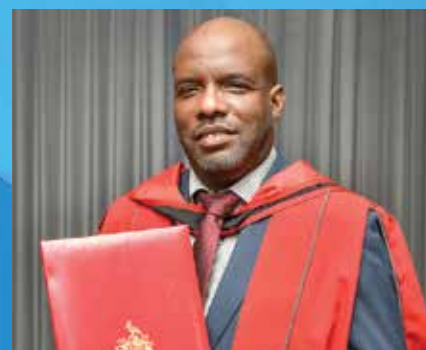


Dr. Heather Ricketts

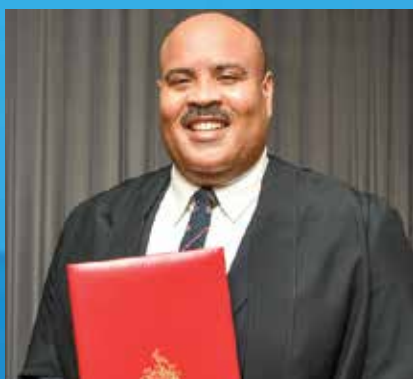
Professor Tannecia Stephenson was selected to deliver the Awardees' response. She acknowledged The UWI's current rankings by **Times Higher Education (THE)** and its recognition among the top 1.5 percent of universities in the world.

Speaking on behalf of her fellow awardees she said, *"We recognise that our success and that of our university are inextricably linked."* Professor Stephenson also thanked colleagues across the university, saying, *"The awards this evening would not have been possible without the amazing teams we have worked with over the years."*

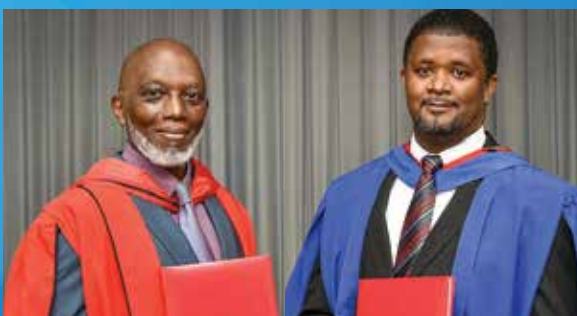
For the 2020-2021 academic year, the Campus Selection Committees received and considered 29 applications. Twenty-two nominations were reviewed by the University Selection Committee, which led to the eight awards. ●



Mr. Compton Beecher



Professor Marshall Tulloch-Reid



Departmental Excellence Award - Office of the Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences at the Mona Campus represented by (left) **Professor Russell Pierre**, Director, Health Professions Educations Unit; and (right) **Craig Hall**, Facilities Officer



Professor Cynthia Barrow-Giles

Medical Scientists Dominate

Awards for Excellence

Amid COVID-19 conditions that tested employees' resilience and their level of engagement, many adapted to new work settings and persevered diligently. Seemingly undaunted by challenging remote work and social distancing impositions, they demonstrated a high level of commitment and performance.

This led companies and other institutions to seek innovative ways to salute star performers and stalwarts who seemed in danger of forfeiting their deserved recognition because social gathering restrictions prohibited the hosting of celebratory events.

Unable to host its 2021 staff recognition ceremony, as had taken place in 2020 under strict COVID-19 protocols, Cave Hill invoked its innovative spirit to show appreciation to worthy staff in an unprecedented manner. The **Annual Staff Awards and Retirees Ceremony** celebration transitioned online via an electronic brochure which highlighted over 100 employees of merit, honouring them

for outstanding performance and dedicated service.

Among those taking the spotlight were six who copped the apex **Principal's Award for Excellence**. They included four academics from the Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS) and two employees from the Administrative, Technical and Service staff category.

Special recognition for **Outstanding Research Accomplishments** went to **Dr. Madhuvanti Mahadeo Murphy**, Deputy Dean, Research and Graduate Studies; and **Dr. Nkemcho Ojeh**, Senior Lecturer in Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Genetics. **Dr. Michael Campbell**, Senior Lecturer in Behavioural Science and Clinical Psychology; and **Dr. Kim Quimby**, Senior Lecturer in Immunology at the George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Centre were saluted for **Outstanding Service to the Campus and University Community** as well as **Outstanding Contribution to Public Service**. Rounding out the elite honourees were **Mrs. Kay Davis** and **Mr. Jevon Seale** who were recognised for **Outstanding Service to the Campus Community**.

In addition, 92 current members of staff who have together contributed more than seventeen hundred years of service to Cave Hill, were recognised in categories ranging from 15 to 30 years. Sixteen retirees were also saluted for their sterling contribution to the university.



**Dr. Madhuvanti
Mahadeo Murphy**

Principal's Award for Excellence
in Recognition of Outstanding
Research Accomplishments

Dr. Murphy received the top honour in recognition of her Outstanding Research Accomplishments. Her research focuses on the social and behavioural determinants of health; public health policy development, implementation, and evaluation in Small Island Developing States; and on food and nutrition security interventions throughout CARICOM.

Dr. Murphy was involved in the landmark **Barbados Diabetes Reversal Study** that demonstrated people with recently diagnosed type 2 diabetes can reverse this condition with a low-calorie

diet producing rapid weight loss, allowing them to come off medication. This is a most important demonstration project for Barbados and some Caribbean states with high obesity, diabetes, and hypertension prevalence.

No stranger to the recognition podium, this Lecturer in Public Health had previously received acknowledgement for her work. As a member of FMS Public Health Team led by Professor Alafia Samuels, she shared in The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill's Campus Award for **Most Internationally Successful Research** in 2014, and in 2018, The UWI, Cave Hill's Campus Award for **Recognition of Researchers/ Research Teams Who Have Won Significant Funding**.



**Dr. Nkemcho
Obiajumoyi Ojeh**

Principal's Award for Excellence
in Recognition of Outstanding
Research Accomplishments

Since joining the Faculty of Medical Sciences in 2008, Dr. Ojeh has built an impressive body of research. Her work includes 32 papers published in refereed journals. Several of her

papers published over the last five years have been in journals with impact factors of over three, one impact factor being 7.2.

The findings of her studies have been significant and relevant to human health. For example, her work on the development of a novel method of hair follicle micrografting is now widely used by dermatologists and plastic and reconstructive surgeons in clinical practice. She identified biomarkers and genes that contribute to the non-healing of chronic wounds and biomarkers that may be useful for prognosis and diagnosis. Her work has also identified novel methods in the treatment of diabetic foot ulcers. Her stem cell work has identified these cells as potential candidates for cell-based therapy and has contributed to the fields of tissue engineering, wound healing and the clinical disciplines of dermatology, plastic and reconstructive surgery.

At the time of her award, Dr. Ojeh had 1,624 Google Scholar citations (1,087 of these since 2016) with an h-Index of 16. Six of her papers have over 100 citations with one cited over 300 times and two over 200 times.



Dr. Michael Campbell

Principal's Award for Excellence in Recognition of Outstanding Service to the Campus and University Community, and Outstanding Contribution to Public Service

Over the last fifteen years, Dr. Campbell has played a key role in the development of a comprehensive research ethics review framework to safeguard research participants, facilitate international research collaboration and funding, and greatly expand research ethics education for both colleagues and student researchers. In 2006, he became Chair of the **Institutional Review Board (IRB)** of The UWI and the Ministry of Health. Dr. Campbell is not only responsible for the current setup of the IRB structure but is said to run the best functioning Board in the English-speaking Caribbean.

In addition to his work with the IRB, Dr. Campbell has also chaired the **UWI HIV and AIDS Response Programme (UWIHARP)**, worked with the **Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)** as Editor and Vice-chair, served as President

of the **Barbados Society of Psychology** and as an Executive of the **Caribbean Network of Research Ethics Committees (CANREC)**. Dr. Campbell has worked in key roles with the Disaster Mental Health Standing Committee of the **Caribbean Alliance of National Psychology Associations (CANPA)** and with the **Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)**.



Dr. Kim Quimby

Principal's Award for Excellence in Recognition of Outstanding Service to the Campus and University Community, and Outstanding Contribution to Public Service

Since transitioning from laboratory-based research to applied translational research, Dr. Quimby's work has focused on fostering social partnerships to reduce risk factors associated with cardiovascular disease. She coordinates the implementation of a community-based, low-calorie dietary intervention for the induction of type 2 diabetes and prediabetes remission.

Dr. Quimby's work is also noted for its global reach. She contributed to the first report in the literature of the community-based diabetes remission implementation study. The successful study was presented at the **64th Annual CARPHA Health Research Conference** in 2019. In addition, the feasibility of training community-based health advocates to support this dietary intervention was presented at **Translational Science 2019** in Washington, DC.

Dr. Quimby also presented findings of the initiative at the **"Sustaining Global Capacity for Implementation Research for Health in Low and Middle-Income Countries and Small Island Developing States" National Institute of Health** workshop 2020 and the **65th Annual CARPHA Health Research Conference** in 2021.

As an Immunologist, Dr. Quimby has responded, on behalf of The UWI, to calls from various sectors of society regarding the immune response to the coronavirus and the vaccines available. Her integral role, regionally, involves working with government agencies through biweekly meetings with the Core Coordination Group comprising CDEMA, CARPHA, Ministries of Health and Chief Medical Officers.



Kay Davis

Principal's Award for Excellence in Recognition of Outstanding Service to the Campus Community

With over 16 years of experience at Cave Hill Campus, Kay Davis seeks excellence in every task assigned to her and is lauded for an admirable work ethic.

She has had a transformational impact at the School for Graduate Studies and Research (SGSR) where she ably worked to automate several processes across campus, including all appointments for the Campus Coordinator/Director; and, alongside Campus IT Services (CITS), the application process for the Campus Research Awards and Scholarships that, up till that time, had to be manually keyed into the system. At SGSR, she admirably functioned as lead administrator on the planning of numerous events, such as New Student Orientation, Supervisor Development Workshop, Research

Week, Student Seminars/Workshops, Graduate Scholarship Breakfast, among other key events.

Since being upgraded from Stenographer Clerk to Administrative Assistant in 2019, and later transferred to the Office of Deputy Principal, Kay has continued her consistent demonstration of supervisory, administrative and training skills and functions on several committees overseen by that office.



Jevon Seale

Principal's Award for Excellence in Recognition of Outstanding Service to the Campus Community

Renowned for having a great work ethic, Jevon Seale is widely recognised across campus for his outstanding service delivery to staff and students. As a dependable member of the Campus IT Services (CITS), he competently manages the stresses of working at the CITS Service desk, which is the frontline of the department, and he has

made invaluable contributions to meaningful projects of that entity and campus life.

His project contributions include the launch of **Office365** for students and staff, the rollout of digital signatures on campus and the use of multifactor authentication in CITS. At the start of the COVID-19 lockdown, Jevon was the go-to person for the CITS team as all services transitioned to the virtual space. He was the perfect fit as he mastered the tools and techniques, and he had the right attitude for providing remote support. He willingly shared his knowledge and helped the wider CITS team to quickly adapt. During this period, he was the face of the IT Service Desk and was available online routinely at least 12 hours a day, seven days a week.

Jevon is versatile, widely skilled, meticulous and demonstrates a high degree of dedication to his job and commitment to the campus. His dependability is an outstanding part of his personality that has made him a great employee and a valuable team player. ●

Dr. Jason Haynes

Wins Prestigious UNESCO Award

Dr. Jason Haynes, Deputy Dean (Graduate Studies and Research) in the Faculty of Law at Cave Hill, has become the first person in an English-speaking country to be awarded the prestigious **UNESCO/Juan Bosch Prize for the Promotion of Social Science Research in Latin America and the Caribbean**.



Director-General of **UNESCO**, Audrey Azoulay, named the Senior Lecturer in Law as only the fourth laureate to be awarded the prize which is granted every two years for outstanding research in social science that contributes to strengthening links between research and public policies. The three previous awardees were from Columbia and Bolivia. Dr. Haynes's body of work on human trafficking that dates back to 2012, along with submissions of other nominees, was assessed by an international jury which made the recommendation to the Director-General.

"Sometimes you are nominated for things, but [you] aren't quite sure that you will get through as you're up against hundreds of other scholars. The fact that no person from an English-speaking country had won it before made it slightly daunting. However, I was confident in the quality of my work, and I thought that the international jury would at least have positive things to say about my work even if I didn't win," said Dr. Haynes who was notified of the award in late January.

As a youth, Dr. Haynes's interest in human trafficking was piqued by images of exploited men, women, girls, and boys portrayed in movies. He wanted to help but had no idea

how to go about doing that. He was further motivated while serving as an intern in the **Office of the Attorney General** in St. Vincent and the Grenadines in 2011 when he got the opportunity to sit on a committee that reviewed the proposed **Trafficking in Persons Act**.

"I was flabbergasted by the number of people who were subject to exploitation globally. I felt a strong sense that I ought to be a part of the fight against human trafficking, even if only to ensure that victims are identified and protected. I was like, 'I'm going to write a research proposal on this'. I was at Cave Hill finishing my undergraduate degree in 2011

when I wrote the PhD proposal. I then went off to do my Master's in late 2011 and then began the PhD in 2012, which I finished in 2015. I've continued research in the area."

Since then, his research interest has led him to work with the **Caribbean Community (CARICOM)**, the **British Institution of International and Comparative Law**, the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**, the **American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative**, the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and other organisations and countries, including the United Kingdom in the capacity of Senior Legal Officer at the **British High Commission**, Bridgetown, Barbados.

Dr. Haynes is a director of the Barbados-based **Caribbean Anti-Human Trafficking Foundation** and a special rapporteur on **Contemporary Forms of Slavery** with the **International Academy of Comparative Law**. He has authored several peer-reviewed articles, policy papers and books, including **Caribbean Anti-Trafficking Law and Practice** that was published in 2019 by Hart Publishing, Oxford.

"What started as a mere interest has blossomed into something profound and impactful, and I'm just happy that **UNESCO** saw value in my work and its contribution to social science in *Latin America and the Caribbean*."

However, this latest prize, which comes with a monetary award of US \$12,000 and a diploma, and which is among the countless awards copped by Dr. Haynes over the years, only tells part of his

story that is one of inspiration and perseverance.

"I came from abject poverty. Sometimes, I would have only one meal a day. Up until I finished my A-levels at the SVG Community College, I was on public assistance. In most cases, things were given to us because we couldn't afford to purchase them. My single-parent mother worked on a part-time basis in a menial job but did all that she could to support my sister and I. For me, education was the only way to escape poverty. Over the years, I have used education to propel myself, my family, and the people around me. It is an empowering tool. That is what keeps me going in addition to my faith in God."

"I was flabbergasted by the number of people who were subject to exploitation globally. I felt a strong sense that I ought to be a part of the fight against human trafficking, even if only to ensure that victims are identified and protected ..."

"I am delighted that my success has inspired others who are in similar circumstances to me. I have learned that it is not the end of the world if you don't have all the resources at your disposal. If you work hard, are consistent, disciplined, and faithful, you can accomplish whatever you put your mind to. The opportunities that have come my way over the years have been a real blessing."

He went on to receive around two dozen awards and honours, including the **Prime Minister's Award** and **National Scholarship** from St. Vincent and the Grenadines in 2008, the **British Chevening Scholarship**

in 2011, the **Commonwealth Scholarship** in 2012, the **Durham University Teaching and Learning Award** in 2014, the **Outstanding Contribution to Teaching Award** by the Cave Hill Campus in 2019, and an **Academic Fellowship** from **The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple** in 2021.

Dr. Haynes who holds a PhD in International and Comparative Law has taught at **Durham Law School** and **Arden University**, both in the United Kingdom, as well as at **The UWI, Mona and Cave Hill** campuses. He previously served as Secretary General of the **Arbitration and Mediation Court of the Caribbean** and also worked at **Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court** in St. Lucia.

To further his work in the area of exploitation, **McGill University** in Canada recently awarded him the **O'Brien Fellowship** to analyse the relationship between slavery and the slave

trade and constitutionalism. Dr. Haynes has hypothesised that laws that facilitated slavery were unconstitutional, being in breach of the unwritten principle of the rule of law that has continuously existed in all civilised nations from time immemorial and that sets an irreducible minimum standard of state conduct. He said that his work on illegitimate laws could significantly strengthen the argument for reparation for descendants of slaves. His research, under the direction of Professor Adelle Blackett at **McGill University**, is expected to be completed later this year. ●

The Most Honourable Dame Sandra Mason

A Woman of Many Firsts

Ever since enrolling among the first student cohort to pursue an indigenous law degree at The University of the West Indies more than fifty years ago, Barbados inaugural President, Her Excellency The Most Honourable Dame Sandra Mason continues to chalk up a number of firsts in an impressive legal and public service career.

Dame Sandra made history once again last 30 November when she became Barbados's first indigenous Head of State upon the island's transition to a republic, adding to a remarkable list of achievements.

It was the latest accomplishment in what has been a stellar career of a distinguished UWI pelican. The previous month, Dame Sandra was conferred an honorary Doctor of Laws (LLD) degree by The UWI, Cave Hill Campus in recognition of her outstanding contribution to public service.

Born on 17 January 1949 in East Point, St. Philip, the former jurist attended the **St. Catherine's Primary School** and **Queen's College**.

She went on to serve as a teacher at the **Princess Margaret Secondary School** and later worked at **Barclays Bank** in Barbados and Jamaica.

Dame Sandra obtained a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree from the **Cave Hill Campus** in 1973, and a Certificate of Legal Education from the **Hugh Wooding Law School** in Trinidad in 1975.

The newly minted attorney then went on to blaze a trail in the legal field, achieving several firsts throughout her career. She is the first Barbadian female attorney-at-law to graduate from the **Hugh Wooding Law School**, the first Barbadian to be appointed as a member of the London-based **Commonwealth Secretariat Arbitral Tribunal**, the first



female president of that tribunal, and the first female Court of Appeal Judge of the **Supreme Court of Barbados**.

Dame Sandra has held several roles in the administration of justice: She was Magistrate of the **Juvenile and Family Court** in Barbados and a High Court Judge of the **Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court**. She is also a former Chief Magistrate and Registrar of the **Supreme Court of Barbados**.

Additionally, she has been a member of several organisations including the **UN Committee on the Rights of the Child**, Chair of the **Community Legal Services Commission**, and a member of the **Judicial and Legal Services Commission**.

She is also a former diplomat who served as Ambassador to Venezuela, Chile, Colombia and Brazil.

On 8 January 2018, Her Excellency officially took up her appointment as the eighth Governor General of Barbados and was conferred with **Dame Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George (GCMG)**. Upon assuming office, Dame Sandra became the **Chancellor and Principal Dame of St. Andrew (DA)**, under the Order of Barbados.

The conferral of the honorary doctorate on 2 October brought her relationship with Cave Hill full circle, having been among the Faculty of Law's first cohort in 1970.

During the special convocation ceremony, she reflected on the early days of the pioneering class of the institution's first faculty.



Dame Sandra Mason receives the plaque from the Vice-Chancellor of The UWI, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles.

"In 1970, when we, the first cohort of new students, entered Cave Hill, the intellectual space which we were entering was filled with an atmosphere of a general degree of uncertainty and doubt. There was doubt on whether the faculty could or would succeed. There was doubt, despite the long existence and success of the Medical, Engineering and Agriculture faculties, whether the Faculty of Law could or would be sustained. There was doubt whether we would be accepted or indeed be recognised within our communities and within our region. This was mainly because our Caribbean societies were accustomed only to British-trained lawyers. We were, however, determined to no longer loiter on anyone's steps or at anyone's door. And I dare say, in due course, we have dispelled all such doubts and fears," she said.

The new students began their journey filled with expectation, some straight out of high school, others neophytes to university life and thus unprepared for what lay ahead.

"Imagine then, the trauma of being introduced on our very first lecture into this realm by the appearance of the illustrious and erudite Professor Ralph Carnegie, fresh from Oxford University and decked out in full professorial regalia, who then began to expound on the principles of mistake in the law of contract.

"Needless to say, some of us were confounded, hardly understanding anything, but totally absorbed and mesmerised by the authoritative and evidently learned delivery of the subject. After that first lecture, we huddled together to gauge each other's comprehension but recognising that there was need for organised assault on this venture called the law."



Dame Sandra Mason addresses the convocation ceremony. Seated from left: Principal and Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor Clive Landis; Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles; Campus Orator, Dr. Kenneth Connell; and Campus Registrar, Rommel Carter

They quickly learned the value of research, even though there was little prior information to assist them.

"In a sense, we were groping in the dark because, unlike other faculties, we did not have the benefit of past examination papers to consult for guidance. In addition, there was a dearth of relevant research material. We, nevertheless, accepted the mammoth task and mantle of being pioneers buoyed by the exhortation in the Gospel according to Luke that to whom much is given much is expected," she said.

By the second year, the students

became better acquainted with each other *"as students of the Caribbean"*, particularly as there was a new group of students who replaced them as first years.

"This served to strengthen our resolve to succeed, since we had now set the pace for others to follow. Our first year had comprised Caribbean nationals mainly from Barbados, Guyana and the Leeward and Windward Islands. In the second year, we were joined by our fellow sisters and brothers from Belize, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago who had completed their first year at other campuses.

"That second year heightened

our appreciation for regional integration, for the reason why integration must and should succeed. We had to learn, understand and accept each other's cultural idiosyncrasies and eccentricities, profound linguistic differences and political sensitivities. Navigating these differences was, indeed, a feat."

But while they were becoming more familiar with their colleagues, the class now had to adjust to a heavier workload. However, Dame Sandra was quick to point out that that did not deter them from socialising and participating fully in university life.

"By the time we reached the third year, we were reasonably confident where we were headed. We were on the cusp of becoming what we had set out to achieve, the holders of LLB degrees. Our confidence had been continually buoyed by the commitment of and investment in our success by some very brilliant lecturers and tutors. To echo [former Prime Minister] Mr. [Errol] Barrow, we were about to have our time and cause for rejoicing."

As Dame Sandra accepted the award, she told her family, friends and campus officials present at the ceremony that her graduating class owed an immeasurable debt of gratitude to the university.

"Our gratitude is more because attendance at The University of the West Indies results in a complete education underpinned by the listed core values which guide the university's mandate: the values of integrity, intellectual freedom, excellence, civic responsibility, accessibility, diversity, and equity," she stated.

Her Excellency also lauded the Faculty of Law's "monumental achievement" of reaching its 50th anniversary.

"Since 1948, when it was established as the University College of the West Indies to bring 'light, liberty and learning to the region', this university has always remained cognisant that it had to justify the dreams of our forefathers that we, sons and daughters of our cruel history, take a bold step into the world of academia. With fervent endeavour, we have reached the stage where we now boast of being a world-class institute of learning."

"Some 20 or so years after its inception, The University of the West Indies, in deciding to establish the Faculty of Law, proved yet again that it understood that the formula to success for this region was to unleash the potential of its people. It understood that to continue to fulfil the potential of bringing light, liberty and learning to its people, it needed to definitively proclaim our Caribbeanness," she said.

It was no doubt in the same spirit of liberty and Caribbeanness that when Dame Sandra addressed Barbadians shortly after being sworn in as the island's first President, she declared: *"Today, we set our compass to a new direction, girded by the successes of the last 55 years, buoyed by the confidence garnered from our triumphs and accomplishments, committed to country and to each other, and motivated to press confidently and boldly forward for the sake of our nation and for present and future generations."* ●



Dame Sandra poses with family and friends.

New Law Dean to Focus on Building Research

Increasing the research output of the Faculty of Law is one of the main areas of focus for new Dean, Professor Eddy Ventose, who assumed the position on 1 August 2021. It is also one of four priority areas outlined in the faculty's *Strategic Plan 2022-2027*.



Professor Eddy Ventose
Dean, Faculty of Law, The UWI, Cave Hill Campus



"To me, that is where our strengths lie – in the quality of our academic programming, and the quality of our research which is focused on Caribbean law. With that focus, I want us to be the focal point for research in anything Caribbean law related. The Faculty of Law has to be the first point of reference for anybody who wants to study and research Caribbean law."

He will also be focusing on education, and engagement with staff, students and alumni during his four-year term at the helm. In the area of education, Dean Ventose plans to direct efforts on strengthening the curriculum and student experience.

"[We need to ensure that our] methods of teaching assessments

are in line with international standards in terms of intra-faculty and faculty-student relations; ensure that students feel that the faculty is an environment where they can express their views in terms of a supporting environment for our members of staff.

"In terms of [external engagement], strengthening and providing a blueprint for the faculty's engagement with international and regional organisations, with other universities both regionally and internationally and also developing a blueprint for having a sustainable relationship with our alumni," Professor Ventose stated.

The former Deputy Dean, Graduate Studies and Research

in the Faculty of Law will also be working to increase the number of new students from the Eastern Caribbean.

"We've seen a reduction in applications from students in the Eastern Caribbean and the other Caribbean islands. So one of the things we have to focus on is mapping out a very aggressive plan to ensure that we get more students from the Eastern Caribbean. We wish to maintain an international profile ... but we are a Caribbean faculty so we have to reflect the regional nature not only in terms of our student population but also in terms of our faculty members as well."

"I want us to be the focal point for research in anything Caribbean law related. The Faculty of Law has to be the first point of reference for anybody who wants to study and research Caribbean law."

Professor Ventose began his career at Cave Hill in 2006 as a lecturer in law. He was promoted to Professor of Law in 2012, becoming the youngest person in The UWI's history to be promoted to a personal professorship. He also served as the first Director of the School for Graduate Studies and Research at Cave Hill and as Campus Coordinator for Graduate Studies and Research.

In 2018, Professor Ventose left Cave Hill to sit on the bench of the **Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court** as a High Court Judge. He returned to the campus in 2020.

"Firstly, I enjoy the engagement of academia and I have done it for a number of years, and I want to return to teaching in that way. And

of course, it's nice to be home as well," he explained.

Ventose was called to the Bar in Barbados, St. Lucia, and St. Kitts and Nevis, and specialises in Intellectual Property, Administrative Law, Human Rights Law, and Constitutional Law.

He gained regional attention for a case involving a judicial review application which he filed in 2018 against the Chief Electoral Officer in respect of a then existing election policy of the Government of Barbados. The policy sought to restrict persons eligible to vote to only Barbadian nationals and permanent residents, whereas the law provides that citizens

*was contrary to the Law of Barbados as stated in Section 7 of the Representation of the People's Act. So, I challenged the policy in the High Court and it went all the way to the **Caribbean Court of Justice.**"*

He noted that similar laws also exist in other Caribbean countries: *"Most Commonwealth Caribbean countries have a law that provides for the voting of Commonwealth citizens in national elections, [for example] Antigua, St. Lucia, Dominica, St. Vincent. Some countries have the requirement of how long you live in the country,"* he stated.

As the Faculty of Law continues to celebrate its 50th anniversary, Professor Ventose has high praise for the Bachelor of Law degree and the faculty's contribution to research in Caribbean law over the years. He is confident that the next 50 years will produce even better quality graduates and further raise the faculty's profile in the area of research. ●

of Commonwealth countries are eligible to vote.

"...in other words their policy



Finding Ways to BLOOM IN A PANDEMIC



Dr. Donna Hunte-Cox

The challenge of coping with COVID-induced stress has caused many to dig deep into their creative reservoirs, and members of the academic community have been sharing stories of their resourcefulness with colleagues.

For Dr. Donna Hunte-Cox, a former diplomat and previous manager of the Errol Barrow Centre for Creative Imagination (EBCCI), the ongoing pandemic has been one of her most trying times. She not only had to deal with COVID-19 anxiety but the pain of losing her mother during the pandemic.

The former Consul General of Barbados in New York recalled that members of her family could not visit the family matriarch in hospital due to restrictions, and at times, her mom was unable to communicate *via* the telephone as a result of her illness.

The ex-campus administrator found solace in gardening, a hobby that she had developed a passion for at an early age. During that time, the country was experiencing a shortage of products, including seeds and seedlings, as fear of the unknown caused residents to panic buy. Dr. Hunte-Cox was resourceful in sourcing seeds and seedlings that she utilised in her redesigned Kathy's Garden, named in honour of her mother.

*"Going into the backyard and planting things almost became automatic, more so because the last time [mom] was at my house ... on the morning she was leaving, I took her on a tour of the garden," she said, as she presented on the topic **"Academics Who Bloomed During the Pandemic — Backyard Creativity"** during the virtual **Teaching and Learning Week** held in June.*

"Between May and October [of 2020], my backyard garden saved my family about \$50 a week on produce, and it gave me further appreciation for some insects, a deep respect for nature and the importance of persons engaging in all aspects of agriculture on a daily basis."

The bountifulness and expansiveness of Dr. Hunte-Cox's garden has inspired others, including former workmates who developed their own backyard garden. ●

Not only was backyard gardening a balm for her mental well-being, but it also helped her to relax, provided physical exercise and served as therapy.

The former EBCCI manager researched the best options for gardening, and settled on garden beds, pots, raised gardens and vertical gardening using trellis.

Since then, she has grown survival crops, which she described as those that would generate the most calories (potatoes, squash, beans, cabbage, and onions), nutrient crops, which are greens that are grown year-round (kale, spinach, and arugula) and supplemental crops that complement the other two categories (eggplants, melons, peppers, corn, and kohlrabi).

Other vegetables grown in her garden included beets, broccoli, carrots, cucumbers, christophene, cauliflower, eddoes, lettuce, and English potatoes. Among the herbs were basil, chives, celery, cilantro, dill, garlic, ginger, marjoram, mint, oregano, Panadol plant, parsley, rosemary, thyme, and turmeric, while her fruit trees included avocado, blackberries, cantaloupe, mulberry, passion fruit, papaya, and strawberries.

So bountiful was her garden, that the excess she stored, gave to friends and family, and encouraged others to do the same.



Record Number of Social Scientists in Professorial Ranks

When then Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Dr. Justin Robinson, was promoted to Professor of Finance in 2019, it was the first time in a few years that colleague faculty had seen such an elevation among themselves. His rise followed that of former Head of the Department of Economics, and now Deputy Principal, Professor Winston Moore, who had advanced to Professor of Economics in 2016.

Since Professor Robinson's achievement, however, six fellow social scientists have seen similar advancement, attaining for themselves the highest academic recognition within The University of the West Indies. Today, the Faculty of Social Sciences is home to its highest number of professors on staff since inception.

Among the latest were **Professor Don Marshall**, as Professor of International Political Economy and Development Studies; **Professor Cynthia Barrow-Giles**, as Professor of Constitutional Governance and Politics; and **Professor Corin Bailey** who is currently awaiting ratification of his area of specialty. They joined earlier recipients **Professors Troy Lorde** (Professor of Tourism Economics), **Dwayne Devonish** (Professor of Management and Organisational Behaviour) and **Philmore Alleyne** (Professor of Accounting).

Also advancing in the period were



Professor Don Marshall

three colleagues within the Faculty of Humanities and Education: **Professor Donna-Maria Maynard**, Professor of Psychology; **Professor Isabelle Constant**, Professor of French, Francophone African and Caribbean Literatures; and **Professor Aaron Kamugisha**, Professor of Caribbean and Africana Thought who has since transitioned to the recently established Faculty of Culture, Creative and Performing Arts.

Professor Constant, who advanced as one of the latest four that also included Professors Marshall, Barrow-Giles and Bailey, is noted for her original and valuable contributions to Caribbean Literature and Caribbean Studies. She is considered "a superb scholar, a gifted



Professor Cynthia Barrow-Giles

researcher and a talented writer [with] original ideas, penetrating analyses and insightful studies." She has served on the Administrative Board of the **Conseil International d'Études Francophones (CIEF)** and also as its representative for the Caribbean region. She was also a reviewer for the journal on Francophone Studies, **Nouvelles Études Francophones (NEF)** from 2009 to 2018, and from 2015 to 2016, she was a reviewer for **Parallèles** – a translation studies journal.

One external assessor summarised, "Professor Constant's major contributions have been in the areas of Francophone postcolonial literature where she has been very successful in increasing the visibility of marginal literature and working to canonise authors who deserve more critical attention ... the impact of Professor Constant's Le



Professor Isabelle Constant

Rêve dans le roman africain et antillais cannot be overstated."

In 2016, Professor Constant was named **Most Outstanding Researcher** by the Faculty of Humanities and Education at Cave Hill.

Her rise to the professorial ranks preceded that of **Professor Marshall**, a celebrated scholar in International Political Economy and Development and current Director of the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) at Cave Hill, a position he has held since 2015. Over the years, he has been actively involved in teaching and curriculum development, and editing academic publications.

Professor Marshall's current research projects focus on the globalisation phenomenon, offshore financial centres, scientific finance as a discourse, industrial policy issues, and democracy and governance in the Eastern and wider Caribbean.

One external assessor noted, "A criterion for promotion of teaching and research staff [at The UWI] is a record of distinguished original work done before or after coming to the university. Dr Marshall has met and surpassed this criterion.



Professor Corin Bailey

Indeed, he is a prolific and meticulous scholar who deserves to be praised for his outstanding achievements. I rate his scholarship and publications as excellent and his overall record as distinguished."

Professor Marshall has participated in numerous media-related discussions on the political economy of development, as a subject specialist. He is also a current member of the Cave Hill Campus's **Academic-Industry Liaison Committee**, aimed at bridging the gap between academia and the private sector.

Following Professor Marshall's advancement into the professorial ranks, the most recent Cave Hill academic to rise to this level was **Professor Cynthia Barrow-Giles** who served twice as Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, and as Head of the Department of Government, Sociology and Social Work, as it was then named.

While reviewing her body of work, one external assessor observed, "The candidate is a recognised leader in her field of research, a voice for the values of constitutional democracy, a respected and trusted advisor to international organisations, and a prominent ambassador for the university. The university is fortunate

to have the candidate in its ranks."

The proud alumna and academic has published widely on political parties, election campaigns, political party financing, and women's political participation. Her publications include nine peer-reviewed journal articles, five books and fifteen book chapters. She has also written over seventy other academic publications.

In a fifteen-year career so far at The UWI, since joining SALISES at Cave Hill in 2006, **Professor Bailey** has set about a research programme within the field of sociology, specialising in crime and later poverty-related research, that quickly cemented his elevated scholarship in these areas.

Colleague scholars noted that these issues merged within Professor Bailey's work as his thesis remained consistent: that the structural determinants of crime in the Caribbean are most crucial and ought to form the basis of multi-faceted policy interventions. This line of argument has been augmented by parallel research into prison rehabilitation and reforms. He has emerged as a leading contributor to knowledge and theory about crime and violence in the Caribbean.

The professorial appointments were made after thorough evaluation, by internal and external assessors, of the quality and quantity of the candidates' research, publications and other professional activities. The academics all received outstanding reviews in their respective areas of specialty.

In addition to their academic distinctions, they emulate The UWI's mission: "To advance learning, create knowledge and foster innovation for the positive transformation of the Caribbean and the wider world." ●

Honours Born of True Grit

by Marie-Claire Williams

Completing a PhD as a full-time student or employee is often a life-changing journey, one that challenges your time management skills and disrupts your work-life balance.

Working towards this highest level of academic qualification during a pandemic while simultaneously leading the pandemic response at one of Barbados's key public health institutions proved a stern test for **Dr. the Most Honourable Songee Beckles** who, last year, earned her newly minted doctoral degree.

It was sheer determination and endurance that enabled the Director of the **Best-dos Santos Public Health Laboratory** to attain her **PhD in Immunology** from The UWI, Cave Hill Campus in 2021, under the tutelage of her supervisor, Professor Clive Landis.

"It was very hard," she admitted, reflecting on juggling work, research and writing, while parenting her three children, adding that with the support of family and friends she was able to maintain her focus and successfully complete her programme.

"I had persons encouraging me not to give up. Even when I thought 'this is not going to work; I just have too much on my plate,' they encouraged me not to give up, and said I could do it.



Dr. the Most Honourable Songee Beckles
Director, Best-dos Santos Public Health Laboratory

"I had friends and family, and Professor Landis was always there for me as well who said 'Songee, you can do it.' Even when he saw that I had my stumbling blocks, he would give me time. But then he would get back to me and say, 'we need to get on with this.' So that kind of push and encouragement was also very good for me

as well."

Dr. Beckles's most recent qualification is the latest step of her life's journey towards fulfilling a childhood dream of pursuing a career in health care and science. She had spent over two decades developing her skills as a medical laboratory technology specialist before being appointed to her



Best-dos Santos Public Health Laboratory

current position in 2018, following the amalgamation of three public health laboratories (labs) in Barbados – the Public Health Laboratory, the Leptospira Laboratory, and the Ladymeade Reference Unit Laboratory.

Prior to the merger, Dr. Beckles was the Clinical Information Specialist at Ladymeade which served to monitor and test people with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Its clinical services later expanded to monitoring other sexually transmitted infections such as chlamydia, gonorrhea, and the human papillomavirus (HPV).

Besides lab testing, she has also worked on the management and implementation of quality systems to ensure the correct procedures are followed during testing.

Dr. Beckles was instrumental in the lab becoming the first in the English-speaking Caribbean to receive international accreditation and also assisted other facilities across the Caribbean in establishing their own quality management systems.

Over the past two years, she and her team at the **Best-dos Santos Public Health Laboratory** have been providing the critical service of testing more than 1,000 samples per day to determine the COVID-19 status of individuals, as cases increased. However, she admitted that while they were prepared, they did not anticipate what lay ahead.

“When we heard about COVID on the horizon and PAHO came in and trained us, we thought probably, this would be another one of those things that you would start doing testing for; it might just be a little outbreak and then it would be contained within a couple of weeks and that would be the end [of it]. But clearly, it went on for a lot longer than we imagined it would have, and

so it was very stressful initially.”

In the early days of the pandemic, her small team worked around the clock. But as the number of COVID cases increased, they received support from the Ministry of Health in the form of additional technologists and administrative staff.

“Of course we know with each wave [of infections] that we had even more persons being tested than the previous wave. And so coming on to this last wave late last year, [health authorities] had to bring on even more persons because, based on the sheer numbers, we recognised that the best way to be able to meet these demands was to run a 24-hour system in the lab.”

“It was very hard,” she admitted, reflecting on juggling work, research and writing, while parenting her three children, adding that with the support of family and friends she was able to maintain her focus and successfully complete her programme.



Dr. the Most Honourable
Songee Beckles at work in her lab

In February of this year, schools resumed face-to-face teaching, and government ended the remote working mandate for public sector workers that had been implemented to contain the spread of COVID-19. However, Dr. Beckles cautioned the pandemic was not over and the public needed to continue to observe the

COVID-19 safety protocols.

“COVID is not over. It is still something that is on the horizon. We know new variants may appear, so surveillance is still critically important ... On the lab’s side, COVID is not the only thing that we do; there are a lot of other important health issues that are taking place that we need to get back to.”

She noted while health officials continue to fight COVID-19, they are also monitoring another emerging public health concern.

“One of the other things that is equally important and is causing some stir, and even the government itself ... is adding some additional resources in that fight ... is

antimicrobial resistance susceptibility testing and monitoring in Barbados. ... that too is a silent killer across the world with all the resistant organisms that are

popping up. And so we are trying at this point, and we will put more emphasis on it. This is something that we have been doing for a bit but ... it has been quite a small effort, [and so] we hope to step that up and add some molecular testing to see what is going on in country with respect to antimicrobial resistance,” Dr. Beckles said.

Dr. Beckles was among several public health officials serving on the frontline in the fight against COVID-19 who were bestowed Barbados’s highest national award, the Order of Freedom of Barbados, an honour that left her “shocked and humbled”.

“I love what I do! And whatever needs to be done, I’m going to step up and do it. And so [being honoured] was never anything that I ever dreamed of, not in this lifetime. So I was shocked! [I was] surprised, and I guess inside, happy [and] very pleased to see that you were acknowledged for the contribution that was made. But it certainly was not something that was expected at all!” ●



Greater Push Towards BIG DATA

Director of the George Alleyne Chronic Diseases Research Centre (GA-CDRC) **Professor Simon Anderson** is calling for Caribbean states to make a concerted push towards big data to improve healthcare systems and the delivery of patient care.

He said this is particularly important as countries in the region continue to struggle with high death rates related to cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes, and chronic respiratory disorders. Currently, these health conditions are responsible for 76 percent of the deaths in persons aged 30 to 65 in the Caribbean.

The clinician and scientist who is the Co-Director of the **Glasgow-Caribbean Centre for Development Research**, which is a joint initiative of **The UWI** and the **University of Glasgow**, has utilised large-scale datasets to study chronic diseases in the United Kingdom. In particular, he has undertaken extensive research projects on genetics and cardiovascular disease and its risk factors, with the finding published in high impact journals, including

The BMJ**, **The Lancet**, **Nature**, and **Journal of the American College of Cardiology (JACC). He said that use of big data for health research in the region could enable health researchers to investigate matters critical to our understanding of some pathophysiological factors facing Caribbean populations, including those relating to hypertension or high blood pressure.

"Data drives health care by improving decision making. Innovations in technology creation, machine learning, automation, deep learning, artificial intelligence, neuro networks, intelligent algorithms, these are the drums of innovation that are beating within the healthcare industry right now. We don't need to watch and wait to see what other people are doing. It is very possible to take the leap now."



Professor Anderson made the call during a presentation entitled **"From Biomolecules to Big Data. Does the Caribbean have the DNA to implement data-driven solutions for health?"**. It was delivered on 10 November 2021 and coincided with the observance of **World Quality Week**.

During the professorial lecture, the researcher cautioned that failure to act could result in the Caribbean being left behind while advancements were made by European and African partners who currently utilise a big data approach to research.

"If we don't do it as persons at the helm, and we don't train our students to be ready to do it in years to come, then we will always be left behind."

He suggested this could be accomplished in the region through the implementation of an approach that links data hubs across countries, but made it clear this must be buttressed by rigorous data safety protocols to protect the information of patients and by ensuring the maintenance of high ethical standards. He referenced *General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)* in Europe as one standard used to protect the personal information of patients and noted that in Barbados, researchers from the GA-CDRC are compliant with the *Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)*.

The GA-CDRC Director said there was a need to build capacity and networks, as he conceded that researchers in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Caribbean are challenged by a shortage of financial resources. To overcome this, he said Caribbean researchers needed to establish partnerships with institutions and universities overseas, underpinned by mutual respect and trust while ensuring that the local perspectives were not subsumed by those of their counterparts in those foreign countries.

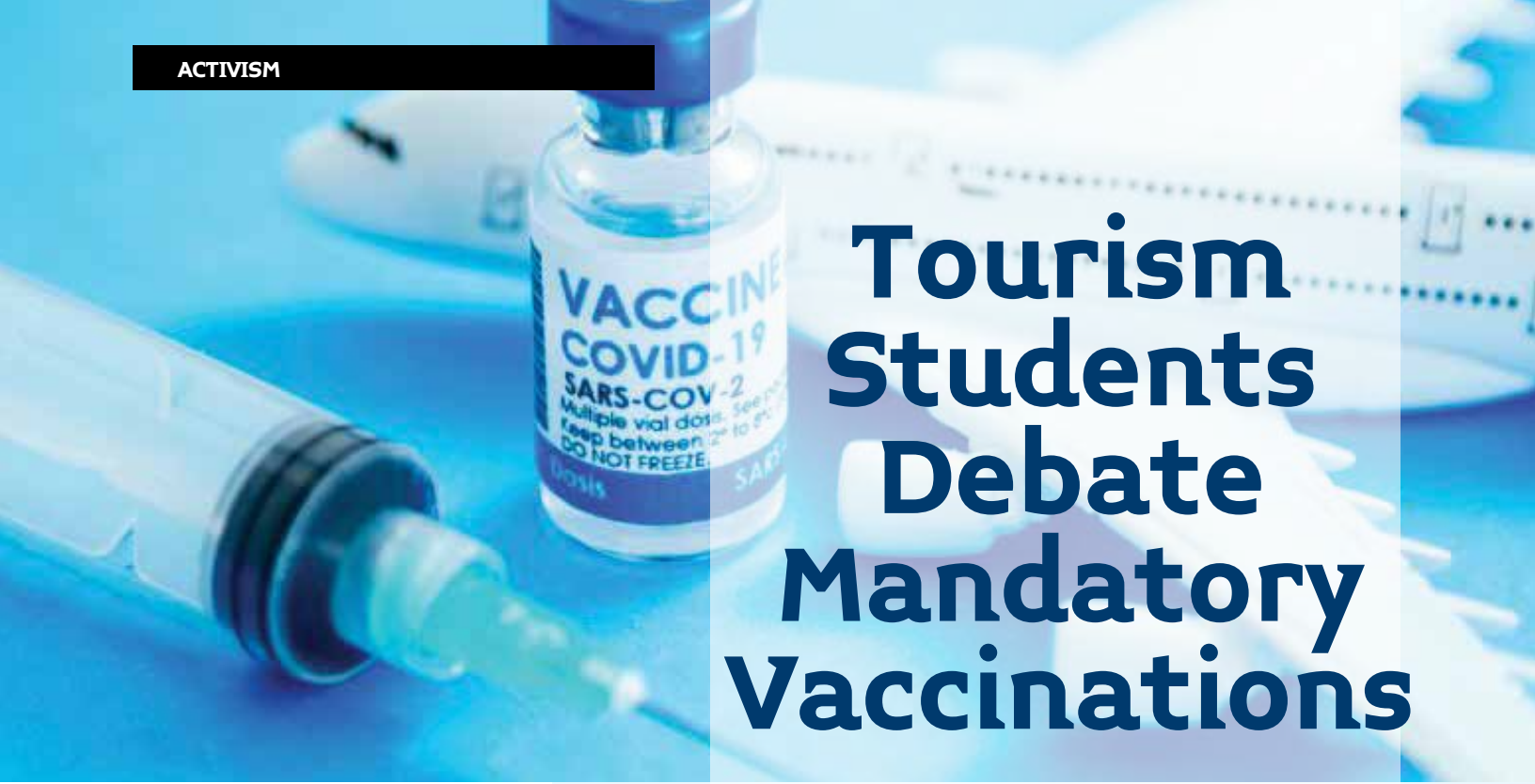
"We want to have equitable research partnerships, which mean challenging the perceptions about what counts as knowledge and appropriate research practices."

"What we want is increased clinical research in [middle-income and high-income] SIDS that are motivated by a desire to promote access to research and to enhance access to modern clinical care. These things are ongoing in our

neighbours to the north and will always be innovative and ground-breaking, and what we need to be able to do is join in an ethical way.

"We have to recognise that some of our colleagues, friends, [and] experts that we know have more of a handle on some things than others. So I might be an expert in one particular thing, but another person might be an expert in something else; and part of the journey towards a data-driven health system is trust and collaboration."

To drive home his argument, Professor Anderson highlighted research, which he undertook with other researchers, that utilised big data. One was a global study on pulse wave velocity (a measure of arterial stiffness) that involved 11,000 subjects. He also spoke of the work he undertook at the **Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust** and **The University of Manchester**, as well as in research centres in Oxford and London. ●



Tourism Students Debate Mandatory Vaccinations

Mandatory vaccination, a highly controversial issue, has been put under the microscope by students in the Tourism and Hospitality Programme of the Department of Management Studies.

More specifically, the students in TOUR 3000, a Tourism Management course, late last year debated the topic **"Should Vaccinations be Mandatory for Hotel Workers?"** The online forum was monitored by a number of influential players in the tourism industry.

The 15 November event was organised in collaboration with **Tourism OverHall**, an educational, information-sharing and idea-generating platform that is owned and directed by former director of the Barbados Tourism Product Authority, now tourism consultant Dr. Kerry Hall.

Opening the debate on behalf of **Team For Vaccination**, Gavin Neblett argued that low vaccination levels in the industry could have a detrimental effect on the economy. He referenced media reports of travellers requesting service from vaccinated hotel staff only and suggested that unvaccinated workers were a deterrent to guests because they had a greater risk of contracting and spreading COVID-19. Regarding unvaccinated workers who fell sick with the virus, he said these persons could request lengthy sick leave leading to scheduling issues for properties.

"COVID-19 vaccination rates affect consumers' interest in patronising establishments. This may have a ripple effect [and lead to] decreased tourist arrivals. Barbados was ranked seventh with the highest share of Gross Domestic Product generated by tourism. Therefore, a decline in tourism will significantly and adversely affect the country's economy. This can

be curtailed and comprehensively prevented through mandatory COVID-19 vaccination within the industry."

Team Against Vaccination emphasised that their position was not synonymous with being anti-vaccination. Rather, Dequon Alleyne said his group acknowledged the benefits of the vaccines but contended that making it mandatory for those in the industry was unethical. To support their position, his teammate, Daniel Johnson, said the United States **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** stated that all vaccines carry a risk of a life-threatening allergic reaction. He also noted that the constantly mutating virus was not fully understood, and further, the **World Health Organization** does not support COVID-19 vaccine mandates. Johnson said forcing someone to get vaccinated infringes on their right to freedom of choice and, in the case of



Gavin Neblett



Dequon Alleyne

Rastafarians and some Christians, their religious beliefs.

But Shanna Adams contended that the interest of the nation should be paramount. She posited that although several articles in the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* of 1966 refer to one's power to refuse any medical or scientific experiment, it also indicates that states have the legal autonomy to take steps deemed necessary to ensure the prevention, control and treatment of diseases or reduce any risks posed to a country. She added that studies have shown the effectiveness of vaccines.

In his rebuttal, Ryco Tudor maintained that economic recovery should not be at the expense of the health and well-being of its citizens.

He declared that vaccination should be a personal choice.

Delivering closing arguments for **Team For Vaccination**, Sharicesa Hoyte insisted it was the duty of hoteliers and other employers in the industry to decide the best course of action to maintain the health and safety of their organisations. She said while employees have a right to refuse vaccination, they must respect that it is within management's rights to mandate the policy. Therefore, those who opt not to comply can seek employment elsewhere.

"We cannot have the position of a few individuals place the majority at [risk]," Ms. Hoyte stated.

However, Christina Arthur of **Team Against Vaccination** asserted

there could be ramifications if the private sector industry players mandated vaccines in opposition to the position of the government.

"This could cause problems for the government and the private sector. By firing employees, the private sector could also [negatively affect] the industry due to staff shortage. Along with this, the industry could be exposed to lawsuits from employees who decide to defend their human rights."

Following the students' contributions, feedback and commendation were provided by attorney-at-law Saffron Griffith, who had provided them with guidance in preparation for the debate.

Dr. Hall noted that both teams had put forward compelling arguments, and while other areas could have been explored, what was presented showed a [great] measure of research had been undertaken. The tourism official said it was important to include the voice of the youth in critical discussions and decision-making processes concerning the sector, and she intended to provide a platform to facilitate this process of inclusion, particularly at The University of the West Indies.

The online session was conceptualised and moderated by Dr. Sherma Roberts, Senior Lecturer and Tourism Programme Coordinator. She said it was critical to have the students engage in these types of debates given that they were the future leaders. ●



Volcanic Eruption

an Opportunity for Outreach and Sharing Scholarship

Three weeks after students in Barbados had emerged from a second lockdown caused by COVID-19, an unusual public health emergency forced them back indoors. This prompted a public sharing of academic expertise and major mobilisation of the Cave Hill Campus community in a humanitarian outreach effort to assist residents of a neighbouring island.

Last April, students and others sought shelter from heavy ashfall brought about by a volcanic eruption in neighbouring St. Vincent that threatened respiratory and other ailments. The explosive emissions marked the fifth time in recorded history, and the first time in nearly 42 years, that **La Soufrière**, the island's northernmost stratovolcano, had erupted.

Residents in Barbados lived under darkened skies for a few days as **La Soufrière's** eruptions continued, spewing ash and debris into the air and onto neighbouring islands. When the skies eventually cleared in Bridgetown, the entire island

was blanketed in thick grey ash that had settled on virtually every surface. Sporadic eruptions and continued emissions challenged clean-up efforts and forced a prolonged closure of the Cave Hill Campus.

While most people regarded the ash deposits as a nuisance, Director of The UWI's **Centre for Resource**





Dr. David Yawson
Director of CERMES and
Senior Lecturer,
Environmental Management

gardening and landscaping, as it is a source of plant nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, sulphur, zinc, copper, and iron.

"If you have trees or shrubs, whether they are crops or ornamental plants, you can spread a bit of the ash around the base of the plant. Then cover the ash with dry grass or some organic mulch and water to reduce demobilisation and subsequent dispersion by wind and water.

"An ash mix, especially with compost or manure, is extremely important for home gardening as the ash might raise the pH of the soil and create imbalance in some nutrients. Organic matter can help balance the pH and reduce the nutrient imbalances or deficiencies. Careful monitoring and responses to nutrient deficiency symptoms, however, are important to quickly address the problem if any arises," he said.

Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) and Senior Lecturer in Environmental Management Dr. David Yawson shared insight about its fertile benefits.

Dr. Yawson explained that volcanic ash was a complex mixture of rock and soil particles with rich minerals and fine particle size suitable for improving nutrient and water retention and their release in soils. It is useful for home

"If you are about to apply fertiliser to the soil, do so prior to spreading the ash around the base of the plant. Though regular watering is necessary to prevent remobilisation in the short term, the ash lowers the temperature and overall loss of water from the soil," Dr. Yawson explained.

A second recommendation, which could benefit roots and tubers, was to make an ash mix using topsoil or compost and apply this to the soil.

"Don't worry if you have more ash than soil or compost in the mix. You can spread this too around the base of trees and shrubs or apply to herbaceous plants," he advised, stating that the ash mix can also be used for growing potted plants and herbs.



While Dr. Yawson was sharing his research about

the benefits of volcanic ash, the wider campus community launched a relief drive for residents of St. Vincent who were displaced by the eruption. An account was opened at **RBC Royal Bank (Barbados) Limited** for people who wished to make monetary contributions, and a collection point was set up at the Leslie Robinson building for non-perishable items.

Staff, students and the business community responded admirably to the call to give generously by donating food items, personal care products, baby supplies, household products; and healthcare items, including face masks, gloves and first aid kits.

The then President of the **Cave Hill Guild of Students**, Thacher Loutin, expressed profound gratitude for the many barrels of donations that formed a significant portion of the truckloads of items transported to the **Barbados Coast Guard** headquarters for shipment to Kingstown. ●



SIR ARTHUR LEWIS
INSTITUTE OF
SOCIAL AND
ECONOMIC
STUDIES



From the economic impact of national shutdowns and political turbulence during COVID-19 to the implications of China's investment in Latin America and the Caribbean, academics from The University of the West Indies and industry leaders have continued to interrogate issues that are critical to the developmental needs of the region.

SALISES Continues Search for Indigenous Solutions

They were provided with another major platform to present the findings of studies and discuss the issues during the **22nd Annual SALISES Conference** under the theme, **Re-Imagining Development for Small Island Developing States (SIDS): Post-Pandemic Transformations**.

The conference of the **Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES)** was held online last September in partnership with the **United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC)**. Prior to the pandemic, the annual conference was hosted by SALISES at Cave Hill, St.

Augustine or Mona, in an in-person setting.

The tone of the deliberations was set by leaders within and outside of the academe who addressed the opening ceremony of the 28-30 September event.

Vice-Chancellor Sir Hilary Beckles said the SALISES was an excellent place to plan for the next Caribbean dispensation post-COVID, postcolonial and postmodernity.

"Persistent poverty has to be answered with new and innovative insights. This is truly the era of the university, a time to rise and find solutions. The UWI

would demonstrate, with even greater intensity, its caring, its commitment and its courage," he said.

Pro Vice-Chancellor of the Board for Graduate Studies and Research, Professor Rose-Marie Belle Antoine emphasised that meaningful, forward-thinking, courageous, and interdisciplinary research was needed now more than ever. She said that while SALISES has been a leader relative to its publications and research outputs, this had sometimes waned, and there was a need for renewed commitment, energy and focus.

One way of achieving this, she said, was to have a bottom-up approach to research with the institution guided primarily by the community it serves.

"SALISES, like The UWI in general, must have its nose to the ground if we are to be on the cutting edge of our developmental needs and be able to feed into the region's goals.

This is the only way we can truly be relevant on the ground. There must be bottom-up research, not simply top-down fed by the donor funders and others. It must be research rooted in the community. Our research road map must be defined by The UWI, by our people. Of course, there is

a place and room for externally driven research goals, and we must continue to embrace them in terms of research projects, for example. But they cannot displace our own understandings of what we need to redefine and elevate our own societies."

Director of the **ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean** Diane Quarless concurred. She said the crisis presents two choices: wait, with the expectation that things would eventually return to normal, or seize the opportunity to tackle issues that have persistently challenged the region.

She said while there was need for greater cooperation among countries in the South and Small Island Developing States, SALISES

also provided an intellectual platform for indigenous, creative problem-solving.

"It is through your relentless research, critical thinking, through talented skills development and policy analysis that solutions-oriented strategies, uniquely responsive to the challenges and the needs of the Caribbean, will emerge."



Dr. Hyginus "Gene" Leon
President of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)

"Persistent poverty has to be answered with new and innovative insights. This is truly the era of the university, a time to rise and find solutions. The UWI would demonstrate, with even greater intensity, its caring, its commitment and its courage,"

The Director said the **UNECLAC** remains a committed partner in the search for answers.

The keynote address was delivered by President of the **Caribbean Development Bank** Dr. Hyginus "Gene" Leon who reiterated his call for bold and innovative action to shift the development trajectory of the region, with a focus on knowledge and innovation. ●



Sir Hilary Beckles
Vice-Chancellor
The University of the West Indies



Diane Quarless
Director of the ECLAC Subregional
Headquarters for the Caribbean



Extending a Collaborative Reach

From left: Former Principal, Professor the Most Honourable Eudine Barriteau; Henderson Carter, Senior Lecturer in History; Richard Seale, Executive Chairman, R. L. Seale and Company Ltd; Gayle Seale, Global Rum Ambassador; and Professor Frederick Ochieng-Odhiambo, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education

Universities seeking to deepen relations within the business, non-governmental and wider communities often establish a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with partners therein. These may be binding agreements that show intent to collaborate and share resources to reach a specific goal. In 2021, Cave Hill was signatory to a number of MOUs designed to utilise the campus's scholarship and expertise in partnership for mutual benefit.

Rum Industry Gets a Boost

Last May, Cave Hill entered into an arrangement with rum company **R L Seale & Company Ltd** to work with campus historians to help position Barbados as a globally recognised unique contributor to the world's sugar industry, both economically and socially. The agreement was essentially two-fold: first seeking to generate research into the scientific, technical, economic and business

histories of rum in Barbados; and in support of the island's **UNESCO World Heritage** nomination project on the ***Industrial Heritage of Barbados: The Story of Sugar and Rum***. This is a serial nomination that Barbados will present for consideration by the **World Heritage Committee** within the next five years.

Under the agreement, the 95-year-old rum company has committed \$320,000 towards postgraduate research through three scholarships to be awarded to doctoral students researching the

history of rum in previous centuries and rum branding. Additional funding will also be provided in support of the island's **UNESCO World Heritage** nomination project.

This project was placed under the helm of the Department of History and Philosophy, as part of its commitment to developing research on Barbados's history and heritage at the undergraduate, postgraduate and faculty levels. The department also has a well-known reputation of providing research services for both the public and private sectors in areas that have been significant for Barbados's economic and social development.

Outreach for Sustainable Development

Under another MOU, Cave Hill and the **Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)** entered

an arrangement to collaborate on advancing Caribbean development towards a sustainable future. The key objective of the MOU is to facilitate diverse forms of cooperation between the two parties and focus on several key areas, including but not limited to: technical support, collaborative research, joint teaching, workshops, seminars, summer institutes, combined public outreach, exchange of interns and visiting fellows, mutual access to libraries and resource centres, and collective strategies to promote Caribbean regionalism.

As part of the agreement, Head of the Department of Government, Sociology, Social Work and Psychology in the Faculty of Social Sciences, **Dr. Wendy Grenade**, will provide expert advice and training to the **OECS Youth Advisory Network** on research as it relates

to youth issues and surveys of youth opinion.

The UWI-OECS relationship is a meaningful example of a flourishing developmental-academic partnership that adheres to the university's strategic objectives of expanding access to educational opportunities while enhancing the university's alignment and agility in response to its stakeholders' needs.

Previous collaborations between The UWI and the subregional group of states include: the **2015 MOU** between the **OECS** and **The UWI, Cave Hill Campus (IMPACT Justice project)** to address some of the justice sector deficiencies identified by the subregion's stakeholders; the **2016 MOU** with **The UWI-CERMES (Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies)**, aimed at incorporating environmental issues into the sustainable development agenda of the OECS member countries; and the **2020 MOU** with the **Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy and Services** to improve the subregion's trade capacity through their Master's Degree in International Trade Policy programme (OECS MITP).

Support for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Last August, **Cave Hill Campus** and **CIBC FirstCaribbean International Bank** reinforced their long-standing relationship by extending their partnership through another agreement spanning the period 2021-2024. The agreement covers four areas: support and development of UWI programmes and students around the region;



Principal of The UWI, Cave Hill Campus, Prof. Clive Landis and CEO of CIBC FirstCaribbean Bank, Colette Delaney sign MOU, while Deputy Principal, Prof. Winston Moore and Director of the bank's Corporate Communications, Debra King look on.

enhancement of research in banking and finance at The UWI; the joint pursuit of mutually beneficial business opportunities; and entrepreneurship and innovation.

The bank has contributed over US\$2 million to The UWI in support of various initiatives since the first MOU was signed between the two institutions in 2003. Under the current arrangement, a new entrepreneurial initiative by the campus, titled **Innovate!**, will see staff rewarded for impactful and innovative ideas that lead to income generation for their unit or department. One of the major beneficiaries of the MOU is the **Student Entrepreneurial Empowerment Development (SEED)** project that is designed to encourage and develop self-reliance. The bank has assisted with providing access to finance and a business plan competition. To date, \$240,000 has been disbursed among 40 start-ups since the inception of the SEED project.

Partnership to Expand the Regional Trade Capacity

Trade and investment in the Caribbean received a major boost through the latest partnership between the **Caribbean Export Development Agency** and the **Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy and Services (SRC)**.

An agreement signed during a virtual ceremony on 1 October last year focused on areas of collaboration that include enhanced competitiveness and sustainable development of the Caribbean

region, involving research, joint programmes and internship placement.

As the two entities continue to build on their relationship, which spans over ten years, it is anticipated that this developmental-academic partnership will drive the expansion of The UWI's educational products into new markets.

CBS Provides Specialised Training to BWA Staff

Head of the **Centre for Biosecurity Studies (CBS)** Dr. Kirk Douglas is leading an initiative to provide specialised training to 500 staff at the **Barbados Water Authority (BWA)**. The training is scheduled to commence in the first quarter of 2022 and will run for just under two years. The 23-month programme is intended to increase awareness and knowledge of the concepts of biosecurity and risk management. It also addresses how the BWA can be informed of future risks as a result of climate change challenges and take the necessary course of action to safeguard the local water infrastructure.

The training will be conducted in collaboration with **Dr. Karl Payne**, a hydrological engineer with the campus's **Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES)**. Upon successful completion, staff will receive a Water Infrastructure Vulnerability, Climate Change and Biosecurity Certificate.

The US\$100,000 exercise is being financed by the **Green Climate Fund** that is administered by the **Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre**.

US Financial Support for Regional Trade

Last November, the **United States Embassy** to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean agreed to provide grant funding to Cave Hill that is geared towards supporting regional trade and investment. Two campus entities were earmarked to receive these funds: **Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy, and Services** was awarded US\$50,000 to support programmes focused on US-Caribbean trade and investment; and the **Cave Hill School of Business and Management Inc.** was awarded approximately US\$15,000 to develop micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises in the Caribbean.

The funding is part of an education initiative entitled **Revitalizing the US-Caribbean Trade and Investment Agenda** that will bring the institutional collaboration between the **United States Embassy** and **The University of the West Indies** to a new level. ●

Bold Declaration

A raft of initiatives is being introduced to bolster Cave Hill's sports programmes, including the further strengthening of partnerships with regional and international sporting organisations and associations.

The campus plans to expand its academic offerings in sport and carry out further upgrades to sporting facilities. Notable additions have also been made to its collection of cricket memorabilia.

Deputy Dean in the Faculty of Sport, Amanda Reifer, said during a ceremony entitled "**Commitment to Cricket**", held on 25 January, that the changes were part of efforts to pull West Indies cricket from the doldrums.

In remarks delivered on behalf of the Dean, Faculty of Sport, Dr. Akshai Mansingh, she said the campus remained a committed partner and this dedication was evidenced by the involvement of academics and staff at different levels of the sport.

"Our involvement with the **CPL [Caribbean Premier League]** is another exciting partnership which benefits our students and

faculty. Getting the best of their management team with ten years of regional experience while opening our human and facility resources is a partnership destined for success.

"We are delighted to continue our involvement with **Cricket West Indies** by partnering in delivering the Level II, and now, Level III Coaching Certification. **Cricket West Indies** has leveraged our faculty heavily during the pandemic, using the expertise of our medical and physiotherapy staff to support their teams and the expertise at our facilities and even the academic staff for many programmes."

The ceremony was used to showcase cricket facilities at the campus's 3Ws Oval. Among those attending were Chief Executive Officer of the CPL, Pete Russell, and Chief Executive Officer of the **Indian Premier League's Rajasthan Royals** franchise, Mike Fordham.

Russell announced that a fully



Amanda Reifer
Deputy Dean, Faculty of Sport
The University of the West Indies

accredited certificate programme in Sports Marketing will be offered at Cave Hill, coinciding with the observance of the league's tenth season. He said the programme will be augmented by insight from senior **CPL** staff who will offer their expertise on the issues of marketing, brand building, public relations, content

creation, understanding of the digital landscape and business management.

Upon completion, up to 12 students will be given the chance to join the league's internship programme that is operated in conjunction with The UWI.

"In addition to certification from UWI for completing the course, CPL is also committed to helping these young people in their future careers and will be on hand to offer advice and support, where needed. Our track record of offering paid employment opportunities to interns shows that the internship doesn't have to mean the end of their CPL journey," said the CEO.

"Our vision is to see this course become a world leader in this space with global appeal, and we will be working with UWI to continually improve the course and the learning experience for students, both regionally and worldwide."

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the Cave Hill Campus, Professor Clive Landis, said the institution intends to leverage its academic achievements to attract international students to the world-class cricket programme offered at the Academy of Sport, some of which is offered online.

In this respect, he said the campus has decided to convert its Master's in Cricket Studies into an online degree programme for students interested in earning a master's degree online from an accredited university with a unique cricketing pedigree.

He referenced the sporting success of **Academy of Sport** alumnus **Carlos Brathwaite**,



From left: Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Cave Hill Campus, Professor Clive Landis in conversation with Pete Russell, CEO of CPL and Vice-Chancellor of The UWI, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles

including his **T20 World Cup 2016** match-winning heroics, adding that the accomplishments of this former captain of the **West Indies Twenty20 International** team were reflective of his sound education.

Turning his attention to the facilities, Professor Landis pointed out that the **3Ws Pavilion**, which houses a refurbished gallery, is available for rental while the **Garfield Sobers Cricket Coaching Centre** is undergoing refurbishment. He said the **CLR James Cricket Research Centre**, located adjacent to the 3Ws Pavilion, should be a must-see for cricket aficionados and others, as it is home to numerous prized items, such as the original CLR James manuscript that contains his handwritten notes and is dated three years earlier than the 1963 publication of his famous book **Beyond A Boundary**.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, a former director of the West Indies Cricket Board, said the certificate programme in Sports Marketing will bring tremendous value to West Indies cricket because the graduates will move into professional positions where they, in turn, will empower those who follow. He commended Landis on his leadership, vision and being a believer in strategic partnerships.

"We have a commitment in our university to West Indies cricket and cricket as a culture. It is not a dry weather commitment. We are committed to West Indies and global cricket through thick and thin. We are committed because we have invested the best of ourselves in this culture. But importantly, West Indies cricket, for us, is a trailblazer. The West Indies Cricket Board and our Test culture were established in the [1920s]. We, The University of the West Indies, were

established in 1948, and so, West Indies Test cricket, international cricket, precedes us as a university by 20 years or so.

"As West Indies cricket seeks to rebuild its global competitiveness, we hope that, in turn, West Indies cricket will now find in our university the example of global leadership."

As part of the ceremony, Professor Landis officially received a cricket bat donated by legendary Barbados and West Indies batsman Dr. the Most Honourable Desmond Haynes from his 100th Test match.

Librarian Dr. Margaret Broomes said the **Gunn & Moore** cricket bat, to be housed in the 3Ws Oval gallery, was inscribed with the names of members of the West Indies cricket

*"Our involvement with the **CPL [Caribbean Premier League]** is another exciting partnership, which benefits our students and faculty. Getting the best of their management team with ten years of regional experience while opening our human and facility resources is a partnership destined for success."*

team who participated in that match that commenced on 4 July 1991.

"This bat is priceless. It is

an item of personal cricket memorabilia not only of Dr. Haynes's personal achievement but essential to the West Indian cricket historical record. This cricket bat will add value to the cricket collections housed here at Cave Hill. It is an item which others would love to have in their collection. Donations such as this cricket bat are necessary if our cricket galleries are to remain sustainable. We must explore ways of acquiring such items that would not only add value but would also resonate in the lives of cricket fans and researchers alike." ●



Librarian at the CLR James Cricket Research Centre, Cave Hill Campus, Dr. Margaret Broomes presents the bat to Principal, Prof. Clive Landis on behalf of Dr. the Most Honourable Desmond Leo Haynes

L'il T'Pot's Big Adventure

by Franchero Ellis

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the assortment of sailboats for the **2022 Round Barbados Sailing Week** last January was a bit low. There were some new activities that boosted interest and participation, including a kite surfing festival at Long Beach, a dinghy regatta in Carlisle Bay, and a radio-controlled model boat regatta at Golden Pond.

The **UWI Sailing Club** embarked on a familiar journey through the 2022 edition of Barbados Sailing Week, but with improved results owing to switching to their new yacht, **L'il T'Pot**. Painted in the trademark yellow with a white bottom, this 26-foot **Contessa** was built in the early 1970s and was being sailed with 1997 vintage sails by an intrepid crew of UWI alumni, skippered by **Franchero Ellis**.

The coastal racing series comprised

long races that put the boats through a variety of sailing conditions, including a journey a few miles offshore to traverse Shoal Bank. After two race days, **L'il T'Pot** placed fourth in her fleet, besting one of the four faster J/24 boats. The race around Barbados is always the club's highpoint; but sailing an unfamiliar boat can be dicey, especially in unforgiving east coast sea conditions.

On a bright and sunny **Errol Barrow Day**, there were few spectators for the early starters. There was the usual photo opportunity in Carlisle Bay with the venerable Peter Marshall, and later in the morning, with veteran entrepreneur Ralph "Bizzy" Williams as he motored pass near Gibbs in St. Peter. An ominous mishap while hoisting the sails caused such a delay, that **L'il T'Pot** crossed the start line more than 15 minutes after its scheduled 7.30am departure.

Along the west coast the crew passed waypoints where, had they been sailing their traditional vessel **Oiseau-noir**, they would have been overtaken by other now-trailing boats. They were steadily gaining on **Orla**, the other early starter, and were



elated to eventually overtake her just off Moontown, St. Lucy.

Without the island's shelter, as existed on the west coast, ocean conditions quickly deteriorated as the boat approached North Point. The tactics for this boat were sound but very fluid because no one knew how she would perform. And fluid it was — the same sail, which caused the mishap before the start, was again the centre of the crew's fight to get the vessel under control when the shackle holding the jib sheets failed. The crew stalled the boat to remedy this critical problem, but with a seasick crewmember, it meant that all hands were not on deck! The Atlantic Ocean 'boiled' and bulged with gusting and howling winds, when again and without warning, the same jib was rent asunder.



Mark Hirons (left) handling the mainsheet and Franchero Ellis helming the boat

Eventually, the crew regained control of the vessel, but the winds had dropped to pedestrian speeds. *L'il T'Pot* plodded along southward, and it seemed an eternity to go past Pico Teneriffe. The wind started to build steadily after Long Pond, and the indisposed sailor continued to battle with bouts of seasickness as the morning dragged on. When they finally reached East Point Lighthouse in the mid-afternoon, the hardest leg of the journey was over, and they would soon be on the home stretch.

However, the segment of coastline between East Point and South Point is flanked by a dangerous fringing reef only a few feet below the surface. Made famous by the notorious buccaneer, **Sam Lord**, it can suddenly generate very large breaking waves that, according to folklore, destroyed ships of old. The channel through the reef can shave many valuable minutes, which equates to a mile or two, from the journey; but with a damaged sail, the decision to take the longer way around the reef was perhaps a smart one.

The sea swells held no favours for the unwell mariner who failed to keep down his meals while a fellow seafarer amazingly continued to eat heartily with no ill effects. The majestic coconut

trees at Bottom Bay, the rugged cliffs at Paragon (home to the historic **HARP Gun**), and the long, golden stretch at Long Beach quickly slipped by as the clock suggested an early finish when compared to previous years. With just over an hour to go before the deadline, this early finish seemed doable, until the evening produced lighter winds.

Soon enough, the crew was skirting Bow Bells Reef off South Point Lighthouse, and it was time to chart the shortest path back to the finish line in Carlisle Bay. They constantly matched the remaining time to the remaining miles; but it was a disconcerting task, as the winds continued to drop steadily and the boat's pace followed suit. The target seemed still a mere dot on the horizon that looked an impossible distance away. The **Hilton Barbados Resort** appeared steadily out of the water as the team kept counting down the remaining minutes while they eyed their falling speed.

L'il T'Pot slowly crept towards its journey's end, arriving some 15 minutes after the time limit had expired at 6.00pm. As the ninth competing vessel to cross the finish line, there would be no prize this year. However, sufficient data was gathered to create a tactical plan for next year's race. ●



L'il T'Pot's tired but happy crew on the way to prize-giving: From left: Colville Thompson, Christian Josz, Jacob Binnema, Sara Inniss and Franchero Ellis



The **2019 Segway Polo World Championship** was the inaugural ePolo tournament, with its online scoreboard being updated during matches. Fans could go online to instantly learn of team rankings, next opponents, officiating referees, leading goal scorers and other statistics posted electronically.

A July Jaunt in Stockholm

by Franchero Ellis



Team Barbados, a perennial favourite among the world's top teams, has a penchant for scoring rapidly and an ability to exert control of a game even without possession of the ball. They encourage rivals to appreciate each game's outcome, fashioned by countless hours of Sunday morning drills at the **Usain Bolt Sports Complex** and channelled into a spectacularly orchestrated meld of sublime sportsmanship and art.

This Bajan team champions fair play and will likely respond to any contested referee call by conceding so as to quickly refocus on defence and a swift counterattack. The team's ethos is centred on confidence in its playing ability and on the belief that its players, foremost, are ambassadors at large for The UWI, Barbados and the wider Caribbean.



The intense but very enjoyable games were held at **Zinkensdamms Idrottsplats (Zinkens)** on *Ringvägen* in the archipelagic city of Stockholm. They occasionally mirrored previous years' encounters down to remarkably identical results, but **Team Barbados** also had two very noteworthy matchups.

Against the **Balver Cavemen** of Germany, a goalless draw was a surprising novelty! Determinedly playing only defensively, the Cavemen somehow managed to thwart every energetic **Team Barbados** attack. Each effort to 'pepper' the Cavemen was repulsed in their supreme struggle to block a ball that rarely left their half of the field for the entire game. At the game's conclusion, the Cavemen celebrated as though they won the Cup.

Also of note, the **Hemer Butterflies** team, who had hosted the 2017 edition of this World Cup contest, met an unbeaten **Team Barbados** in a quarterfinal encounter. The Butterflies fought spiritedly and celebrated their lone goal in the 4-1 finish — It was their historic moment, as this matchup marked the highest level they had ever reached in any international competition. Their supporters were 'over the moon' and everyone celebrated.

Flags fluttered merrily against a blue sky reminiscent of the Caribbean. A blazing July sun threatened to make a Swedish sunburn an unusual daily reality, while an occasional jetliner trailed a plume of ice crystals as it sped towards **Stockholm Arlanda Airport** and beyond. Shade was regularly sought because temperatures were a record-breaking high 30s, the heat matching simmering excitement.

When the clock rushed to the last ten minutes before the final

showdown, **Team Barbados's** players strapped on their helmets, gathered gear and mounted their Segways to ride into *Platz A* for a warm-up. The very confident **Balver Mammut's**, Germany's strongest team, soon followed. This was a signal to the spectators that limited time remained to hydrate, take a bathroom break, or check in with a heart specialist. Mingling players in their many-coloured uniforms created a kaleidoscopic effect for the spectators who trickled into the stirring atmosphere at **Zinkens**. By now, everyone had apparently abandoned their own national flags and were lined up to support either Barbados or Germany. Barbadian flags, bandanas, caps, and key rings, provided by the **Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc.**, and coveted miniature bottles of **Doorly's Rum**, given by **R L Seale & Company Ltd**, were distributed.

As usual, there never seemed enough time to complete all warm-up drills before the referees came out for the game's start. **Team Barbados** warmed up by mostly

taking shots at goal, while in a corner of the field, **Franchero Ellis** drilled goalie **David Eastmond** in perfecting his goal-hit off the touchline.

The timekeeper's announcing "Line up!" brought both teams to the middle of the pitch for the start of the tournament's final game. **Lidia Luther**, the **Team Barbados** Manager, took commemorative photos while team members gifted Barbados caps to the Germans. Substituting players (subs) moved to the sidelines as their starting teams awaited the referee's whistle. It was now too late for anything else except to focus on the task ahead. But there was one very noticeable change: the Germans had substituted their goalie, having already lost 2-0 to the Bajans in their group stage matchup.

Winning the first ball, **Team Barbados** unpredictably played it back, deep into their half, which instantly dissolved the German defensive screen and forced them to switch their strategy. The game began to accelerate as players raced

Jubilant members of Team Barbados celebrate their victory.



to vantage points to receive or block passes, dragging the elite referees in their wake. The abundance of sounds from thrilled spectators, punctuated by rapid heartbeats and occasional yells between on-field players, drew the attention of passers-by to the action.

While both teams were strong on attack, **Team Barbados** maintained superior possession of the ball and constantly deflated the German offensive strategy. About two minutes into the first of four eight-minute chukkas, **Daniel Hatch** stole a ball from the German attack in midfield and worked it up to **Brett Callaghan** who had penetrated the German defence. Blocked from taking a difficult shot at close range, he hastily passed to captain **Nevin Roach** whose sneaky shot at a very steep angle caught the German goalkeeper wrong-footed. The crowd roared with delight! Goals were certainly not expected so early in this match!

It is always difficult to defend a one-goal advantage; therefore, **Team Barbados** strategised after the referee blew off the first chukka. None of its three subs, including **Ryan Rodriguez** and **Lutz Dombdera**, were anxious to upset the equilibrium because the fielded team was getting the job done. The three-minute breaks between chukkas seemed to evaporate after some sips of water, forcing both teams to return to the crowd's eager welcome.

After an on-field collision, the game's sole penalty was called against **Team Barbados**, much to their disbelief. That the Bajan goalie, dubbed "the Great Wall of Dave" snuffed it out, was less surprising. The subsequent groans and hand wringing of German fans were matched by their looks of consternation. Spectators watched attentively as the game's tempo increased, fearful of



Nevin Roach of Team Barbados poses with trophy.

missing its action. Without warning, a second goal to **Team Barbados** landed off the tip of **Nevin's** mallet. Spectators bellowed, whistles blew, the sun scorched, the clock slowed, and it seemed like the ebb and flow of breathing had become uncomfortably twinned with the turnovers on the field. Superstitious fans appealed to various deities, while others watched anxiously whenever their team had possession.

The Mammuts rallied like an elite team should, as drones buzzed overhead, cameras flashed and phones recorded with shaky fingers. The two-goal deficit was not impossible for them to erase, but the Cup was inching a bit further from their reach. In the waning moments of the final chukka, **Ralf Luther** intercepted an air ball and swiftly passed it to **Nevin** who danced around the German defence for a forward pass to his left side. **Daniel** collected that ball and sped towards the German goal. Spectators held their breaths since way too many of his shots floated over the goalkeeper's head and into the stands for a 'cricketing six'. But this time, Barbados's leading goal scorer, in sheer magical style,

made a colossal strike past the goalie and into the nets. The stadium erupted!

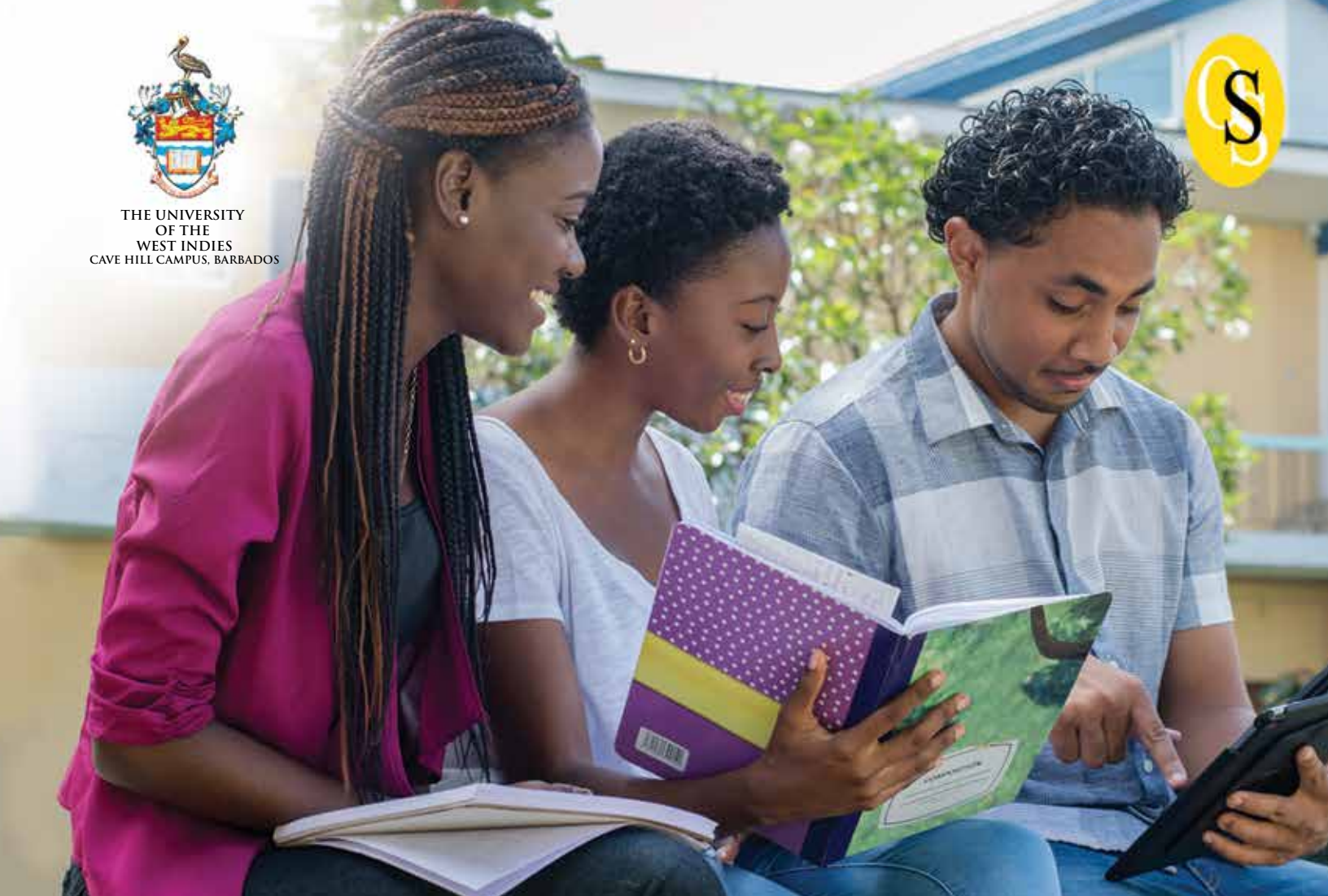
The fast-paced battle persisted for the full thirty-two minutes of actual playing time, plus eleven minutes allotted for breaks. Then, at last, the final whistle blew and the field was invaded, led by the Barbados contingent. Players and officials hugged in jubilation; a flood of selfies appeared to have cooled the sweltering heat, at least for a moment, and all were friends again.

With the 3-0 final score, the World Cup would be returning home to Barbados. ●

The Segway Polo Club of Barbados normally hosts Sunday training at the **Usain Bolt Sports Complex**. Students and staff, along with friends and family, are welcomed to try this gender-neutral sport. To book a trial session, the club can be contacted at www.segwaypoloclubarbados.org or on Instagram and Facebook.



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