



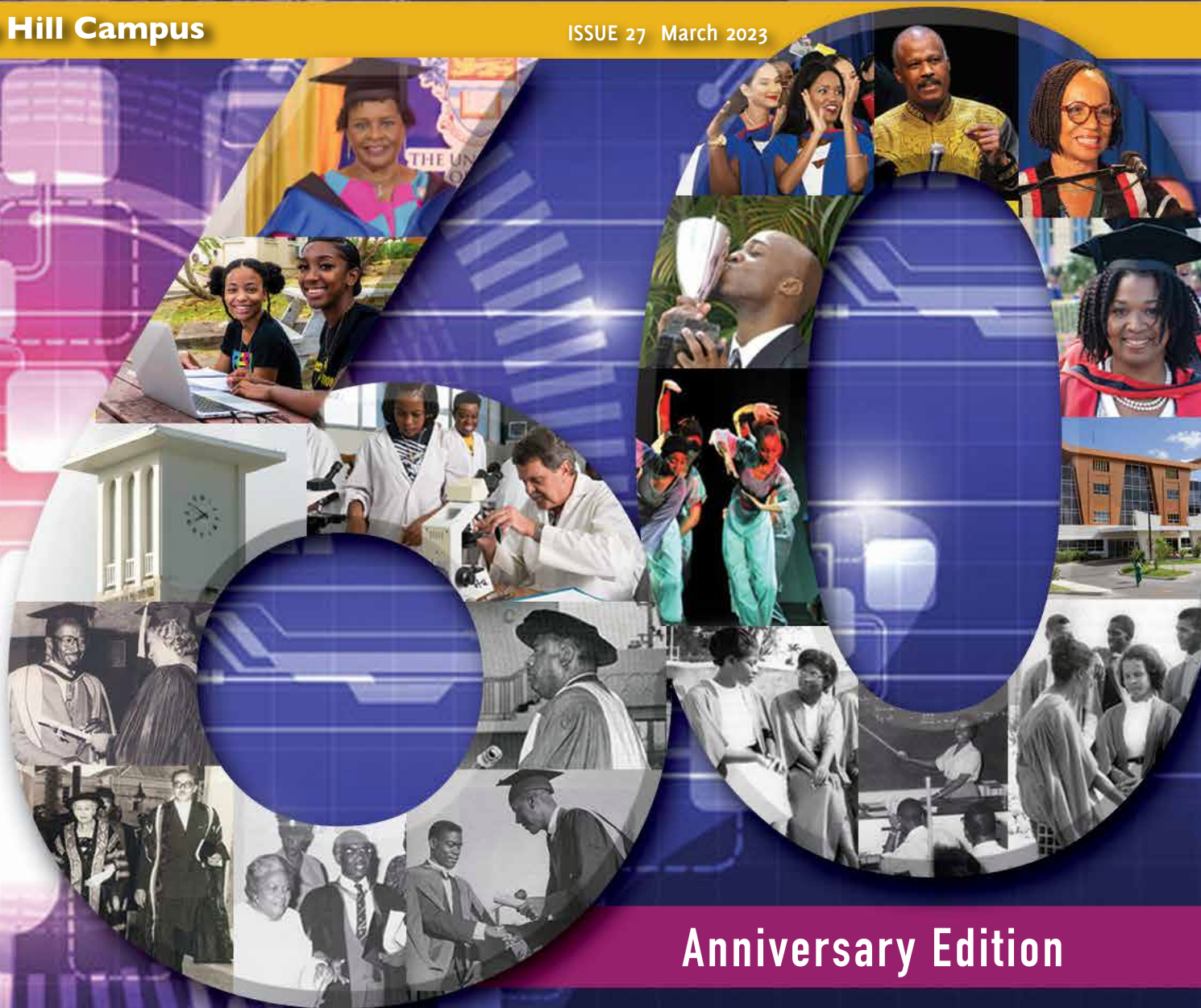
UWI

Cave Hill Campus

CHILL

news

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Anniversary Edition

Cave Hill @60 – Shining Like a Diamond
Calls to Revamp Education System
Constitution Review
Staff Show Their Inventive Traits

"Creating Value
From Our Ideas"

A PUBLICATION OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES,
CAVE HILL CAMPUS, BARBADOS.

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Contents

DISCOURSE

- 1 Celebrating 60 Years as a Campus

NEWS

- 2 Illustrious Consortium
4 Cuba's Day at UWI
7 Opportunity to Acquire Bilingual Skill
8 Growing Demand for Chinese Culture
10 Youth Hold Promising Talks with European Commissioner
12 Jurist Weighs in on NCD Debate
14 UWI Students Engage IMF's Managing Director
15 Former Judge Encourages Citizens to Seek Their Day in Court

COVER STORY

- 16 Cave Hill @60 - Shining Like a Diamond

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

- 18 Festive Parade Kicks Off Jubilee Celebrations

IN FOCUS

- 20 Calls to Revamp Education System
22 "Regional States Cannot Go It Alone"
24 Dire Warning for Caribbean Economies
26 Faculty of Law 'Punches Above Its Weight'
28 Civilisational Crisis from Miseducation

ANALYSIS

- 29 Analysing The Seeds for a Homegrown Constitution
33 Constitution Review

STUDENT-CENTRED

- 36 Students Thrilled to Be Back on Campus
39 Cave Hill Reclaims Title as Moot Champions
40 Musical Bridge Joins UWI and UK
42 Medical Students Acquire Simulation Equipment
44 Two Delighted with Their African Internships
46 Race for the Kids Puts Tara on the Road to Success

PARTNERSHIP

- 49 Agreement Offers Cultural Exchanges
50 The UWI and Private Sector Deepen Relations
52 Accounting Students Receive Support from Audit Firm
53 Postgraduate Students Receive IDB Support

RESEARCH & INNOVATION

- 54 Law and Health Research Unit Off to a Dynamic Start
56 AUTISM: Coping While Caring
58 UWI Scientists Involved in Global Cancer Study

- 60 Appeal to Strengthen Regional Research and Development
62 Mums' Sugary Intake Fuels Childhood Obesity
64 Staff Show Their Inventive Traits
66 Drones Add Surveillance Tech to Region's Agriculture
68 More Help Needed to Fight Cancer
69 Lack of Knowledge Limits Vaccine Uptake During Pregnancy

TECHNOLOGY, TEACHING & LEARNING

- 70 In Praise of Teaching Excellence
72 Regional Educators Encouraged to Embrace Innovation
74 Young Software Engineers Create Legacy Project
76 Single ICT Space an Urgent Need
78 Digital Space Carries Power to Perpetuate or Eliminate
80 Calls to Adopt an English Lit Imperative

OUTREACH

- 82 Renewed Push to Address Literacy

AROUND CAMPUS

- 84 Law Library Gets Learning Commons

ACTIVISM

- 86 Reimagining Caribbeanness

AWARDS

- 88 Lecturers Recognised for Outstanding work
89 Auspicious Start to Nursing Programme
92 Graduates Urged to Plan for the Future
94 Eight Receive Top Honours for Excellence
97 Two New Cave Hill Professors

PEOPLE

- 99 Savouring Rich Reward After SPISE
102 For the Record
106 Of Law and Legacy
108 Global Achievement Award for Cave Hill Alumna
109 Scholarship Recipient Pledges to Focus on Research
110 Sir Alister and His Work Lauded
114 Sir Henry Unveils Autobiography

TRIBUTE

- 115 "Bye George"
116 Tribute to George Lamming

SPORT

- 118 UWI Sailors Continue to Make Waves
120 Blackbird Seeks to Make Mark on World Stage

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS AS A CAMPUS

The Cave Hill Campus is in celebratory mood! In this Issue of *CHILL Magazine*, the campus community is seen 'shining like a diamond' as we celebrate a year-long series of events marking our 60th Anniversary as a UWI campus. Coincidentally, The University of the West Indies as an institution is marking its own diamond jubilee, the 75th Anniversary. The full calendar of 60th Anniversary activities, which focus on community outreach events, may be viewed at www.cavehill.uwi.edu/diamondjubilee/events.aspx.

At the first graduation ceremony to take place on the site of the new Cave Hill Campus in 1968, Prime Minister The Honourable Errol Barrow spoke these words: *"It is of the utmost importance that our statesmen and scholars, students and scientists should all realise that a university institution cannot survive unless it has as its constant goal service to the communities which support and sustain its activities."* This invocation forms the basis of our developmental mission at The UWI, Cave Hill to help drive the development



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

of Barbados and the Caribbean Region. We have done so not only by graduating over 40,000 students with accredited undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, diplomas, and certificates but also by sharing our research and technical expertise at multiple levels of society, serving on national committees, boards, commissions, development agencies, and as delegates, often at the behest of CARICOM, on international policy and trade meetings.

This commitment to add value in society is encapsulated in the five-year strategy for the campus, which is themed **"Creating Value From Our Ideas"**, as we translate our research and ideas to create value in society but also create value for the university itself through entrepreneurial income generation.

This current issue of *CHILL* is packed with examples in which our staff, students and alumni are creating value in society, whether that is in shaping the constitutional framework of our new Republic, helping to revise Caribbean educational practices, legal activism to tackle the NCD crisis, as the first international member of the **SlaveVoyages** consortium, or collaborating with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to create a database for assisting Barbadian citizens during their travels overseas. These and many more activities by our students, staff and alumni, chronicled in this issue of *CHILL*, give meaning to the Cave Hill strategy: **"Creating Value From Our Ideas"** as we live up to the legacy of our founding fathers to create a public university that is active within the communities that sustain it. ●





Illustrious Consortium

As the reparatory justice movement gains global momentum, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus has teamed up with leading educational agencies, creating a premier consortium that contributes to the growing body of research into the Atlantic Slave Trade. The amalgamation also includes **Emory University, Harvard University, Rice University, University of California, the National Museum of African American History and Culture and the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture.**

This unification makes Cave Hill the first non-United States consortium member of **SlaveVoyages**, the leading online resource for the study of the trade in enslaved Africans across the Atlantic. The database has a critical role in widening access to archival materials, including ship registers, sales ledgers, and recorded names of freed African people.

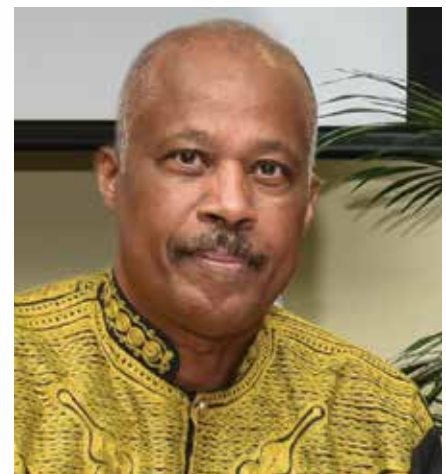
Already an institution housing a major architectural feature that pays homage to the island's African ancestry, Cave Hill will work with **SlaveVoyages** to advance research and study of the **Barbados National Archives**. These archives comprise tens of millions of documents tracing the gut-wrenching stories of individuals captured in Africa, brought

by ship to Barbados and sold to colonial enslavers on the island and throughout the Americas.

Cave Hill is also a key educational partner of the **Barbados Heritage District** that will include a memorial park and a major global research institute to house the **Barbados National Archives** within a museum located in Newton Plantation, Christ Church. The digitisation of the **Barbados National Archives** is one of the main projects of the **Barbados Heritage District**.

The **Barbados Heritage District**, designed by Ghanaian-British architect **David Adjaye**, is being developed under the direction of Prime Minister of Barbados **Mia Amor Mottley** under the auspices of the **Reclaiming Our Atlantic Destiny (ROAD) Project**, a multifaceted initiative designed to: transform the identity and economy of Barbados, provide unparalleled access to the history of the island nation, create job growth, and catapult research and technological innovation.

*"The inclusion of The University of the West Indies as the first non-US consortium member of **SlaveVoyages** marks an important next step in the advancement of the **ROAD Project** and of the **Barbados***



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



David Adjaye
Ghanaian-British architect



Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr.
Professor and Director of Hutchins Center
for African & African American Research,
Harvard University



The Hon. Mia Amor Mottley
Prime Minister of Barbados

Heritage District," the Prime Minister stated.

"The **ROAD Project** was conceived to deepen awareness and education surrounding the history of Barbados as it advances broader socio-economic goals. The work completed through **SlaveVoyages** will bring to light new insight into these difficult, yet immeasurably significant histories as we continue to chart the future for our new republic."

Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr., who serves as the **Alphonse Fletcher University's** Professor and Director of **Hutchins Center for African & African American Research** of **Harvard University**, welcomed Barbados's membership.

"The remarkable breadth of the **SlaveVoyages** database has grown exponentially since it was launched over a decade ago. It is now poised to expand its records even further from this globally significant endeavour by Barbados. The impact of the **ROAD Project** will be seismic in its provision of detailed records of the trade in enslaved people both on the island nation and throughout the Americas," he stated.

Vice-Chancellor of The University of the West Indies **Professor Sir Hilary Beckles** highlighted the significance of the institution's contribution to the consortium: "It is entirely fitting that the Cave Hill campus of The University of the West Indies ... should be invited as first external member of this significant body of American universities with a dedicated focus on the history and pedagogy of the Transatlantic Slave Trade. Barbados was among the earliest and largest markets for enslaved African labour in the Americas, the first colony to be home to Africans as the largest social demographic, and the first country to enact a comprehensive slave code in which Africans were deemed as non-human and property forever.

"The Cave Hill campus was built in the mid-20th century within an environment historically developed as plantations using enslaved African labour, and the campus today is home to the only building in the Americas inspired by the West African architectural motif of the Ashanti Golden Stool, the resting place of the spirits of departed ancestors. This constitutes an affirmation by the campus that the roots and legacies of the **SlaveVoyages** have been taken to the highest level of spiritual reflection and representation."

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Cave Hill Campus **Professor Clive Landis** said it was an honour for the institution to be invited as a member of **SlaveVoyages**. He added, "This comes at an opportune moment in the history of Barbados as the world's newest republic takes on global leadership roles in the slavery and reparations discourse.

"Cave Hill Campus will work collaboratively in deploying its research expertise to help analyse, publish, and disseminate slavery records and artefacts housed in the Barbados **Department of Archives** and our own special collections. Our research will add value to the ambitious digitisation project being undertaken as part of the **ROAD Project**." ●

Cuba's Day at UWI

by Tennyson S.D. Joseph

Wednesday 7 December 2022 will be remembered as the day when **Cuban President, Miguel Díaz-Canel** came to The

University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus. It was an historically momentous occasion, and according to our knowledge, it was the first ever visit by a Cuban President to a campus of The UWI. After attending the CARICOM-Cuba Summit on 6 December to mark the 50th year since the four independent CARICOM states of Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago ended Cuba's isolation by establishing formal diplomatic relations (the actual anniversary date being 8 December), President Díaz-Canel graciously agreed to address the opening session of a CARICOM-Cuba colloquium organised by the Department of Government, Sociology, Social Work and Psychology at Cave Hill, as the final stop of his official visit to Barbados.

The one-day colloquium was the

brainchild of Barbados's Ambassador to CARICOM David Commissiong, Cuban Ambassador to Barbados Sergio Pastrana, and Dr. Tennyson Joseph of the Department of Government, Sociology, Social Work and Psychology, who all thought it prudent to capitalise on the presence of CARICOM and Cuban officials attending the annual summit and extend the discussion to an additional day to include academics, activists, civil society and ordinary citizens.

The colloquium, dubbed **Celebrating 50 Years of Cuba-CARICOM Relations**, comprised six panels which covered topics such as **"50 Years of Fighting the**



Miguel Díaz-Canel
President of Cuba

Blockade Against Cuba", "Reflections on Major Milestones and Turning Points in the CARICOM-Cuba Journey", "50 Years of CARICOM-Cuba Cultural/ Artistic Interactions and People to People Relations", "Examining CARICOM-Cuba Educational, Medical Scientific and Technological Collaboration", and "A Cuba-CARICOM People to People Conversation". The closing panel took a prospective approach and focused on **"Current Realities and Prospects for the Next 50 Years of Cuba-CARICOM Relations".**

Each panel was organised to facilitate presentations from both Cuban and CARICOM participants. In addition, many of the CARICOM-based panellists were themselves persons with past or ongoing connections to Cuba, either as students within the Cuban university system, ambassadors, through family connections or academic-research interests. Among the panellists, for example, were Cuban



Barbados's Ambassador to CARICOM, David Commissiong (left) with other attendees at the colloquium

economics graduates Peter Lansiquot, St. Lucia's Ambassador to Mexico, Venezuela, and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), and Michael Heslop, Associate Professor of Economics at **Northern Virginia Community College**, USA; Barbados's Ambassador to Cuba, Philip St. Hill; and Barbadian social historian, author and media personality, Dr. Sharon Marshall.

Another key feature of the panel composition was the large number of long-standing, pro-Cuban political activists from all over the Caribbean who had been involved with the youth and student movements from the early 1970s, and who agreed to participate in the colloquium as a show of gratitude and solidarity with Cuba. These included Earl Bousquet of St. Lucia; David Abdulah, Leader of the **Movement for Social Justice** in Trinidad and Tobago; Dr. Terence Marryshow, a Cuban-trained medical practitioner and Founder of the **Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement** of Grenada; David Denny, a Barbadian social activist; and Jomo Thomas, an attorney and former Speaker of the House of Assembly of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Most importantly, however, was the participation in the opening panel of Fernando González, one of the "Cuban Five", that is, five Cuban intelligence officers who were arrested in Miami and subsequently convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage, conspiracy to commit murder, acting as an agent of a foreign government, and other illegal activities in the United States. He offered a strong statement calling for the end of the blockade and for the removal, by the US, of Cuba from the list of states which have been declared as sponsors of terrorism.

The colloquium represented a determined effort on the part of CARICOM citizens to show as much reverence as their Cuban counterparts for the observance of **CARICOM-Cuba Day** on 8 December. Unlike the people of the

English-speaking Caribbean, Cuba has always marked the day with a sense of seriousness of purpose and historical understanding.

I recall visiting Cuba for the first time 20 years ago, as a young attaché to the Prime Minister of St. Lucia, to mark the 30th anniversary of CARICOM-Cuba diplomatic relations. What struck me immediately was the fact that, while the event passed unnoticed in the English-speaking Caribbean, upon arriving in Cuba, it was as if the entire country was mobilised around the meaning of the date for the fate of the revolution itself. I was moved by the respect and gratitude of the Cuban people for the four CARICOM pioneer leaders and for their innate understanding of the implications of their decision for the development of the whole Caribbean.

Thankfully, in the intervening years, the English-speaking Caribbean has seen the emergence of several vanguard grassroots organisations and state leaders who can now join with the Cuban Government and people in seizing on the significance of the 8 December 1972 establishment of diplomatic relations, as a springboard from which to propel the joint futures of Cuba and CARICOM.

It is for these reasons that the **50th Anniversary CARICOM-Cuba Summit**

held in Bridgetown on 6 December represented such an important occasion for the setting of new vistas in CARICOM-Cuba relations. And it was for similar reasons that The UWI's Department of Government, Sociology, Social Work and Psychology agreed to work with the **Barbados-Cuba Friendship Association**, the **Caribbean Chapter of the International Network in Defense of Humanity**,

and the **Cuban Embassy in Barbados** in organising the one-day colloquium.

The high point of the activity, however, was that the **Cuban President Díaz-Canel** himself thought it important enough to deliver remarks at the opening session, and equally importantly, the **Prime Minister of Barbados Honourable Mia Amor Mottley** and the **UWI Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles** lent their authoritative voices to the activity.

President Díaz-Canel thanked the leaders and people of the region for their steadfast support and bravery throughout the years of the Cuban revolution, and he recognised the work of Caribbean academics in standing with Havana throughout the years. He remarked on the beauty of the campus, the warmth and spirituality of the Caribbean people, and he appeared genuinely pleased to participate in the colloquium, jokingly remarking that he will include on his curriculum vitae that he had taken part in a seminar at The UWI.

For her part, Prime Minister Mottley thanked President Díaz-Canel for the years of support provided by Cuba in the areas of health care and education, and she reiterated many of the main successes achieved at the previous day's summit. They included efforts at cooperation in the



(from left) Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley; President of Cuba, Miguel Díaz-Canel; Vice-Chancellor of The UWI, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles; and Principal of Cave Hill Campus, Professor Clive Landis



Vice-Chancellor of The UWI, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles greets the President of Cuba, Miguel Díaz-Canel.

areas of climate change impact mitigation, cultural exchanges; and the steps towards a multi-lingual Barbados, with fluency in Spanish being at the centre of this endeavour.

In welcoming the President to The UWI, Sir Hilary, in his remarks, reiterated the commitment of the university to deepening the existing Memorandum of Understanding between **The UWI** and the **University of Havana**. He remarked that The UWI has a physical presence in the University of Havana by way of the **Norman Girvan Centre for Caribbean Studies**, over whose offices The UWI flag flies aloft. The Vice-Chancellor pledged the deep commitment of The UWI to work with Cuban academics in areas of mutual interest.

Among the key outcomes of the colloquium was the proposal to rename the relationship to Cuba in CARICOM, rather than Cuba and CARICOM. That proposal was made by **Dr. Jacqueline LaGuardia Martínez**, a Cuban lecturing in international relations at The UWI, St. Augustine Campus. She did so by presenting a comprehensive review of existing areas of cooperation. She identified areas of strengths and weaknesses and suggested new areas which can be included based on the existing state of the global-political economy.

Another clear outcome of the colloquium was the loud demand for the normalisation of global relations with Cuba. **Dr. Isaac Saney**, an historian at **Dalhousie University** in Canada, offered an informed account of the Biden administration's stance on Cuba and a sound explanation for why President Biden had not kept his election promise to remove Cuba from the list of states sponsoring terrorism. **Jomo Thomas**, in turn, insisted that it was time to move beyond the symbolism of the annual exercise of votes in the **United Nations General Assembly** in opposition to the

blockade, to more overt rejections of the blockade. He wondered aloud that, while much is made of the fact that annually "*all but two*" countries vote against the blockade, the majority-dissenting states have failed to act decisively in ending the blockade.

All in all, The UWI, Cave Hill one-day colloquium, **Celebrating 50 years of Cuba-CARICOM Relations**, was an important statement by The UWI of its commitment to wider regionalism and to public engagement. It was an activity that received the full blessing and support of the region's state leadership and of the university leadership itself. Eternal gratitude to all who worked to make the colloquium a success, in particular, **Ms. Teresacita Cox** of the Department of Government, Sociology, Social Work and Psychology at Cave Hill who single-handedly managed all the day-to-day activities involved in organising a conference of this nature.

May the work of the colloquium resonate across the Caribbean Sea in the weeks and months ahead until all the states of the region are free to pursue their own development options, free from interference by outside powers. ●



Members of the audience at the colloquium

Students of The University of the West Indies are expected to be able to converse in at least one language other than their native tongue when they graduate.

Opportunity to Acquire Bilingual Skill



The announcement was made by the university administration last October after in-depth, internal strategic planning and discussion with regional education stakeholders. According to the Pro Vice-Chancellor for Undergraduate Studies, **Professor Justin Robinson**, *"Going forward, the expectation is that all UWI graduates will be at least conversation competent in a language other than English."*

In a statement to the media, The UWI announced that the Foreign Language Policy for its five regional campuses has been approved and is being implemented on a phased, faculty-by-faculty and campus-by-campus basis, beginning in the academic year 2022–2023 with applicability to new incoming undergraduate students only.

This seminal initiative further advances The UWI's compliance with best practices in teaching and learning found in elite-ranked cohorts. Vice-Chancellor **Professor Sir Hilary Beckles** noted that the *"Significant change will enable the further regional and global mobility and empowerment of graduates. Foreign language proficiency will no longer be a major impediment to employment amongst our graduates in the global world."*



Professor Justin Robinson
Pro Vice-Chancellor
for Undergraduate Studies, The UWI

Already, a substantial number of graduates have specialised foreign language degrees. Majors and minors in French, Spanish, Portuguese, Japanese, Chinese (Mandarin), and teaching competencies in others like Arabic, German, Hindi, Korean, and Yoruba have long been commonplace. However, this policy development will now see all students participating in foreign language training at a general level.

Vice-Chancellor Beckles elaborated further:

"This is a fundamental change that will transform the identity of UWI students and graduates and will provide more relevant graduates to serve as a development platform for the new, more modern, and globally competitive Caribbean economy."

Universal coverage and participation of all students are anticipated within the next three academic years. Flexible access and easy learning is the pedagogical principle, with students having the option of self-tutoring or guided instruction. They will have the full duration of their academic programme to acquire language competence. Those coming into the university with prior competence shall be exempt from this requirement. ●



Growing Demand for Chinese Culture

by Carol Williams

Aspects of Chinese culture were brought to life as the Confucius Institute (CI) at The UWI, Cave Hill Campus held its first open house since the pandemic forced some of the institute's seminal activities online.

Activity rooms were virtually filled to capacity by students and others gathered for the immersive experience on 7 October 2022. Many eagerly painted brightly coloured masks, engaged in the art of calligraphy, and sampled Chinese tea for which the country is world-famous. For a time, the sweet sounds of the ancient Chinese zither, an intricate musical instrument similar to the harp, filled the air as those present were taught the fundamentals of playing. Some adventurous individuals took part in the Chopstick Pickup Tournament and, later in the day, attempts were

made to learn the Chinese martial art, Tai Chi.

An online symposium entitled **"Perspectives in Philosophy"** kicked off the event that was held to celebrate **Confucius Institute Day** and **Chinese National Day**, which is 1 October. It featured presentations by Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education, Cave Hill Campus, Professor Frederick Ochieng'-Odhiambo and Professor Yu Xueming, President of the Faculty of Humanities, **China University of Political Science and Law** respectively titled **"The Relevance of Sagacity in Philosophy"**





David Bulbulia
Co-Director, Confucius Institute
The UWI, Cave Hill Campus

and **"Drawing Water by Jar or by Machinery: The Teachings of Zhuangzi"**.

Co-Director of the Confucius Institute **David Bulbulia** said events like the Open House Fun Day have helped to generate interest in its programme offerings. He noted that although the pandemic affected enrolment in its evening classes, there has been a positive response to some new programmes. For example, registration for the **Confucius Institute's/National Library Service's** Learn Chinese Together course peaked at almost 100 people.

"The numbers are heading back up," Bulbulia said while providing an overall status update on the programmes. "Certainly, this is indicated in the National Library Service's programme, the co-curricular course, and the Chinese for the Software Engineering programme."

For the BSc. Software Engineering programme, there has been a notable increase in the intake of students from the St. Augustine campus of The UWI.

Giving his overall assessment of the progress made by the CI since he took up the role of Co-Director in 2018, he said, "I'm proud to be able to carry on the work and the very strong foundation that was put down by a number of people before me on the Caribbean side and the Chinese side. I see it as a mission to help Caribbean people broaden their horizons beyond the places to which they traditionally look, such as the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada. There's a bigger world out there that they can look at for opportunities and places to go." ●





Youth Hold Promising Talks with European Commissioner

European Commissioner for International Partnerships **Jutta Urpilainen** flanked by UWI Vice-Chancellor **Prof. Sir Hilary Beckles** (on her right) and Chair of Cave Hill Campus Council **Sir Paul Altman** (on her left), among students.

It was billed as a roundtable that would provide the youth with a unique opportunity to engage with a high-ranking member of the **European Commission**, and it delivered highly on that promise.

For almost an hour, European Commissioner for International Partnerships **Jutta Urpilainen** fielded questions and interacted with those in attendance at the first **Caribbean Youth Leaders Roundtable**, jointly organised by the **European Union (EU)** and **The UWI**. The event was held on 11 October 2022 at the Sagcor Cave Hill School of Business and Management.

The questions from the audience, online and in-person, were wide-ranging and covered areas such as the availability of partnerships for civil service organisations, investment in the criminal justice system, insufficient funding for developing states to achieve climate equity, the input of youth in the just-launched **Youth Action Plan** in the Caribbean and how young people could help make the plan a reality.



(from left) European Commissioner for International Partnerships **Jutta Urpilainen** and moderator **Khaleid Holder**

The details of the plan had been unveiled minutes earlier by Commissioner Urpilainen, who explained that it seeks to engage, empower, and connect with the youth. The plan focuses on improving the influence of young people in Latin America and the Caribbean in policy and decision making. To this end, youth from both sides of the Atlantic are expected to hold meetings in preparation for a summit

involving representatives of the EU, Latin America and the Caribbean planned for this year. Aside from bringing together political leaders from these three regions to discuss areas of partnership and cooperation, the meeting would also involve ordinary young people along with civil society and business representatives.

On the issue of empowerment, Commissioner Urpilainen said through the creation of business and economic opportunities they hope to reduce inequalities and ensure all young people have the skills and resources needed to succeed.

The diplomat used the occasion to announce that the EU has committed €14 million for the international education exchange programme, **Erasmus+**, in the Caribbean. She said this will support higher education and vocational institutions and increase prospects for young people to network and be involved in exchange programmes with their peers worldwide.

As a former teacher and youth activist, the Commissioner said the single greatest investment countries can make is in young people who face many challenges, among them climate change, conflicts, a pandemic, and inequality.

"I am very passionate about putting youth in the driver's seat," said the diplomat as she promised to listen to the concerns, aspirations, and messages of the youth.

Some primary concerns among the youth were outlined by President of the Guild of Students at Cave Hill **Osazé Moraldo-Bowen** at the start of the session. He identified a lack of economic opportunities as a major setback and suggested a rethink of the way public and private enterprises scout, hire, and retain their talent to help youth transition into the workforce after they had educated and upskilled themselves. Moraldo-Bowen linked limited access to economic opportunities to the high cost of



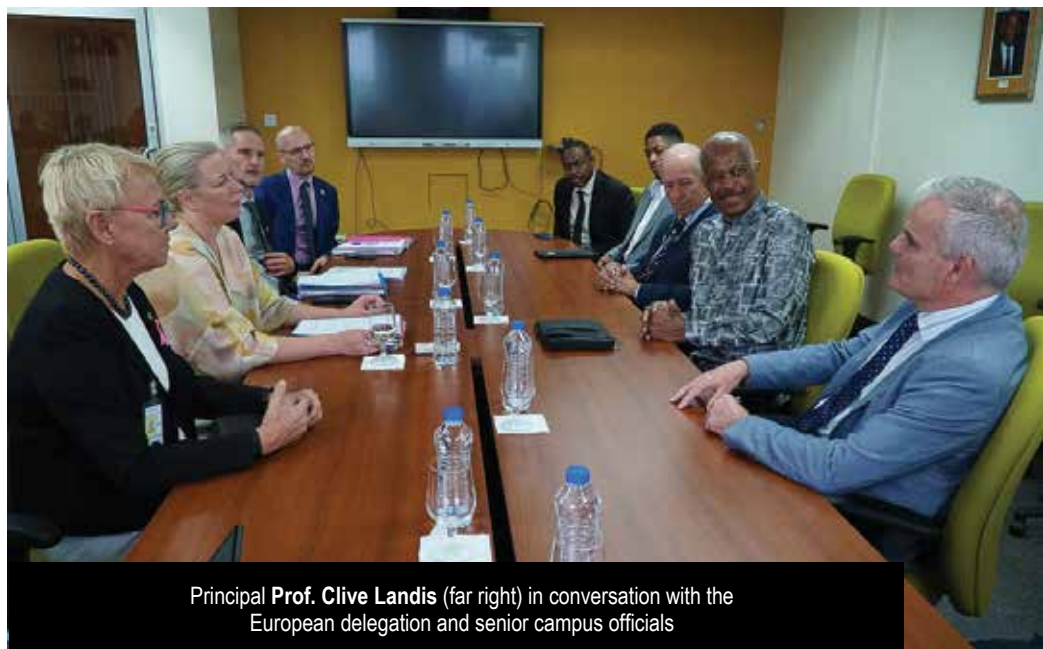
intraregional travel that prevents persons from taking advantage of prospects in other states, corruption that has led to apathy of political affairs, concerns about tokenism rather than meaningful inclusion, and the climate change threat to the region.

"The first step in dealing with these issues and challenges, in my opinion, is respect for young persons. Respect for their opinions, perspectives, and ideas. Once this respect is [given], it will promote

meaningful participation and give us a real voice in shaping solutions that can impact our futures."

Prior to the roundtable, some members of The University of the West Indies' administration, led by **Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles**, met with Commissioner Urpilainen and other members of her delegation. Sir Hilary acknowledged that The UWI was playing its part in preparing the youth for the global stage even though access to higher education remains a challenge in this region. He noted that mandating all students to study a foreign language component, from the 2022 academic year onwards, would empower youth and assist them in being effective global citizens. The Vice-Chancellor also spoke glowingly of the enduring relationship between The UWI and the EU and the support it has given to the university to help drive development in the region.

The 11-12 October visit to Barbados marked the first mission of Commissioner Urpilainen to the Caribbean. ●



Principal **Prof. Clive Landis** (far right) in conversation with the European delegation and senior campus officials



Jurist Weighs in on NCD Debate

There has been a call for fresh legal thinking to tackle the non-communicable diseases (NCDs) crisis facing the region. It's coming from **Professor, the Honourable Justice Winston Anderson** who said residents should consider legal options to hold the authorities to account if all else fails.

The comments by the third most senior member of the **Caribbean Court of Justice** were made during a public lecture he delivered on the topic "**Caribbean Public Health: The use of law to address NCDs in the Caribbean – A call to action**". The lecture was hosted by the **Law and Health Research Unit** of the Faculty of Law, The UWI, Cave Hill Campus on 15 September 2022 as part of the unit's first anniversary celebrations.

In prefacing his argument, the Cave Hill alumnus and former law lecturer cited a 2016 study by the **Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)** which found that NCDs accounted for 76 percent of deaths in non-Latin Caribbean countries, with the exclusion of Haiti. He said another study published in 2022 in Trinidad and Tobago found that the sugar, salt, and fats content in 90 percent of the food produced in the region does not meet the nutritional threshold set by PAHO.

The jurist said while some existing legislation, such as the town and country planning acts, public health acts, noise abatement acts, and litter acts can help address aspects of the NCD problem, the region needed a broad suite of laws to bring the situation under control.

"The traditional legal tools used to combat planning issues, pollutions, pandemics and so on are relevant on the margins, but the modern NCDs present unique features that call for fresh legal thinking. Those arise from the nature of the NCD problem and involve issues of personal sovereignty and autonomy, issues of intervention of scientific data, empirical studies and the conveyance of accurate information to the public."

Justice Anderson, a member of the Advisory Committee of the **Law and Health Research Unit**, agreed that a balance needed to be struck between personal responsibility and governmental responsibility. However, he said residents should be provided with accurate, timely and comprehensive information to exercise that personal responsibility.

Concerning attempts by regional states to implement controls on tobacco smoking, one of the NCD risk factors, the CCJ Judge said these have been "patchy at best" among the countries that have signed on to the **World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC)**

"In 2007, our governments promised us that certain actions will be taken in relation to protecting our health; certainly, from cigarette smoke and having smoke-free public spaces. To the extent that this promise has not been kept, can the governments be liable for breach of legitimate expectation? That is something somebody [should] ask in the right context."

He suggested closer attention be paid to areas in the constitutions that address the right to life, the right to health, the right to give and receive information, and freedom of thought and expression.

"We have to lobby the Government to pass appropriate laws to implement the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. Having passed the laws, we have to lobby the Government as well to establish the appropriate institutions to implement those laws. There are things we can do about schools' food environment. Now that information has increased, we have to see if there is some way to convince our vendors that they are part of the process of trying to decrease incidents of NCDs, and we can switch to healthy choices for children. That is being done in some places, and it's wonderful."

Justice Anderson added, "We can't be afraid to use the law. If all other efforts have failed, then we have to consider recourse in the courts to litigate to ensure our rights."

"Can we litigate some of the common-law actions to see if they can be used to control NCDs? Having accepted the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, does the failure to implement those provisions involve state liability internationally and to the citizens? What are the constitutional limits to commercial speech when intended for public health? Can there be a transnational liability for foreign producers of unhealthy foods imported into the Caribbean?"

The jurist touted the **Caribbean Public Health Law Forum**, established in 2021, as a useful initiative to increase awareness of the role of the law in tackling NCDs and other health issues. ●





UWI Students Engage IMF's Managing Director

Managing Director of the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**, **Ms. Kristalina Georgieva** has urged students at The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus to take charge of their destiny and to not sit on the sidelines as their countries' leaders and other global leaders seek to solve the world's pressing issues.



IMF Managing Director **Kristalina Georgieva** being interviewed by (then) Lecturer in Economics, **Dr. Simon Naitram**

"The most important source of strength is you; believe in yourself," she told students while meeting with them in a town hall-style meeting last June. The historic meeting was the first of its kind for the campus and the Bretton Woods institution. The hybrid event was held at the **Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre** and streamed via UWITv Global and the IMF's livestream channels.

COVID-19 restrictions limited the number who could attend the face-to-face gathering. However, many tuned in online to witness their peers seize the opportunity to dialogue with the managing director on issues relevant to the IMF's mandate and activities in the region, such as climate change, unsustainable sovereign debts, and development goals.

On the issue of climate change, Georgieva urged people to act decisively to

reduce the magnitude of this threat, while also charging students to lend their voice to the IMF's rallying cry to *"tax pollution, not people"*.

"We must tax CO₂ emissions. Make sure there is a price for emitting them whether that is a tax [or] trade/regulatory enforcement. Whatever the measure, it is most significant that we send a clear signal to producers [and] to consumers that we simply cannot survive as humanity unless we change," urged Georgieva.

The managing director also urged her listeners to act on these issues now, because *"these are no longer problems of the future"*.

"I cannot think of a better voice on these existential crises than yours because you are going to inherit the problems my generation created. So press [institutions like ours], but act on

your own. Set the example that you care about these issues."

Economist **Dr. Simon Naitram**, moderator of the event and Lecturer in Economics at the campus, described this event as *"a rare opportunity"* for UWI students to directly engage with the leadership of one of the world's foremost economic institutions.

"As the IMF is in the business of tackling global challenges, we hope that this conversation inspired our students to think about how they themselves can be genuine world changers," Naitram shared.

Georgieva, who was on a 15-18 June visit to the Caribbean, had expressed her interest to meet with students of The UWI — *"the future leaders of the Caribbean"* — to discuss the IMF's evolving partnership in the region while she was in Barbados on 16 June. The occasion was the managing director's first call to Barbados and the region. ●

Former Judge Encourages Citizens to Seek Their DAY IN COURT

Landmark court decisions with major implications for abuse of process should not deter citizens with meritorious claims from pursuing legal action in the courts, argues respected regional jurist and Dean of the Faculty of Law at The UWI, Cave Hill, Professor Eddy Ventose.

At the same time, he acknowledged that abuse of process, described as people misusing the legal process for purposes other than intended, was a challenge in the Commonwealth Caribbean at one time but said this has since been brought under control. Professor Ventose opined on the matter during a lecture on the topic **“Taming the Unruly Horse: Abuse of Constitutional Proceedings in the Commonwealth Caribbean”** held on 23 November 2022 and organised by the School for Graduate Studies and Research, Cave Hill Campus.

He pointed out that most constitutions in the region under review have a proviso that the High Court shall not exercise its powers if it does not believe an individual has utilised all other available avenues for redress under the law.

“The courts essentially are put there as the sentinel standing at the door of



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

the constitution. So before you can come through the door with a constitutional claim, the courts are there to say ‘wait a minute, you cannot bring this claim if you have a claim at common law’. But while the courts need to be vigilant to prevent abuse of its processes, that cannot be used to prevent or deter citizens from invoking the constitutional redress provision. If they, in good faith, believe there is some feature, which means that their claim should be adjudicated by the constitutional court, then they should be allowed to pursue that process.”

Professor Ventose made note of some legal challenges that reached as far as the

Privy Council and the **Caribbean Court of Justice**. In particular, he referred to landmark judgements delivered in cases from Trinidad and Tobago, such as *Harrikissoon v Attorney General* (1980), *Jaroo v Attorney General* (2002), and *Ramanoop v Attorney General* (2005). Cases in Barbados, Belize, and Guyana were also mentioned. The professor pointed out areas of concern with some of the judgements, which he said could have been made clearer to avoid misinterpretation and noted the **Privy Council** repeatedly warned against abuse of process.

He surmised that the 2002 matter involving Jaroo brought a sudden and welcomed halt to the unrelenting abuse of the court’s jurisdiction to grant constitutional relief: *“That unruly horse in the 1980s and 1990s and early 2000s has now been tamed. The alternative remedies, under the common law or statute, must be pursued before constitutional proceedings are brought. The exhaustion of remedies principle is either expressly stated in some constitutions or implied in others. In my view, even where it has been removed, it can still be implied and applied by the courts.”*

Dean Ventose is well-versed in constitutional law, having written extensively on the topic in recent years. Overall, the former judge of the **Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court** has authored over 70 publications, including on intellectual property and administrative law. He has won both the **Principal’s Award for Excellence** in Research and the **Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Excellence** in Research. In 2012, at age 35, he became the youngest person in the history of The University of the West Indies to be promoted to the rank of professor. ●



Cave Hill @60

Shining Like a Diamond



Having weathered numerous challenges and crises in its existence so far, The University of the West Indies at Cave Hill is being celebrated as a beacon of Caribbean resilience and achievement as it turns 60.

"Cave Hill stepped up to the plate and has been a magnificent success. It prospered!" declared UWI Vice-Chancellor **Professor Sir Hilary Beckles** who served as a principal of the campus for 13 years. He was speaking at a media launch held on 19 January to announce year-long celebratory plans to mark Cave Hill's diamond jubilee this year. The celebrations are being observed under the theme **Resolute and Resilient**.

The institution was established at the **Deep Water Harbour** in 1963 where it operated as the College of Arts and Sciences. Four years later, it moved to its current site at Cave Hill, St. Michael and became a full-fledged campus with the establishment of its first faculty, the Faculty of Law, in 1970.

Sir Hilary, a renowned historian, said



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

the campus was established during a transformative period in Barbados's history when the authorities were intent on moving away from a plantation society and forging a new developmental path.

Cave Hill itself was also transformed in the process. Enrolment grew dramatically after the **Owen Arthur** administration removed the cap on student admission numbers. Today, enrolment stands at more than 6,000, a far cry from the inaugural cohort of 118.

Sir Hilary said, "Not only did it prosper in its alignment with the economic development model and gave Barbados the competitive edge it needed in so many areas, but how proud we all felt when our [then] Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research **Professor Wayne Hunte** announced that on a per capita basis, Cave Hill was the leading producer of cutting-edge peer-reviewed articles and monographed production.

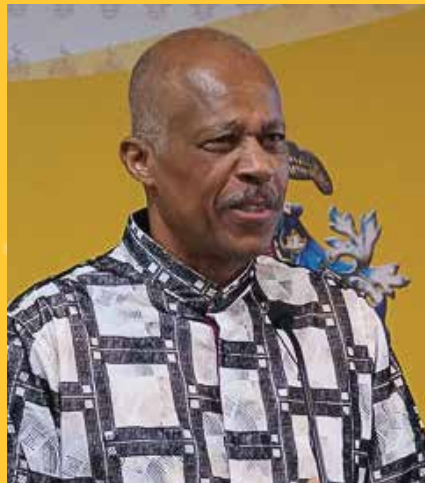
"Here, the youngest landed campus [at the time] had risen to become the leading campus in the publication of quality research, University Press publications, and international peer-reviewed journals. Cave Hill had soared, also, as a research publishing powerhouse."

Its impact on its host country and neighbouring region has been profound. Overall, more than 40,000 students have graduated from Cave Hill, and a working group estimated nearly a decade ago that the campus generated \$200 million in additional economic activity and more than \$80 million in foreign exchange annually in Barbados.

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the Cave Hill Campus **Professor Clive Landis** commended his predecessors - Professor Leslie Robinson, Sir Sidney Martin, Sir Keith Hunte, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles,

and Professor the Most Honourable Violet Eudine Barribeau - on their leadership. He also quoted National Hero The Right Excellent Errol Barrow in his 1968 graduation address in which the then Prime Minister suggested that the efficient growth of the university was the path to prosperity and that it needed to serve the communities which support and sustain its activities.

"The vision painted by Errol Barrow is at once vaulting and ambitious but also nuanced and qualified. It can remain our guide for the next 60 years as it has the first 60," Principal Landis said. "The resolve of the previous principals in achieving this vision for a public university is obvious when we consider the expansion of the academy in several dimensions: the physical infrastructure of the campus, the expansion of the student body, the full range of academic degree programmes, the quality and accreditation of its degrees, and our expansive research output. None of this could have been possible without the closest collaboration between the campus and successive Barbadian governments, and more specifically, ministers of education who showed the depth of their commitment to the efficient growth of the university as the path to prosperity."



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



Sir Paul Altman
Chairman, Campus Council
The UWI, Cave Hill Campus

The Principal said the university was unwavering in its commitment to the region and will continue to fully support its development.

Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley agreed that the campus has made a defining difference in the quality of life of Barbados and its people. She urged the administration of the campus to ensure the institution remained fit for purpose, bearing in mind that countries globally were becoming increasingly insular.

"That humanising influence which The University of the West Indies has perfected as a key part of Caribbean civilisation will make the defining difference in our being able to punch above our weight. I thank all who, over the course of the last 60 years, have made this legacy possible. Of course, there are many who are long gone but their families remain, and [we] remember the sacrifices they made in pursuit of building this great institution. Those who are there now ... are being asked to craft a future with a global vision but with less available than at other times in your history. We know [it can be done] ... if we try a little harder."

"Let us not hold on to the things of the past purely because they felt comfortable, but let us ensure we craft programmes and produce citizens who are equal to the task

of the time for it is only when we do that, that it makes sense to celebrate the legacy of the past, not as a historic reality but as a platform for prosperity into the future."

A number of alumni who have developed into Caribbean leaders, captains of industry, and good global citizens were identified by the Chairman of Cave Hill Campus Council, **Sir Paul Altman**.

Chair of the Cave Hill 60th Anniversary Planning Committee **Dr. Henderson Carter** said the celebrations seek to achieve several objectives: provide opportunities to reflect with pride on past achievements and struggles and project a path for the future; build great cohesion, collegiality, and comradery within the academy; develop strategic partnerships with external stakeholders; and give back to the community it serves. ●



The Hon. Mia Amor Mottley
Prime Minister of Barbados



A festive parade around Cave Hill Campus on 20 January 2023 officially kicked off a year of celebrations for the institution's 60th anniversary. Students, including members of their various clubs and associations, accompanied by faculty and staff, retirees and alumni, were joined by a Marching Band, Tuk Band, Mother Sally, and campus mascot Chilli in an exhibition of exuberance.



Festive Parade Kicks Off *Jubilee Celebrations*



The first stop during the mid-afternoon procession was at the **Leslie Robinson Building** where Principal Professor Clive Landis and his predecessor, Professor the Most Honourable Eudine Barriteau, unveiled a portrait of the first principal of The UWI, Cave Hill Campus at the entrance of the building that bears his name.

Along the route, students of the Faculty of Culture, Creative and Performance Arts staged a theatrical performance at **Quaw's Quest**, the monument erected in honour of William Quaw, one of the 295 enslaved persons who, at Emancipation, occupied the lands on which Cave Hill Campus is currently situated.



Professor Landis officially declared the anniversary celebrations open at the end of the parade, reminding the gathering that: *"The Cave Hill Campus is a community; a community of students, of scholars, support staff - and when they get older, they become alumni and retirees - but we are a community, and it is as a community that we got to where we are."*

"For the next 60 years, we will take our inspiration from Leslie Robinson who took that first step with 118 students, and look at where we are now," he added.

The parade activities culminated with performances by musical artistes including the Cavite Chorale, Red Plastic Bag, Mikey, Mr. Blood, and Chrystal Cummins-Beckles-Holder, and spoken word artist Adrian Green.

The year-long celebrations are being held under the theme **Resolute and Resilient.** ●

Calls to Revamp Education System



Dr. Ramona Archer-Bradshaw
Chief Education Officer, Barbados

Barbados's top education administrator wants a review of the education system to ensure that students receive instruction that is relevant to their current and future needs.

"When we think ahead, we have to ask ourselves, what do we want our future to look like? What are the competitive advantages that we want our students to have as they go out into the real world? What are the distinctive competencies that we want them to have and how should we teach them?" Chief Education Officer, **Dr. Ramona Archer-Bradshaw** told a virtual audience.

She was addressing **The UWI Schools of Education Biennial Online Conference** which was held 15–16 June last year under the theme **Reimagining Education for Global Sustainability**.

Dr. Archer-Bradshaw announced that as part of the steps to reimagine Barbados's education system, the Ministry of Education recently completed a strategic plan focusing on imagination, transformation and the leading of education for a future Barbados.

She outlined five specific goals set under the plan which included “... the learning outcomes of our students, improving teachers’ quality of instructional leadership, enhancing the physical infrastructure, strengthening the operational functioning of this ministry, and enhancing our regulatory framework.”

The education administrator noted that any reimagination of the education system must be systematic, sustainable, and based on research.

“I know when we speak of education, there’s a tendency to focus on Sustainable [Development] Goal Four that speaks to the inclusive and equitable quality of education and promoting lifelong opportunities for all. However, we must recognise that Sustainable [Development] Goal Eight is extremely important. [It] deals with the promotion of sustained inclusive, and sustainable equitable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.

“The two sustainable development goals are inextricably linked. It means that we have to find a way for our education system to prepare our students that they’re able to function as contributing citizens in the future,” Archer-Bradshaw said.

Technical Specialist in Education Development Management at the St. Lucia-based **Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission, Germain Anthony,** highlighted the need to go beyond reimagining the education system and addressed other critical areas that he said were not receiving enough attention.

“I’m speaking specifically to the values and what I would call an appropriate philosophy for what kind of citizen, whether it be OECS, CARICOM or global citizen, that the education sector should be trying to create. And therefore, the education sector must be reconfigured to



“We [are] really focused on trying to develop a digital learning ecosystem that would support lifelong learning ...”

produce exactly that kind of citizen. I know, also, there’s a lot of focus on technology and how this can facilitate the reimagination, and on education and transitioning to more distributed modalities for learning ... but there really ought to be a more concentrated focus on what are these values.

“I think any young citizen should be aware of these existential threats that they are facing: climate change; Right now, we’re all dealing with this high inflation period; If you’re living in the Caribbean, you’re probably experiencing a lot of Saharan dust; The COVID-19 pandemic has given us a lot to think about. We need to think about what kind of citizen is equipped to deal with these kinds of challenges. What kind of citizen is able to think about the solutions that can really allow us to continue to inhabit this planet for, hopefully, thousands and thousands of years to come,” he stated.

Anthony also pointed to the need for further technological development: “We [are] really focused on trying to develop a digital learning ecosystem that would support lifelong learning, and the idea is that this would be a type of platform ... or environment that promotes learning at all levels, at all stages. And [whether it be] the K-12, higher education, professional development, there’s a lot that we’re in the process of doing.

“But more important than that is the philosophy that learning is continuous. And I think that is something we need to embed in the minds of all of our children in school: that you never stop learning; and in the minds of our educators, that you never stop learning,” Anthony said. ●

“Regional States Cannot Go It Alone”

Head of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat is confident the 15-member states and five associate members of the grouping can successfully navigate the economic fallout of the pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

But the process will not be easy and no state can do it alone, CARICOM Secretary-General, **Dr. Carla Barnett** warned, even as she pledged secretariat support to aid in the economic turnaround. She said the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), although a work in progress, can play a critical role in these efforts because it offered infinite possibilities to drive regional economic growth, social mobility, prosperity and sustainable development.

The regional administrator was speaking on the occasion of the **2nd Distinguished Owen Arthur Memorial Lecture** held on 5 September 2022 under the theme **The Future of CARICOM: Charting a Vision for the Region's Economic Advancement**. The event was organised by **The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill**, the **Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy and Services**, and the **Caribbean Development Bank**.

In her lecture subtitled **“Making the CARICOM Single Market and Economy a Lived Reality Towards Building Sustainable Economic Development and Resilience”**, Dr. Barnett focused on the challenges, opportunities and risks, related to the roadmap for the effective functioning of the CSME, that are confronting member states. She said the post-COVID economic woes have compounded prevailing risks and uncertainties confronting small states, and these threaten to erode the

With COVID and the conflict in Ukraine exacerbating the situation, the CARICOM Secretary-General insisted that deepening regional integration would alleviate supply constraints and structural rigidities associated with the small size of the states.

"We should not lose sight of the strides that the region has made towards forging a common market, a common identity, a single economic space and shared values. However, these achievements give no cause for complacency because there is a lot of work to do."

development gains achieved within the community.

"These risks include the burden of sharply rising inflation, supply-chain disruptions, food insecurity; fragmentation of trade, investment and financial networks, as well as cybersecurity risks. Moreover, heightened regulatory action on the money laundering, terrorism financing, and global taxation landscapes continue to present significant challenges to the CARICOM states. These challenges cannot be met by countries acting alone. They demand, and they are receiving collective attention and action from our community."

Dr. Barnett was clear that some of the economic problems predated the pandemic and were caused by a host of issues, such as high public debt, limited fiscal space, increasing public sector wage bills, and debt related to disaster recovery. With COVID and the conflict in Ukraine exacerbating the situation, the CARICOM Secretary-General insisted that deepening regional integration would alleviate supply constraints and structural rigidities associated with the small size of the states. She said CARICOM Heads of Government have also recognised the need to speed up implementation and strengthen collaborative efforts to reinforce resilience in the face of these unprecedented shocks and threats.

At the same time, she said although the leaders have made headway in



CARICOM Secretary-General
Dr. Carla Barnett receives a token of appreciation
from SRC Director Dr. Jan Yves Remy.

several areas, more work was needed on such issues as regional transportation, the cost of food, and taxation arrangements. In addition, the administrator suggested that CARICOM states needed to embrace a digital strategy that opens the region to the opportunities presented by technological advances and adapt its external trade and economic strategy to embrace new opportunities for South-South cooperation, including with Africa.

The Secretary-General also spent some time addressing concerns about the slow pace of implementing aspects of the CSME and insisted that the regional integration effort, despite setbacks, has been a model that other regions have sought to emulate.

She echoed some of the viewpoints of former Barbadian Prime Minister and economist, the late Owen Arthur, on the importance of regionalism that she said remained as relevant and applicable today as when they were first put forward.

"Much has been said about the implementation deficit in CARICOM and that the success of the CSME has been less than overwhelming. This discussion often ignores what has been achieved and does not consider the challenges inherent in attempts to implement aspects of the CSME. I repeat the words of Owen Arthur: 'The CSME is a work in progress. Regional decision making must be complemented with national action – given that CARICOM is a union of sovereign nations.' This, I believe is where we need to focus our attention in order to accelerate implementation."

"While our implementation of the CSME has not kept pace with the vision of the architects of the Treaty [Treaty of Chaguaramas], I am convinced that a momentum is building towards implementing key outstanding commitments arising from the Revised Treaty and to shape a 21st-century agenda that focuses on the critical issues that must be addressed in order to deliver a sustainable future for our region and our people." ●

Dire Warning for Caribbean Economies

by Marie-Claire Williams

As Caribbean governments begin to rebuild from the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, they are being warned that time is running out to construct resilient economies.

The dire warning came from President of the **Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)**, Dr. Hyginus “Gene” Leon, in an address to the inaugural **Business and Management Research Think Tank** organised by the Sagcor Cave Hill School of Business and Management (SCHSBM) on 23 September.

“In the wake of the massive disruption wrought across the region and the world over the last three years by the COVID-19 pandemic, we must revisit our fundamental roles and responsibilities in economic development,” Leon cautioned.

Drawing on 20th century history, the economist pointed to the United States where, in the face of the Great Depression in the 1930s, the then President Franklin D. Roosevelt proposed what he called “*The New Deal*” - a series of programmes aimed at stimulating economic recovery, reforming the financial system, tackling poverty, and reducing unemployment.

Nearly a century later, the Caribbean is setting similar goals in the wake of the pandemic and other global events.

“When COVID hit in 2020, real



Dr. Hyginus “Gene” Leon
President, Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)

economic activity contracted by 7.6 percent. The region’s small size and openness to trade make it inherently vulnerable to macroeconomic shocks. However, the high level of export concentration significantly reduces our ability to recover from these shocks.

“The impact of the pandemic on all of the region’s economies has been unprecedented; but the effect on service-oriented economies was particularly devastating, resulting in declines as high as 18.8 percent. Commodity-based economies did not fare much better, registering contractions of as much as 13.5 percent,” Leon said.

The former Associate Professor at **State University of New York** at Old Westbury also pointed to the impact of COVID-19 on individuals across the region: *“Behind these numbers were lives severely disrupted by reduced remittance flows, loss of income or income reductions, socio-economic obstacles to the delivery of education, and uneven access to health services. Poverty*

alleviation, health, education, and social safety protection systems were adversely impacted, and more than 6,000 lives were lost. In the face of the catastrophe, the effectiveness of governments’ responses was constrained.”

The region’s economic woes were further compounded by the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine war, just as countries were beginning to emerge from COVID restrictions. The ongoing conflict has impacted commodity and financial markets, increased inflation, disrupted supply chains, and heightened food insecurity. These are the reasons, he argued, that the region needs a new deal.

“If we can learn anything from recent events, it is that we cannot prevent the

shocks. However, we can withstand their impacts if we prepare our economies by building resilience. To be clear, we need to build resilience of the economy – people, institutions and markets. But resilience takes investment, [and that] is why we need a new deal,” he said, noting that the private sector will have a critical role to play in reviving the economy.

He told the gathering of business leaders, faculty, and students that approximately US\$100 billion is needed over the next decade to finance the scale of initiatives necessary for building resilience and achieving sustainable development in the Caribbean.

“Between 2023 and 2030, the deadline established by the **United Nations** for achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals**, the region will require at least \$40 billion for sustainable energy, US\$22 billion for water and sanitation, \$11.5 billion for transportation, \$13 billion for agriculture and food security, and \$12 billion for digital transformation.

“Our governments cannot do it on their own. Even in collaboration with development financing institutions like CDB, it would be mission impossible for the public sector given the high debt levels and shrinking fiscal space. This level of financing will only be harnessed through partnerships, and this presents ideal opportunities for business and industry,” he stated.



The Hon. Sandra Husbands
Minister of State in Foreign Trade and
Business Development

Minister of State in Foreign Trade and Business Development **Sandra Husbands** noted that at a time when the world is facing unprecedented disruption and uncertainty, academia and civil society must play a central role in helping Barbados and its regional neighbours navigate the challenges and opportunities.

“As the Government of Barbados continues to stave off the deleterious effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on economic activity and the dampening of the livelihoods of the average citizen, it is

conceded that Barbados’s response must take the form of a unified approach. Steps must be taken and appropriate measures must be put in place to continue to reverse the downward trend of the past three years.

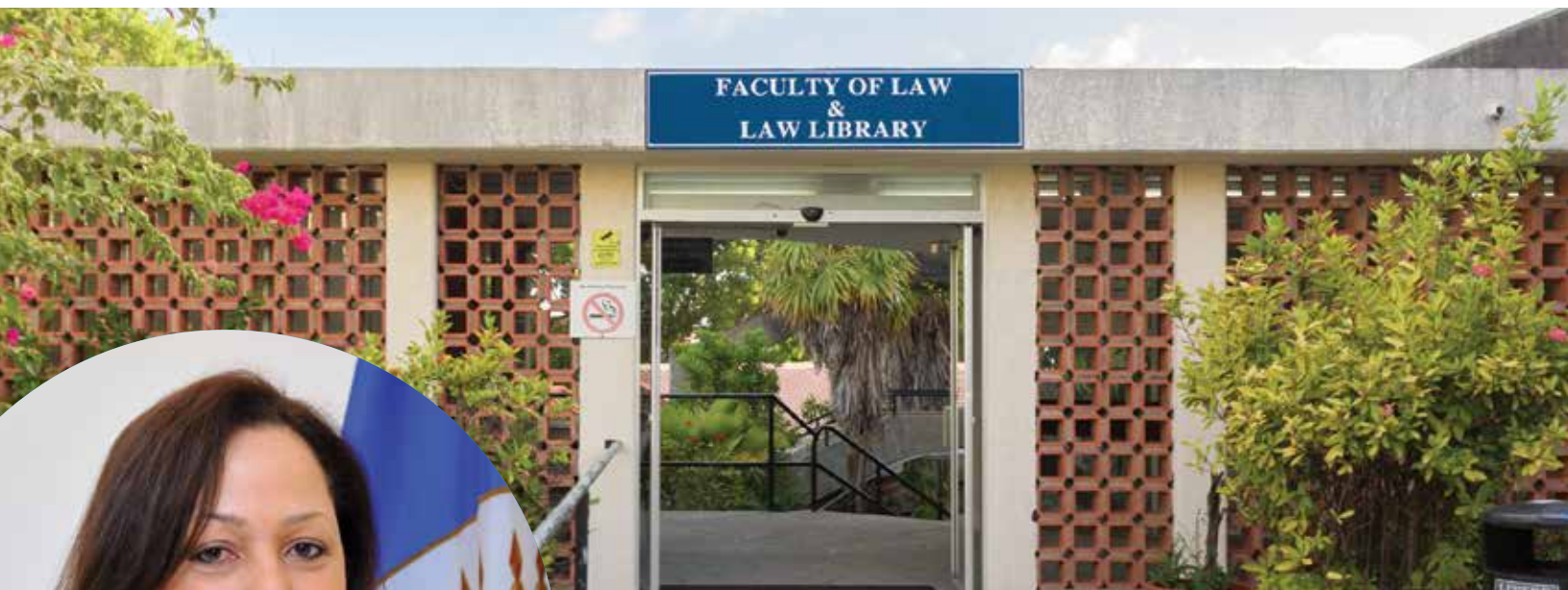
“Reports have indicated that in Barbados, the unemployment levels increased from 10.1 percent in 2019 to 15.2 percent by the end of 2021, consistent with the occurrences in unemployment trends across the globe. **The International Labour Organization (ILO)** has also projected that global unemployment will remain above its 2019 level until at least 2023,” Husbands reported.

She welcomed the creation of strategic partnerships such as the **Business and Management Research Think Tank**, saying it will serve as a springboard for the conversion of knowledge, research and innovative ideas of respected scholars and business leaders to provide learned insights into the pressing social and economic issues in Barbados and the Caribbean.

Interim Executive Director of the SCHSBM **Dr. Dion Greenidge** stated that think tanks lead research and advocacy that are critical to the needs of industry and businesses at the time, with a view to positively influence public opinion and public policy. ●



(left) Davidson Ishmael, Minister of Industry, Innovation, Science and Technology was among officials in attendance



Faculty of Law 'Punches Above Its Weight'

The Faculty of Law at The UWI, Cave Hill Campus has been credited for 'punching well beyond its weight' and making invaluable and immense legal contributions that have helped to shape and define Caribbean societies.

The glowing assessment was given by former Pro Vice-Chancellor of Graduate Studies and Research at the St. Augustine Campus, **Professor Rose-Marie Belle Antoine**, an alumna of the faculty. Months after this evaluation, she was promoted to the post of Principal of the St. Augustine Campus.

On 30 March 2022, Professor Antoine delivered the fifth and final lecture in the **Distinguished Lectures Series** that was part of events held to celebrate the **50th Anniversary of the Faculty of Law** at Cave Hill. In speaking on the topic **"The UWI Faculty of Law's Contribution to the Caribbean"**, she sought to cover the breadth and depth of its contribution to legal and social development, which she admitted was enormous, prolific and impactful.

"There are certain areas where the faculty has led the way, not just in jurisprudence but policy direction, legal reform, social reform and development. Many of these subjects were interrogated

through substantial consultancy work by the faculty or individual members, and they produced influential technical reports on a wide array of significant subjects. That started from the very beginning of the life of the faculty."

The professor said the contribution of the Faculty of Law extended beyond an advisory capacity as many of its graduates went on to become presidents, prime ministers, judges, administrators, attorneys-general, international jurists, and legal drafters and have served and continue to function in numerous other positions of influence.

"We have, therefore, been placed in positions with direct responsibility and opportunity for real change and development, and these opportunities have been seized. Our founding fathers

envisaged us contributing to Caribbean development directly and indirectly. Certainly, out of the huge contributions, dominant themes emerge asserting a proud anti-colonial, independent Caribbean identity, protecting our sovereignty and hegemony, protecting equality and social justice and correcting existing inequities."

The lecture by the award-winning scholar, author, and temporary Court of Appeal Judge focused on jurisprudence, more specifically, the published works of faculty scholars that have contributed to the maturation and development of Caribbean society. She listed influential works of the former Dean of the Faculty of Law, **Dr. Nicholas Liverpool**, who later became President of the Commonwealth of Dominica; another former dean, **Telford Georges**, on chattel houses; **Kenny Anthony's** thesis on hybrid legal systems (he went on to become a prime minister of St. Lucia); **Dr. Kathy-Ann Brown's** shiprider's crusade that spoke to ships dumping in Caribbean waters; **Professor Ralph Carnegie** on the Westminster model; **Margaret DeMerieux** on preamble rights in the constitution; and **Francis Alexis** on *When is an Existing Law Saved?*

The two-time winner of the **Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence** for research and public service said the faculty was firm and clear that it was not enough to learn the letter of the law but the philosophy of the law as well and to understand the meaning and purpose of law in society. She said this helped inform its position that the region needed to have its own final appellate court in the **Caribbean Court of Justice**.

"We must be enveloped in this notion of what a Caribbean legal infrastructure is to be. What is a Caribbean legal identity that would fit neatly into and enhance and elevate the society in which law

must operate? I really think the value of the faculty has been in being able to contextualise, frame, imagine and articulate these important core issues of the day."

Noting that credit should be given for legislative development through consultancies on domestic violence, child marriages, and maintenance, Professor Antoine stated there was a long way to go in interrogating the constitutions.

"The question remains as to whether we are living the dream of our independence constitutions. I think some marginalised people appear to be excluded or invisibilised. So we have brought in some of the LGBTI rights, but we have not fleshed out gender, for example, as much as we can. There's still a lot of work there to do. A lot of it has been done in terms of legislation, but we have not been able to effectively challenge or stretch these concepts of what sex means or women's rights, in general, in our constitutional jurisprudence."

"In fact, there have been very few constitutional challenges on that, and that

might be part of the reason. We still have quite moronic legislation. For example, in Trinidad, we still have a statute that says in the police force if a woman gets pregnant, she could be dismissed. These laws need to be tested."

Professor Antoine said regional courts have largely abdicated their responsibility to interrogate the constitutional instrument to bring about real maturity in the legal infrastructure with regard to gender but explained that is not because the faculty has been lax on the issue.

She noted the faculty has also excelled at positioning its historical and political experience in current jurisprudential realities and the identification and exposition of the unique hybrid legal systems in the region. However, the professor suggested it has not done enough on matters relating to legal history and reparations. Furthermore, she stated the work that has begun in relation to Small Island Developing States, the impact of climate change on the environment and renewable energy must continue. Looking to the future, she said there should be more focus on interdisciplinary studies. ●



Faculty of Law, Cave Hill has been moulding legal minds since its establishment.



Civilisational Crisis from Miseducation

Renowned Black studies scholar in the United States (US) **Professor Joyce King** is recommending that school curricula in Caribbean states undergo a serious re-examination to remove all attempts at miseducation. The **Georgia State University** professor said this miseducation has been perpetuated in education systems worldwide, including in the US, and has contributed to what she described as a civilisational crisis.

The professor delivered the keynote address during The University of the West Indies, **Schools of Education Biennial Online Conference** held from 15 to 16 June under the theme **Reimagining Education for Global Sustainability**.

"I ask you to consider how your colonial past may continue to hold a grip on education and the society where you are. The curriculum must change."

Addressing the topic **"Education for Liberation Using Our Ancestors' Wisdom to Stay Human"**, Professor King had other words of advice for the educators: *"We need to look at our culture, go back and fetch what we are risking by leaving it behind for success defined by someone else's standards. We remember our ancestors to deepen our sense of identity, to seek to know, to clarify, to remember, and to understand the ways our fathers and mothers carried on the struggle for integrity and freedom in their time. A more hopeful future is possible when educators*

really love Black children and honour the heritage knowledge of all the children and families we serve."

The overall contribution by the Black studies scholar centred on lessons learnt from her experiences, how those influenced her work, her resistance to miseducation and what she called historical erasure and distortion. She prefaced her presentation by stating that while the 17 targets in the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals** were laudable, achieving them would be difficult given the realities of Black lives everywhere.

"We might indicate that education for liberation and human freedom is something that we can include in the goals of sustainability," she said.

The professor issued a rallying cry to her audience when she repeated words she first uttered publicly in 2000 and that have been referenced over time, including in the book *Black Education: A Transformative Research and Action Agenda for the New Century*.

"To attack the roots of our miseducation, our cultural annihilation and economic subordination, we must undo the entrenched system of thought that has justified our predicament, as history has taught us our particular wrong is a reflection of the general state of injustice here and elsewhere that calls us to action."

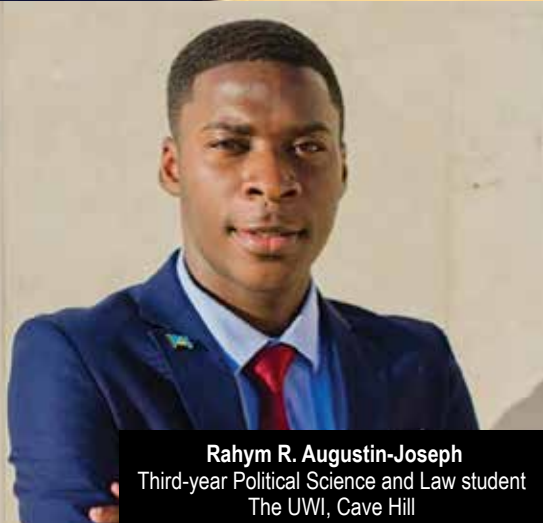
"When we take a global perspective on these issues, we're talking about preparing young people and teachers to realise that our struggle is a struggle for the benefit of humanity."

During the conference, many papers were presented and discussed on a range of topics, including **"Re-conceptualizing Educational Leadership and Student Wellbeing for Global Sustainability"**, **"Breaking Barriers to Inclusive Education"**, **"Inclusive Education and Psychological Wellbeing Through Schools"**, and **"Engendering Cultural and Indigenous Practices in Education"**. ●

Analysing The Seeds for a Homegrown Constitution

Reflections on the 17th Annual
Patrick A. M. Emmanuel Memorial Lecture

by Rahym R. Augustin-Joseph



Rahym R. Augustin-Joseph
Third-year Political Science and Law student
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It was not by happenstance that Barbados and other Commonwealth Caribbean countries, at the turn of political independence, were victims of an imposed constitutional architecture and political system with all of the trappings of the former colonial powers and with little to no modifications. As a matter of fact, the Commonwealth Caribbean continues to hold on to the trappings, like a godchild whose godparents have not bothered to take care of them and who have moved on with their lives. In most instances, there was little input from the peoples in determining

the makeup, functions and purposes of their constitutional and political architecture, which meant, according to Simeon McIntosh, that our Independence Constitutions were not and are still not our own. In solving this dilemma and ensuring ownership, we must heed his advice of repatriating our constitutional instruments and no longer loitering on colonial premises long after the expiration date. The expiration date should signal our commencement of reimagining our independence project, where for the first time, we should embark upon our constitutional remodelling from within, not seeking to solely borrow from foreign models and concepts.

It is this urgency of the need to no longer loiter and, in turn, imbue 'the seeds for a homegrown constitution' which, in part, ensures that there is an indigenous creation of institutions, processes, and governance structures that emanates from

the specific visions, hearts and souls of the people of Barbados. This informed the 17th Annual Patrick A. M. Emmanuel Lecture delivered by **Professor Richard Albert** and held by the Department of Government, Sociology, Social Work and Psychology.

In his lecture, Professor Albert provided important guidelines and recommendations on what is required to imbue 'the seeds of a homegrown constitution'. One would not be incorrect if they asserted that the former proposals and reforms in Barbados merely tinkered at the edges and did not rescue the Constitution from its foreign imposition. Some might even argue that the most recent **Constitution (Amendment) (No.2) Bill** that mirrored some of the recommendations in the **Forde Commission**, which removed and replaced the Governor General with a ceremonial President, provided the office with similar powers, and changed the mode of appointment, was the commencement of

'Homegrown' must also be defined delicately, as we must find mechanisms to persuade our peoples that a mirrored constitution is not limited to the tyranny of their majority but must also protect minority rights.

planting the seeds of a homegrown constitution. However, it is my view that much more is required if these seeds are to be classified as homegrown.

Dr. The Hon. Ralph Gonsalves is possibly the front-runner of this perspective when he noted that, “... we must have established and institutionalised a homegrown Head of State, reflective of the people’s own image, likeness, faith, love, and hope; and this will finally exorcise the last formal vestige of the incubus of colonialism, and we must move away from the debilitating fiction of a foreign sovereign. A monarchical system of government headed by a foreign queen, as it then was, and which has been in place in Barbados since the early years of the 17th century, is not merely alien in its definitional essence; it has evidentially created ghosts which people, subversively, [made] our dreams.”

UWI Lecturer **Dr. Ronnie Yearwood** while still fervently supporting republicanism believed that this was merely tinkering at the edges, as there should have been more consultation with our peoples. Moreover, utilising other models, we could have determined new powers, appointment processes, and functions for this new President, as opposed to replicating the powers of the former Governor General. It is my view that the road to the ‘purist’ version of republicanism is one marked with more than replacement of the Governor General with a President. This road must be travelled in its entirety by this reform process.

However, in order for us to build this Republican Constitution, and for us to give ourselves the homegrown constitution we always wanted, according to Professor Albert, there are certain considerations and general principles which we must heed.

What is a Homegrown Constitution?

It is said that the first consideration is to determine what a homegrown constitution is. It is homegrown or autochthonous if it derives its force and validity from its own native authority. For us, this implies a lack of imposition from colonial powers and deliberate inclusion of the voices of the people. Therefore, many people must first be acutely aware and educated on the importance, nature and impact of the Constitution and participate in its formulation. We must aggressively wrestle with the commonly held view that it is a document only for lawyers, intellectuals, political scientists, and judges and devoid of any meaning for ordinary people.

Professor Richard Drayton, lamenting on our constitutional crisis, is apt when he noted in part that “our profound and unacknowledged constitutional crisis is not of any kidnapping and commanding of the branches of government, but a crisis of both the governors and governed and their relationship with the res publica to the commonwealth. That despite the right to vote and even sit in parliament, we do not have a sense of ownership of and a duty of care towards the state, society, and the law. This is a problem of our Constitution.”

Our current iteration of our reform, according to Professor Albert, must therefore treat our Constitution as a ‘verb’ and not only a noun. It must be treated “as it is an action, as becoming and rebecoming, based on the present values of the people, as that is what it means for people to give itself a living constitution, one which is constantly revisable, refinable, not static, but dynamic and receptive to change.” It is only when our Constitution is a verb that we build responsible citizens and define a collective identity.

A homegrown constitution, according to Professor Albert, is one that originates with the people, reflects their opinions and values, and allows them to express their trepidations and aspirations. However, ‘home’ is a difficult place to define in the context of the migratory patterns of our civilisation, and one must interrogate and factor in varying definitions, inclusive of the diaspora, which will inform our approach. As the process unfolds, the role and sway of the diaspora in the constitutional making process will be of utmost importance.

‘Homegrown’ must also be defined delicately, as we must find mechanisms to persuade our peoples that a mirrored constitution is not limited to the tyranny of their majority but must also protect minority rights. In this context, it is difficult when there are so many varying wants, needs and aspirations that must be managed, even as one engages with all people, interest groups and other stakeholders that will inform our constitutionalism.

Moreover, in this era of regionalism, globalisation and global



citizenship, 'home' is even more difficult to define, as there are demands of us to conform to the homogenous requirements of the international world order, as sovereignty continues to be eroded. Our treaty obligations may cause us to be defining 'home' in accordance with the international order.

People-Centric Constitution Making: Balancing Flexibility, Rigidity, Promises, Enforcement, Endurance and Suitability

Professor Albert is correct in noting that a homegrown constitution can only be achieved by appropriately balancing the various aspirations and diverging views of people. The difficulty emerges in determining the pragmatism of what is and what is not appropriate. The first balancing act is between **flexibility** and **rigidity**, as the Constitution must not be too easy or too difficult to amend.

Most constitutions do not balance this properly, and they provide one procedure to amend all articles, whether it is routine or transformative. The best mechanism, according to Professor Albert, is to ensure that there are separate procedures for constitutional amendment and dismemberment. He noted that an **amendment** is an authoritative change to the fundamental law of the jurisdiction, which elaborates, restores, corrects or reforms the meaning of the Constitution consistent with the basic presuppositions of the Constitution. Amendments therefore need to be easy to occur as they're merely housekeeping. On the other hand, a **dismemberment** exceeds the boundaries of the Constitution and transforms something major and goes against the nation's core ideas and commitments. It might change the

fundamental rights and freedoms or the basic structure doctrine, and it may seek to disassemble one or more of a constitution's basic parts. These should obviously have more difficult and comprehensive processes than for amendment.

In this era of constitutional reform, we therefore need to address issues such as the savings law clause which protects pre-independence colonial laws from review by the courts and imposes difficult processes for amendment. However, the **Caribbean Court of Justice**, in *Nervais v The Queen & Boyce and Joseph*, has noted that the savings law clause should be narrowly construed, interpreted in accordance with our treaty obligations, or modified. Notwithstanding, McIntosh has noted correctly that it still exists as being “*caught in a time wrap, continuing to exist in its primeval form, immune to the evolving understandings and effects of the rights of people like a worm in the mango of our Constitution.*”

Moreover, the issue of the high threshold requirements of referenda in St. Vincent, Grenada, Antigua and Barbuda, among others, where attempts have been made to transform the polity, must be addressed. Albeit the threshold shows rigidity and democratic legitimacy, it may be impractical when compared to our history of

voting patterns across the region, especially when its success is trapped in the web of partisan politics and a lack of an education campaign on the amendments. Therefore, our homegrown Constitution must not only wrestle with voter apathy but scientifically and culturally determine the proper threshold needed for amending our Constitutions. Barbados must, therefore, determine in this iteration what procedures should have the highest status so as to ensure that they attract higher procedures for dismemberment, and these may be some of the social democratic norms which, over the years, have formed part of the Idea of Barbados.



Members of the Constitutional Reform Commission: (from left, standing) - Suleiman Bulbulia, Senator Reverend Dr. John Rogers, Khaleel Kothdiwala, Adriel Brathwaite, Senator Gregory Nicholls, and Chris de Caires; (from left, sitting) Kerryann Ifill, Mary-Anne Redman, Christopher Blackman, Sade Jemmott, and Professor Cynthia Barrow-Giles

Promises and Enforcement

Another balancing act that must be done is between **promises** and **enforcement** of fundamental rights. The Constitution is the citadel of protecting rights, but only those rights which it can actually enforce. Beyond our non-justiciable **Charter of Barbados**, our new charter should not encompass a myriad of rights that cannot be enforced, as the literature has shown that those countries with the most codified rights have been unable to enforce them, as seen in Ecuador, Brazil and Angola. Recognising the unenforceability of the text of constitutions, we must strengthen the enabling institutions that enforce these rights if we are to increase our bundle of rights whether it be basic, catalytic, aspirational, or pragmatic.

However, it is important in our constitutional reform process to not utilise our lack of institutional structures to prevent us from expanding our bill of rights to include social democratic norms, positive liberties, economic and social rights, and horizontal application of rights that underpin the fabric of our society. The question then becomes whether the right to education, healthcare, strike, join trade unions, among other social democratic norms must form part of our new iteration. The resolution must be to build these structures, summon the political will, and look towards other models for guidance.

However, Professor Albert is correct in that if these rights are expanded and not a lived reality, people will believe the Constitution is meaningless. It is for this reason the pragmatic bill of rights is most effective where the state recognises that it cannot deliver on the full gamut of rights and enacts an aspirational non-justiciable bill of rights. It therefore seeks to reduce the gap between the lived reality and the written text of the Constitution.

In our context, this may be antithetical to our political culture, as it is characterised by the constant need to vindicate our rights before the judiciary and the removal of this opportunity will be problematic. Therefore, we need to build other institutions to resolve human rights breaches, such as the **Human Rights Commission** in Guyana.

Moreover, the question of whenever is the right time and who determines the move beyond aspirational to pragmatic and

actionable may always haunt our constitutionalism. Though our constitutions may well be aspirational and not a will and testament, it is important that our bill of rights is not strangled at the altar of pragmatism. Furthermore, a balance must be struck between rights that can be subsumed under secondary legislation and those that must be given constitutional primacy. Also, it is important that we do not take for granted that because people espouse rights that are nowhere in the written text of the Constitution means that these rights should never have constitutional status. It may mean that there is a bundle of rights that seems to be sacrosanct among people and should be given, if appropriately applied to our context, constitutional status.

In the end, if our Constitution is to strike the proper balance between **endurance** and **suitability**, it must be, according to Professor Albert, flexible, specific, and inclusive where the latter seeks to bring many different parties together with the goal of consensus through various mechanisms, including digital, in-person engagements, and *via* referenda. In the end, our goal must be what Maurice Bishop has noted: *"This time round, this Constitution will come from the bowels of our people and our earth."* ●

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Constitution Review

by Cynthia Barrow-Giles and Rico Yearwood



After becoming a republic in November 2021, Barbados has embarked on the second stage of its planned constitutional overhaul. To this end, a newly established **Constitutional Reform Commission** has been mandated to consider and propose any matter for inclusion, exclusion or modification in a new Republican Constitution for Barbados. While there are reasons for optimism, there are also concerns with the legal limitations of the Commission. Further, the final arbiter of the substance and form of the new Constitution will not be the Barbadian society at large or even the Commission but, in fact, the Parliament of Barbados. Much, therefore, will depend on the extent of political will to effect fruitful constitutional reform.



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The Constitutional Reform Commission and its mandate

On the heels of public criticism that the Government of Barbados intended to transition to a republic without the benefit of nationwide consultation, popular mobilisation and other critical reforms, Prime Minister Mia Mottley promised Barbadians that beginning January 2022 and into 2023, a programme of public consultation would commence with reference to the concomitant constitutional reform project. On 24 June 2022, the ten-person **Constitutional Reform Commission** (“the CRC”) was launched under the Chairmanship of retired Justice Christopher Blackman. That it took some

six months to do so may be partly explained by the fact that in December 2021, the Prime Minister announced a snap election for 19 January 2022, and thereafter, the Government had to contend with the continued onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Attorney-General, Dale Marshall, with overall responsibility for the CRC, noted the disquiet but justified the seeming delay citing the elections and strain of dealing with COVID-19 and adding, “We had to make sure that the Commission is well funded because ... in order to have the kind of in-depth consultation ... that a modern Barbadian is entitled to and would want, we have to make sure that a lot of systems are put in place.” He further stated, “... We have been methodical in our work in getting this process off the ground and in making sure that the best possible arrangements for this Commission are put in place. There simply can be no false steps.”

Unlike other Constitutional Reform Commissions set up elsewhere in the Commonwealth Caribbean, which have been established by specific pieces of enabling legislation (such as in Guyana and St. Lucia), the CRC was set up under the *Commissions of Inquiry Act Cap. 112* (“the CIA”) that provides for the President of the Republic to appoint commissions of inquiry as advisory commissions “*whenever he deems it expedient in the public interest*” to do so. Granted, this mechanism for the establishment of constitutional reform commissions is not peculiar or novel to Barbados given that the CRC’s predecessors – the **1979 Cox Commission** and the **1998 Forde Commission** – were likewise established under the CIA.

The Constitutional Reform Commission has received a sweeping and boundless mandate to consider and propose any matter whatsoever for inclusion, exclusion, and modification in the new Republican Constitution for Barbados.

The warrant of appointment of the CRC contains its Terms of Reference and instructions and specifically provides for the CRC to undertake four tasks within a very constrained timeline of 15 months:

- to examine, consider and inquire into the Constitution of Barbados and all other related laws and matters with a view to the development and enactment of a new Constitution for Barbados;
- to make recommendations to the Government on the reforms that would meet the circumstances of a 21st century Barbados and promote the peace, order, and good governance of the country;

- to provide for consideration a draft Constitution; and
- to make recommendations on all matters which in the Commission’s opinion are relevant to the attainment of the aims and objectives of the establishment of the Commission.

Clearly, these four tasks, individually and collectively, confer on the CRC a sweeping and boundless mandate to consider and propose any matter whatsoever for inclusion, exclusion, and modification in the new Republican Constitution for Barbados.

Further, the warrant of appointment of the CRC provided for two strategic objectives: namely, to consult the people of Barbados, nationally and in the diaspora, on the content of the Constitution and the desirable reforms; and to prepare and disseminate relevant material to widen public knowledge of and interest in the Constitution of Barbados and accordingly, the draft Constitution. In a real sense, then, the CRC is supposed to operate as a conduit between the citizenry and the Government relative to the creation of Barbados’s new Constitution.

Reasons for optimism or skepticism?

Based on the foregoing, two issues are clear. Firstly, beyond the broad matters outlined above, the warrant of appointment issued under the CIA is silent on a number of procedural matters, which therefore provides the CRC with tremendous latitude in determining its rules of procedure and *modus operandi*. This can be a double-edged sword. On the one hand, the unbridled discretion may be seen as a blessing since it affords the CRC the ability to conduct its proceedings and operations in any manner that it sees fit to optimally fulfill its monumental tasks

and objectives. On the other hand, the same discretion may be perceived as a curse since it also creates the scope for the CRC to skirt around procedural imperatives that may be necessary, in the public’s interest, for the CRC to properly discharge its mandate. One such procedural imperative is ensuring that all available platforms or avenues are employed for engagement with Barbadians far and wide.

Groups and communities whose representation were strikingly excluded from the membership of the Constitutional Reform Commission include the main opposing political parties and the academic and LGBTQIA communities.

Secondly, the members of the CRC were selected by the Attorney-General, who was given the overall responsibility for the setting up of the CRC, and therefore, cannot be said to be the result of negotiated broad-based consultation. While the members themselves reflect a wide cross-section of society, including various professional affiliations and encompassing youth, religious and gender diversity, the decision to confine the membership to ten persons carried with it certain limitations. Thus, from the outset, the composition of the CRC faced criticisms from the public with concerns over what is viewed as its fundamentally exclusionary nature. The Rastafarian community, for instance, holds the view that it was objectionable and disrespectful to ostracise Rastafarians from the membership of the CRC when other demographics in society are represented. Ras Simba, the spokesperson for the Rastafarian community, expressed his indignation after the launch of the CRC by stating, “*We are here now in 2022 and*

Rastafari ... has come and established themselves as an integral part of the society ... We feel very slighted, and we look at the table and we see almost everyone else being represented at the table: Muslims represented, education represented, colonial Christianity represented ... I am glad that all of these other facets of the society are represented, but that means that Rastafari should also be represented." Other groups and communities whose representation were strikingly excluded from the membership of the CRC include the main opposing political parties and the academic and LGBTQIA communities. Critics contend that the CRC could have been more reflective of an inclusive microcosm of the Barbadian society had there been an open and democratic consultation with the parliament and civil society. The notable absence of such crucial representation and democratic consultation could give rise to the public perception that the CRC is, for all intents and purposes, a political and not a technical CRC.

Overall, however, while the consultation process will be rooted in deliberation and largely advisory, it is anticipated that the process of constitution making will be defined by extensive public consultations reflective of the acceptance of the importance of participatory and democratic constitution-making processes. While the Attorney-General noted that in the process of constitution making, "[t]here are to be no sacred cows," this does not necessarily indicate there will be large-scale fundamental changes to the current system. This is especially as the Attorney-General referenced a 2005 draft Constitution, prepared by the Prime Minister when she was Attorney-General, as a starting point for the Commission, which did not conceive of significant departures from the previous political system and conventions. Therefore, while Barbados's Republican constitutional reform project is a cause for

much optimistic anticipation, it may equally be seen as a cause for a great deal of skepticism.

Limitations of Commissions established under the Commissions of Inquiry Act

Commissions of inquiry are notorious for being seen as politically expedient, organised to avoid difficult and contentious matters. Indeed, as a commission of inquiry is simply a fact-finding body appointed by the Government, such commissions cannot enforce any of the recommendations made even after a rigorous process of consultation and drafting instructions. The attendant consequence is that all or a substantial number of its recommendations can be rejected by the Government, or even if accepted, the Government may or may not choose to pursue any further action on the matter. In that respect, the promise of meaningful constitutional reform may remain unfulfilled. For instance, out of the 64 recommendations submitted by the **1979 Cox Commission** in its report, no more than three were implemented. Correspondingly, a vast majority of the recommendations made by the **1998 Forde Commission** were not enacted. Nevertheless, this is not limited to commissions set up under Commissions of Inquiry Acts, as the **Saint Lucia Constitution Reform Commission** shows – a Commission which was established by and under a distinct statutory instrument. It took the Government of Saint Lucia five years to discuss the mammoth report with its most consequential recommendations for reform being rejected by parliamentarians without the benefit of public consultation. To date not a single recommendation has been acted upon. Put simply, in these contexts, more often than not, Constitutional Reform Commissions are virtually toothless.

Conclusion

The process of constitution making in Barbados since the announcement that the country would transition to a republic has been nothing short of piecemeal with much depending on the CRC's Report, its draft Constitution, and ultimately, the response of the Cabinet of Ministers and Parliament to the proposals, whatever the merit of such proposals. In a recent public lecture, Honourable Justice Jefferson Cumberbatch, Justice of the Barbados **Court of Appeal**, stated that the Barbadian society will be the draftsmen of their new Republican Constitution. This may sound good theoretically. Practically speaking, however, the final arbiter of the substance and form of this new Constitution will not be the Barbadian society at large or even the CRC. The final arbiter will be the body charged with making and re-making the Constitution of Barbados, namely, the **Parliament of Barbados**. Therefore, what this new Republican Constitution will look like, or if the country will have any at all, will largely be dictated by the extent of political will to effect fruitful constitutional reform. ●

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Students Thrilled to Be Back on Campus

A festive atmosphere, complete with food and music, gave some students their first real taste of fraternising with peers when face-to-face gatherings among students resumed at the start of the academic year.

"It's a very nice vibe. It just feels like UWI is back to being UWI in the way it was before, and it's great!" exclaimed Shanice Forde of the **Barbados Students' Association** as she summed up the mood at the **Orientation Fair and Inter-Clubs Committee (ICC) Expo**.

The event, held annually during Freshers' Week to help new students settle in and introduce them to various clubs and associations, was suspended in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and hosted virtually in 2021.

The carnival-like atmosphere, which prevailed when the expo returned as an in-person event last 8 September, allowed students to show their exuberance of being together again. Representatives





of various faculties and departments, clubs, societies and island associations set up stalls to promote their activities and recruit new members.

Like many of her peers, Daniella Williams spent the first two years of her academic career attending classes virtually. Now into her third year, the President of the **Trinidad and Tobago**

Student Association is finally getting the opportunity to have a real campus experience.

"It was refreshing to see the prospects of face-to-face [interaction] and actually being able to come out to events rather than go to a virtual activity," she said.

"My first year was the first year of virtual school. So I was actually worried

that I wouldn't have gotten an in-person experience because the way coronavirus was going it was looking a bit dismal for a while, but this is refreshing," she added.

Students from St. Lucia were happy to share some of their culture with their regional colleagues through a variety of local food, such as bakes and cheese and cocoa on display, among others.





Expressing his delight at the occasion, Brad Gideon, Welfare Officer of the **St. Lucian Students' Association**, said he was particularly happy for the interest shown by his fellow students.

"We had a lot of new St. Lucian students [whom] we didn't know were here; they got an opportunity to register, so we're thankful for that. And we're just appreciative of the support that we have received from the fellow island associations."

He also welcomed the chance to interact with his colleagues in person after two years: *"I am extremely happy because I'm on my final year, and I felt like COVID ... took away two years of an experience of a new place. [I am] experiencing the school, the events, the social life as well as being in the classroom; so I'm happy that I'm back."*

One of the main attractions was the chance to win a season ticket to Dominica's **World Creole Music Festival** in October.

President of the **Dominican Students' Association (DOMSAC)** Abigail Christmas was excited to meet new colleagues from the other islands.

"Today was the first time I got to experience a face-to-face ICC Expo and I must say it has been a fulfilling experience. We had many people coming to our table

and enjoying how we display our culture; we appreciate that. A lot of students were buying our tokens so they can [represent]] 767. We also had a lot of other students who are not from Dominica sign up for DOMSAC today, and this is one of our goals; other nationalities can experience the Dominican culture in DOMSAC."

Christmas's counterpart from **Antigua and Barbuda**, Kezron Jackson, was looking forward to participating in more social activities during the academic year.

"I think going back face-to-face has really revived campus life, having been online for two years. I think a lot of students are happy to now be back to face-to-face, not only for the academic aspect, but especially because of the social aspect. Events like these enable a lot of the students to go around and engage each other. I'm meeting a lot of people I didn't even know before from all over the Caribbean," he said.

Angel Bol, Welfare Officer of the **Belize Students' Association at Cave Hill** was only too happy to partner with his colleagues to share information about their country.



"Belize is such a diverse country; it's like a melting pot with so many different ethnicities. I feel that we really had an outreach today with the other Belizeans, Bajans and also Trinidadians and everyone else at UWI. I would like to say thankyou to everyone who came out to show support to us, and hopefully, we are out here next year." ●



Cave Hill Reclaims Title as Moot Champions



Mckaeda Augustine



Rawletta Barrow

The Cave Hill team of **Rawletta Barrow** and **Mckaeda Augustine** walked away with the top prize in the **4th China-Caribbean International Law Moot Court Competition** last June.

The Faculty of Law duo came up against teams from the **China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL)** in the much-anticipated return of the competition that had been put on hold for two years because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The moot topic was “**Dispute Between the Republic of Independent Marianne and the Republic of Tranquillita on Maritime Delimitation**”.

It was the second time Cave Hill won the overall prize, following their initial triumph in 2018. A CUPL team won the inaugural title in 2017 when the competition was introduced.

The remaining awards in the competition, held virtually from 10-12

June, were shared among competitors from both universities. Barrow was named the **Best Oralist** of the **final round** of the competition, while the Cave Hill team of K-Jel Smithen and Michael Patrick along with Xu Yue and Li Yijia won the **Spirit Award**. CUPL’s Li Yijia was named **Best Oralist** of the **general round**, and compatriots Li Chanjuan and Zhang Qingxin won the **Best Memorials Award**.

Ahead of the competition, Principal of the Cave Hill Campus **Professor Clive Landis** said he anticipated it would be intense.

He lauded the CUPL on the achievement of its 70th anniversary and said the close relationship between the two learning institutions has resulted in significant partnerships, including through the Confucius Institute at Cave Hill, the teaching of a law course by a lecturer from the CUPL and other collaborative initiatives with the Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy and Services.

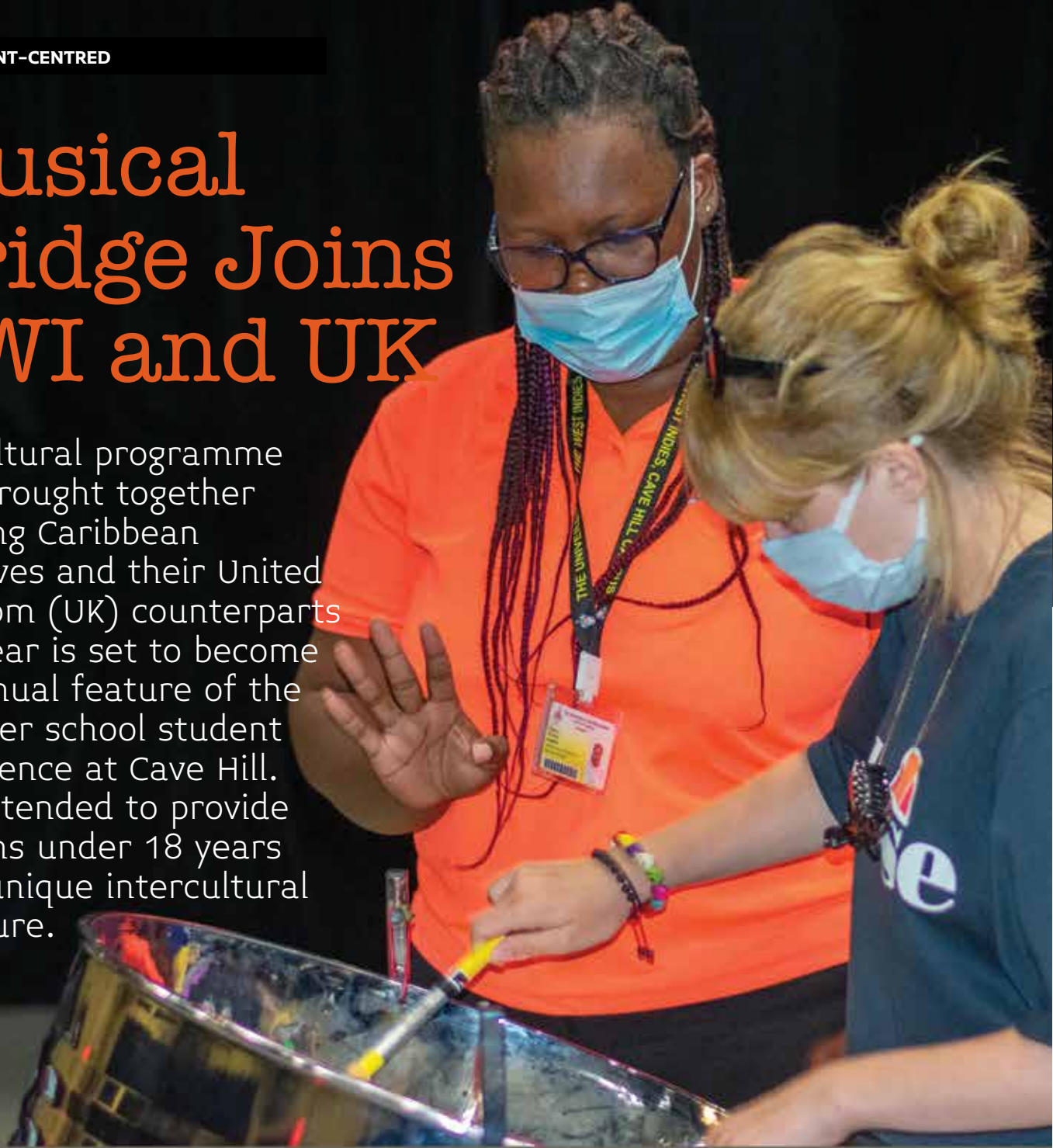
President of CUPL **MA Huaide** spoke of the expanding cooperation and deepening friendship between the universities and said the teams overcame many challenges to hold the moot court online for the first time. He said the competition has attracted many legal talents and outstanding students, promoted the internationalisation of the two universities and the cultivation of legal professionals.

“Thanks to the moot court, the teachers and students of our two universities have improved mutual understanding, broadened their international vision, developed their practical ability, and forged a deep friendship.”

The annual moot court competition was jointly founded by Cave Hill Campus and CUPL. Logistical issues in 2019 led to a debating competition being held that year rather than a moot court competition. ●

Musical Bridge Joins UWI and UK

A cultural programme that brought together aspiring Caribbean creatives and their United Kingdom (UK) counterparts last year is set to become an annual feature of the summer school student experience at Cave Hill. It is intended to provide persons under 18 years with unique intercultural exposure.



The cultural interaction took place alongside the two-week **Imagine Youth Summer**

Arts Programme as the campus partnered with London-based School **Street Vibes Academy** to facilitate a **Digital Music and Media Youth Workshop**. The 14-day programme, which began on 21 July

was facilitated through the Faculty of Culture, Creative and Performing Arts at the Errol Barrow Centre for Creative Imagination (EBCCI).

EBCCI's then Acting Manager **Nicole Pinder** said the annual initiative will create valuable opportunities for youth in both countries to share expertise and explore different musical genres.

*"The programme offers a great opportunity for the young people to be exposed to the different styles of music. On our end, we offer the youth from the **Street Vibes Academy** the experience of playing traditional instruments, and they, in turn, expose Barbadian youth to digital music", she noted.*



Nicole Pinder
former Acting Manager, EBCCI

She added that given the high interest shown in the initiative and the realised benefits, the collaboration would be an annual event that will continue under the faculty's **Imagine Youth Summer Arts Programme** that is run yearly, July to August. In addition, it is anticipated that there will be a few updates to the workshop.

Managing Director of the **Street Vibes Academy**, **Sonia Ramanah** expressed her delight at the rich experience gained by participants: *"A major objective of our school is to seek wider access to opportunities for our students who are underprivileged and would not normally have such access. We aim to expose our young people to the history and tradition of other*

cultures by observing it live, and this programme is one way we can achieve this," she said.

Head Teacher of the **Street Vibes Academy**, **Orlando Clement**, who is of Barbadian descent, conducted the training exercises with the participants who comprised a mix of Barbadian youth and British, Russian, Ukrainian, and South African counterparts living in the UK.

Expressing her excitement at attending the workshop, Barbadian participant **Chioma Hunte** stated: *"It is fun to interact with young people from different countries and cultures ... I believe it will help broaden my musical experiences. I am also looking forward to creating new beats and playing in a band with the other participants."*



Hanna Bragg of **Street Vibes Academy**, who is originally from South Africa, said she was grateful to be exposed to different instruments that are used in the Caribbean.

"The experience has been very eye-opening. I got the opportunity to learn new instruments that I was otherwise not familiar with. I was also able to gain new knowledge of traditional instruments and their effect on Caribbean culture," Bragg shared.

The exchange programme is part of the **Music Bridges Culture** project which is sponsored by the Department of Education in the UK through the **Turing Foundation**. ●





Cave Hill medical students have gained access to state-of-the-art training equipment that allows them to bridge the gap between theory and practice and gain invaluable experience.

Dr. Keisha Thomas-Gibson
Medical Simulation Specialist, Faculty of Medical Sciences
The UWI, Cave Hill Campus

Medical Students Acquire Simulation Equipment

The **Resusci Anne** high-fidelity simulator and supporting equipment, located in the **Cato Burton Simulation Suite** at the **Errol Walrond Building, Clinical Skills Complex** of The UWI, Cave Hill Campus, provide a safe environment for students to practise and enhance their skills before moving on to real patients.

At an unveiling ceremony last May, Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences **Dr. Peter Adams** said the teaching tool facilitates the development of skills related to physical examinations, procedures,

diagnostics, therapeutics, resuscitation, critical thinking, clinical reasoning, problem solving, and teamwork.

"Simulation teaching allows a student to acquire clinical skills through deliberate and repetitive practice without the need of patients. While using the skills on real patients is always the goal, with simulation the students can make mistakes and hone skills, making actual clinical contact more meaningful," he said during the opening ceremony.

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the campus **Professor Clive Landis** said the suite will not only boost clinical skills development for students but also support



Campus Principal **Prof. Clive Landis** and Chairman of the Cato Burton Foundation, **Prof. Sir Errol Walrond** cut the ribbon.

the training of medical practitioners.

He credited his predecessor, **Professor the Most Honourable Eudine Barriteau**, for laying the groundwork with the support of the **Peter Moores Trust** and the **Arnott Cato Foundation**, now renamed the **Cato Burton Foundation**.

Professor Landis said the project bridges his strategic vision and that of the former principal: *"The high-tech simulation suite fits perfectly with Professor Barriteau's SMART Campus vision and my vision for the Cave Hill Campus to access revenue streams through the export of our higher education services. We have several irons in the fire to attract international students to our medical programmes, which like tourism counts as an export industry."*

Chairman of the **Cato Burton Foundation**, **Professor Sir Errol Walrond** said the project had special importance to the foundation that was forced to dip into its trust fund for financing, after the pandemic resulted in a loss of sponsors and affected the staging of their traditional fundraiser.

"We did this because we think good simulation training can make a big

difference to life-saving skills for medical and nursing students, postgraduate students and practitioners, particularly in accident and emergency, anaesthesia, surgery, and medicine."

Sir Errol appealed to beneficiaries to give back to the foundation so it can

continue this and other initiatives.

Director of Support Services at the **Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH)**, **Louise Bobb** described the new teaching tool as a progressive step that would help with training and the professional development of those at the QEH.

During the opening ceremony, attendees were treated to a live simulation demonstration led by

Dr. Keisha Thomas-Gibson, Medical Simulation Specialist in the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Clinical Skills Complex. ●

STUDENT-CENTRED



Attendees at the unveiling of the new equipment





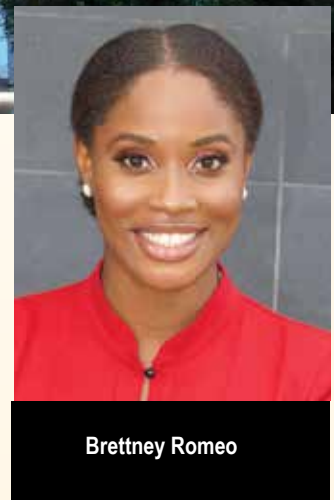
Two Delighted with Their African Internships

Internships provide invaluable experience for job seekers as **Adiella Lewis** and **Brettney Romeo** can attest after completing recent job placements with the **African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank)**.

The two University of the West Indies, Cave Hill students were the first awardees since President of Afreximbank **Professor Benedict Oramah** announced the initiative following a meeting with Principal Professor Clive Landis last September.



Adiella Lewis



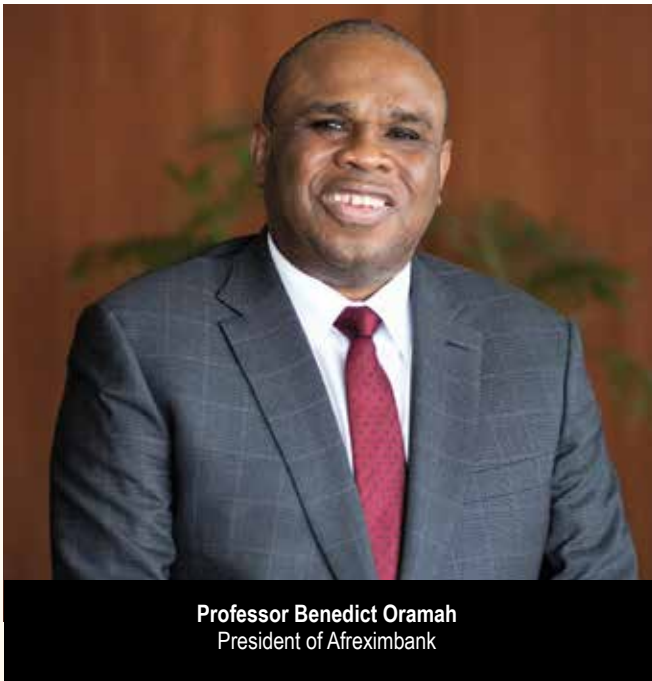
Brettney Romeo

Lewis and Romeo, who are graduates of the Masters in International Trade Policy (MITP) at the **Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy and Services (SRC)**, expressed their delight for the opportunity.

"I feel truly humbled and excited to have had this internship experience and to be a part of an organisation with a multicultural work environment," said Romeo. *"I would like to thank the Shridath Ramphal Centre's MITP and Professor Winston Moore, Deputy Principal of The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, for sharing this amazing opportunity with us."*

Her colleague Lewis also voiced her gratitude, stating: *"Participating in Afreximbank's internship programme was an incredibly transformative experience [for] which I continue to be deeply appreciative."*

The **Afreximbank** specialises in providing trade finance to the African continent with the goal of developing and promoting trade in Africa. The duo said they were inspired to seize this opportunity following the first ever **CARICOM-Africa Summit** held virtually on 7 September 2021 at which the bank was represented.



“Undoubtedly, there is potential for deepening Africa-Caribbean trade relations to benefit both regions,” Romeo stated. “Following the CARICOM-Africa [Summit] held in 2021 and the commitment to foster increased trade, investment, and people-to-people engagement between the two regions, I felt this was the perfect opportunity to discover areas of opportunity for the Caribbean region,” he continued.

Lewis noted the ongoing, concerted effort to increase cooperation between the two regions: *“Given their intertwined histories, shared developmental challenges, and the [onset] of the coronavirus, it is imperative that CARICOM and Africa collaborate to navigate issues such as climate change, poverty, and food insecurity,” she said.*

Romeo, who completed her six-month internship virtually during June to December 2022, shared that the experience provided her the opportunity to better understand international trade by bridging the gap between theory and practical experience.

*“With this internship, I was able to foster a wider network that spans two regions and create further awareness about the value and potential of Africa-CARICOM relations. I was particularly grateful to attend the inaugural **AfriCaribbean Trade and Investment Forum (ACTIF) 2022** that took place in Barbados. Through this forum, I was able to experience first-hand the creation*

of a platform for cultural and strategic partnership between business communities in Africa and the Caribbean region in an effort to advance trade and investment opportunities in both regions,” she added.

Lewis spent the duration of her internship at the bank’s headquarters in Egypt working with a number of the bank’s key departments. The aspiring trade specialist was afforded the opportunity to embark on several missions including **ACTIF 2022** and visits to the bank’s regional offices in Abuja, Nigeria; and Harare, Zimbabwe.

*“These invaluable experiences, and my time with each of the bank’s key departments, have given me an incredibly unique perspective and understanding of not only the challenges but the multitude of possibilities for growth and development available to developing and least developed countries within the African and Caribbean regions. As such, I am incredibly grateful for and eager to use the knowledge and experience gained during my internship with **Afreximbank** in the next stage of my career,” said Lewis.*

She anticipates that her internship experience *“will open doors for other [UWI] students to pursue internships not only with **Afreximbank** but other organisations in Africa and globally.”*

Director of the SRC Dr. Jan Yves Remy noted that the centre’s flagship programme offers students like Romeo and Lewis the



possibility for similar prospects.

*“I am pleased that our students were afforded this opportunity. We prepare them for the real world of trade and international affairs, and this was wonderful chance for them to test what they have learned in a new and different environment. We thank **Afreximbank** and encourage more institutions to open their doors to the young minds of this region,” Remy said.*

Afreximbank was established in Abuja, Nigeria in October 1993 by African governments, African private and institutional investors as well as non-African financial institutions and private investors for the purpose of financing, promoting and expanding intra-African and extra-African trade. The bank is headquartered in Cairo. ●

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Tara Skeete
RBC Scholarship winner

Race for the Kids Puts Tara on the Road to Success

by Carol Williams

Her journey to complete higher education has not been easy. The 25-year-old was forced to work multiple jobs while studying, had to delay her studies while trying to save the necessary funds and, at one point, dropped out of university. Now enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Accounting and Finance degree programme, she is a top performer.

From her early teens, Skeete was acutely aware of the financial struggles of her parents who did not have the opportunity to pursue tertiary education. The money they made from doing odd jobs made taking care of her and her two siblings difficult. The situation prompted Skeete to begin working as soon as she completed secondary school at age 17.

A year later, in 2017, she enrolled at The UWI, Cave Hill, to pursue a BSc in Biology. While studying, she worked three jobs to support her family and meet the \$7,000 annual tuition fee. At the

The saying that adversity builds and reveals character could not be truer for Tara Skeete, a second-year student at Cave Hill who has been faced with countless obstacles but endured, persevered and triumphed.



time, the Barbados Government had ended its free tuition policy for Barbadian undergraduate students. Her school grades suffered.

"My parents were separated, so that meant bills came in twos. I was working extra shifts wherever I could to make a little extra money, and I had no days off. If I wasn't at school, I was at work. Along with the financial burden, it was also becoming harder and harder to keep up in class since my mind was preoccupied with issues at home. To say it was difficult was an understatement, and a year later, I dropped out of university."

Despite this, Skeete never lost sight of her higher education goal and decided to put aside money to achieve it. However, her savings were wiped out within months during the COVID-19 pandemic. And though many people would have focused on the negatives, she used it as a teaching moment.

"Being the only person in my household who was called back out to work in the initial months of limited reopening meant there was no room for any type of savings. But the more experience I gained working without a degree, the more urgency I felt to return to school. Be that as it may, I cannot regret those years I chose to work over continuing my studies, as they have moulded me into the person I am today, reiterated the value of education and reminded me of my long-term goals."

After the Government of Barbados reversed the tuition policy in 2018, Skeete applied for the BSc in Accounting and Finance and was accepted in the 2021 cohort.

She did not let the fact that she was living pay cheque to pay cheque, which made budgeting for school very difficult, throw her off track. Instead, she applied for the **RBC Royal Bank Scholarship** and was approved. It helped that her grade point average (GPA) was 3.9 in her first semester back.

"This scholarship was enough to get me through my first year comfortably. This was a huge weight lifted from my shoulders," she said. "The greatest impact this scholarship has given me is peace of mind; not having to worry about the complications of not being on time with my payments or not needing to work a couple of extra shifts to settle a debt I owed, had I borrowed. Being fully focused on the school was a luxury I did not have but this scholarship has afforded me. It lessened the large financial strain that came with studying at the tertiary level, and it was definitely reflected in my grades for semester two of that year where I received a 4.1 GPA. Not considering my performance before I reapplied to school, today I am averaging a 3.8 GPA."

Skeete is among the scores of students who have benefitted from the more than \$466,000 raised through the **RBC Race for the Kids** that has been held in partnership with The UWI, Cave Hill since 2017. Proceeds go towards financial aid initiatives like the **Student Hardship and Emergency Fund** and the **First Year Experience Programme**.





(from left) Managing Director, RBC Royal Bank (Barbados) Limited, **Shimon McIntosh** and Principal, The UWI, Cave Hill Campus, **Professor Clive Landis**

Following its cancellation as an in-person event in 2021 and 2022 because of the COVID pandemic, it returns in a face-to-face setting on 12 March 2023. It was during the media launch of the 2023 edition of this major fundraising event that Skeete gave her moving testimony.

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal **Professor Clive Landis** said the fundraiser was held precisely to help students like her: *"Pursuing tertiary education can present some daunting financial obstacles. And this university is of the firm belief that no one should be denied an opportunity to pursue their dream of higher education because of their financial circumstances."*

particularly during this period of national and international challenges. He said the bank was pleased to assist in the creation of opportunities for youth to realise their potential and improve their well-being.

"[The] first year at university can be a daunting experience and a big adjustment for new students. Some adjust early and thrive, while others need support. We are glad that we can help make that happen. If the first year goes well, it sets students up for a successful university study and future career." ●

"While the university certainly tries its best to assist students financially in whatever way it can, our resources are limited, and we therefore truly appreciate companies like RBC who partner with us to prioritise the financial well-being of students."

Managing Director of **RBC Royal Bank (Barbados) Limited**, **Shimon McIntosh** said the financial institution recognised the importance of providing financial aid to tertiary education,



Agreement Offers Cultural Exchanges

by Marie-Claire Williams



(from left) Prof. David Akombo, Dean of the Faculty of Culture, Creative and Performing Arts; Prof. Clive Landis, Campus Principal; and Martha Gabriela Ortega Peraza, Charge d'Affaires of the Republic of Venezuela

A new partnership has been forged between **Cave Hill Campus** and the **National Experimental University of the Arts (UNEARTE)** of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, as part of plans to increase artistic and cultural education and training between Bridgetown and Caracas.

The two institutions signed the Memorandum of Understanding last November for cooperation in the fields of arts and culture. Under the agreement, both parties will promote the exchange of students, professors, researchers, experts and artistes in the fields of performing and audiovisual arts, music, dance, theatre, and museums. They will also promote cultural production, interdisciplinary research among teachers, researchers, professionals and artistes from the different disciplines.

Principal of Cave Hill **Professor Clive Landis** said the new agreement will contribute to the cultural enrichment at both

institutions, as he addressed the virtual event in the **Jacqueline Wade Conference Room** on 22 November.

*"We eagerly look forward to the cultural and artistic exchanges between our students, faculty and staff, and their counterparts at **UNEARTE**. We know that this partnership will nurture wide-ranging knowledge and training, and artistic pursuit and practice in all its forms, methodologies and expressions.*

*"In particular, we hope, with the assistance of **UNEARTE**, to strengthen our current pedagogy in the various disciplines with the training of arts professionals in music, theatre, dance, audiovisual arts, and arts education, and in the innumerable studies of culture," Landis said.*

Principal of **UNEARTE**, **Dr. Tibisay Lucena** said her institution was proud to partner with Cave Hill Campus: *"We are honoured that this instrument of cooperation is being signed today with an institution of the importance of The University of the West Indies, and in particular, with the Faculty of Culture, Creative and Performing Arts whose Dean, Professor David Akombo, has been an enthusiastic and active promoter of this project.*

"We are also honoured that it is with Barbados for its more than half a century of independence and recent conversion to a constitutional Republic under the leadership of its Prime Minister Mia Mottley, and for the inauguration almost a year ago of its first female President, Dame Sandra Mason," Dr. Lucena stated.

Professor Akombo welcomed the signing, saying that the campus's newest faculty remains committed to contributing to the social, cultural and creative economies of the people of Barbados and the wider Caribbean. He also noted the emerging opportunities for the further development of students. ●

The UWI and Private Sector Deepen Relations

by Camille Russell



Principal of the Cave Hill Campus Prof. Clive Landis and Anthony Branker, BCCI President

Holding firm to its commitment to forge closer ties with the private sector, the Cave Hill Campus has initialled Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with the **Barbados Private Sector Association (BPSA)** and the **Barbados Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI)**.

The agreements that were signed on 23 September 2022 aim to bridge the gap between industry and academia through thought leadership, student engagement, and the strengthening of commercial and industrial interest and investment in Barbados.

One MOU outlines collaborative terms between the **Sagcor Cave Hill**

School of Business and Management (SCHSBM) and the BPSA for a **Business and Management Research Think Tank (BMRTT)** to play a critical role in driving organisational performance and competitiveness through evidenced-based solutions that are relevant to contemporary industry and business sustainability challenges. Its overall objective is to identify the needs of the business

community and address these by facilitating high-impact research that will be used to generate change such as improving business processes and the development of new sectors and industries.

The second agreement seeks to deepen the partnership between the **SCHSBM** and the **BCCI** with the hosting of an annual **Business Roundtable Forum** that is designed to bring together technical experts and private sector leaders to examine business and industry challenges. The event seeks to improve industry performance, competitiveness, and sustainability through development of solutions and policies to stimulate business environment growth.

SCHSBM's Chairman **Dr. Jeannine Comma** stated that these agreements can serve as the backdrop for propelling the local private sector into a sustainable future. Expressing confidence that the agreement could help the private sector to attain a sustainable future, she said, *"We value these collaborations and the readiness of the business community to respond to the challenge of sustainability in Barbados. Commensurate with the goals of the SCHSBM, this relationship also provides further opportunity for the school to reinforce its commitment to the sustainability agenda in line with the 2020 Sustainable Development Goals."*

She added that the signing of the MOUs *"will foster support for industry through evidence-based, high-impact research that influences policies, identifies opportunities for training and development, as well as encourage innovative and entrepreneurial mindsets within our communities."*

"We must develop a culture that kindles a passion for new knowledge and bold ideas, paving the way for creativity to flow through. As a small island developing state, our future depends upon technology and innovation," he stated.



(from left) Dr. Dion Greenidge, Interim Executive Director, SCHSBM; Paul Inniss, Executive Vice President, Sagicor Life Inc, Barbados; The Hon. Davidson Ishmael, Minister of Industry, Innovation, Science and Technology; Dr. Jeannine Comma, SCHSBM Chair; The Hon. Sandra Husbands, Minister of State in Foreign Trade and Business Development; Anthony Branker, BCCI President; Trisha Tannis, BPSA Chair; and Prof. Clive Landis, Campus Principal

SCHSBM's Interim Executive Director **Dr. Dion Greenidge** said by igniting such partnerships, the school sought to embark on the development of a more sustainable and resilient business environment.

"As one of the leading business schools in the region, SCHSBM recognises its role in contributing in a meaningful way to the development of the business environment in Barbados," he said, adding that public-private-civic partnerships are critical to the achievement of the sustainability agenda.

"These partnerships are a mechanism for financing sustainable development, as they allow for the harmonising of private and public interests, unifying entrepreneurial and government investments, developing highly effective and full-scale implementation of initiatives in the sphere of sustainable business development. The flexibility and variability of such partnerships also facilitate the applicability of sustainable development to any industry."

President of the BCCI **Mr. Anthony Branker** praised the SCHSBM for the "visionary" theme of the conference, **Developing Collective Action Towards an Innovative Landscape** and noted it addressed the impetus the business community needed going forward.

"We must develop a culture that kindles a passion for new knowledge and bold ideas, paving the way for creativity to flow through. As a small island developing state, our future depends upon technology and innovation," he stated.

He also encouraged the local private sector to embrace innovation, stating an innovation-friendly work culture is an expression of maturity.

"Incorporating a culture of innovation means taking risks and accepting a measure of unpredictability with a chance of reaping huge rewards. Our future business leaders must embrace innovation."

His sentiments were shared by **Mrs. Trisha Tannis**, Chairman of the BPSA, who said she was "extremely excited" about the prospect of the partnership initiative because of its relevance and value.

"We believe that this research will be a gift to the nation and will reposition the country [as] a strong and efficient global competitor. Given the areas of focus, mission, purpose and objectives, once achieved, the private sectors of Barbados and the region can only be rich and empowered in the need to grow and thrive for generations to come."

Principal of Cave Hill Campus **Professor Clive Landis**, who is spearheading the campus's move for deeper integration with the private sector, noted that **The UWI's 2022-2027 Strategy** has been launched on the theme **The Revenue Revolution** to bolster the institution's own income generation. He pointed out that, as part of that overarching strategy, the Cave Hill income generating strategy is themed **"Creating Value From Our Ideas"** in a bid to create value for society and value for the university by diversifying the campus's income streams.

"I therefore see a great convergence today in the strategies of The UWI, the Government and the private sector that are collectively focused on creating opportunities for our citizens, developing technologies and products to help advance our society, and overall, improve the quality of life within our region," Principal Landis said.

The SCHSBM has had a long-standing relationship with the local private sector dating back to 1991 when it was established as the arm of the campus to assist business executives and leaders to thrive in the global environment. ●

Accounting Students Receive Support from Audit Firm

Deloitte & Touche

Accounting students are set to receive financial and professional support from one of the leading international audit firms, under a new agreement signed with The UWI, Cave Hill Campus.

Cave Hill and **Deloitte & Touche (Barbados) Limited** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at Deloitte's office in August last year to undertake development programmes under Deloitte's **WorldClass** initiative, the company's social responsibility programme. The three main areas covered by the agreement are the enhancement of workforce readiness and soft skills of UWI students, the creation of a BDS\$5,000 scholarship to incentivise outstanding students, and increasing Deloitte's brand presence on the campus.

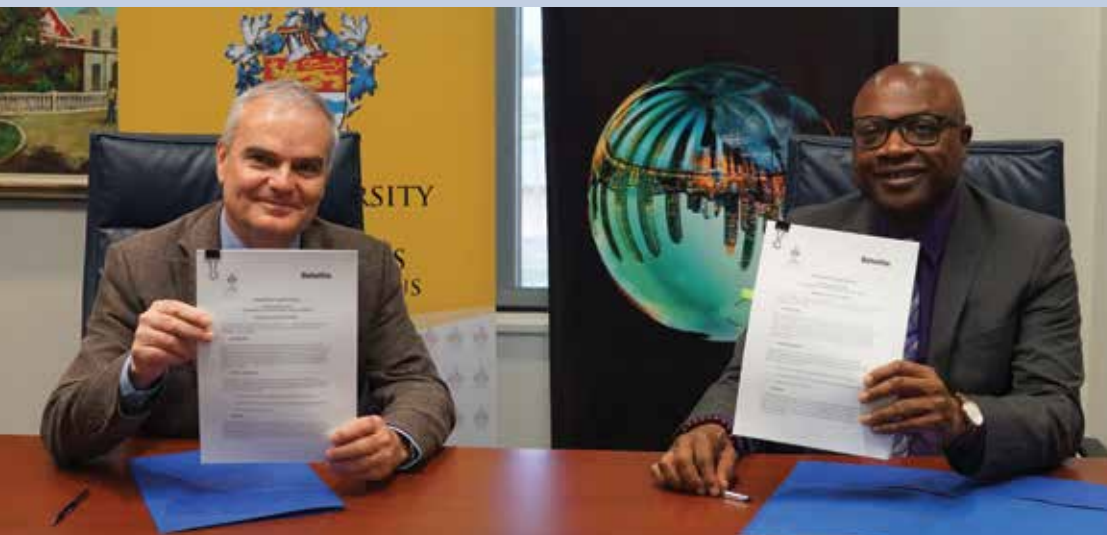
The **Deloitte Excellence Award – The Toppin Walker Scholarship** is a one-year award named in honour of two of its founding partners **Patrick Toppin** and **Gordon Walker** and will be open to nationals of Barbados who are new students in the Accounting (Special) Programme.

Under its **Workforce Readiness** programme, Deloitte will create a leadership track for a select number of top performing students from across all faculties as the programme aims to equip high performers with digital, financial and business strategy skills, as well as soft skills such as creativity, complex problem solving, emotional intelligence, and critical thinking. Students will be paired with staff and clients in Deloitte's network for one-on-one coaching, job shadowing, and career conversations with leaders or entrepreneurs. There will also be group training sessions.

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Cave Hill Campus **Professor Clive Landis** in welcoming the initiative said, *"The new partnership with Deloitte is very pleasing to me, as it fits the campus's strategy to engage more deeply with the business community in Barbados for mutual benefit. Our students will benefit from Deloitte's **Workforce Readiness** programme to develop soft skills and leadership skills through hands-on experiences at Deloitte, a globally respected business with diverse staff and clients. The MOU also includes **The Toppin Walker Scholarship** open to students reading for an Accounting Special and sees refurbishment of benches with the Deloitte brand dotted across the campus for students' use."*

Ikins Clarke, Managing Partner and Talent Leader for Deloitte Barbados, expressed his enthusiasm about the possibilities of the initiative: *"I am personally delighted to be associated with this initiative, being a graduate of this esteemed institution. Deloitte takes its corporate social responsibility seriously, and we are therefore extremely proud to be able to positively impact the lives of our future leaders and captains of industry."*

The MOU covers the period 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. ●



(from left) Principal of Cave Hill Campus **Prof. Clive Landis** and Managing Partner and Talent Leader of Deloitte & Touche (Barbados) **Ikins Clarke** seal agreement.

Postgraduate Students Receive IDB Support



Viviana Alva Hart
Country Representative IDB Group
in Barbados

Four postgraduate students who were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic have received some much-needed support from the **Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)** to continue their studies.

The bank contributed grants totalling US\$10,000 in response to a special year-long campaign launched in December 2020 by The UWI's Office of Business Development. That campaign raised

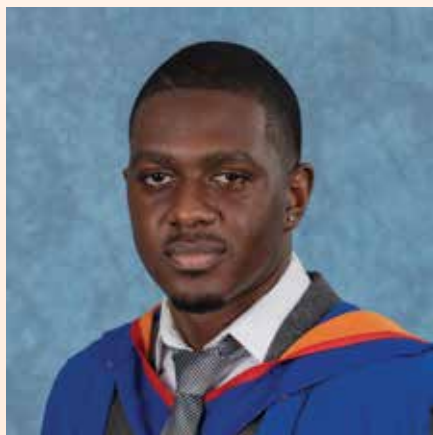
BDS\$52,000 in scholarships and grants, as well as other in-kind financial contributions at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. The awardees are **Shem Jean**, who is pursuing a Master of Science (MSc) in International Trade Policy; **Donley Stapleton**, MSc Finance; **Shaneé Small**, MSc Labour and Employment Relations; and **Jabarie John**, MSc Counselling Psychology.

Country Representative IDB Group in Barbados **Viviana Alva Hart** said, *"The IDB has long maintained a mutually beneficial and multifaceted relationship with The UWI in Barbados – from providing internship opportunities for students to collaborating with faculty on knowledge products and events. We were happy to support this scholarship drive, knowing that one of the main challenges identified during the height of the pandemic was the inability of students to pay tuition fees. We congratulate the scholarship recipients and wish them continued success in their studies."*

Principal of The UWI, Cave Hill Campus **Professor Clive Landis** thanked the IDB for stepping forward to assist the students: *"These IDB scholarships provide an academic lifeline for students who may have faced the prospect of withdrawal from their programme of study due to the financial constraints brought on by the pandemic. The scholarships are a testament to the IDB's continued commitment to the growth and development of our students at Cave Hill, and we are highly appreciative of their support."*

Scholarship recipient **Shaneé Small** expressed profound gratitude to the IDB for its assistance: *"I am grateful to the team at the IDB. Your generous financial support has allowed me to continue the path to achieving my dreams and ambitions and making them a reality. When I graduate, I hope to use my knowledge and skills learned at The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus to make a difference in many lives the same way you have made a difference in mine."*

In December 2021, the **IDB**, the **IDB Invest**, and **The UWI** signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formalise a new phase of cooperation and deeper collaboration. This MOU focuses on joint research, initiatives, and exchange of knowledge to help drive economic and social recovery and growth in the region. It also identifies innovation, digital transformation and inclusion, and climate action and resilience as priority areas for expanded collaboration. ●



Donley Stapleton



Shaneé Small

Law and Health Research Unit Off to a Dynamic Start



Less than two years since its launch in July 2021, the **Law and Health Research Unit** in the Faculty of Law at Cave Hill is making meaningful progress in upskilling regional professionals and advancing public health advocacy.

The unit has staged several successful training activities, including through collaborations with agencies and institutions within and outside the region.

Key among these activities were two short courses on **Introduction to Global Health Law** and **Introduction of Non-Communicable Diseases and the Law** that were offered in partnership with the **Global Center for Legal Innovation on Food Environments**, an initiative of the **O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law** at Georgetown University. The courses attracted participants from the **Caribbean Public Health Agency**, the **Caribbean Development Bank**, the **OECS Commission**, regional law schools and regional attorneys, among others.

Law Lecturer Nicole Foster, who is Head of the unit, said the short courses

partnership had such an overwhelming response that a decision was taken to offer them on an annual basis.

She indicated that **The UWI** and the **Global Center for Legal Innovation on Food Environments** are working on an arrangement where, *inter alia*, the **Law and Health Research Unit** will serve as the focal point for plans for this Georgetown University entity to sponsor a UWI student to undertake an MPhil degree specialising in Global Health Law.

The unit and the **Global Center for Legal Innovation on Food Environments** are also working on a joint special issue of the **Caribbean Law Review** on *Unhealthy Food, Alcohol, Tobacco and the Law* that is expected to be published in the Spring/Summer 2023 edition and will be co-edited by Foster, and Isabel Barbosa of **O'Neill**

Institute for National and Global Health Law.

“This special issue is intended to keep the spotlight on issues of Caribbean public health especially as it relates to NCDs. We hope that this applied research can drive policy and spur the action needed to curb the incidence of NCDs in the region,” Foster said.

She also noted that the **Global Center for Legal Innovation on Food Environments** has provided the **Law and Health Research Unit** with US\$140,000 to source a research fellow and project manager to help build out the unit’s capacity. During its first year in operation, the unit assisted in training members of the **St. Kitts and Nevis Bar Association** and civil society organisations on the role of law in food policy and tobacco control.

Strategic partnerships were also formed with the **Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)**, the **Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC)** and the **Heart and Stroke Foundation of Barbados** to boost advocacy on obesity and front-of-package warning labels.

“It is clear that the unit has been very successful in the [time] that we’ve actually been operating. We were able to deliver several meaningful outputs and to fill a void within the existing regional legal landscape. From 2016 when the unit’s proposal was first made, it was felt that a law and health research unit was something that would have a positive impact. Now that we managed to actually launch it, this initial sense has been confirmed, as there has been a constant demand for this type of work and analysis,” explained Foster.



Nicole Foster
Head of the Law and Health Research Unit
Faculty of Law, Cave Hill Campus

Other activities in which the **Law and Health Research Unit** was involved over the past year included co-sponsoring a webinar on 30 May with the **HCC**, the **Caribbean Public Health Law Forum**, and **PAHO** for **World No Tobacco Day** during which four policy briefs and two case studies on smoke-free environments were launched. The publications examined aspects of attaining a smoke-free Caribbean by 2022, a pledge by Heads of the Caribbean Community that has not materialised as yet.

Foster said, “The policy briefs are intended to help governments and broader stakeholders understand the linkages between tobacco control and various sectors and why it’s important for us to follow through on our commitments under the **[World Health Organization] Framework Convention on Tobacco Control [WHO FCTC]** to implement smoke-free environments. The policy briefs discuss the linkages between smoke-free environments and the tourism, blue economy, education,

and finance sectors, while the case studies examine implementation of smoke-free environments through legislation in St. Lucia, and Antigua and Barbados.”

Foster authored the case study on St. Lucia as well as the policy briefs on education and finance, while her colleague in the Faculty of Law, Rashad Brathwaite, authored the other case study and policy briefs.

The **Law and Health Research Unit** has been playing an indirect role in the **Caribbean Public Health Law Forum** through the representation of the Faculty of Law on the forum’s steering committee and its secretariat. The **Caribbean Public Health Law Forum** is the Caribbean’s first online network that brings together a range of experts from the legal and public health spheres and is an initiative of the **Caribbean Court of Justice Academy for Law and PAHO**.

The unit’s work has included cross-faculty collaboration as seen by its recent joint submission with Professor Simon Anderson and Dr. Kim Quimby, both of the **George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Centre**, to the **World Health Organization’s** first round of public hearings on a new international instrument on pandemic preparedness and response.

As she looked to the future, Foster commented, “Bearing in mind the scale and magnitude of the region’s NCD crisis, for the foreseeable future, the research unit will continue to focus on making a difference in terms of NCD prevention and control, rather than a much broader public health agenda. Looking down the road, however, I can see the unit contributing to other pressing areas of the regional public health agenda, such as health and climate change.” ●

Autism, a developmental disability which affects one in every 59 children worldwide, should be tackled through mandatory early screenings, a leading healthcare researcher and Cave Hill alumna has argued.

The incapacity, also known as autism spectrum disorder (ASD), is a neurological and developmental disorder that is characterised by the affected individual having difficulty with social interaction and communication.

AUTISM: Coping While Caring

by Carol Williams

The **World Health Organization** has said if the condition is detected in early childhood, interventions could be developed to improve communication skills. In light of this, Senior Registrar in the Department of Paediatrics at the **Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH)**, **Dr. Gabrielle Scantlebury**, has suggested mandatory screening of children at nine, 18, 24 and 30 months by pediatricians at local health centres, for developmental delays. She also suggested that official respite centres be established to provide a safe space, at minimal cost, for those diagnosed with the disorder, while their parents recharge.

Her recommendations are contained in a study titled "**Coping while Caring: The Quality of Life of Parents of Children Living with Autism**"



Dr. Gabrielle Scantlebury
Senior Registrar
Department of Paediatrics
Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH)

Spectrum Disorders in Trinidad

that explored how children's autistic symptoms affected their parents' quality of life. The study was conducted in the first quarter of 2020 and involved parents of children formally diagnosed with ASD by a developmental-behavioural paediatrician or a paediatrician specialising in ASD.

Questionnaires were used to acquire data from those who used clinics in the north and south of the country. Most of the respondents averaged 38 years of age, were mothers, had wards who were approximately seven years old, and were predominantly from the north of the country.

Based on the results, the parental quality of life decreased significantly as children grew older. Additionally, Dr. Scantlebury reported a highly significant negative correlation between parental quality of life and the severity of the symptoms.

"In children with severe disabilities, the parents have to take care of the children longer, and they have increasing problems such as with their finances and health and still have to care for their growing children."

She said one of the most troubling issues for parents was the child's inability to socialise and communicate their needs. Other challenges were financial—having to cater to the unique needs of children with ASD in addition to providing food, shelter and clothing; and provision of extensive therapy and special education. The researcher said public schools that catered specifically for these children can be difficult to access due to high demand, and accessing private institutions that offer such services was costly.

On the issue of assistance, the parents said they did not have any respite because some family members do not understand the unique needs of the children with ASD. Dr. Scantlebury surmised that this lack of respite can lead to mental strain, anxiety, stress and increased risk of child abuse. Mothers were found to be significantly more depressed or anxious, less satisfied with their social life and leisure time, and they had more health problems. She said this was unsurprising because mothers were the primary caregivers. Despite these issues, the parents viewed themselves as having a moderate quality of life, and both fathers and mothers did not appear to have a different quality of life.

The researcher said, "Parents should have easier access to government financial grants, and this should be a streamlined process. Assessments and therapy needed to diagnose and manage children with ASD should be provided free of cost in the public sector. Specialty training should be provided for teachers, [and] there should be more free public schools and early intensive behavioural intervention programmes along with individualised educational plans."

The Senior Registrar called for public education campaigns on ASD, for systems to be put in place to facilitate easier assimilation of parents and children in communities, and further research on ASD in Trinidad. ●

UWI Scientists Involved in Global Cancer Study

by Carol Williams

A groundbreaking cancer study with global implications is on the horizon for Barbados and the rest of the Caribbean.



Prof. Simon Anderson
Director, GA-CDRC



Dr. Natalie Greaves
Coordinator of the MPhil
and PhD programmes in Public Health

Two scientists from The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill and their colleagues in The Bahamas, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago are among a team of 16 transnational investigators involved in the cancer genomics study that seeks to characterise the genetic, molecular, and social determinants of the disease in people of African ancestry. The Cave Hill co-principals are the Director of the **George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Centre (GA-CDRC)**, **Professor Simon Anderson**, and the Coordinator of the Master of Philosophy (MPhil) and Doctor of Philosophy

(PhD) programmes in Public Health, **Dr. Natalie Greaves**. The duo will collaborate with representatives of the United States-headquartered **Fox Chase Cancer Center, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center** and **Pfizer's Institute of Translational Equitable Medicine**.

Professor Anderson said it was important that Caribbean research in genomics and health has a seat at the table of discovery given the paucity of studies on cancer in people of African ancestry, particularly those aiming to understand the role of genetics.

"It's an economy-of-scale approach. Individually, we are small nations or communities; so we've pooled our resources across multiple countries to

undertake studies amongst persons with similar genetic ancestry. We are also an admixture of geographic communities, including from Europe and Asia. Thus, we seek to understand what role that admixture has (or not) in what is discovered genetically or described through observable phenotypic characteristics as it relates to cancer. We're aiming to look at a homogenous population, and our collaboration with scientists in Africa, the Caribbean and from the United States who treat patients who classify themselves as Black, will help to achieve that goal." he said.

"Our objectives are to study cancer with the same sophistication and rigour as is done in other research centres globally. This adds to science knowledge overall and benefits everyone. In this transnational study, our genomics research will contribute to a more precise understanding of managing and treating cancer, through diagnostics or therapeutics discovered from molecular studies in communities of African origin."

Some 1,030 new cases of cancer were reported in Barbados in 2015, according to the annual report of the **Barbados National Registry for Non-Communicable Diseases** undertaken by **GA-CDRC** on behalf of the **Ministry of Health and Wellness**. Women account for more than half the cases, while prostate cancer remains of greatest concern. In Barbados, prostate cancer is the cancer most commonly diagnosed every year and the one with the highest death rate. Overall, Barbados has the second highest death rate from prostate cancer in the world based on its population size and structure.

Regionally, the situation regarding prostate cancer is equally grim. Not only does it represent one of the highest rates of new cancers but cancer-related deaths as well.

Dr. Greaves spoke of the significance of the population-based study: "This is the first time, as far as I'm aware, we're having this scale of genomic and molecular sequencing to inform the creation of a biobank in Barbados."

Aside from the national, regional, and international implications, Dr. Greaves said the study was personal for her: "My family has an interesting

pattern of a particular type of cancer occurring across multiple generations, and I think for a lot of Caribbean families it's not uncommon to see these patterns and not fully understand the genetic or environmental basis. Currently, cancer treatment is evolving into a precision science heavily informed by the specific behaviour of a tumor at a genetic/molecular level. In the Caribbean, we do not have consistent access to this level of testing without sending samples out of the region; and for some persons, or families this is not possible. This study provides us with the incredible opportunity to get the genetics and molecular analysis done at a population level. It truly is a phenomenal and game-changing opportunity as to the potential insight into understanding cancer causation in Barbados and the other sites in the Caribbean."

Once the necessary ethical approvals are received and informed consent given by all parties involved, data will be collected through open recruitment. Urologists, oncologists, breast surgeons, and general practitioners are among those who will be involved in this data-gathering exercise. The study will also include cancer patients from **Fox Chase Cancer Center, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, The University of Alabama, Augusta University** in collaboration with **Morgan State University**, and other research sites in Benin, Burkina Faso, Haiti, Kenya, and Namibia. ●



Appeal to Strengthen Regional Research and Development

Against a background of greater regional focus on research and innovation, one of Barbados's young scientists is encouraging her peers to give serious consideration to developing their projects and ideas in the Caribbean.

Addressing the **2022 Faculty of Science and Technology Student Awards Ceremony** on 28 October, research scientist in Green Technology and Polymer Chemistry **Kerri-Ann Bovell** urged the awardees to take advantage of opportunities to innovate and enhance the emerging markets in the Caribbean.

Speaking on the topic **"Innovation in the World of Science: My Argument for Staying in the Caribbean"**, the recent graduate contended that because the international markets are

already saturated, regional creators may have a better chance at success by exploring opportunities within the Caribbean.

"North America, Europe, Asia, they already have an app for [almost] everything; they already have robust manufacturing industries; they already have [far] better food security than we do. But what do we have, tourism?"

"Let's imagine for a second you're a farmer who wants to grow tomatoes and process into organic ketchup, and you want to sell it. Imagine trying to sell it



in the US where you have many multinational corporations, many big farms to compete against. You'd be hard pressed to get your organic ketchup into the marketplace. However, imagine doing the same thing in Barbados, in Dominica, in St. Vincent; we can grow tomatoes year-round basically everywhere. And there's no locally produced tomato ketchup or even tomato sauce at all. You now have a monopoly on that local product," she explained.

As an undergraduate student, Bovell developed a renewable energy project that entailed manufacturing biodegradable plastic from sweet potatoes. She subsequently launched her company, **EcoMyco**, that manufactures biomaterials packaging for industrial manufacturing companies to eliminate plastic waste.

In September 2022, she was part of the **Barbados BLOOM Cleantech Cluster** team that attended the 5th Steering Committee Meeting of the **Global Network of Regional**



Kerri-Ann Bovell
Research Scientist in Green Technology
and Polymer Chemistry

Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC) in Vienna, Austria, where she presented her incubation project.

The **2021 CIBC FirstCaribbean SEED Business Plan Competition** winner also encouraged students to take up courses outside their main areas of study, as this would aid in their development as well-rounded professionals.

"If you have electives, I [urge] you all to do courses in finance, accounting, management, entrepreneurship, psychology, or even Spanish or French. You never know where it will take you. It's easy to stick to a science that you know, but truly useful innovation leaves the lab and enters the rest of the world."

Another piece of advice she shared was to register any solid business idea or prototype as soon as possible, in order to increase their chances of getting approval from funding agencies.

"Many funding entities require [that] your status be registered for a certain period of time in order to get grant funding. Make it as big as possible so that if you do change it, then it still fits into your business," said the recipient of the **2021 Faculty of Science and Technology (FST) Cave Hill Innovation Award**.



Dr. Jeanese Badenock
Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology
The UWI, Cave Hill Campus

Dean of the Faculty **Dr. Jeanese Badenock** also imparted some words of wisdom to the students: *"As you enter into the world of work, whatever that looks like, I want you to remain focused on being the best possible version of yourself, firmly grounded in the instruction you received from us, and the desire to use your talents for good."* ●



Mums' Sugary Intake Fuels Childhood Obesity

by Carol Williams

Pregnant women who consume sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs) regularly are likely to give birth to children who are prone to develop obesity, according to a study conducted by a recent graduate of the Doctor of Medicine in Family Medicine at The UWI, Cave Hill Campus.



Dr. Asanchia Harewood-Marshall

The study entitled **"A Weakness for Sweetness: An investigation of the prevalence, frequency and potential impacts of antenatal use of SSBs in Barbados"** was conducted by Cave Hill researcher **Dr. Asanchia Harewood-Marshall** who found that frequent antenatal use of SSBs is likely to be *"an insidious driver of childhood obesity rates"* in Barbados and elsewhere. The findings were presented during the **22nd Annual Professor E R Walrond Scientific Symposium** held virtually last July.

In explaining the reason for her study, Dr. Harewood-Marshall noted

that the rate of childhood obesity in Caribbean countries ranged from almost 19 percent in Antigua to 39.5 percent in The Bahamas. She informed the symposium that a study conducted internationally had found a link between higher consumption of SSBs in the second trimester of women's pregnancy and higher risk of mid-childhood (4–6 years) obesity.

In her survey of 270 women who accessed care at the **Queen Elizabeth Hospital's (QEH's)** antenatal clinics, she investigated maternal knowledge and attitudes towards the use of SSBs to determine the prevalence and frequency of use by antenatal patients. She also sought to determine if there was a relationship between frequency of SSB use and maternal gestational weight gain, frequent maternal SSB use and neonatal birth weight and body mass index score.

Most questionnaire respondents were between 21 and 39 years of age, in long-term relationships, employed, and in the lower socio-economic bracket. Of the 270 women surveyed, 98.7 percent confirmed they used SSBs, with an average of 1.65 bottles being consumed per person per day, which was defined as high-frequency use. Dr. Harewood-Marshall found that some 45.5 percent of those surveyed reduced their SSB intake after becoming pregnant, without any intervention. However, 37.4 percent made no change, 15.3 percent consumed more, and 1.84 percent stopped using them completely.

She concluded, "Despite a high prevalence of obesity, respondents had very positive perception of their weight and health. Cultural beliefs that favour overweight and obesity may heavily influence patients' perception of themselves and affect their understanding of their health risks."

The researcher noted this may be a barrier to behavioural change and interventions: *"Omitting discussions on weight and diet for prenatal and antenatal patients may reinforce patients' misperceptions about their health and potential risk for NCDs [non-communicable diseases] evidenced by the many respondents who thought their weights were normal although they were obese,"* Dr. Harewood-Marshall said.

During the day-long symposium, a research showcase event that formed part of a week of activities to celebrate the contributions of Professor Sir Errol Walrond to medicine and the wider community, several other scientific papers were presented by medical and paramedical personnel from the QEH and allied institutions. The topics included **"The Influenza Vaccine in Pregnancy in Barbados: A Cross-Sectional Study"**, **"Prevalence of Burnout Among Primary Care Physicians in Barbados"**, **"The Prevalence of Postpartum Depression and Associated Risk Factors in Barbadian Women: A Cross-Sectional Study"**, and **"Coping while Caring: The Quality of Life of Parents of Children Living with Autism Spectrum Disorders in Trinidad"**.

The guest speaker was Consultant Ophthalmologist at the QEH **Dr. Nigel Barker** who provided key insight into his specialised area of eye care and the challenges he faced and overcame in setting up a local practice, in the hope that his testimony could assist others. ●



Staff Show Their Inventive Traits

by Camille Russell



Innovate! first prize winners **Clint Hurley** (left) and **David Smith**

A virtual networking platform, a research academy, and an international language foundation course are among the latest entrepreneurial ventures coming out of the Cave Hill campus. These products and services emerged as the top prizes of the **Innovate! Cave Hill Campus New Venture Challenge** during an awards ceremony in March 2022.

First prize winner, the **Virtual Open Innovation Sandbox (VOIS)**, was created by information technology partners **David Smith** and **Clint Hurley**. The platform serves to connect entrepreneurs in the region with resources, information, and opportunities needed to set up and improve their business processes. The co-creators, who are also colleagues in the Campus Information Technology Services (CITS) department, took the top prize of **\$30,000** for their development of the virtual networking platform. The IT solution which provides “tools to enable entrepreneurs to evaluate their options and connect them to the right person at the right time” impressed the competition

judges who were looking for impactful and innovative ideas from individuals that could lead to income generation for their unit or department and the campus.

The venture by this duo was driven from their observation that while the desire is present to explore entrepreneurship, there seems to be a lack in available support.

“Entrepreneurial talent is everywhere, but entrepreneurial resources and opportunities aren’t. VOIS’s mission is to level the playing field by bringing those resources and opportunities to entrepreneurs via our platform,” David shared.

Since winning the competition, the pair has continued to work on improving the platform. It was determined that additional partners beyond the campus would be better suited to support the project. Through introductions by the campus, **VOIS** was pitched to **Invest Barbados** and **Export Barbados** who showed keen interest. In December 2022, **VOIS** was part of a cohort of more than 400 global entrepreneurs and start-ups in the **Draper University’s Fundamentals of Entrepreneurship Program**. This was facilitated through the regional **Kanoo Innovation Hub**, and although still in its infancy, **VOIS** placed 11th in Kanoo’s capstone pitch competition.



Dr. Wendy Sealy receives her second-place prize while Principal of the Cave Hill Campus (at left) and Senior Manager, CIBC FirstCaribbean International Bank applaud.

The two expect significant developments with the platform this year and they hope to benefit from mentorship as they seek to improve.

"2023 is a big year for VOIS, as we are working to build a minimum viable product (MVP). We are currently finalising an agreement with an international partner whose specialty is mentoring start-ups to rapidly self-develop MVPs," Clint shared.

Second place winner was Dr. Wendy Sealy, coordinator of the nursing programmes in the Faculty of Medical Sciences who received **\$20,000** for her start-up the **Virtual Nursing Education**

and **Research Academy** aimed at providing student nurses and nursing personnel access to fee-based continuing education, consultancy remedial work as well as mentoring support and other such services at very affordable membership fees.

The **third place prize of \$10,000** was won by **Dr. Chloe Walker** in the Faculty of Humanities and Education, **Ms. Andrea Walker** from the Student Enrolment and Retention Unit, and **Dr. Jason Haynes** who at the time worked in the Faculty of Law. The three took the prize for their project **International Foundation English Language Programme** that is a one-year

intensive course for prospective international students, which can potentially significantly improve their English proficiency and prepare them for tertiary-level studies at English-speaking universities.

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal **Professor Clive Landis** said the Innovate! challenge fits perfectly into **The UWI Triple A Strategic Plan 2022-2027** that focuses on *The Revenue Revolution*. Landis shared that apart from developing exportable tertiary education services and fostering innovation, the campus is currently exploring expanded revenue streams to ensure the university's financial sustainability.

Mr. Mourad Arnouk, Senior Manager, Advisory Service Business and Platinum Banking, Retail and Business Banking at the **CIBC FirstCaribbean International Bank**, told the awards ceremony that the bank was pleased to continue its relationship with Cave Hill to foster innovation and entrepreneurship among staff of the campus. ●



Innovate! Campus New Venture Challenge awardees, along with other participants

Drones Add Surveillance Tech to Region's Agriculture

by Camille Russell

As farmers bemoan their losses from praedial larceny and low yields, the region's agricultural sector is set for a major technological boost against theft and disaster.

The **Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES)** at Cave Hill Campus has embarked on a training exercise entitled **"Drones for Agriculture: Participatory Mapping and Geospatial Analysis Training Package to Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS)"** to support agricultural disaster risk management applications.



Participants of the Drones for Agriculture Training Course 2022 from the Ministry of Agriculture in St. Lucia with (at front right) **Dr. Kim Baldwin**

The programme, funded by the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)** and designed by **Dr. Kim Baldwin**, former research associate with CERMES, was delivered in a pilot project between April and July 2022 to more than 40 people working with the Ministries of Agriculture in Dominica and St. Lucia.

According to Dr. Baldwin, agricultural drone technology is undoubtedly the future of agrarian communities the world over: *"Drones have been revolutionary*

for the field of precision agriculture, or the practice of using modern technology and data-driven techniques to increase the efficiency of farm operations. The use of drones for precision agriculture enables farmers to better manage their crops, soil, and livestock, resulting in increased productivity, improved income, and reduced costs," she said.

Dr. Baldwin, who is also Director of **Marine Spatial Information Solutions**, mentioned that adding this level of technology to agriculture can transform traditional farming in immeasurable ways.

Even though practical training is required for this technology, it will yield major benefits for participants in a relatively short timeframe.

“Drones now allow us to easily collect data and map areas that were previously inaccessible and in safe and minimally invasive ways at a fraction of the time and cost of traditional surveys. When paired with spatial mapping and analysis software, [the system] allows for a real-time, comprehensive picture of our environment to support informed decision making,” Dr. Baldwin stated.

“Teams can be trained in less than five days, not only learning how to fly safely but to use the technology to create 3D models of the environment as well as analyse and share the produced information in near realtime,” she continued.

The specialist also shared that the use of unmanned aerial systems (UAS), simply referred to as drones, is both useful for soil and field analysis as well as agricultural disaster risk management.

“UAS can also benefit agriculture in many of these countries through pre-response planning and disaster preparedness, post-disaster planning with mapping, impacts and damage assessments mitigation, among others.”

On offer is a comprehensive curriculum that includes UAS policy and commercial drone operations, agricultural mapping and monitoring surveys, as well as data processing, management and geospatial analysis using a participatory approach. Over the course of 12 weeks, the inaugural cohort was trained in the use of both **DroneDeploy** and **ArcGIS Online** web-based analysis tools to incrementally build their acquired knowledge and practical skills. The programme resulted in the implementation of large-scale agricultural monitoring sites (~1,775 acres within each of the two countries, namely Dominica and St. Lucia) and subsequent development of a variety of agricultural disaster risk case study applications by the drone teams.

Dr. Baldwin noted the project is intended to increase resilience to the impacts of climate change and climate-related hazards through improved agriculture data collection and planning techniques. This will be accomplished by building technological skills to foster an environment of knowledge-sharing among national stakeholders and regional institutions, and enabling wide-spread communication, uptake and upscaling of viable agricultural disaster risk management practices and geospatial analysis workflows both nationally and regionally.

Director of CERMES **Dr. David Yawson** expressed his support of the project adding that evolving technologies provide an



Dr. David Yawson
Director of CERMES and Senior Lecturer,
Environmental Management, The UWI, Cave Hill Campus

opportunity to mitigate risk and alleviate current and future sector challenges.

“The agriculture sectors across the region consistently face pressure; whether pest, soil fertility issues, water stresses, natural disasters, or climate change. And the use of the drone technology can help stakeholders to fully understand how to increase efficiencies, margins, and returns on investments.”

Joseph Weekes, Laboratory Technician with CERMES and lead pilot of the CERMES drone team, shared that he is keen to see the project develop beyond the initial two countries and expand throughout the Caribbean.

“This project is very beneficial to the development of the region’s agriculture industries. Agriculture drones can be used to do anything from efficiently applying pesticides or fertilizers to optimising field management. The results include reduced operation costs, improved crop quality, and increased yield rate.”

Weekes also called for more investment in remote-sensing technologies to enhance productivity and efficiency in the industry to reach the highest potential.

“At this critical juncture in Caribbean agriculture, it is imperative that the region’s agriculture stakeholders embrace the technology available and effectively utilise it,” Weekes said.

The use of drones has grown tremendously across various sectors, including military, insurance, real estate, security, and oil and gas. In the agricultural industry, the growth is expected to reach an estimated US\$4.8 billion globally by 2024.

From scouting to security, drone use has become more ubiquitous on large- and small-scale farms in a few short years. The procurement of drone technology and geospatial analysis software are expected to enhance precision agriculture in Caribbean SIDS. The project continues in the region this year, with training programmes scheduled for Grenada and St. Vincent. ●

More Help Needed to Fight Cancer

by Carol Williams

Concern about the increasing incidence of some cancers in developing states has prompted two UWI medical researchers to advocate for increased education towards early identification and treatment of the disease.

Haematologist, oncologist and Senior Lecturer in Clinical Haematology in the Faculty of Medical Sciences at Cave Hill **Dr. Cheryl Alexis**; and researcher, Lecturer in Public Health and Co-Chair of the Colorectal Cancer (CRC) Working Group for the **African-Caribbean Cancer Consortium (AC3)**, **Dr. Natalie Greaves** say more education is required across the board.

Their advocacy follows publication of the latest report by the **Barbados National Registry (BNR)** entitled, *Cancer in Barbados Report 2022*. The BNR is housed in Barbados at the **George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Centre** of The UWI.

In 2018, some 960 new cancer cases were recorded, marginally below the yearly average of 977 recorded between 2013 and 2018. Of the 2018 figure, prostate cancer was the most prevalent among men while breast and colorectal cancers were most prevalent in women. For the latter, the incidence and mortality continue to be high. Dr. Alexis said this was particularly concerning since deaths related to breast cancer in developed countries are decreasing. She suggested this may be due, in part, to the cost of investigation and treatment for cancer patients without insurance.

"To provide directed treatment for breast cancer, which is the standard of care, patients should not only have immunohistochemistry (tests to determine what proteins and hormones the tumour is releasing), but genetic testing for example, BRCA 1 and 2 gene



Dr. Cheryl Alexis



Dr. Natalie Greaves

tests. Other newly available 'gene-oncotype tests', which allow doctors to give patients a score indicating the likelihood of the cancer coming back, can be used to determine how aggressively the cancer should be treated."

Although Dr. Greaves noted that silence and fear may still exist around cancer, she was adamant that knowledge brings power.

"I think that a broad-based, whole-of-society approach to cancer education is key," said the researcher who is among a team of international investigators conducting a pioneering genome-related cancer study.

*"Much of what needs to be done revolves around fully adopting the four-pronged approach to cancer control: that is, prevention, screening and early detection, diagnosis and treatment, and palliation. I think the **Ministry of Health and Wellness** is moving in this strategic direction with the national non-communicable disease plan which has cancer integrated. Once our health system accelerates this systematised approach to cancer, we will see the gains over the coming decades."*

Dr. Greaves said health education activities focused on the signs and symptoms of CRC were crucial. Further, she said clinicians should educate clients on their

options of using minimally invasive screening tests available in Barbados, like faecal immunochemical testing (FIT-Testing) and M2-PK kits where the stool is tested for blood and altered DNA that can be recommended even in the absence of symptoms.

The World Health Organization has estimated that cancer accounted for one in six deaths globally (9.6 million deaths) in 2018. In the Americas, 1.4 million people died from the disease in 2020, with almost half being people 69 years of age and younger, according to the Pan American Health Organization.

A statement from the BNR noted the increased likelihood of a cancer diagnosis of individuals as they age, with many elderly persons possibly not having the financial resources and support they need.

The challenges extend further, Dr. Alexis noted. She said health systems in the region have inadequate access to gold-standard, diagnostic and treatment modalities such as positron emission tomography (PET) scans, linear accelerators, proton stereotactic radiation machines and any other precision or individual care methods.

The release of the findings of the BNR coincided with the commemoration of *World Cancer Day* on 4 February, which had as its slogan **"Close the care gap"**.

The BNR report provides information that is critical to the planning and management of cancer by the **Ministry of Health and Wellness**, clinicians, the **Board and Management of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital**, non-governmental organisations and other partners. ●

Lack of Knowledge Limits Vaccine Uptake During Pregnancy



Lack of information has been singled out as a major hindrance to vaccine uptake for seasonal influenza by pregnant Barbadians.

Family physician and Cave Hill alumna **Dr. Tina Ifill** said some expectant mothers were not even aware that taking the World Health Organization-recommended vaccines would limit serious illness or prevent death. Pregnant women have been deemed high-risk and were up to five times more likely to develop serious illness as a result of the influenza infection.



Dr. Tina Ifill
Family physician

the virus never got sick enough to go to the hospital and were unaware the vaccine was recommended during pregnancy.

"Patient vaccine willingness was also analysed before and after they read a short paragraph recommending the vaccine in pregnancy. It was noted that of the respondents who said 'no' prior to reading the paragraph, 14.1 percent changed their answer to 'yes' after they read the recommendation and 23 percent who said 'I don't know' prior said 'yes' afterwards. These findings were expected based on previous literature and further confirms that knowledge about vaccine safety and recommendations is a positive cue to action for vaccine willingness," said Dr. Ifill.

Overall, she said persons who thought the vaccine was safe were six times more likely to be vaccinated: *"These findings*

suggest that providing patients with specific information or knowledge regarding vaccine safety in pregnancy would return in a higher uptake rate."

For those unwilling to take the vaccine, the main reasons given were the perception it was harmful to the baby (36.2 percent), was not recommended by their doctor (25.2 percent), and they did not feel at risk (12.9 percent).

"The results showed there was no statistically significant correlation between patients' perception of the dangers of the influenza virus in pregnancy for themselves or their fetus and their inclination to be vaccinated. Only 13.6 percent of the participants who perceived the influenza virus as a danger to them if contracted in pregnancy were willing to be vaccinated and only 10 percent of those who thought it would be a danger to their fetus said they would be willing."

To boost vaccine uptake, Dr. Ifill has recommended that the Government fund influenza vaccine campaigns and healthcare providers recommend the vaccines far more to patients.

The details of her study were presented during the **22nd Annual Professor E R Walrond Scientific Symposium** held on 22 July 2022. ●

To determine the uptake rate of the seasonal influenza vaccine among a sample of pregnant women and whether perception, lack of knowledge, or physician inertia were affecting vaccine uptake, Dr. Ifill conducted a study entitled **"The Knowledge, Attitudes, Practices and Barriers with Respect to Seasonal Influenza Vaccine in Pregnant Women in Barbados"**.

One hundred and sixty-three individuals, who were 18 years and older and attended the public antenatal clinic at the **Queen Elizabeth Hospital**, completed the self-administered questionnaire. Based on the results, many respondents were under the misconception that persons who contract



One of the pedagogical resources that has significantly helped to enrich the quality of education at The University of the West Indies is the Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL).

Last September, this unit, located at the Mona, St. Augustine and Cave Hill campuses, was lauded for its invaluable role when Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles led off commendations for its work.

"You have successfully built up a world-class institution," he said during a **Vice-Chancellor's Forum** held on 29 September 2022 in recognition of CETL's 30th anniversary. The forum had the theme, **Becoming a World-Class**

In Praise of Teaching Excellence

University: The Contributions of Faculty Development.

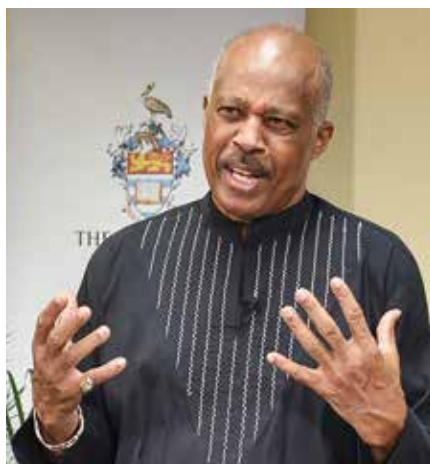
CETL has been credited with playing an instrumental role in the professional development of faculty over the past three decades,

which not only allowed The UWI to maintain high teaching standards but contributed to its impressive placement on the **Times Higher Education** ranking.

The institution is ranked among the top 1.5 percent of global universities assessed, an improvement over the previous year's ranking in

the top three percent.

Sir Hilary stated, *"Thanks to you, we can say, and we can demonstrate that we are strongest in our core areas of teaching and learning. Our reputation has gone global. Our students can now*



Professor Sir Hilary Beckles
Vice-Chancellor, The UWI

access programmes anywhere in the world. Universities out there recognise the quality of our teaching and learning.”

The Vice-Chancellor praised the CETL, Mona for leading the way 30 years ago and also congratulated the Director of the CETL, Cave Hill Dr. Sylvia Henry and her colleagues for their hard work over the years.

First established at Mona as the Staff Development Unit, it transitioned to the Instructional Development Unit, and in 2013, to its current branding, CETL. Over the years, it expanded to the St. Augustine and Cave Hill campuses.

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Mona, Professor Dale Webber,



Dr. Sylvia Henry
Director and Instructional Development Specialist, CETL

agreed that The UWI’s status as a world-class university is due in large measure to its faculty’s teaching, research, and outreach.

“The Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning is at the core of what we’ve done at The UWI for the last 30 years in fine-tuning the skills of our teachers, our educators. I’m often reminded that a PhD does not make a teacher. Many of us, who are experts in our field, need to be honed in how we teach [and] what we teach so that we are better able to communicate with our students. After all, that’s why we’re here.”

In a presentation entitled **“Centre for Development in Teaching and Learning: The strategic role of faculty development at The University of the West Indies”**, in which she reflected on CETL’s past contributions and examined their future direction, Dr. Henry said the centre needed to be flexible and creative to respond to the needs of faculty.

“It is about using technologies to enable faculty from different contexts and locations to connect, discuss, and grow as a unified university family. It has also been reinforced to us that faculty should have a louder voice in determining what type of training they need. Therefore, it is imperative that we garner more faculty feedback to determine real needs, trends, and expectations. A research arm of the CETL would be a boost [and] a great asset.

“Also, what has become evident from living and working through a pandemic is that CETL needs to collaborate with various entities to encourage among our faculty habits of self-care and healthy practices which will foster healthy work.”

Dr. Henry further stressed the need for closer collaboration between the CETL and the Campus Information Technology Services and for them to be equipped with the latest technological resources to support the emerging needs of faculty.

She commended all CETL staff and faculty associates for their unwavering support over the years and thanked The UWI leadership and others for the confidence placed in the CETL and faculty development.

Other contributors to the forum were Manager and Coordinator of the CETL, Mona, Dr. Mervin E. Chisholm; Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence at the CETL, Mona and international expert on Universal Design for Learning, Professor Jayne McGuire; and Director of the CETL at St. Augustine, Dr. LeRoy Hill. ●

Regional Educators Encouraged to Embrace Innovation



Professor Joel Warrican
Director, School of Education
The UWI, Cave Hill Campus

Educators across the Eastern Caribbean are being encouraged to embrace innovation and technology in the classrooms, amid concerns that teachers are reverting to the traditional, prepandemic methods of teaching.

Addressing a meeting of the **Eastern Caribbean Joint Board of Teacher Education**, Director of the School of Education at The UWI, Cave Hill Campus **Professor Joel Warrican** said the education systems in the subregion are ripe for innovation.

However, he noted that while the COVID-19 pandemic has emphasised that fact, many people

are unwilling or unable to deviate from the familiar, despite their reliance on technology during the last two years when schools were forced to transition to online teaching in an effort to contain the spread of the virus.

"Traditional approaches to teaching are still prevalent, even when in the presence of technology, which since the late 1990s, we were told would revolutionise teaching and learning making schooling more student-centered, encouraging greater student engagement and independent learning," Warrican told the audience last November.

"Since the waning of the pandemic and the return to so-

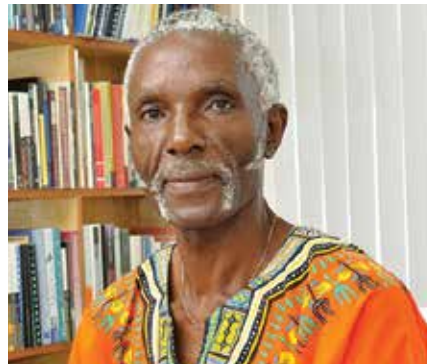
called normal schooling, things seem to have reverted to 'business as usual'. It even seems as if some schools have re-instituted the ban on the very same devices that were craved and sought after for schooling during the pandemic.

"During the pandemic, we heard of students not learning because they had no devices. Now it seems like we are back to the position of students not learning in schools because they have devices."

Warrican added the school system in the Caribbean remains focused on exams, and there exists a culture of knowing rather than one of learning.

"The system is driven by homework; schools still tend to give unreasonable amounts of homework, with the load increasing as students approach the grades in which high-stakes examinations are written."

"With such a large volume of homework, it seems as if the onus is on parents to do the teaching; teachers complain if they perceive that parents are not helping their children with their homework," he said.



Professor Frederick Ochieng-Odhiambo
Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Education
The UWI, Cave Hill Campus

Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education **Professor Frederick Ochieng-Odhiambo** also called on teachers to inspire creativity, reward critical thinking, and enable students to maximise the potential of their formal and informal learning experiences.

"You as educators are not only expected to but obliged to seek and implement new ways of thinking about teaching and learning, if the needs of today's learner as well as the changing needs are to be met."

"As educators, we all recognise the inadequacy of traditional approaches to education, and now we must be brave and step out of our comfort zone to ensure that today's students, who are tomorrow's leaders, entrepreneurs and world citizens, are adequately prepared for life that is ahead of them," Odhiambo said.

The School of Education launched the **Caribbean Educational Research Centre (CERC)** in September 2021, through the **Research Initiative for Supporting Education in the Caribbean (RISE Caribbean)**. The primary goal of the centre is to address the lack of educational research in the subregion.



Dr. Ramona Archer-Bradshaw
Chief Education Officer, Barbados

Barbados's Chief Education Officer **Dr. Ramona Archer-Bradshaw** appealed to the regional educators to tailor their methods of delivery to suit the needs of the Caribbean.

"Gone are the days when we have to rely on international best practices and what is done in the international context to inform wholly and solely what is done in the Caribbean. It is against this backdrop that I commend The University of the West Indies, and particularly the School of Education, for the research initiative, for supporting education because it provides that platform for us to come together and share ideas," she said.

"It is high time that we as a Caribbean people, we as a region ... look around ... and we borrow ideas, but we look to see what is best for us; we try to set our own course based on the information that is incoming from overseas and based on our own experiences," Archer-Bradshaw stated.

The meeting was held under the theme **Innovation: Setting a Course to Success.** ●

Global Institute of Software Technology



MFA Team 3 - (from left) Ashray Soares, Joshua Alkins, Assistant Registrar Justin Seale, Jason Charles (squatting), Shane Okukenu, and Tevin Taylor

Young Software Engineers Create Legacy Project

by Camille Russell

A group of aspiring software engineers is already leaving their imprint in the region. Students of **The UWI China Institute of Information Technology (UWICIIT)** BSc Software Engineering programme have created a database to aid the Barbados Overseas Mission in the collection of

citizen information. The database became a critical resource for the Mission which urgently required an online registration system of travelling nationals and Barbadians living abroad during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Former Ambassador of Barbados to China **His Excellency François Jackman** praised the work of the students for the project: "I had the

great good fortune and pleasure of working with a number of UWI students and one of their administrators in what was a really important and urgent project for us. Previously, we had a fairly rudimentary registration process. But in reaching out to The UWI, and in particular, the UWICIIT Software Engineering programme which was based in Suzhou, China, we were able to develop, with their help, a more sophisticated and efficient internet tool. With the help of **Justin Seale**, who is the Assistant Registrar, and a number of students, we got together to work on this internet platform. Within a few months, the team had produced a most effective and efficient registration system," said

Ambassador Jackman.

The student team of Jamaicans **Shane Okukenu**, **Tevin Taylor** and **Ashray Soares** along with Barbadians **Joshua Alkins** and **Jason Charles** worked on the project with **Ambassador Jackman** and **Mr. Corey Archer** who is Second Secretary of the Embassy of Barbados in Beijing.

Now Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations in New York, Ambassador Jackman stated he was so impressed with the work of the students that he would welcome the opportunity to work with them again.



His Excellency François Jackman
Former Ambassador of Barbados to China

beyond the scope of the Barbados Embassy in Beijing and is a key feature in the relaunch of the website of Barbados's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The BSc in Software Engineering programme is the flagship programme of **The UWI China Institute of Information Technology**. The institute was established in 2016 as a partnership of The UWI and the **Global Institute of Software Technology (GIST)** with a mission to produce a generation of software engineers for the Caribbean to support the region's much-needed

digital revolution. Caribbean students spend their first two years of study at The UWI's Cave Hill or Mona campuses then continue their final two years at GIST.

Seale proudly shared that the programme has already proven useful to the region, even though relatively young, with this legacy project that is of benefit to the governments and people of the region.

"The system is currently useful in service of the safety of the region's citizens as we navigate the uncertainties of the world beyond our borders," he noted. ●

The COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent government-mandated lockdowns

created an urgent need for the database, and in quick response, the students worked tirelessly towards its completion in six months.

"This initial spate of the pandemic magnified the need for a more efficient database of Barbadians abroad, and the initial scope of project was for all Barbadians travelling abroad to register with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs [MFA] to be easily reached in the event of an emergency," Seale explained.

According to the Assistant Registrar, not only was the database well received when it was handed over early in 2021, but it has since been expanded

Seale, Assistant Registrar attached to UWICIIT, echoed the ambassador's sentiments and praised the students for their diligence in creating such an efficient and critical system.

"I feel a deep sense of fulfilment and gratitude for our civic-minded youth in developing this solution and for working steadily with the Government of Barbados in realisation of this project. The special mix of formal and informal training they have received in our programme, combined with the team's innate tenacity and initiative, have produced talent which is vital to pursuing Barbadian interests. We clearly have a cadre of young, solution-oriented thinkers and doers in the Caribbean!" Seale said, adding that the team did not undertake the project for academic credit but solely as a means to give back to the Caribbean community.



Single ICT Space an Urgent Need

by Carol Williams

Former Prime Minister of Grenada **Dr. Keith Mitchell** has made a strong case for the creation of a single Caribbean Information and Communication Technology (ICT) space, suggesting it is urgently needed to counter the risks of cybersecurity and digital crime.

Dr. Mitchell, who was once the Lead Head of Government in the Caribbean Community's (CARICOM's) Quasi Cabinet with responsibility for Science and Technology, said the pandemic showed the critical role such a mechanism can play as it exposed technological shortfalls in many countries. He further said these states already had to

contend with emerging crises and challenges associated with big data, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, machine learning, the Internet of Things, data protection, and privacy and security.

Now serving as the Leader of the Opposition in Grenada, Dr. Mitchell delivered the keynote address during the historic, first, joint conference of faculties of science and technology from **The University of the West Indies**, Cave Hill, Mona, and St. Augustine campuses; and the **University of Technology (UTech)**, Jamaica.

The academic conference, **Frontiers of Research in Caribbean Science and Technology (FORECAST)**, was held virtually from 10–12 August 2022 under the



Dr. Keith Mitchell
Former Prime Minister of Grenada

theme **Science and Technology: A D.R.I.V.E.R of Transformation.**

In his address on the topic **"Science and Technology and its Application to Regional Development"**, Dr. Mitchell said the regional response to the looming digital threats must be unprecedented, immediate, strategic, forward-looking and geared towards building greater resilience in the respective countries and the region.

"This single ICT space is critical for forging the environment and technological renaissance necessary for the digital economy to drive economic growth and social transformation in the region. This single ICT space would allow for the development and proliferation of regional ICT-related content, the harmonisation of legislative and regulatory frameworks, the encouragement of digital literacy and entrepreneurship, telecommunications reform and the elimination of roaming charges [and] sectoral divide, digital leadership, and a regional digital citizenry."

"The single ICT space would also be critical for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and to forge the future that we want under the sustainable development construct. The ICT vision must be anchored with the region working together towards a resilient Caribbean within the framework of an ICT space."

He emphasised that science and technology should continue to be a priority item on the CARICOM agenda and challenged the academic community to prepare and develop the underlying education and capacity-building infrastructure to facilitate and enable this inclusive digital transformation.

During the three-day event, the former prime minister was also part of a high-level panel discussion **"Post COVID-19 Challenges Facing CARICOM — Scientific Solutions"**. Other members included Minister without Portfolio in the Office of the Prime Minister in Jamaica, Floyd Green; Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of The UWI, Cave Hill Campus, Professor Clive Landis; Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of The UWI, Mona Campus, Professor Dale Webber; Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of The UWI, St. Augustine Campus, Professor Rose-Marie Belle Antoine; and Acting President of Utech, Professor Colin Gyles.

Approximately 150 participants representing academics, professionals and students from tertiary institutions and public and private sectors of the Caribbean and beyond attended the event that featured 65 abstract papers, 38 poster presentations

and 27 oral presentations. The presentations covered medical, natural and social sciences; pure and applied research, technological and scientific innovation, education and policy, and industrial and developmental findings.

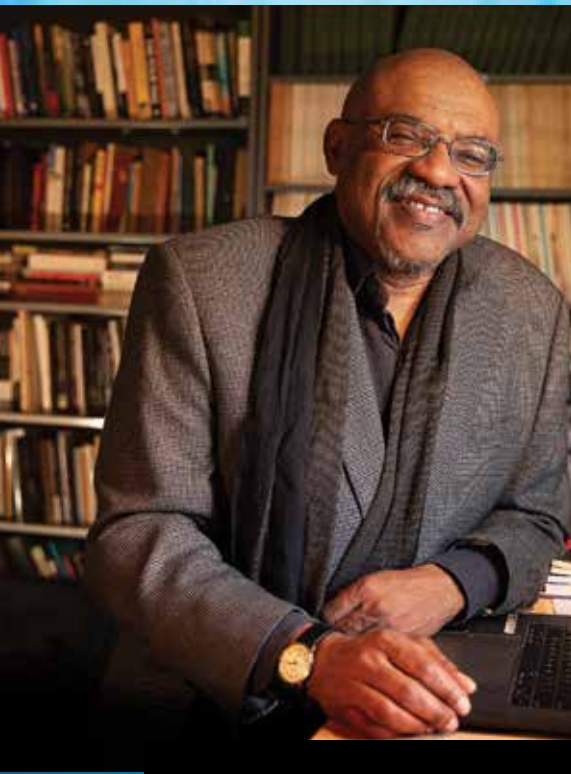
There were three plenary sessions that featured Dr. Judith Lang who spoke on the topic **"Caribbean Coral Reefs are in Enormous Trouble, But It's Not Yet Terminal"**; Professor Ishenkumba Kahwa on **"Are CARICOM Countries Innovating into the Fourth Industrial Revolution?"**, while Dr. Andrew Russell spoke about **"Innovation in the Age of the Metaverse"**.

Those who participated in the student **Grand Innovation Challenge (GIC)**, another element of the event, showcased solutions to revolutionise the management, protection and use of water resources in the Caribbean.

First place went to **Juan McIntosh** and **Demoy Lindo** for their presentation of the **"Vae Victis Piston Flush"** project, a low-flush innovative toilet solution. **Melissa Curtis** and **Mathew Rahamut** placed second with the project **"Conserving Every Drop: Innovative Water Resource Management Strategies"**, while the third spot went to **Nkrumah Fong, Floyd James, Brittany Morris, Tamika Alleyne** and **Kemo Fong** with the project **"VECTOR-1"**. ●

Digital Space Carries Power to Perpetuate or Eliminate

Mere days after the passing of intellectual giant George Lamming, acclaimed author **Professor Kwame Dawes** urged Caribbean literati to take steps to protect their legacy and the history of the region amid ongoing rapid technological changes. He noted the potential for such change to affect access to their intellectual work and the consumption of material within the expansive digital space.



Professor Kwame Dawes
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Professor Dawes was delivering the 11th Annual George Lamming Distinguished Lecture entitled “Lamming Online: A Primer”, an annual commemoration honouring the Barbados-born, globally renowned author, poet and academic who died four days ahead of his 95th birthday. It was a poignant occasion for the Ghanaian-born lecturer who spent most of his childhood and early adult life in Jamaica and grew up referring to Lamming as Uncle George. The **University of Nebraska** academic spoke of the eye-opening conversations he had with the late writer who was a close friend of his parents and had visited Ghana in the late 1950s.

“Lamming will continue to affect us because of his art. As long as Caribbean literature is taught, we’ll have to contend with the great novels [that have influenced its] formation and shape. There are set

novels that are going to be taught. His books will be on the curriculum of high schools in the Caribbean, and we’ll find a way back to that work generation after generation.

“Yet one has to be aware that for all that the perpetuation of knowledge that books taught in schools can achieve, there is a way in which, quite often, such work does not spill into the non-academic [space] ... and a great deal is lost.”

The award-winning author said although digital transformation has brought unprecedented access to audiences within the last two decades, with accompanying transformative implications, a downside was the pressures of commerce associated

being traded, lost, kept and discarded is knowledge and who owns that knowledge. What do we do in the midst of that? ... What do we do in a sort of rearguard action to resist the ways in which the dominance of control over those technologies can cause our narratives, our history to disappear?

“There is an open time now, an open moment in which the scale of affordability combined with the uncertainty of how to manage and control the rapidly shifting technology has allowed us to think ambitiously about the ways in which we approach the preservation, the protection and sharing of our collective knowledge from our perspective and our own understanding. Without reckoning with the power of new technology, our cultural vehicles that form the conveyors of history, knowledge, art, memory, [and] the presence of our great thinkers can slowly diminish.”

with imperialist and capitalist-controlled communication platforms such as Twitter and Instagram. He noted the countless ways in which information is consumed such as in memes, clips, one-minute TikTok videos, tweets, blogs, pictorials, GIFs, and podcasts, with monetisation based on audience reach and the possibility that successful creators of such content could be awarded publishing deals and media publishing contracts.

A consequence of the digital space, he suggested, was that it could render a person irrelevant, or conversely, revive or sustain their relevance: *“We are in a sort of grotesque space where what is*

from a video produced by the **British Broadcasting Corporation** in 1960, most of the other recordings of Lammings were from the 1980s to this current period. He said although a few online sites like YouTube provide access to some of these videos, others had restrictions, were not user-friendly, had a limited number, or were rarely curated.

“We have to contend with these even as we explore the ways in which knowledge is passed down from generation to generation. I’m not proposing the exclusive approach, but I’m proposing that if we don’t seriously contend with what is in existence here in this rapidly transforming world, we can lose history, legacy, intellectual property, the value of our societies, and the value of people who have worked and devoted their life to ideas like George Lamming.”

The Professor said Lamming, an unwitting mentor of his, represented one of the few that persisted in hope against disillusionment of the time in the Caribbean: *“I think that Lamming has remained one of the great purveyors of that optimism, a thinker whose commitment to the vision of a transformed Caribbean has never waned, and I believe that he persisted in the idea of the long view, that the struggle was still young even at a time when people were saying it had been lost.”*

In the lead-up to the lecture, the online audience got the opportunity to hear the musings of Lammings, *via* video recording, on the importance of art in shaping human life and his criticism of how it was viewed by society. A special reading was delivered by Barbados poet laureate Esther Phillips. ●

Professor Dawes said the Caribbean was fortunate to have a comparatively significant number of video recordings of Lamming available, to an extent, online. And based on his investigations, he said Lammings’ writings were available *via* print in anthologies, book collections, journals, and periodicals. His papers have been collected at **Duke University** and special proceedings from conferences and symposia appear at **Brown University** and at **The University of the West Indies**.

Turning his attention to video recordings, Professor Dawes said apart

Calls to Adopt an English Lit Imperative

Making English Literature mandatory at the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) level could help stem the decline in language skills among students exiting secondary schools.

That's the view of Instructor in the **Academic Literacies Programme** at the Cave Hill Campus **Dr. Agnel Barron**, who has suggested this could lessen complaints from tertiary institutions and employers about the poor quality of English skills among students and workers. Her recommendation was made during a round-table discussion on the relevance and future of literature in the Caribbean entitled **"Literature: To Be or Not to Be"** that was hosted by the Department of Language, Linguistics and Literature in March 2022.

The instructor said although students would benefit from the integrated teaching of English Language and English Literature at the CSEC level, literature is increasingly being seen as dispensable as evidenced by the declining numbers of those sitting the subject. She



Dr. Agnel Barron
Instructor in the Academic
Literacies Programme
The UWI, Cave Hill Campus

insisted that more students should be encouraged to do English Literature, thereby increasing the likelihood of them having a better command of English as they exit the secondary school system.

"Students' performance in English Language may improve if they do English Literature up to the fifth-year level and it was mandatory for all students. I think that should be communicated to school administrators. I also think that less focus should be placed on the numbers and the statistics and the pass rate, and more attention placed on the qualitative elements of the student product."

Coordinator of the Linguistics Programme at Cave Hill **Dr. Janice Jules** agreed on the need for action to reverse the movement away from literature: *"We have to do something within our realm to pull it back and let persons see the real importance of literature because if literature*



Dr. Janice Jules
Coordinator of the Linguistics
Programme, The UWI,
Cave Hill Campus



Dr. Andrew Kendall
Head, Department of Language
and Cultural Studies,
University of Guyana



Dr. Elizabeth Jackson
Coordinator of Literatures in English
The UWI, St. Augustine Campus



Dr. Aisha Spencer
Acting Head of the Department of
Literatures in English
The UWI, Mona Campus

goes, then quite a lot in terms of language goes with it."

Head of the Department of Language and Cultural Studies at the **University of Guyana**, **Dr. Andrew Kendall** encouraged academics involved in literature and literary studies not to lose confidence in what they do, despite having to continually defend the disciplines.

"It is our responsibility to compel government bodies, people with power in society, to listen to what we're saying because if literature continues to evaporate, then the Caribbean culture that we are holding on to so passionately would also evaporate."

Coordinator of Literatures in English at The UWI, St. Augustine Campus **Dr. Elizabeth Jackson** said subjects like literature that fall within the humanities should not be viewed solely in terms of their value in training students for particular jobs but in educating those students to be effective across professions. She explained that aside from preparing students for specific jobs in journalism,

publishing, law, business, finance, teaching, creative writing, public relations, advertising, marketing, government administration, among others, a degree in Literatures in English fosters the development of transferable skills.

In addition to the challenges highlighted, Acting Head of the Department of Literatures in English at The UWI, Mona Campus **Dr. Aisha Spencer** noted that the discipline has to contend with competition from social media platforms, such as TikTok and Instagram, where a story can be told in as little as 20 seconds.

"Could it be that these also now could become part of our typical three-genre characterisations of the forms of literature that we may now need to include in our study?" she questioned.

Dr. Spencer was clear she was not suggesting the study of literature in the Caribbean be commodified but was, instead, encouraging a fresh design and approach. She said attention needed to be paid to improving the learning experiences of students, inclusive of active learning strategies like the creation of blogs, conducting interviews with writers, and deepening the symbiotic relations between digital and physical learning environments.

Also contributing to the discussion were Coordinator of the Modern Languages Programme at Cave Hill **Dr. Rosana Herrero-Martín** and graduate of the Literatures in English Programme at Cave Hill **Anderson Lowe.** ●



Dr. Zoanne Evans
Chair of the Subcommittee for the 60th
Anniversary Reading Initiative

Renewed Push to Address Literacy

by Camille Russell

A major outreach initiative to boost literacy among Barbadian youth has had such positive impact and response that it was quickly expanded to include other sectors of the wider community.

As part of activities to mark its 60th anniversary, Cave Hill

Campus launched a reading programme in collaboration with the **Barbados National Library Service** and the charity **Kids in Action**. The “**Between the Lines**” programme seeks to engage youth across the island in reading activities to improve their learning skills.

Shortly after its launch at the island’s main library in February and subsequent sessions at a number of primary schools, plans were rolled out to include children’s homes and senior citizens’ homes based on enthusiastic and widespread response.

According to **Dr. Zoanne Evans**, Chair of the Subcommittee for the **60th Anniversary Reading Initiative**, literacy skills in Barbados have been on the decline for some time and this vital competence must be ingrained in our youth if we expect them to be critical thinkers in society.

“Fostering a love for reading among children is one of the hardest tasks in the

age of technology, yet it is fundamental to their success,” said Dr. Evans who is also an instructor in the Academic Literacies Programme at Cave Hill.

“These sessions are intended to hone the creative imagination of children to make the process of learning to read easier and more enjoyable. The objective is that young students can become more confident and empowered readers.”

Her sentiments were echoed by **Dr. Sylvia Henry**, Director of the Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) at Cave Hill and an instructional development specialist who was the main driver behind expansion of the reading programme.

“This literacy-boosting project is particularly important at a time when the world is being impacted by a distracted generation. Reading develops focus, builds a sophisticated vocabulary, and fosters critical thinking that can help to resolve conflict. Reading increases attention span and concentration,” Dr. Henry said.

She added that seniors were being targeted for a read-aloud activity that would enable them to benefit from hearing stories from books and the newspaper as well as poems and bible verses.

“Research is showing that reading aloud to seniors can delay the onset of dementia through the stimulating of the brain,” Dr. Henry shared.

Dr. Henderson Carter, Chairman of 60th Anniversary Planning Committee,



Dr. Sylvia Henry
CETL's Director, Cave Hill
and Instructional Development Specialist



Dr. Henderson Carter
Chairman of the 60th Anniversary
Planning Committee

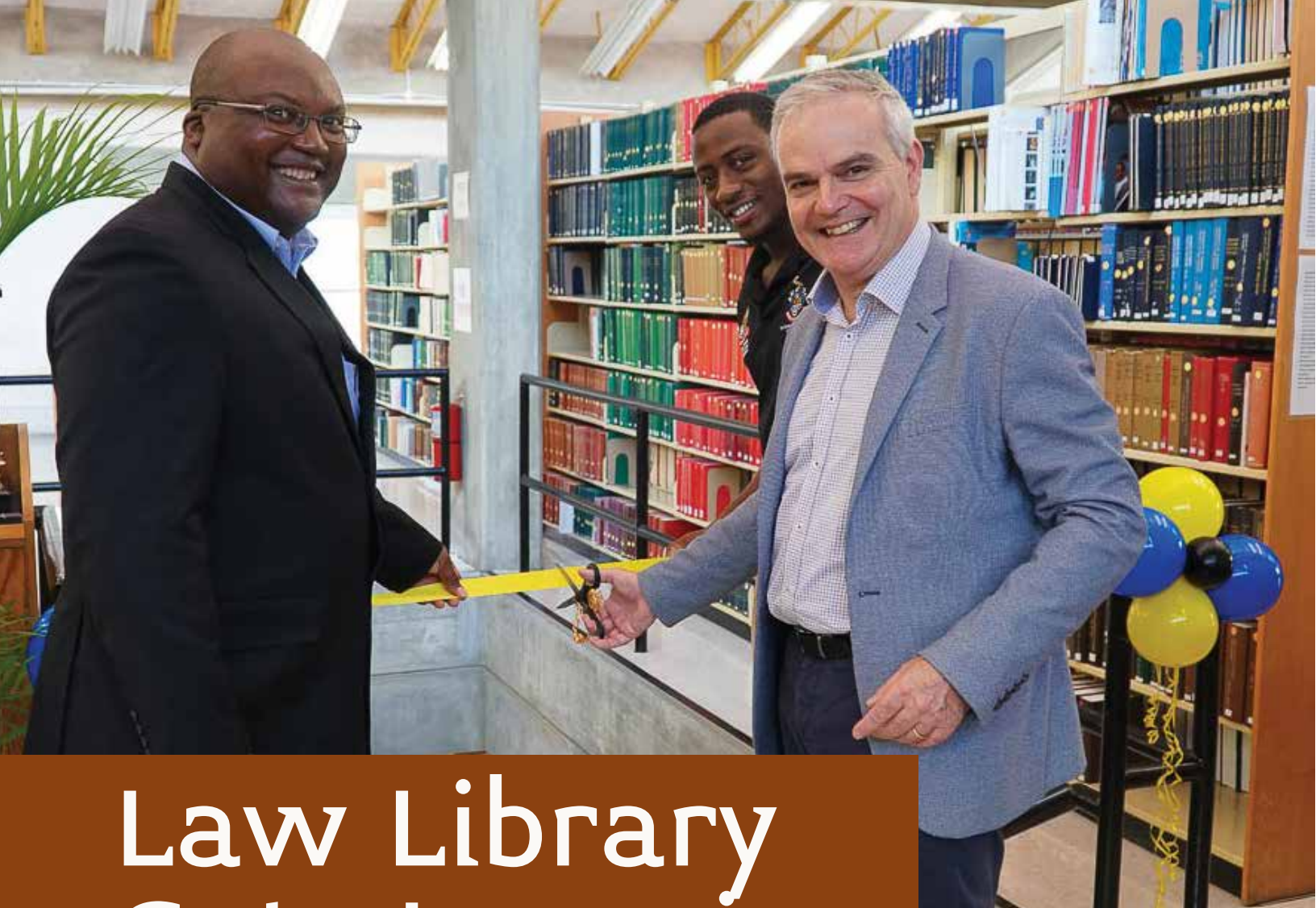
believes the project is not only an excellent opportunity for children to advance their reading skills but it also offers the wider society another avenue to bridge the literacy gap in Barbados.

“It has been some time now that local education authorities have expressed concern about a decline in literacy rates

in this country. Therefore, we can see how direct a role this project can play in addressing some of the reading deficiencies in this country,” Dr. Carter said.

Reading sessions are conducted by members of the local teaching community, current and retired Cave Hill staff as well as campus student volunteers. ●





Officer-in-Charge of the Faculty of Law Library **Lt. Col. Junior Browne** and Principal **Prof. Clive Landis** cut the ribbon to the new learning commons.

Law Library Gets Learning Commons

The basement floor of the Faculty of Law Library, which was once filled with hundreds of books and shelving, has been completely transformed into an inviting atmosphere that encourages student learning.

The area previously housed the library's U.S. Collection, prized West Indian legislation, and other materials. Now, the space is outfitted with two group study

rooms, a modern learning commons, a small training room and a consultation room. It has been renamed the **Faculty of Law Learning Commons** and was officially opened on 25 November 2022.

Officer-in-Charge of the Faculty of Law Library **Lieutenant Colonel Junior Browne** said a phased approach was taken for the project. The two group study rooms were installed in 2017, while most of the remaining work was undertaken in 2022. During

the process, numerous shelves were dismantled and more than 700 boxes of materials were stored off-site in two 40-foot containers equipped with shelving and temperature controls.

"We intend to complete the transformation and examine other areas in the library where we can upgrade and modernise for the benefit of all as we support the Faculty of Law in its mission. We recognise that we must continuously strive to improve our offerings, wherever

possible, to maintain our reputation as a leading faculty, a leading campus, and a leading university and to attract more students to these shores,” Browne said as he congratulated the library staff for their commitment and on a job well done.

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal **Professor Clive Landis** spoke of the paradigm shifts that have taken place in libraries worldwide, including those within The University of the West Indies system. Rather than being passive learning environments, he said they now promote active, discursive learning and undertake initiatives to generate funds. One such project at The UWI is the **Caribbean Law Online (Carilaw)** database which contains over 32,000 legal cases. Professor Landis said these revenue streams help fund initiatives like those carried out by the Faculty of Law Library.

“I really want to commend the Law Library, and its staff; everyone who has been involved in this, shared this vision and brought it to the point where it is a reality. You have a library which is, to a large extent, bringing in funds which allow it to undertake the kind of changes that are

required for libraries today and to create these learning spaces,” he said.

“You’ve had the vision to move in the direction libraries are taking. You’re living up to the excellent mission of the university libraries which has been conceptualised to be the gateway to unique Caribbean content, to promote teaching and learning. And you are actually raising money not only for yourself but for the university.”

Lecturer and the Faculty of Law representative to the Law Library, Alana Lancaster, delivered remarks on behalf of the Dean, Professor Eddy Ventose. She said although the library was originally designed as a silent zone to explore cases

and obscure legal concepts, the approach to legal education has evolved, and she noted the changed outlook has resulted in the expansion of courses offered by the faculty, which encourages creativity, innovativeness, and active learning.

Lancaster expressed confidence that the introduction of this “sacred and safe space” in the library will contribute to an authentic legal learning experience for students. ●

(from left) **Dr. Janeille Matthews**, Deputy Dean (Academic and Student Affairs); **Michael Patrick**, President of the Law Society; Officer-in-Charge of the Faculty of Law Library, **Lt. Col. Junior Browne**; and Principal, **Professor Clive Landis**



(from left) **Dr. Janeille Matthews**, Deputy Dean (Academic and Student Affairs); **Alana Lancaster**, Lecturer in Law; and **Michael Patrick**, President of the Law Society

Reimagining Caribbeananness

by Marie-Claire Williams

What if Caribbean people began to see themselves beyond their collective traumatic history? What promise and possibilities could such thinking hold for the region and the individuals that occupy its space?

That was the urging of feminist scholar **Dr. Andrea Baldwin** who delivered the **26th Annual Caribbean Women: Catalysts for Change** lecture on 25 November that was organised by the **Institute for Gender and Development Studies: Nita Barrow Unit (IGDS: NBU)**.

Speaking on the topic **“Brackish Possibilities: (Re)Thinking Caribbean Feminist Ecologies”**, Baldwin proposed a rethink of the Caribbean as a place of possibility and *“aliveness”* rather than as a region in a perpetual state of trauma and crisis.

“Many Caribbean academics have theorised the Caribbean as being in a state of crisis, stemming from direct colonial and empirical rule, and now, as a result of contemporary global neoliberalism. The crisis, broadly speaking, [is] economic, social, political, constitutional and environmental,” she told the audience at the Errol Barrow Centre for Creative Imagination (EBCCI).

Reflecting on what she called the forced insertion of the Caribbean into the modern world order through the genocide of indigenous populations and the subsequent transportation of enslaved Africans across the Atlantic Ocean to work on plantations



Dr. Andrea Baldwin

Associate Professor of Gender and Ethnic Studies at the School for Cultural and Social Transformation at the University of Utah

in the Americas, Baldwin argued that changes that have occurred in the region in recent decades, whether in the name of development, progress, or global integration, often appear to be in form but not in substance.

“When I think deeply about the real lived experiences of hardship which Caribbean people living in the region experience, and which has resulted from the impact of global inequity, most recently being felt in the form of high global inflation and the COVID-19 pandemic; when I think about the Caribbean, this space I love, I want to think of this space and its rich contributions to the world, the culture, the people, [and] the colours, and I want to think something other than crisis.”

*“I want to make room to think about the tenacity and the contradictions of the space, to also seek vibrancy in the region in the way that Jean Rhys describes in *Wide Sargasso Sea*: the landscape and the people; the deep blue colour of the sky and the mango leaves; the pink and*

red hibiscus; the yellow handkerchief she wore around her head tied in the Martinique fashion with the sharp points in front; the colours of the stained-glass window. I want to think of the Caribbean reality that is real to us in all of its aliveness.”

Speaking to the concept of aliveness, the second graduate of the doctoral programme at the IGDS: NBU at Cave Hill referenced the work of Black studies scholar **Kevin Quashie** whose 2021 book *Black Aliveness, or A Poetics of Being* spoke about aliveness as the repertoire of having ethical orientation in a world that is not ethically oriented.

It was also the concept of aliveness that inspired the title of the lecture, following Baldwin's encounter with brackish water during a 2021 visit to St. George's Caye, an island off the coast of Belize.

“This encounter prompted me to look and see from another angle; [it] prompted me to ask a number of questions, such that there was something about brackish water and its potential to create different life and ways of living; something else it might be able to tell me about the Caribbean.”

“Could interrogating the brackish tell me something about moving outside of the limits [in] which we have been [conditioned] to be, and help me to see from a transgenre perspective? Could it provide a lens from which to think about how Black people globally, and in the Caribbean specifically, make and sustain life? About how Black people, according to Quashie, ‘surpassed the everywhere and every way of Black death to begin somewhere else, a Black world where Blackness exists in the tussle of being in a section



and ordinariness”? What might it have to offer, as I think about the Caribbean society and about Caribbean feminisms and its aliveness? And how might brackish give me a different angle, as a Caribbean feminist, to think through possibilities for future aliveness, particularly as I think about we are all connected as human and non-human living beings?”

The Associate Professor of Gender and Ethnic Studies at the **School for Cultural and Social Transformation at The University of Utah** disclosed that she is now working post-tenure to bring to life a more audacious body of work “so that I can think reflexively about what it means to be Black and Caribbean, and to refuse Blackness and Caribbeanness as somehow tethered to death, to dying, in a constant state of trauma, and always in crisis”.

She recalled the 2002 Lucille Mathurin Mair lecture delivered by the late Guyanese feminist scholar and activist, **Andaiye**, entitled “**The Angle You Look from Determines what You See: Towards a Critique of Feminist Politics in the Caribbean**”.

“Like Andaiye, in this lecture ... I am suggesting a different angle. I’m suggesting a different angle as we grapple with all the crises being felt in our region. Andaiye suggests that to do so, first we need to identify the world we want to build in a new language that has clarity and purpose. I would also add that we also need to examine how to deal with the stereotypes of ourselves which we have been socialised to accept.”

Baldwin proposed starting from a place of aliveness: “What if starting there could open up question marks and unanswerable curiosities? What if we believed we could reach systems by creating human aesthetics that generate a point of view away from this consensual social system that detracts us?” ●



Dr. Andrea Baldwin (at left) receives a gift from IGDS: NBU members: (second from left) Dr. Tonya Haynes, Coordinator of Graduate Programmes at the IGDS: NBU; Professor the Most Honourable Eudine Barriteau, Professor Emerita of Gender and Public Policy; and Dr. Halimah DeShong, Head of the IGDS: NBU.

Lecturers Recognised for Outstanding Work



Dr. Leah Garner-O'Neale
Lecturer in Chemistry
The UWI, Cave Hill Campus



Sonia Mahon
Lecturer in Management
The UWI, Cave Hill Campus

Two lecturers at The UWI, Cave Hill Campus have been recognised for their outstanding work during the last academic year by the **Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL)**.

Lecturer in Chemistry in the Department of Biological and Chemical Sciences **Dr. Leah Garner-O'Neale** and Lecturer in Management **Sonia Mahon** received the **CETL Partner Award** during the centre's **Teaching and Learning Week** for going beyond the call of duty to work in partnership with CETL at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Garner-O'Neale said while she did not expect it, she was honoured to be recognised: *"The truth is that I can't say that I have done anything extra. I just think that I do what is required. Teaching is something that I am passionate about; I am passionate about seeing my students succeed,"* she said.

The chemistry lecturer explained that she adopted the flipped classroom approach to ensure that her students received the best instruction.

"Students go to a classroom for a lecture; that's the time they spend with the teacher. And they take notes and then they go away from the class, and they try to understand what they had just been exposed to. Then the teacher might give them some tutorial questions to help cement it, and then later down, they get an exam to test whether or not they understood the concept. So being in the lecture is a passive undertaking; passive in the sense that all they're doing is sitting down and listening."

"But ... in the flipped classroom approach, what happens is that the passive part of it is done at home. So I produced a set of videos for each content area, about five to ten minutes each. And they were able to go through those videos at home at any point in time that they thought most appropriate," she stated.

She presented her findings on the flipped classroom approach as part of CETL's **Teaching and Learning Week** that was held 7-10 June.

Lecturer in Management **Sonia Mahon** said she was *"surprised and delighted"* to be recognised by CETL. She explained that her team had to pivot quickly over the last two years in order to continue to ensure the smooth delivery of classes to the students.

As part of **Teaching and Learning Week**, she presented the findings of her research into why students decided to come to campus to write their assessments during the pandemic.

"The assessments for Social Sciences were virtual but proctored by the Responder software. Some students opted, despite their unease of coming out of their bubble, to come to campus to write their assessment rather than being remote. So about 12 percent of students in semester one in [the] class and about eight percent of the students in semester two [in the] class chose to come to campus."

"Most students identified technical issues. There were three themes that came out of the research, and the most prevalent theme was technical issues that were issues with their infrastructure. In semester two, it still remained the dominant feature but was followed closely by the attitudinal theme. Many students were unwilling to install the software on their systems and preferred to come to campus to use the resources."

"So the three themes were captured under technical, environmental and attitudinal," Mahon stated.

She also praised CETL for providing a support system for teaching staff. ●

Auspicious Start to Nursing Programme

by Marie-Claire Williams

Stephanie Cox-Mayers

In 2011, Nurse **Stephanie Cox-Mayers** was an expectant mother working on the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and paediatric wards of the **Queen Elizabeth Hospital**. Eleven years later, she was back on the Paediatric Ward, and once again, preparing to welcome the newest member of her family. This time, however, she was a registered nurse pursuing a Postgraduate Diploma in Paediatric Nursing at The UWI, Cave Hill Campus. And she was doing all this at the height of the deadly COVID-19 pandemic.

Cox-Mayers was part of the first cohort of the programme, which was introduced in 2021, **the first of its kind in the Caribbean** and the latest in the suite of nursing programmes to be offered at Cave Hill. She and 13 colleagues graduated with distinction on 22 October, along with six fellow nurses who completed the Master of Science (MSc) in Nursing Programme.

Last November, the Faculty of Medical Sciences held a pinning ceremony for the nurses who represented several institutions including the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, geriatric and district hospitals, polyclinics, and the Barbados Community College.

Cox-Mayers recalled that among the many challenges they faced were transitioning to online learning while juggling work duties and trying to keep themselves and their families safe during the pandemic.

"Though at times many of us had doubts about whether we could go on and complete this programme, our tutors, local and international, became our beacon of hope by encouraging, motivating and supporting us to persevere to the very end."

"During this transition period, each of us can agree that we were empowered with knowledge and developed skills which have enhanced our personal and professional development, and ultimately, [has been] of tremendous benefit to the paediatric clients and their families in Barbados," she said.

Minister of Health and Wellness **Senator Dr. the Most Honourable Jerome Walcott** congratulated the healthcare providers on their graduation from nursing school during the global pandemic.

"Their determination to make the best of the situation while



Senator Dr. the Most Hon. Jerome Walcott
Minister of Health and Wellness, Barbados



Dr. Peter Adams
Dean, Faculty of Medical Sciences
The UWI, Cave Hill Campus

shifting to virtual learning demonstrates the adaptability and flexibility required to be a nurse now and in the future," Walcott said.

He also highlighted the need for greater investment in nursing education in Barbados to meet the increasing demands on the health service.

"There is absolutely no doubt that a skilled and specialist nursing workforce is central to any healthcare system. We are already witnessing healthcare needs in Barbados and the Caribbean region becoming more complex and multifaceted, and today's realities are already shaping the future and indicating the lines along which our human resource development in health care should go.

"Hence, to maintain credibility as a profession, nurses are required to engage in continuing education, and it is pleasing to note that many of our nurses are continually seeking opportunities for personal and professional development," he said.

Deputy Principal **Professor Winston Moore** told the audience that developing countries like Barbados need professional nurses to contribute to the overall social and economic growth.

"A good healthcare system therefore minimises the negative shock of illness by reducing mortality rates and the length of stay in healthcare institutions. This also means that investment in vaccination programmes, antibiotic distribution programmes, micronutrient supplementation schemes, and yes, the quality of care provided by the health system can be directly linked to incomes and the standard of living in a country. And the executors of these much-needed services are none other than our nursing personnel.

"The professionalism and quality of our nurses is therefore not only something that we would like to have but as a developing country seeking growth, it is something that is most definitely needed," said Moore, who spoke on behalf of Principal, Professor Clive Landis.

Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences **Dr. Peter Adams** also had high praise for the students

on their accomplishment: "All of this attests to the quality and potential of our nurses in Barbados, once they are given the correct opportunity. This is no fly-by-night programme; it was carefully planned and underwent rigorous approval by the Board for Graduate Studies of The UWI."

Programme Coordinator **Dr. Wendy Sealy** reminded the audience of the critical role of nurses in society: *"Nurses have a very important part to play as a patient advocate and being agents of change when change is needed. Frequently, nurses see opportunities for improvement and become innovators to meet this goal as opportunities to provide better care progress to other settings. And often, nurses are called upon to influence ... the care decision makers to make a difference."*

MSc graduate **Suezett Hope** reflected on the last few years and the struggle to balance family, work, and school, saying this undertaking was not for the fainthearted.

"Shortly after commencing our studies, the COVID-19 pandemic made its appearance. As the country went into lockdown and everyone prepared to battle this dreaded virus from the safe confines of their homes, we, the students of the Master of Nursing Administration and Nursing Education programmes, were not afforded such luxuries. As practising midwives, psychiatric nurses, community health nurses, managers, and nurse educators, we

were the ones who fought at the frontlines every single day whilst continuing our studies.

"Fearful? Yes, we were. Uncertain of our future and that of our families? Yes, we were. Tired and irritable most days? Yes, we were, and our families can attest to that. And yet, we pressed on because we all understood our roles in reducing the impact of the COVID-19 virus on our clients, and by extension, our country."

Looking ahead, Ms. Hope pledged to continue to draw on the inner drive to succeed that enabled her and her colleagues to successfully complete their respective programmes.

The MSc Nursing, with

specialisations in Education and Administration, was introduced in 2018. In March 2021, steps were taken to also deliver it via an off-campus site when the Faculty of Medical Sciences partnered with the **St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College** to offer the programme at that institution. ●

Some of the graduates from the MSc Nursing and Postgraduate Diploma in Paediatric Nursing programmes.



Graduates Urged to Plan for the Future

"Learn well that life is not about standing idly by and allowing others to dictate your future." These words of advice came from honorary graduate **Dr. Joy St. John**, Executive Director of the **Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)** as she addressed The UWI, Cave Hill Class of 2022 last October.

In her address to the campus's first in-person graduation ceremony since 2019, the Caribbean's top public health official paid tribute to healthcare providers across the region for keeping citizens safe during the height of the pandemic and later urged the new graduates to take responsibility for their future.

Dr. Joy St. John
Executive Director,
Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)

"The strength of your conviction is the force that you must nurture and exercise," said Dr. St. John, who was conferred a **Doctor of Science (DSc)** for her work in medicine and public health leadership.

"Having just lived through a pandemic that has lasted two and a half years and counting, we recognise that this may not be the last great crisis. Therefore, planning for how we approach future crises is critical. You are the future, and we will depend on you, young and young at heart graduates, to help us navigate what life on planet Earth is becoming."



Over 1,400 students graduated in a face-to-face setting — 1,019 undergraduates and 412 at the graduate level — in the customary morning and evening ceremonies that were made possible owing to a relaxation of COVID-19 protocols. Immediately after the ceremonies, hundreds gathered with former classmates, family, friends, and well-wishers for photographs to capture the joyous moment with lasting memories.

As had occurred across the global tertiary education sector, a large percentage of graduates spent much of their learning experience receiving online instruction after the pandemic forced a suspension of in-person classes in March 2020.

Thereafter, the 2020 and 2021 graduation ceremonies, which were





His Excellency Gabriel Abed
being conferred an Honorary Doctor of
Laws by Chair of Cave Hill Campus Council,
Sir Paul Altman



Neville Isdell
being conferred an Honorary Doctor of
Laws by Chair of Cave Hill Campus Council,
Sir Paul Altman

staged in March 2021 and October 2021 respectively, were held virtually in keeping with the health and safety protocols implemented to safeguard against the spread of the deadly coronavirus.

The 2022 graduation saw 187 students being awarded first class honours, a number that eclipsed the previous year's highest of 154. Additionally, ten medical students graduated with honours, while upper second class honours were awarded to 490 students, and 209 received lower second class honours.

At the graduate level, 129 students received distinction, while 23 were awarded merit. One graduate received high commendation.

Valedictorian for the morning ceremony, **Martina Magalhaes** lauded Cave Hill for the high quality of education received at the institution: *"Today, we are in wonder at the quality and calibre of education with which we leave this institution. Not only are we leaving with degrees awarded by an internationally acclaimed university, ranked at the top 1.5 percent universities worldwide and one percent in Latin America, but we are leaving grateful for the insurmountable opportunities which we were afforded and the skills which we cultivated ..."*

"Today, we are in wonder of the unity and regional pride fostered at the

university. We can all boast having a multicultural experience that is unique to the Cave Hill campus. Amidst the environment of online learning and despite the seemingly enhanced connectivity, we learned that more than ever, there was and is a greater need for integration, community and camaraderie amongst ourselves, not only as students but as future leaders, policymakers and regional citizens," she said.

Her fellow valedictorian at the evening ceremony, **Stephanie Pascal**, shared similar sentiments: *"We will never forget our time here at The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus. Anyone who has gone to university can attest that we are simultaneously living the best, worst, poorest, most stressful, and most adventurous time of our lives. This is the same at Cave Hill. Considering that The UWI is one of the top ranked universities in the world, few programmes are more rigorous than ours."*

Honorary graduate **His Excellency Ambassador Gabriel Abed** advised the new graduates to *"create tomorrow's value today"*.

"[It was] one of the most valuable lessons I learned from my dad, who would not let you leave today's work for tomorrow; and when you did work, you delivered ultimate value. For if you can bring value through hard work, you would yield positive results. And the fastest way to success is to create value today, as people are attracted to those [who] bring value now," said Abed, who was awarded a **Doctor of Laws (LLD)** for entrepreneurship and pioneering digital currency.

A third honorary graduate, businessman **Neville Isdell** of Ireland, was also conferred a **Doctor of Laws** for his contributions to business and philanthropy. ●



Martina Magalhaes
Valedictorian



Stephanie Pascal
Valedictorian

Eight Receive Top Honours for EXCELLENCE

Three Cave Hill employees whose efforts played a significant role in the campus's fight against COVID-19 earned stellar recognition when the campus honoured eight staffers for outstanding performance at last year's Annual Retirees and Long Service Awards Ceremony. The eight recipients of the 2022 Principal's Award for Excellence also included a political scientist, a clinical psychologist, an agri-food researcher, a project officer and a laboratory technologist.



Dr. Tania Whitby-Best
Principal's Award for Excellence
in Recognition of Outstanding Service
to the Campus Community



Mrs. Nicole Sue
Principal's Award for Excellence
in Recognition of Outstanding Service
to the Campus Community

Dr. Tania Whitby-Best and **Mrs. Nicole Sue** were jointly awarded for **Outstanding Service to the Campus Community** in recognition of their sterling work, including efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 within the campus community. Medical Officer and Head of Department, Student Health Services **Dr. Whitby-Best** oversaw the emergence of three major innovative activities: the introduction of telemedicine and other virtual forms of medical assistance to students; the organisation of vaccination drives on campus for both staff and students; and the implementation of the monitoring system for students

travelling and returning to campus. During the pandemic, **Mrs. Sue**, Health, Safety and Environmental Officer, learned the new critical skill of contact tracing, working for extended hours supporting the national effort, and ensuring that the campus remained safe. She also helped to devise, implement and monitor campus protocols in response to wider governmental COVID-19 directives, and liaise with key stakeholders to ensure that critical protocols and procedures were in place to keep the campus community safe. Mrs. Sue's engagement on campus has been a pioneering and wide-ranging one driven by



Mr. Justin Sue
Principal's Award for Excellence
in Recognition of Outstanding Service
to the Campus Community



Senator Dr. Kristina Hinds
Principal's Award for Excellence
in Recognition of Outstanding Research
and Public Service



Dr. Mia Amour Jules
Principal's Award for Excellence
in Recognition of Outstanding Teaching
and Public Service



Dr. David Yawson
Principal's Award for Excellence
in Recognition of Outstanding
Research Accomplishments

her passion for the fields of health, safety and environmental management. She also played leading roles in the daunting tasks of hazardous waste disposal and restoring campus preparedness, following the 2021 volcanic ash fall.

Rounding out the trio, whose exceptional contributions in the fight

against COVID-19 took the spotlight, was **Mr. Justin Sue** who was awarded for **Outstanding Service to the Campus Community** particularly for an innovative initiative to ensure that the campus community had a ready supply of high-grade hand sanitizer produced on campus. Mr. Sue, who joined the campus in 2006 as

a technician in the Department of Biological and Chemical Sciences, is renowned as one of the most dependable employees who is always willing to go beyond the call of duty. He has shown his versatility in all areas of departmental activities, all the while executing his duties as Senior Technician with responsibility for Safety and Maintenance, in an exemplary manner.

Political scientist **Senator Dr. Kristina Hinds** was recognised for **Outstanding Research and Public Service** for her scholarly output and civic engagement. Within the last five years, Senator Hinds has published a total of twelve (12) peer reviewed books, book chapters, and journal articles, representing more than 70 percent of her overall scholarly output. Her body of work has advanced the face and depth of theorising in civil society and governance and their pivotal roles in shaping Caribbean society, economy and politics. She was also praised for a public service profile that is *"extensive, diverse and remarkable in local, regional and international contexts"*.

Awarded for **Outstanding Teaching and Public Service** was **Dr. Mia Amour Jules**, Lecturer in **Experimental and Physiological Psychology** who has long demonstrated a solid commitment to the university community and the public. Despite having large classes numbering hundreds of students, Dr. Jules's courses have gained high course evaluation scores throughout her tenure. In addition, she supervises and serves on the advisory committees of postgraduate research students. She was cited as one whose dedication, energy, and enthusiasm for her work illustrates her commitment to teaching, research, and public service.

An award for **Outstanding Research Accomplishments** went to **Dr. David Yawson**. The current Director of Centre for Resource Management and Environmental



Ms. Natasha Corbin
Principal's Award for Excellence
in Recognition of Outstanding Service
to the Campus Community

Studies (CERMES) has 20 years of work experience teaching in several disciplines in Ghana, the United Kingdom, Algeria, and in the Caribbean at the undergraduate and graduate levels, as well as providing research consultancy support around agri-food systems and environmental management. His publication résumé includes authoring 74 refereed journal articles, one book, five book chapters, 11 technical reports, most of them occurring within the past five years. Dr. Yawson was hailed as one whose career offers a blueprint for academics to emulate, combining teaching, grant writing and consultancies all leading to significant publications.

Ms. Natasha Corbin, who was awarded in the **Senior Administrative/Professional Staff** category for **Outstanding Service to the Campus Community**, is widely regarded as a champion of the campus's energy efficiency initiatives. The Project Officer with the Faculty of Science and Technology (FST) has made



Ms. Keisha Mascoll
Principal's Award for Excellence
in Recognition of Outstanding Service
to the Campus Community

extensive contributions to the campus, particularly in relation to the implementation and support of innovative clean energy solutions aimed at reducing its high energy operational costs and in alignment with the Government of Barbados's strategic focus of transitioning from fossil fuels to clean energy by 2030.

Similar to Mr. Sue, **Ms. Keisha Mascoll** was recognised for **Outstanding Service to the Campus Community** in the **Administrative, Technical and Service Staff Category**. Ms. Mascoll, who joined the Faculty of Medical Sciences in 2009 as Medical Laboratory Technologist, performs critical functions that allow classes to take place smoothly and ensures that the laboratories are ready for teaching sessions. She keeps an inventory of stock and places orders so that equipment and supplies arrive on the island in good time. She also assists the lecturers in the delivery of laboratory sessions.

Approximately 125 employees were recognised for their long service to the campus, in categories ranging from 15 to 40 years, while the university bade farewell to 21 persons who retired from the institution. The awards ceremony was held on 26 November. ●

Recipients of the 2022 Principal's Award for Excellence, along with (at centre) Campus Principal Prof. Clive Landis



Two New Cave Hill Professors

Exceptional accomplishment in the fields of law and music earned two Cave Hill academics the highest academic rank within The UWI community.

Former Dean of the Faculty of Law **Professor David Berry** and Dean of the Faculty of Culture, Creative and Performing Arts (FCCPA) **Professor David Akombo** earned their professorships following rigorous assessment by independent external appraisers that included evaluation of the quality and quantity of their research, publications, and other professional activities.



Professor David Berry
Faculty of Law, The UWI, Cave Hill Campus

Professor Berry's elevation to the highest academic rank comes after 25 years of service to the institution. Prior to this latest appointment, he was a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Law at Cave Hill. In 2012, he became the first University Dean of Law, following the creation of full Faculties of Law at The UWI, St. Augustine and Mona Campuses. He held that post for two years.

He served two consecutive terms as Dean of the Faculty of Law at Cave Hill from 2012–2016 and

2016–2020. During his second term, he was reappointed University Dean of Law in 2018 and served in that capacity until 2020.

Berry, who specialises in international law, is currently serving as a Key Legal Expert with **CARICOM's Consultancy for the Review of Caribbean Community Institutions**, as well as a member of the **CARICOM Regional Advisory Group on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction**. Additionally, he is an arbitrator in a case at the **International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes**.

The legal scholar has built an impressive body of work including eight peer-reviewed journal articles, one independently authored monograph, one co-edited book, nine book chapters, and three technical papers. He has also published four non-refereed journal articles and three book chapters, and he has been invited to make over 80 academic presentations. His book, *Caribbean Integration Law* (Oxford University Press, 2014), has been widely cited in academic circles and before the **Caribbean Court of Justice**.

Professor Berry has received several accolades for his work within and outside of the university, including the **Principal's Award for Excellence** in 2014, and the faculty's **Best Lecturer of the Year Award (Level II)** between 2001 and 2006. He was featured in The UWI's 60th Anniversary publication *60 Under 60* in 2008 and was inducted into the **Eminent Caribbean International Law Jurists Hall of Fame** in 2019.

He is the founder and a member of the **Caribbean Branch of the International Law Association** and serves on its committee on International Commercial Arbitration. He is a member of both the Caribbean Branch and Barbados Chapter of the **Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb)** and a former member of the **Council of Legal Education**.

In reviewing his work, one external examiner lauded Berry's contribution to the advancement of legal scholarship in the Caribbean: *"Dr Berry's contributions are important both because he puts the focus of his research in the Caribbean, an area understudied in the general context of international law and constitutional law, and he also has more wide-ranging research contributions that have contributed to the advancement of the discipline as a whole."*

Professor Berry holds a PhD in Law from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland; a Legal Education Certificate from the Council of Legal Education, Hugh Wooding Law School, Trinidad and Tobago; an LLM from Queen's University, Kingston, Canada; an LLB from the University of British Columbia, and a BA from the University of Toronto, Canada.

He was called to the **Canadian Bar Association, British Columbia Branch** in 1992 as a Barrister, Solicitor, and Notary Public; and to the **Barbados Bar Association** in 2011. In 2019, he qualified as a Fellow of CIArb, and he was named on this institute's approved faculty list in 2021.



Professor David Akombo,
Dean, Faculty of Culture, Creative and
Performing Arts, The UWI, Cave Hill Campus

The second professorial appointee, **Professor David Akombo**, joined the Cave Hill Campus in 2020 as the founding Dean of the FCCPA. He is an internationally recognised educator, researcher, and scholar in the fields of music education and interdisciplinary research in the arts and health.

Before taking up his current post, Akombo was a Faculty Fellow and tenured Associate Professor at the College of Liberal Arts at Jackson State University (JSU), one of the largest historically Black colleges and universities (HBCU) in the United States. He has also served as Chair of the Department of Music at JSU.

The Kenyan native holds a PhD from the University of Florida, an MMus from Bowling Green State University, Ohio; an MA from Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego; and a BEd from Kennyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya.

Professor Akombo has conducted extensive research in the areas

of multicultural music education, cultural identity and Afrocentricity issues in choral and instrumental music, as well as music technology and the psychology of music.

His remarkable publication record includes 14 books and book chapters, over 30 articles in peer-reviewed journals, and encyclopaedic entries published in *The SAGE International Encyclopedia of Music and Culture* and the *Encyclopedia of Society and Culture in the Ancient World*. He also produced several non-refereed publications including three co-edited and two single-editor books, six musical performances/compositions, and two internet publications. Additionally, he is an editor/reviewer for several professional journals.

One assessor said of his promotion, *"The significant professional growth he has demonstrated over the last two decades is evidenced by the continued expansion of his international reputation as a published researcher and scholar of the highest calibre, editor of professional journals and books, and frequent conference speaker. During this time, he has made a strong contribution to the music education profession beyond what many professionals would match in their professional lifetime. He brings a high level of authority, respect, and expertise to the international profession of music education."*

Professor Akombo teaches Music Education, General Musicianship, Research Methods in Music, and Interdisciplinary Studies in Music and Health. He has co-supervised five PhD dissertations, three master's theses, and has also developed several new courses for the faculty. ●

The **Student Programme for Innovation in Science and Engineering (SPISE)** has not only ushered in a game-changing environment for budding scientists within the region, but it has also presented many of its alumni with a life-altering experience.

Savouring Rich Reward After SPISE

by Carol Williams



Shergaun Roserie

The annual summer programme, organised by the **Caribbean Science Foundation (CSF)** at Cave Hill Campus, is credited by **Shergaun Roserie** for changing his personal and professional trajectory.

The SPISE 2016 **Eastern Caribbean Central Bank** Scholar, now age 22, has gone on to become the co-founder of a company in his native St. Lucia, has interned with two multinational corporations, and is enrolled at one of the top-ranked Black research universities in the United States, **Howard University**, where he is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Roserie fondly recalls being among 15 outstanding achievers from the region selected for the 2016 edition of SPISE. Back then, he had no idea it would be one of the most difficult challenges he would have to undertake in his young life.

"SPISE challenged me mentally," he said. *"It showed me that if I can complete that programme, I could do anything."*

During the four-week programme, the teenagers were taught university-level calculus, physics, biochemistry, entrepreneurship, given practical computer programming experience, and were involved in renewable energy and electronics and underwater robotics. In the final stage, they were required to pitch business plans, apply their newly acquired computer programming skills to create video games, and create electronic circuits for

renewable energy applications and underwater robotics.

A victorious Roserie subsequently returned to his homeland and participated in several STEM-related activities, but it was not easy going. Two major obstacles stood in the way of his dream of becoming an engineer – insufficient funds to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Engineering and the denial of his application by top-rated universities in the United States. On the verge of giving up, he was unexpectedly contacted by Interim Executive Director of the CSF **Professor Cardinal Warde** and Co-Executive Director **Dr. Dinah Sah** who were in St. Lucia at the time. During a meet-up, the two encouraged him not to give up on his dreams.

"Honestly, just the fact that they made the effort to reach out to me and have that sit down with me really made me think 'if they see the potential in me and were encouraging me to do something,



(from left) Devy Frederick, Shergaun Roserie; former Prime Minister of St. Lucia, Hon. Allen Chastanet, and SPISE graduate Keeghan Patrick

why should I not have that belief in myself and push myself to get there?”

Motivated, the SPISE graduate applied to other universities and began hosting robotics programmes and computer training workshops for different organisations on the island.

In 2019, he was accepted into **Howard University**, and a year later, co-founded the company **Orbtronics** with another former SPISE graduate and St. Lucian, **Keeghan Patrick**. The company offers STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) educational programmes, basic digital skills training, and web

development services.

Roserie was also able to secure internships at the US-based, multinational technology companies, **Cummins Inc.** and **Microsoft Corporation** where he focused on product design.

*“It has been a wonderful experience. I think Microsoft has given me the opportunity to grow as an engineer, and it has also given me the flexibility that I need to pursue my other passions. So, I was still allowed to travel to [Kigali in] Rwanda where I attended the **Generation Connect Global Youth Summit** [in June 2022] that focused on digital development, digital transformation, and digital policy.*

“That was not a one-off for me because from the time I joined

Generation Connect, I’ve always been highly engaged in advocating for the youth because the youth are the future; and if I can put myself in a position where I can make it easier for whoever comes after me, given the barriers we face in the Caribbean, ... [I will].”

He said his involvement in the international youth group has not only allowed him to amplify his voice on issues that affect the youth but it has also allowed him to connect with important decision makers.

Roserie told his story to the 2022 SPISE cohort during an online event held on 24 July 2022 and commended the two SPISE executives on having a vision for the region that is genius and years ahead of their time.

"SPISE was one of the most fundamental experiences of my educational journey and my life because it changed the trajectory for me, not only in terms of what I wanted to do, but it changed my way of thinking and opened my eyes to the possibilities in the areas of engineering."

In a message to the cohort, he explained that SPISE taught him tenacity and helped him to find scholarships and secure financial backing to pursue his education.

"To get here is a privilege, an honour; and moving forward, you have to understand that being a SPISE graduate you have to carry that weight on your shoulder that you have gotten an opportunity that not many have had, and you should make the best of it."

"SPISE ingrained in me that I just need to push through with whatever I was dealing with. It created a network of like-minded people who wanted to achieve more. It was the first time in my life that I was in

a condensed group of people who were high achievers. It made me feel like what I was doing was not enough and that I could do more. That inspired me. SPISE also encouraged me to think, when I started my company, that we can create this Silicon Forest in the Caribbean. We have the potential to do it but have not placed enough emphasis on STEM education and focusing on digital services as a product."

Dr. Dinah Sah said there were lessons to be learned from Roserie's experience, among them resourcefulness, the need to take calculated risks, and to create opportunities. She said they were astonished and inspired by what the graduate has accomplished.

In his pep talk, **Professor Warde** gave sobering advice to the regional students: *"Our charge to you is to stick with it, be tenacious; and in some ways, you must be a little bit aggressive in going after what you want. All of you have goals. If you see an opportunity, take it. And use the resources that are out there ... If you don't use the resources, you are wasting your time, and you're wasting an opportunity."*

SPISE is the flagship programme of the CSF and has as its motto **"Grooming the next generation of Caribbean science and engineering leaders"**. ●



Shergaun Roserie at the **Generation Connect Youth Summit** in Kigali, Rwanda



Sharon Alexander-Gooding
The UWI's Archivist, 1996-2019

Sharon Alexander-Gooding:

The UWI's Archivist,
1996-2019

An abridged version of an interview with **Professor Opal Palmer Adisa**, former University Director, Institute for Gender and Development Studies Regional Coordinating Office

For the RECORD

Sharon Alexander-Gooding began her career at The UWI, Cave Hill Campus as the campus's first Records Manager in 1996, after having served as Manager, **Government Records Centre**, and Acting National Archivist in Trinidad and Tobago. In 2000, she started the **Certificate in Records Management Programme** at Cave Hill, and in 2004, established the **West Indies Federal Archives Centre** at Cave Hill that brought together and preserved the original records, in all formats, of the **West Indies Federation (The Federation)** which were inscribed in the local, regional and international Registers of the UNESCO **Memory of the World**. In 2009, Sharon was promoted to Senior Assistant Registrar during which time she acquired the records of Chancellors Emeriti Sir

Shridath Ramphal and Sir George Alleyne and that of the first Principal of Cave Hill, Sir Sidney Martin, as well as other entities that relate to Caribbean integration. She developed and delivered the curriculum for Archives Administration in the Master of Arts in Heritage Studies programme at Cave Hill Campus. In 2014, she was promoted to University Archivist with record-keeping oversight of all four campuses. The fifth campus was established subsequently.

Sharon was the first Caribbean Archivist/Records Manager to sit simultaneously on the Executive of the **International Council of Archives (ICA)**, the **Caribbean Branch of ICA (CARBICA)**, **ARMA International**, **Barbados Association for Records and Information Management (BARIM)** and government boards with respect to archival and records information management (RIM) development. She also consulted on the design and implementation of the **National Records Centre** and the **Digitisation Centre** for the Barbados Government. Sharon officially retired as University Archivist in 2019.

How and when did you decide you wanted to be an archivist, and what has your journey been like?

As a child, I was always reading; so everybody knew that they could make me happy by buying me books. I decided I would be a librarian; however, my first job was actually in accounting. When an opening came up in the **Foreign Affairs Library** in Trinidad and Tobago, I applied and started

to work there. I spent the first ten years of my working life in this specialised library. When they wanted someone to start up a legal library collection for the Director of Public Prosecutions, I got a call; it was a promotion from foreign Affairs, so I went. While I was at the Legal Department ... I started to think about and read up on archives and how an archivist preserves important documents because I saw that this was needed at the national level.

I also realised that there was a dearth of trained archivists in the Caribbean. I wanted to study it formally but couldn't afford it. ... Therefore, I decided I would apply for a Commonwealth Scholarship ... I went to **The University of British Columbia** for two years and it was an enlightening experience. We studied disaster prevention, preparedness and recovery. We had a court of appeal judge who lectured to us about the legal part of record keeping. It's so wide and varied; I was excited by it all.

When I was finished, I was ready to go back home. I got job opportunities in Canada and the United States, but I said, *"No, the reason I came here is because of what happened in my country and I have to go back."*

However, while in Trinidad for a year, some work-related challenges arose. I decided to move with my family to Barbados and I have been with The UWI since 1996. I originally worked at Cave Hill Campus, but then in 2014, I was promoted to the University Archivist post, with oversight for the four campuses at that time.

What is the job of an archivist?

What we seek to do is to preserve the records of institutions, organisations, and countries. We try to have the history there for generations to come and for current generations.

Former UWI Archivist **Sharon Alexander-Gooding** addressing an event



What materials are to be considered for archives?

Everything! We are the life blood of the community, the organisation, the institution. We appraise records and look at the value they provide for ongoing decision making, as well as for the future so that people can go back and see the evidence of what was done. We ascribe value to records on a daily basis, including their administrative value, operational value, and financial value; we even go as far as look at intrinsic value. And we try to preserve them in the right environmental conditions to ensure that they last for as long as possible.

What are the right environmental conditions, particularly for the Caribbean, that must be maintained?

We have constraints in the Caribbean because of the weather/climate. In a temperate climate, materials last longer. In the Caribbean it gets very hot, and we have to use air conditioning [AC] to try to counteract the heat. So, records are cold in the day because of the AC and warm at night because we tend to turn off the AC when we are leaving to go home. When we do this, paper-based documents expand and contract. This weakens the paper, and hence, they deteriorate much faster. In trying to combat the tropical climate we have to look at all of those things. Within archives, we need to have a constant temperature going whether we are there or not. We also have to look at the humidity because it means that moisture is infused when the material is exposed to heat, and that's ideal for mould development. We integrated pest controls within our holdings and within our repositories ... Additionally, we have to make sure when we set up archives that the building is not at the bottom of a hill where flooding could occur.

I want to go back to one of the first things you said in terms of housing the records of the university. You talked about the finance records and the governing records, but what about our primary stakeholders like students and faculty? Are they also a part of it?

Yes, all of that is a part of it. We have three stages in record keeping: (1) We have the active stage where you keep all of the records that are created for the day-to-day administration and decision making; (2) We have semi-active record keeping; these are records that you would need once a year or once every three years, and so they are removed from the active environment but close enough so they can be retrieved if needed; (3) Then there is the archival stage where records are appraised for their value and moved to the archives. That's where we ... make sure the environment is right.

... Continued on page 104

... Continued from page 103

Does each of the four or five campuses has a record keeper?

Yes, we have a structure under the broad umbrella of the University Archivist. Below that there is a Campus Records Manager on every campus. Each of these individuals has a team that works for the Registry (the active records) and Records Centre for inactive records. [There is also an archival repository here at University Regional Headquarters.]

Why is it important that we have one on each campus?

Because records appear in each area, and some of them are peculiar to that particular campus and its development over time. There are archival records that are unique to St. Augustine. Remember they were the second campus and also the **Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture** started there. There are archival records that are relevant to those years that are not here at the **University Archives**.

What are some of the things you've put in place that you are really proud of?

Well, I would say my flagship achievement is the Federal Archives. The Federation dissolved in 1962, and The UWI was the one standing regional body at the time, besides cricket. The UWI was asked to take the records into safe keeping. The **West Indies Federal Archives Centre** is a double repository that also houses the **Cave Hill Campus Archives**. The **West Indies Federal Archives** have since been formally inscribed in the local, regional and international **Registers of UNESCO Memory of the World**. I feel really good having accomplished that!

My other major thing is training. I have been running, since 2001, a **Certificate in Records Management** in the summer and have had students from Belize in the North down to Guyana in the South. This programme has prepared over 450 graduates for record keeping in various agencies.

Is it online through The UWI Open Campus?

No, it's a face-to-face programme. They come for six weeks to do part one in the summer; and then the following year, they do part two; and after that, they are awarded their **Certificate in Records Management**. We get an average of 25 students a year. Many of them are government officers who work in registries ... We have also had librarians, lawyers, and people from the supreme court who want to improve their records management. This will continue even though I am not there; I have been training someone to do it.

What are some of the prized documents that are in the Federal Archives?

I found, some years ago, a Royal Warrant that was just so beautiful, edged in gold. We took that one out and separated it because we wanted it to go into a special environmentally controlled room. I felt we really had to preserve this one well. In 2012, the Government asked the university to do an exhibition for Prince Edwards and his wife, and that was one of the exhibits from the Federal Archives. Once Prince Edwards saw it, he said, *"I have never seen a document signed by my mother and my aunt."* It had Margaret and Elizabeth on it, but I would not have known the significance of that. Princess Margaret was involved with The Federation, and somehow, when they got the Royal Warrant, the Queen signed it and she signed it as well; so, he said that is priceless. So, you know how great we felt! I said, *"straight back into the dark for you!"* So, we only bring that out on special occasions.



Former UWI Archivist Sharon Alexander-Gooding speaking with former Prime Minister Freundel Stuart while others look on

Another piece that I really love was a file that dealt with the judiciary; and in that file, there is an agreement where whenever there was a backlog of cases in one of the federate countries, the agreement was that they would hire temporary judges to lessen that backlog. I looked at it and wondered why we are having problems with backlog now. We are not learning from the past. The whole process was outlined in the file; and I called up the **CARICOM Secretariat** and told them that we had a file that said so and so, and they all should see that it goes to heads of government. I am not sure that anything happened, but at least I drew it to their attention.

Two others: We have the archives of **Sir Shridath Ramphal**. He was one of the people who drafted the Constitution of The Federation. We also have the archives of **Sir George Alleyne**.

A number of years ago, we checked for all of the living main characters of The Federation or people who were associated with them. I took a team, and we went to Jamaica and interviewed **Sir Howard Cooke** because he played a role in The Federation. We got a number of very important people who were able to add further background, and of course, we had them sign the necessary documents for copyright purposes and so on. For example, we interviewed **Sir Ellis Clarke** who was the first President of Trinidad and was the advisor to **Dr. Eric Williams** during the federal period.

What other countries have you helped with their archives?

I have worked with **CARICOM** and **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** in Guyana. I have worked in The Bahamas, in St. Lucia with different organisations, in Antigua, and of course, in Trinidad and Tobago.

Tell us about awards you have received and about your plans now that you are at pre-retirement.

I received the **Principal's Award for Excellence** at Cave Hill, various bursaries and awards for training, awards from **ARMA International**, **Society of American Archivists**, and a nomination for the most prestigious award in global archives - the **Emmett Leahy Award**. I was also appointed to a number of positions in the **International Council of Archives**, representing the Caribbean. The **Fund for the International Development of Archives (FIDA)** asked me to be a trustee, and I have been there for the last four years. Through them, I have secured funding for various training programmes in the Caribbean.

Regarding retirement plans: a relaxing period, some work (not too much as an archival consultant/records manager) and some writing, as I always wanted to write some Caribbean novels.



Former UWI Archivist, Sharon Alexander-Gooding
with Vice-Chancellor of The UWI, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles

As a writer, what tips do you have for me and for other writers about keeping our own personal records?

Documents like your manuscripts, birth certificates, academic certificates, marriage certificates, mortgages, your deeds – those are archival documents. You can have them replicated. You have to go through a lot of trouble to get those things back if you lose them. We teach people how to put these things in safe places, including the type of housing they should have. We use boxes that are lignin-free and acid-free. That is part of traditional storage.

I would also encourage you to document what you have, list electronically, label, scan and digitally store what you have so it is easy to get to it. In some cases, we put hard copies and photographs in flexi folders so that if there is water ingress, they would not be damaged too quickly. Some people are not aware of those simple little things, and so, the purpose of workshops that we host is to educate the community at large.

Thank you for the opportunity to briefly discuss my life's passion. ●



Tyrique Wilson

OF LAW AND LEGACY

by Camille Russell

When 18-year-old **Tyrique Wilson** entered The UWI, Cave Hill Campus as a law student in 2020, he was fully determined to become a lawyer and just as equally resolute to build a legacy. This desire led him to pursue varying entrepreneurial ventures, but it was his late grandfather's rum cream recipe that would inspire him to create Barbados's newest *crème liqueur* brand known today as **Carringtons Rum Cream**.

The third-year law student, with the support of his family, took the late Hurlstone "Harold" Wilson's recipe for the spirit and developed it into what he describes as a "*joyous drinking experience*". The brand was forged during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, after his two other ventures in photography and clothing came to an abrupt end.

"Neither of these initial ventures survived the pandemic period of lockdowns. I could not

do photoshoots and people did not buy clothes because there was nowhere to go. Taking the lessons learned from this, I knew I needed a legacy business that was sustainable and immune to events like the pandemic," Tyrique shared.

"One of the reasons I am so focused on legacy is that my grandfather made it a point to have a strong sense of family. I remember him saying often, 'we are Wilson', and that stuck with me. However, as I grew older I realised that although we could be proud of my family name, we really did



not have anything tangible to build or continue a legacy and that something tangible was important to me," said Tyrique.

After much contemplation, Tyrique realised his family's drink was a viable alternative, and he immediately proposed to develop the beverage and build the brand. The cream liqueur, which was originally named Sunbury after a notable landmark in Barbados, entered the market during the latter part of 2020. For the first year and a half, the business operated solely online that, according to Tyrique, "worked out perfectly".



"The business could not have come at a better time. We were under lockdown because of the pandemic, and essentially, the business and brand had to be built online. I set up the social media pages, and very soon after, we started receiving orders and business did quite well at this stage. This was also beneficial to me because my courses and exams were all online and I could focus on creating the best product with the recipe I had without the distraction of a commute to and from campus."

Even with this initial success, Tyrique felt there was definitely scope for improvement. For this reason, he took the opportunity to apply to the **Barbados Food and Rum Festival** accelerator programme, titled **The Food & Beverage Accelerator**, in October 2022 where he emerged as a finalist.

It was while in this programme Tyrique was urged to rebrand his product to **Carringtons Rum Cream**

"The accelerator programme was challenging, not in the sense that it was difficult but that it pushed us to do the best that we can; and it challenged us to liberate our minds and take more risks. And that partly contributed to why I embraced my brand story and chose to rebrand so soon," he disclosed.

The now 20-year-old law student and entrepreneur shared that he decided on the name Carrington after the low-income community of Carrington Village where he grew up.

"In that community, the cycle of poverty is definitely evident, and I am determined to avoid that cycle for my family and the generations to come."

Tyrique credits his family for shielding him from the effects of poverty that inflicts that neighbourhood, in particular, his father who was an officer in the then Royal Barbados Police Force. However, he noted that it is his mother from whom he likely inherited his entrepreneurial traits, as she is also an entrepreneur who has started several ventures including jewellery making.

Recently, Tyrique was able to scale the business from solely online to adding a travelling kiosk with scheduled set-ups at various malls and supermarkets across the island. In spite of the growing success, he is still determined to complete his law degree.

"Law remains one of my true passions, and I hope to have dual careers in both law and entrepreneurship. I can see opportunities for the two fields to interact as the business grows from sole proprietorship to incorporated when a legal education would be beneficial," Tyrique stated.

The young man asserted he does not see why persons should limit themselves to just one career path, and he encourages others to pursue their passions as far as they can, as that is what he plans to do with his legal career and entrepreneurial endeavours. In his own words, "Law is my pride and Carringtons is my joy." ●

Global Achievement Award for Cave Hill Alumna

by Camille Russell



Dr. Nadine Rogers

When Cave Hill alumna **Nadine Rogers** graduated from the then Faculty of Arts and General Studies in 1988, little did she know that her just completed journey would set her on the road to international recognition.

Today, the 2022 recipient of the **Global Achievement Award** from the **Johns Hopkins Alumni Association** credits The UWI, Cave Hill Campus with giving her a solid start, a thirst for knowledge, a place to be creative, and the chance to develop lifelong friendships.

Twenty years prior to receiving her global award, she had earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Health Policy and Management from the **Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health**.

In addition to earning an Upper Second Class Honours Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature from Cave Hill, and her doctoral degree in 2002, she accumulated

nearly 30 years of experience in management, health policy implementation, science administration, and education and communications across the private, public, and non-profit sectors.

This United States (U.S.) national has deep Caribbean roots that span Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, and Anguilla where her family gathered during the August school breaks. Cave Hill contemporaries recall the published poet's involvement in calypso under the sobriquet Spitfire and being President of the **Creative Writers' Association**.

She has served as Foreign Service Officer at the **Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator and Health Diplomacy**, and for 10 years, worked at the U.S. **National Institutes of Health** handling scientific review of multimillion-dollar research grant applications focused on HIV/AIDS prevention and services in populations at risk for or addicted to drugs, both domestically and internationally.

Her deployment across the globe on behalf of the U.S. Government includes places such as Vietnam, Cambodia, Uganda, Ethiopia, South

Africa, Zambia, and the Caribbean. She currently serves as the Country Director for the U.S. **Peace Corps** in the Cooperative Republic of Guyana.

Dr. Rogers shares credit for pioneering distance learning at the **American Red Cross**—an expertise that she recently tapped while working with school teachers in Guyana. In 2018, she received a **Franklin Award** from the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi, Vietnam for her efforts on behalf of drug

President of Guyana, His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali greets Dr. Nadine Rogers.



abusing populations in Vietnam.

The certified Project Management Professional views her accomplishments as the result of her willingness to grasp opportunities and to try new things. She acknowledges that her experiences as an immigrant American taught her to be resilient and challenged her to remain authentic. Her Caribbean upbringing prepared her to be adaptable and to be sensitive to the needs and challenges of those working on issues of development in under-resourced settings.

"Every day, I endeavour to be a good steward of the opportunities that come my way and the efforts for which I am responsible," Dr. Rogers said.

She is also very thankful to her leadership at the U.S. **Peace Corps**—an agency dedicated to world peace and friendship—and to the amazing team of Guyanese locals and U.S. staff at **Peace Corps** in Guyana, who she commended for their willingness to be led by her.

Chief Executive Officer of the U.S. **Peace Corps**, **Carol Spahn** offered congratulations by letter to Dr. Rogers: *"This award is a testament to your many years of tireless and successful work in the fields of global health and education and the meaningful impact you have been able to make on the world. I am so pleased Johns Hopkins is recognising you with this award, and I am grateful for your leadership of the Peace Corps - Guyana team."*

The **Global Achievement Award** is one of six categories of awards to honour outstanding alumni, faculty, and friends of Johns Hopkins. Presented every year, the award honours alumni who exemplify the Johns Hopkins tradition of excellence and have brought credit to the university and their profession in the international arena through their professional achievements or humanitarian service. ●

Scholarship Recipient Pledges to Focus on Research

Dr. Anja Greaves is the latest recipient of the **Cato Burton Foundation/City of Bridgetown Credit Union** scholarship.

The Master of Public Health (MPH) student currently works as Senior Registrar and the Chief Resident in the Department of Paediatrics at the **Queen Elizabeth Hospital**.

The health practitioner said while she has a vested interest in women's health, she has developed a love for paediatrics and intends to become a public health advocate to help bridge the gap between primary and tertiary care.

Dr. Greaves was officially honoured during a presentation ceremony held on 15 February 2023. Chairman of the foundation, **Professor Sir Errol Walrond** and President of the Board of Directors of the **City of Bridgetown (COB) Credit Union**, **Dr. Lynette Holder** were among those in attendance.

"Several people questioned my decision to have yet another degree with UWI, but I am a firm believer that UWI graduates are exceptionally trained and can represent themselves on any platform around the world," said the awardee.

"I want to work with women primarily of reproductive age to give guidance on birth control, STIs [sexually transmitted infections] and the importance of antenatal care. Finally, I want to take part in research endeavours to help put Barbados and the region on the map, to ensure that our medical students understand the



Scholarship recipient **Dr. Anja Greaves** receives cheque from Chairman of the Cato Burton Foundation, **Professor Sir Errol Walrond** and President of the COB Board of Directors, **Dr. Lynette Holder**.

importance of practising evidence-based medicine, and to ensure that they are not disadvantaged when placed against a colleague of similar standing from a developed country."

Head of the Department of Preclinical and Health Sciences in the Faculty of Medical Sciences at the Cave Hill Campus **Dr. Damian Cohall** said the MPH programme was developed primarily to provide the region with a well-trained and agile public health workforce.

He said the pandemic has spurred renewed interest in the MPH programme that continues to attract students from diverse backgrounds and nationalities.

"We are proud to see our students and graduates in Barbados and across the region making active and meaningful contributions not only to the management of COVID-19 but to other health emergencies such as the volcanic ash fall, as well as providing clinical and technical support and in conducting health services research for decision making."

The **Cato Burton Foundation** was founded in memory of St. Vincent and the Grenadines-born Sir Arnott Cato who gave over 60 years of service in the areas of medicine and politics to Barbados.

The **Cato Burton Foundation/City of Bridgetown Credit Union** scholarship began in 2010 and is awarded annually. ●

Sir Alister and His Work LAUDED

by Carol Williams

Seminal works by one of the region's highly acclaimed and most celebrated developmental economists, which were previously difficult to access, are now easily available to the public.

The decision to compile and publish selected papers and speeches on Caribbean trade, integration and development by renowned regionalist Sir Alister McIntyre has been praised by university officials and leading economists in the region as a monumental step that coincides with a pivotal moment in Caribbean development.

The papers are available in two



volumes: Volume I deals with **Trade and Integration** while Volume II focuses on **Aspects of Human Resources Development and Higher Education**. The volumes were published by **The University of the West Indies Press (UWIPRESS)** and edited by Professor Emeritus Andrew Downes, Professor Emeritus Compton Bourne, Sir Alister's son Dr. Arnold McIntyre, and former Director in The UWI's Office of the Vice-Chancellor Rosalie O'Meally. They were launched at a ceremony hosted by Cave Hill Campus on 30 June 2022.

Grenadian-born Sir Alister was fully involved in the selection of papers and speeches, which commenced in 2017, said Dr. McIntyre, himself an economist and Deputy Division Chief of the **Western Hemisphere Department of the International Monetary Fund**. He added that his father was deeply appreciative of the project, and he praised the editors for their Herculean effort.



Professor Sir Hilary Beckles
Vice-Chancellor, The UWI

UWI Vice-Chancellor **Professor Sir Hilary Beckles** spoke of the unprecedented thought and practice of development economics of his trusted friend and mentor Sir

Alister, along with regionalists Sir Arthur Lewis and William Demas.

As a result of the publications, the Vice-Chancellor said he anticipated a "*McIntyre resurgence*" since the work of the economist remains as relevant today as it was for post-plantation economies.

"I personally welcome these publications beyond the scope of my own engagement in Caribbean development because, for many years, I have been of the view that there has been a crisis in respect of accessibility to the intellectual output of Sir Alister. I believe that his position and his status within Caribbean development discourse have been impeded by the fact that most of his work was not readily available to the people of the Caribbean and to our students especially."

"By breaking this bondage of accessibility, which is what our editors have done, I have no doubt that we are going to see, in the months and years ahead, a resurgence around the usage of the work of Sir Alister because it is so perfectly relevant today."



The Hon. Mia Amor Mottley
Prime Minister of Barbados

The venerable Sir Alister served in numerous organisations, including as former Vice-Chancellor of **The UWI**, Secretary-General of the **Caribbean Community**, Vice Chairman of the **West Indian Commission**, in several organisations of the **United Nations**, and as a consultant to the **World Bank** and the **Inter-American Development Bank**.

For his outstanding service, he received numerous awards and recognitions, including a knighthood from the Queen of England in 1992, national honours in Guyana and Jamaica, and the Order of the Caribbean Community.

Prime Minister of Barbados **The Honourable Mia Amor Mottley** said she counted herself lucky for having worked as a former Minister of Education with Sir Alister when he served as Vice-Chancellor of The UWI. In her reflections, Prime Minister Mottley said many of the problems Sir Alister identified for regional economies over 45 years ago, such as escalating expenditure on imported food, high unemployment and difficulties



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

in financing the public sector, currently exist. She agreed with Sir Alister's position that the regional integration movement must propel the Caribbean and reaffirmed her stance that international financial institutions needed to be repurposed to accommodate the uniqueness of Caribbean economies.

"I trust and pray that this great work, two volumes of almost 600 pages of rich Caribbean thought and writing, will help us in this effort not to shy away from our role in the shaping of global financial institutions or in regional development thought but to propel us at a pace that will allow us to see greater progress than they would have seen without the benefit of this work."

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Cave Hill Campus **Professor Clive Landis** said the material covered in the volumes is critical to helping drive Caribbean development in light of the existence of multiple external threats. He had strong hope for the continued success of the region as

he pointed to the management of the COVID-19 pandemic by countries as an example of a story of triumph that led to a strengthened Caribbean brand.

Principal Landis stated, *"There can be no doubt that even greater regional cooperation is now urgently required to help mitigate the grave new external threats that have exposed the Caribbean's vulnerabilities to our most basic needs of food and energy security."*

Chair of the Board of Directors of The UWI Press, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of The UWI, Five Islands Campus **Professor Densil Williams** described Sir Alister as one of the foremost intellectual giants of the Caribbean who left an indelible mark on the region. He said Sir Alister carved out a space for context-specific theorising and empirical analyses based on one's circumstances as opposed to the application of a cut-and-paste, unbridled, neo-liberal approach to development. Professor Williams said, at the same time, the development



Professor Densil Williams
Chair of the Board of Directors, The UWI Press;
Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal,
The UWI, Five Islands Campus

economist was not insular in his intellectual thought, as he embraced the global village within which the Caribbean operates.

Turning his attention to the volumes, Professor Williams said the editors carefully and painstakingly selected works of Sir Alister that reflected his intellectual contribution to development discourse by looking at issues such as decolonisation and trade policy in the West Indies, towards a new international economic order, small countries in the world economy, governance and decentralisation in the context of a regional university, among many other insightful thoughts.

"The speeches, academic papers and notes all provide critical insights into the framing of a localised intellectual discourse on regional development which can lay the foundation for the development and execution of homegrown policies and institutions to support our developmental efforts," Professor Williams stated.

He added that Sir Alister provided a guide that would allow the Caribbean to participate in this new global economy on its proverbial feet rather than on its knees.

President of the **Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)**, **Dr. Hyginus "Gene" Leon** said the bank can trace its antecedents to



Dr. Hyginus "Gene" Leon
President,
Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)

the writings of Sir Alister who had a close working relationship with the institution. He identified key aspects of Sir Alister's philosophy that remain key pillars for the CDB, among them regional integration, trends and challenges associated with the future of Caribbean development and knowledge-based economies. Dr. Leon said the positions and prescriptions articulated in Sir Alister's writings provide ample guidance, as they draw from the vast body of knowledge to fashion solutions for current and future challenges.

The publications were given a thorough review by **Dr. Shelton Nicholls**, Senior Advisor to the

President of the CDB. He prefaced his analysis by noting: *"Collective works of this nature that chart the professional development, management journey and contributions of great intellectuals and administrators in our region ought to be more commonplace in our Caribbean space since they not only offer perspectives on how our societies have evolved but, more importantly, provide lessons for the future growth and development of the region. Indeed, retrospection and prospection constitute integral aspects of the process of sustainable development."* ●



Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice-Chancellor of The UWI; The Hon. Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados; Professor Emeritus Andrew Downes, one of the editors of the publications; and Dr. Arnold McIntyre, son of Sir Alister McIntyre

Sir Henry Unveils Autobiography

Noted academic, prolific researcher and renowned polymath **Professor Emeritus Sir Henry Fraser** has shared aspects of his storied life in one of his latest publications, an autobiography entitled *A Life in Medicine & The Arts*.

The former senator, longstanding university public orator and architectural historian was highly acclaimed at the book launch held at Cave Hill campus's

Clinical Skills Complex, Errol Walrond Building last May. The hybrid event (in-person and online) hosted by the Faculty of Medical Sciences was billed as a celebration of Sir Henry's life and tapestry and included several persons who shared anecdotes and spoke glowingly of him.

Among them were Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the Cave Hill Campus Professor Clive Landis; Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Dr. Peter Adams; Professor Emeritus Pedro Welch; and Dr. Kenneth Connell, Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences.

There were recorded video tributes from Director of the George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Centre, Professor Simon Anderson; General Manager of The UWI Press, Nadine Buckland; and Professor Peter Figueroa of

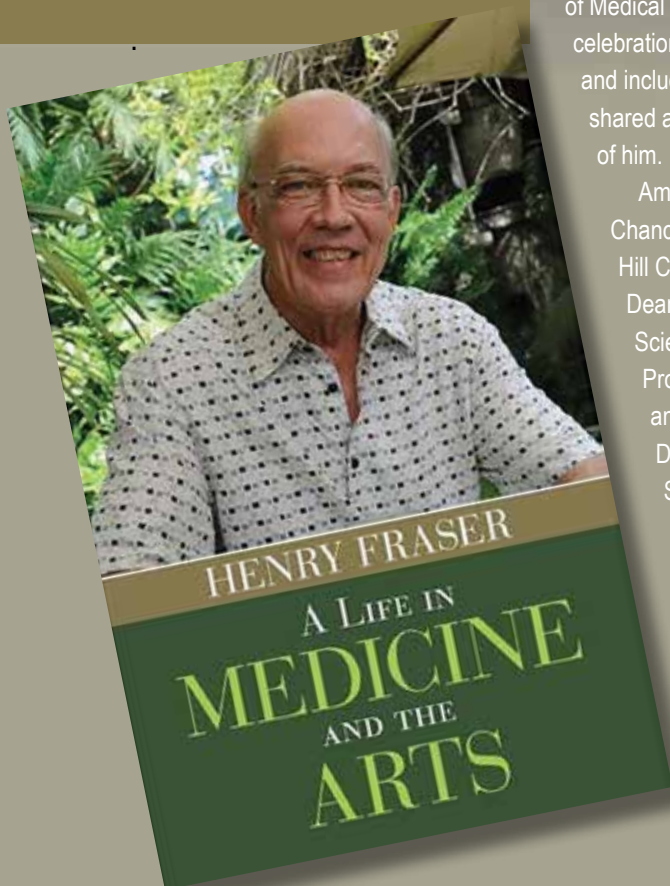
Jamaica, the latter of whom shares 55 years of friendship with Sir Henry.

Professor Figueroa described the autobiography as a gem, saying that there was more to Sir Henry than revealed in the book, and added: *"I am looking forward to another autobiography because he has much more to tell."*

During his on-stage interaction with Dr. Kenneth Connell who chaired the ceremony, Sir Henry said he was humbled by the glowing tributes.

"I've had a very amazing life and people have asked me why I took the trouble to write this. [They have asked] '... is this some kind of self-promotion?' Not really, because I write. I've written from the time I was four years old ... and I enjoy writing," the retired dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences said.

Sir Henry has written more than a dozen books, including the recently launched *Did You Know? People, Places and Untold Stories of Historic Barbados*. ●



"Bye George"

by Sir Hilary Beckles

Professor George Lamming, Caribbean and global literary luminary, Philosopher King of Postcolonialism, and social justice activist, transitioned in his native Barbados—the castle of his skin—on Saturday, 4 June 2022 at age 94. The news punctured the peace of mind of the academic community at The UWI where he was Professor in Residence at the Cave Hill Campus. It was there in his office at the George Lamming Pedagogical Centre that we last met and occupied ourselves for a few hours with one of Miles Davis's last statements: that time is never enough to exhaust the ever giving, producing, creative imagination of the dedicated intellect.

George was a phenomenal philosopher who erupted in the literary world early in life with the publication in 1953 of a classic novel of anti-colonial consciousness—*In The Castle Of My Skin*—written during his 23rd year of life. From his Bridgetown village, he traversed the intellectual universe and provided it with a pedagogy of liberation that underpinned Pan-Africanism, socialism, and a 20th century humanism that included feminism, dialectical materialism, and the Caribbean cultural revolution. His embrace of Cuban socialism became a template for his support of Maurice Bishop and Walter Rodney in their quests to detach the neocolonial region from the scaffold of rejected imperialism.

As a craftsman of literary forms, his citizenship within The UWI community was celebrated as an expression of Caribbean civilisation at its finest. He was a brother within the hood, and a comrade in the intellectual struggle to win our freedom

with dignity and self-determination. A fierce but gentle and subtle debater and conversationalist, our hero was all too human in his love of humour and the culture of laughter. Always with a twinkle in his eyes, he communicated a deep compassion for sincere friendship and solidarity with those in the struggle.

His special love of The University of the West Indies for its mandate and role as a regional freedom vehicle drove him to offer constant critical insights into its contradictory omens and at times its torn and tortured realities and identities. He was in this sense the quintessential Caribbean progressive intellectual who transcended theory and grounded his existential engagements within the masses at the grassroots. He was a soldier of the Caribbean soul, forever building solidarities wherever liberation circumstances were erupting.

Within this context, our crusading citizen would expect of us to soldier on in his physical absence without fear or doubt about the future. For decades he illuminated the progressive paths with his papers and speeches. We know he will be there at the rendezvous of the Caribbean victory. His life was dedicated to no other cause. He knew no other world. Until then, I simply say, "Bye George", from all of us at your University of the West Indies.

The above statement is issued by Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice-Chancellor of The University of the West Indies, on the passing of Professor George Lamming, Caribbean and global literary luminary. ●

Tribute to George Lamming

by Alfrena Jamie Pierre

Rex Nettleford in his introduction to George Lamming's book, *Coming, Coming Home: Conversations II: Western Education and the Caribbean Intellectual Coming, Coming, Coming Home*, asserted that the Barbadian writer was, "one of the Caribbean's finest intellectuals and foremost literary artists".

The sustainability of Lamming's literary output and its consequential contribution to Caribbean letters and scholarship are irrefutable. Lamming was distinguished as one whose writing, along with **Samuel Selvon**, **V.S. Naipaul** and **Andrew Salkey**, was instrumental to the formation of the Anglophone Caribbean literary canon in the 1950s. This esteemed Caribbean novelist received numerous accolades for his contribution to Caribbean letters and intellectualism. In 1958, Lamming received the **Somerset Maugham Award** for literature. In 1980, he was conferred an **Honorary Doctor of Letters** from The University of the West Indies, and in 2011, the Association of Cuban Writers and Artists bestowed the **Caribbean Hibiscus Prize** upon Lamming for his lifetime contribution to the arts; he was the first beneficiary of this award. In 2013, he received the **Clement Payne Appreciation Award**, and in 2014, he won the **Anisfield-Wolf Book Lifetime Achievement** award for his work.



His writing has been, and continues to be, valuable to Caribbean intellectual thought, as it probes notions of Caribbean identity in the aftermath of the region's colonial past. Noted Lamming scholar **Sandra Pouchet Paquet** in *Twentieth-Century Caribbean and Black African Writers* wrote of Lamming: "His work is seminal ... In each of his novels and his collection of essays ... Lamming conceptualises core facets of the Caribbean experience in language and forms that continue to exercise a shaping influence over the literature of the region."

All of Lamming's novels treat with integral facets of the colonial experience and situation. His first novel, *In the Castle of My Skin*, which is regarded by many as the quintessential Caribbean novel, was written when Lamming was just a young emigrant to England in his 20s. *In the Castle of My Skin* was the harbinger to literary enquiries into the psychical effects of colonialism on the colonised. His second novel, *The Emigrants* (1954), considers the Caribbean New World individual in transit to England as "mother country". *Of Age and Innocence* (1958) prophetically extrapolates a tripartite governmental system to

a Caribbean New World society with momentous consequences within the Caribbean space. *Season of Adventure* (1960) employs the female body as a visceral site of exploration as regards different ontological systems for Caribbean peoples in their outworking of their own identity. *Water with Berries* (1971) engages English playwright, William Shakespeare's 1623 work, *The Tempest*, to unearth extant complexities in the relationship between the British colonial mother and the ones whom she colonised. Lamming's 1971 novel *Natives of My Person* extensively probes the lived reality of the European coloniser, making us aware that our understanding of self is inextricably linked to our understanding of those who colonised us. ●

Lamming was a literary genius and a profound Caribbean thinker who will be greatly missed.

Alfrena Jamie Pierre is a PhD candidate in Literatures in English at The University of the West Indies. Her doctoral research focuses on George Lamming, and she has presented academic papers on Lamming's work at local, regional and international conferences.

The UWI Sailing Club made history last July by entering both of its mango yellow yachts in a local regatta.

UWI Sailors Continue to Make Waves

by Franchero Ellis

With the Blackbird motif emblazoning their starboard bows, *Oiseau-noir* and *L'il T'Pot*, skippered by **Ché Alleyne** and **Franchero Ellis** respectively, added more than a splash of color to the azure waters of the **Offshore Regatta** that comprised mainly white-painted yachts on the racecourse.

The return of competitive yachting to the sporting calendar, after COVID-19 had halted all team sports worldwide, was a delight for the regatta's official photographer **Peter Marshall** as he happily created memories of the event.

Sailing in the red class, *L'il T'Pot*

chased *nJoy*, a red Northstar yacht, across the start line and was pursued by *Oiseau-noir*. After crisscrossing Carlisle Bay amid unsteady winds, *nJoy* enjoyed a two-minute advantage in a hard-fought battle as the vessels rounded the windward mark inside the bay. That time was whittled down to 90 seconds as they rounded the mark off Needham's Point just outside the bay.

Even without the expected robustly competitive field, the double entry by **The UWI Sailing Club** was an encouraging sign for the club's future. It was an indicator that at least the basic equipment was ready and awaiting its next batch of recruits from among Cave Hill Campus's

2022-2023 student intake as they returned for full resumption of face-to-face classes and campus life.

With higher winds and strong gusts expected along the south coast, some shrewd tacticians reduced their sail cover but then regretted that upon encountering extra strong currents accompanying the heavy seas. These conditions made the journey from the Barbados Hilton to the turning point off Accra Beach somewhat laborious for *L'il T'Pot's* crew, and being required to do it twice made it the proverbial labour of love. Yacht *nJoy* did not survive the onslaught of the relentless south coast waves and broke part of her steering mechanism at the gybe mark.

Her sailors were forced to retire her from the race, just as **L'il T'Pot** had reduced the time to overtake her to within one minute on this first leg.

The bright sunshine reflecting off the puffy cumulus clouds was a reminder to be thankful for the opportunity to be in Barbados at the end of the pandemic. In the moment, it was easy to gaze into the future and see that seizing the opportunity to make time for sports and recreation is an important part of the national recovery from COVID-19. It imbued the desire to do better, the desire to be better, and the desire to treat each other better. It took only one little yellow boat to make this philosophy come true.

After gybing around the Accra mark, **L'il T'Pot** surfed some big waves and rushed along the south coast with her sails flying wing-on-wing to gain speed. She made each return to the Needham's Point mark in a fraction of the time taken to sail from Needham's Point southwards to Accra.

On completing the hardest part of the course, the final leg saw a return to Carlisle Bay and less strenuous conditions. Concentration waned just a little as the environmental pressure eased off. The intermittent claxon from the committee boat, which was ahead, was the signal that a yacht had crossed the finish line, and a very good reminder that sailing the boat hard was still necessary even when one is tired - an important date with the clock was on.

The racing yachts were each hosting Barbadian junior sailors who were experiencing their first yacht race, and for some, their first time aboard a yacht. They were welcomed substitutes for **The UWI Sailing Club's** crew shortage while the students were on a break. It was also great to be welcoming more sailors to the sport of yacht racing where the virtues of teamwork are critical to success. While aboard, **L'il T'Pot** youngsters **Annabel**, **Xavier** and **Sam** performed creditably and asked meaningful questions as they discovered some of the differences and similarities between yachting and dinghy sailing.

Bearing down on the finish line, **L'il T'Pot's** crew kept scanning the south entrance to Carlisle Bay in the hope of glimpsing sister vessel **Oiseau-noir**. She remained out of sight while still traversing the south coast seas, but they held a fervent wish that she would soon appear. The lighter, unsteady winds inside the bay reminded them to refocus on their own course that now required many adjustments to snatch every incoming puff. That last tack towards the finish line was an agony of more knocks than lifts, and the crew toiled to keep the sails filled. Each time they were on the perfect point of sail, the winds pretended to cooperate but soon dropped off or shifted. Expecting these conditions, **Colville Thompson** kept a running commentary on the wind as they glided towards the looming finish line.

L'il T'Pot soon barged across the line to cheering from her crew as the race committee clocked her time at 2.09pm and blew the finishing horn. She placed fourth overall but was first in the red class. **Oiseau-noir** eventually appeared at the mouth of the bay but was now locked in a losing bid to make it to the finish line on time. She eventually scored a TLE (time limit expired); but in the ranking, this placed her higher than yachts that scored DNF (did not finish), and in particular, DNS (did not start). ●



Ian Drakes

Blackbird Seeks to Make Mark on World Stage

by Camille Russell

"No matter what level you're currently playing at, reaching the top of your game is still the goal. You are never too old or too young to chase your dreams. Keep going, keep pushing".

These are words of encouragement from UWI Blackbird cricketer **Ian Drakes**, an avid sport enthusiast from young who has always sought to encourage others like himself.

Sport is ingrained in me from childhood to my older years, and I have always sought to make my contribution to mentoring the next generation of young sportsmen and women throughout the years."

Drakes believes that with most things in life, there is always room for improvement whether as an opportunity to be better or to do better. With this frame of thinking, the bowling all-rounder is gearing up to represent the region on the world stage having been selected by the **Cricket West Indies Masters Association** to join the squad to South Africa for the **2023 Over-50s Cricket World Cup**. The prestigious event will be held in Cape Town, South Africa in March 2023 and will feature 14 international teams including Australia, Canada, England, India, Namibia, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, United States of America (USA), United Arab Emirates (UAE), Wales, and Zimbabwe.

"This is an excellent opportunity for me, one that I believe is once-in-a-lifetime, not only to represent the region

but also to experience the wonders of Africa," Drakes shared.

Drakes has a long history as an experienced cricketer, having represented **Central and Malvern Cricket Clubs** in the local, intermediate divisions as well as captained The UWI's intermediate, second division and over-40s teams over a span of 26 years. His most recent club stint has been with **Benfica** where he played with the side in the 2nd division league for the last five years. Also, he represented the **Barbados National Cricket Team** in softball cricket from 1993 to 2007. In 2022, Drakes played on the West Indies Over-50s team in the **Big Man Cricket Caribbean Cup** against England, UAE, USA, and India.

The talent and skill of this world-class cricketer have not gone unnoticed. Chairman of the **Cricket West Indies Masters Association**, **Rajendra Singh**, expressed his support of the athlete as he aspires to the next level in the sport.

"Mr. Drakes is a household name in Barbados, having represented The UWI for several years and now has a glorious opportunity to showcase his talent and skills on the world stage," Singh said.

The cricketer's quest to reach the world stage is largely supported by **The UWI (Cave Hill) Co-operative Credit Union Ltd** to whom Drakes expressed gratitude for partnering with him to reach his goal.

"I am very grateful to the credit union and all those who have contributed to my journey to South Africa. Without this support, the achievement would not be possible."

Drakes intends to continue his cricketing career at both the local and international level returning to both **Benfica** and the **Cave Hill Blackbirds** Over-40s team. He hopes to continue to be an inspiration to aspiring athletes. ●



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