



UWI TODAY

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES • ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

SUNDAY 7TH AUGUST, 2016



Engaging the Youth with Technology-based Farming

The Faculty of Food and Agriculture in partnership with REPSOL recently ended its first annual ADOPT (Agriculture Demonstration of Practices and Technologies) Secondary School competition. This competition was part of a larger project funded by the Research and Development Impact (RDI) Fund, which looks at improving the sustainability of the PA (Protected Agriculture) Industry through improving the contribution of PA produce to food security goals.

The prize for most enthusiastic school sponsored by LJ Williams went to Holy Cross College, Most Energy Efficient sponsored by Atlantic Trading distributed by their superhero SATCOTRON went to Mucurapo East and Five Rivers secondary schools who also won Most Recycled Materials sponsored by Dairy Dairy, Most Innovative Project sponsored by Atlantic Tradings was awarded to Five Rivers Secondary School for their project entitled *Grey Water* and finally, the Most Sustainable and Community-based Project went to Holy Cross *Agriholics*, sponsored by Dairy Dairy. (See page 6 for more memorable moments)

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How to Feed the Nation Smartly

ADOPT Competition



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UWI Team Wins



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The Future of IGDS

Dr Gabrielle Hosein



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■ OUR CAMPUS

Advancing the WILLIAMS-UWI LEGACY



Sir Hilary 'holding court' in a recreated Woodford Square environment, in the lobby of the Central Bank Auditorium.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE KIND COURTESY OF THE CENTRAL BANK

UWI Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles delivered the feature address at the 30th Dr Eric Williams Memorial Lecture, speaking on the theme *The University Sector and Economic Development in the Caribbean*, on July 23 at the Central Bank auditorium.

Vice-Chancellor Sir Hilary said The UWI must constantly re-invent itself "in search of new legitimacy" and that the next stage for the university is "the creation of technology parks across the region".

He added that in Trinidad and Tobago, "We have an opportunity here with Penal/Debe to participate in the transformation of that enterprise into a technology industry-based campus for this country to drive the issues of economic diversification".

Sir Hilary told guests that similar activities were taking place by University officials in both Jamaica and Barbados, and that, "In the next five years or so, all of our campuses will be outfitted with technology parks". The intent is that under the China-CARICOM agreement signed in Port of Spain last year, UWI students will learn software engineering from the Chinese. "The University therefore has to place, and will place, as its top priority, engaging with the process of wealth creation and the equitable distribution of that wealth within the Caribbean", he added.

With regard to GATE, but without specific mention, the Vice Chancellor said that in Barbados, it was found that 85 per cent of the students are from "working class homes" and 75 per cent are female; and 80 per cent of that 75 per cent are "working class", and 50 per cent of the 80 per cent are also "unmarried mothers". He said the most vulnerable group in any society is made up of its "unmarried working class mothers" and was opposed to the abolition of free tertiary level education in Barbados because many unmarried mothers were trying to get a degree and move their families forward. He added that the number of persons enrolled in universities in the Caribbean, as a percentage of the overall population, is very small.

A third major point of his feature address was the Vice Chancellor's note that The UWI is seeking alignment to industry. To this end, The UWI will now have a dedicated pro vice-chancellor at St Augustine, "to align university with industry". He said that The UWI hopes to attract "professors of practice" persons who have excelled in business and can close the gap between academia and industry.

The Lecture series is a production of the Board of the Central Bank. It is hosted annually to commemorate the life and contribution to Trinidad and Tobago and the wider Caribbean of the country's first Prime Minister, Dr Eric Williams, who also was the first person to hold the title of Pro Chancellor of The UWI.

Dr Williams was a well-known scholar and statesman who organised several lectures on West Indian history and literature before his untimely passing in 1981. He left the nation a legacy in the field of political and social history which the Central Bank series continues.

The Williams' commemoration also includes an exhibition that is open for public edification and enjoyment at the Central Bank, until August 30, weekdays only, 8am to 4pm.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The Seed Planted by Mr Manning



I purposely delayed penning this note on Mr Patrick Manning, former Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, so that the message would not be lost in flood of condolence messages, eulogies and reflections published on his passing. Significantly, many attempted to describe the legacy Mr Manning.

Of all the opinions published on the Manning legacy, it is my considered view that the Vision2020 plan is perhaps the most significant initiative that he championed. The Vision2020 plan was quite reminiscent of the Malaysia Vision 2020 plan, of which Mr Manning must have been aware. Like the Malaysian initiative the Vision 2020 document was drafted by individuals, experts and other professionals from across the social and political landscape of Trinidad and Tobago. Unlike the Malaysian initiative, it struggled in its attempt to be embraced by the population at large and, by all appearances, barely survived the change in Government in 2010. As with all vision statements it needs to be revisited and more robustly implemented.

However, this note is not so much about Mr Manning's legacy but treats more with a seed that he helped to plant. The story behind the seed has been recounted ad nauseam. However, its significance is still lost to the vast majority of those who have heard it.

As most would recall, in December 2005, Mr Manning's Cabinet approved funding for the creation of the Steelpan Initiatives Project (SIP) at The University of the West Indies. Cabinet Note 3308 of 2005, said that "It is noteworthy that Trinidad and Tobago, as the originator of the steelpan, which is our national instrument, has lost the competitive advantage in continuing innovation and commercialisation to researchers and developers in countries such as the United States of America, Sweden and Japan. In moving towards Developed Country status, there is need to promote Research and Development particularly of an innovative and indigenous nature. This is also consonant with the increasing importance being placed by the Government on manufacturing and knowledge-based industries".

It goes on to say that the projects to be undertaken in the Project would serve "as vehicles for the development of local innovative capability" and "represent an unprecedented opportunity for the Government and the people of our nation to advance the development of high-tech indigenous technology and promote sustainable development".

These excerpts from Cabinet Note 3308 of 2005 are significant and poignant given the current, now fervent cries for diversification. The significance of the project was

re-emphasised in a September 2009 presentation to Mr Manning that highlighted how well the SIP reflected an initiative that could be used as a pilot for strengthening the economy in the dimension of innovation-based entrepreneurship. The presenters, Professor Emeritus St Clair King, Dr Ronald de Four, Mr Marcel Byron and I, were asked to bring the presentation to Cabinet. That opportunity never arose as by May 2010 a new Government was in place.

The SIP projects have not, so far, delivered in terms of the intended impact on the steelpan industry, in particular and local industry in general. However, the project unwittingly served as a catalyst for raising national awareness of the importance of innovation and intellectual property. By 2010, for example, it was relatively easy to find lawyers and other legal professionals schooled in IP. This was not the case in 2005. In addition, the country saw the creation and upscaling of numerous projects, such as the *i2i* program, that sought to motivate, nurture and commercialise creativity and invention. Furthermore, the G-Pan that was originally conceptualised by Mr Manning and globally patented and trademarked, though having not been commercialised to date, has motivated the establishment of a drum making facility that utilises some of the technology developed for fashioning those pans. This facility, originally set up to develop prototypes in the SIP, was operationalised by Pan Trnabago in partnership with The UWI.

The new national focus on innovation and entrepreneurship shows that the seed has taken root, but that the soil still needs to be further cultivated. This requires, in the first instance, the establishment of a properly formulated National Innovation System (NIS) that would collect and coordinate all of the various elements required to ensure a robust pathway to take creative thought – from providing much needed support for invention and concept development, through to marketing and commercial market entry. The triple helix, a partnership between Government, Industry and Higher Education Institutions, is critical to its successful formation.

Mr Manning must be commended for planting this seed that is yet to blossom for the benefit of the people of Trinidad and Tobago. I do not think he fully understood the broader ramifications of what he did, but it will be revealed in the fulsome of time. Our role now is to ensure that this seed grows and blossoms.

Brian Copeland

PROFESSOR BRIAN COPELAND
Campus Principal

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Prime Minister Rowley visits The UWI Regional Headquarters



Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley unveils the commemorative plaque in his honour during the Induction Ceremony at Prime Minister's Park. Looking on are (from left) Mikaela Gonzales, President, UWI Mona Campus Guild of Students; Professor Archibald Mc Donald Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal, UWI, Mona Campus; Mrs Sharon Clarke Rowley, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice-Chancellor of UWI and Senator Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY THE KIND COURTESY OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The Honourable Dr Keith Rowley, Prime Minister of Trinidad & Tobago describes The UWI as “The star in the crown of Caribbean nations that has kept the dream of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) alive”. Dr Rowley, a graduate of UWI Mona, was speaking at a ceremony at the campus on July 20, where he was inducted into Prime Minister's Park. The park honours UWI graduates who are or have been heads of government. He reminded the gathering, “It is the responsibility of all of us who have had the privilege of studying at The UWI, to ensure it continues to serve generations to come”.

Comparing the past and the present, he continued, “In 2016, the demands on the University are much greater than any time before. The expectation of our people in the age of communication, is far greater than in my day. Today, every child with a cell phone in hand can rise to his or her highest potential if they do not allow irresponsibility and a sense of entitlement to replace hard work. We in turn, have a responsibility to make the resources available to the up and coming ones. In this period of independence and CARICOM we must ensure the dream continues”.

The induction was among a schedule of activities from July 17-20, during Dr Rowley's first official visit to Jamaica as Prime Minister. He also met UWI Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles and members of the regional University's executive management team, followed by students from Trinidad and Tobago studying at Mona, and was also given a tour of Mona's facilities including its Faculty of Medical Sciences.

During the exchange with Vice-Chancellor Beckles and the executive management team, Dr Rowley clearly defined his expectation that The UWI should continue to ensure its relevance in the Caribbean context and called on the University “To supply the governments of the region with a steady stream of scientific data to make informed decisions”.



Prime Minister Dr. Rowley with students from Trinidad and Tobago at the UWI Mona Campus

He emphasised that government decision-making that was based on data would achieve the right outcomes.

This official visit of Dr Rowley to Jamaica was aimed at advancing diplomatic relations between the two largest CARICOM nations. He noted that there was great fragmentation taking place across the region with each island establishing institutions within their country that could benefit from a collective approach and as a result, “The Caribbean regional identity is being lost”. He suggested that The UWI model could serve as a template for other areas of inter-regional cooperation.

In his remarks, Vice-Chancellor Beckles said, “Two of the youngest serving Prime Ministers in the Caribbean - the Honourable Andrew Holness of Jamaica and the

Honourable Dr Keith Rowley, of Trinidad and Tobago - have risen to the heights of statesmanship. We are here in what I am sure historians in the future will call the ‘Holness-Rowley summit’ that will change the trajectory of the Caribbean”.

During his town hall remarks, Dr Rowley sought to ease the worry among students about the possible cuts to the government's funding of tertiary level education. He expressed, “I want to thank you students for being so excited about your future and to give you the assurance that our Chancellor and our Vice-Chancellor and our PVCs, our teachers and the taxpayers of the region have promised you a bright future and that future could be delivered to you if only you grasp it with both hands”.

■ CAMPUS NEWS

Department of Food Production partners with Ministry for Training

The closing ceremony of UWI's two-day training on Plant Disease Diagnosis to Agricultural Extension Officers of Trinidad and Tobago took place mid-July.

Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Land & Fisheries, Senator Mr. Avinash Singh addressed the audience and presented certificates to the Agricultural Extension Officers at the Closing Ceremony. Senior Administration staff, Academic staff, Students, Research Scholars of UWI community, Officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Land & Fisheries were in attendance.

The two day training on *Plant Disease Diagnosis* was organised under the auspices of the UWI-TT RDI Fund project entitled, *Promoting Agriculturally Important Microorganisms (AIMS) to address the Challenges in Food Safety and Food Security in the Caribbean*. The programme consisted of lectures, practicals and discussion on various aspects of disease diagnosis. It explored the techniques in plant disease diagnosis with regard to the identification of crop diseases based on symptoms, causal agents such as fungi, bacteria and viruses, morphology, microscopic and molecular techniques with special emphasis on vegetable diseases.

The training was attended by 25 Agricultural Extension Officers, Field Level Officers and Agronomists representing all counties [St. George County, St. David County, St. Andrew County, County Caroni, Nariva/Mayaro, St. Patrick West, County Victoria, Research Division in Centeno, Extension Training and Information Services] of Trinidad and Tobago.



Wrapping up a successful two day session (L-R) Dr Reynold Stone, Head, Department of Food Production; Senator Avinash Singh, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries; Dr Duraisamy Saravanakumar, Senior Lecturer & AIMS Project Leader and Dr Wayne Ganpat, Dean, Faculty of Food and Agriculture.



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■ CAMPUS NEWS

ADOPT Nationals Secondary Schools Competition

The Faculty of Food and Agriculture in partnership with REPSOL recently ended its first annual ADOPT Secondary School competition. The ADOPT (Agriculture Demonstration of Practices and Technologies) Competition ran for four months and was open to all forms. This competition was part of a larger project funded by the Research and Development Impact (RDI) Fund, which looks at improving the sustainability of the PA (Protected Agriculture) Industry through improving the contribution of PA produce to food security goals.

Out of the eight teams which advanced to the final stage of this three staged competition, Holy Cross college team “Agriholics” won, followed by El Dorado East team “Tier Gardens” and third place went to Holy Cross college team “Off Road Farming”. Special prizes were also awarded in the competition with Mayaro Secondary winning the coveted Agribusiness/Innovation Prize of a hydroponic system for their school sponsored by REPSOL to be constructed under the young growers programme and would also have their projects constructed into working models by the Engineering Department at The UWI St. Augustine. (Other prizes are mentioned in the cover story)

One of the goals of ADOPT is to implement non-traditional systems for small-scale farming, aimed at strengthening local food security and adapting traditional open field farming methods in the face of variations in climate. The project aims at blending PA shade house technology with a combination of hydroponics, organoponics, hybridponics, aquaponics, aeroponics, vermiponics and barrel-ponics growing systems and LED



light technology for sustainable food production using low-cost or recyclable materials. The prospect is to confront barriers of regional fragmentation and vulnerability with regional collaborations that transfer knowledge, adapt it to community-based needs, and improve food security and social resilience at the local level.

The competition will re-open again in September 2016 and interested schools can contact the Department of Food Production at Food.production@sta.uwi.edu or call 662-2002 Ext. 82090 or 84055 for further information.

BACK WITH A BANG: Team Tennis at The UWI

BY CHRISTON
SANDY

The UWI Tennis Club's female team won the East zone leg of the tournament on returning to the competition after a three year absence from team tennis.

The group had only six registered players: Rhonda Mohammed (captain), Shreene Khayyam, Carlista Mohammed, Rebecca Robinson, Maria Honare and Darcelle Charles (did not play).

Mohammed is the campus' facility attendant and is a certified coach. In commenting on the team performance, she said that she felt good about their prospects, but they were not favourites to win the competition. She added that playing without the pressure of being the favourites helped her team to, “Focus on playing well in each match it faced”. The team spirit throughout the two weeks of the competition was high with team members staying on or going to venues to support other matches and also the men's matches. She credited this esprit de corps as a major contributing factor to the ladies' victory.

There were five teams in the East zone tournament with The UWI fielding one female team and two men's teams. There will be a national championship but no date set for that, similarly, there will be a prize giving function for this East zone segment, but no date has been given.

Mohammed hopes this victory is a progressive step for tennis within The UWI as having a pool of female players who are interested in playing competitively is the main challenge to playing in the annual tournament. She also said that holding a team together is difficult because, “The team hardly ever trained together as some players' schedules would only allow them to train on mornings and others on evenings”.

She hopes that both students and staff members reading about this victory would be encouraged to get involved in tennis. She said, “Tennis builds comradery which is vital to a healthy working environment and good worker morale”. She applauded the efforts made by administration to develop programmes for students to learn the game and compete, but also acknowledged that many did not avail themselves of the opportunities offered. Mohammed thinks that more can be done to get staff members out on the courts; especially in light of national initiatives to combat lifestyles diseases, tennis right on campus is a good place to start.

The win by the ladies tennis team was a triumphant step in the right direction for tennis at The UWI. Mohammed is hoping that this is the best kind of advertising for the game and that it pays off for growing campus wide interest in the sport.



Lovely ladies sporting The UWI St Augustine trademark blue tees (l-r): Shreene Khayyam, Rhonda Mohammed (captain), Rebecca Robinson, Carlista Mohammed and Maria Honare

LEADING THE WAY ON RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY



Making his point to an attentive audience of like-minded academics (L-R): PVC at The UWI, Professor Wayne Hunte; Dr Escarre from the University of Alicante in Spain; Campus Principal, Professor Copeland and Dr. Sari Scheinberg from the University of Technology in Sweden.

CAP4INNO & IPICA Conference - applying and developing new energy technologies for the benefit of the Caribbean region. The UWI hosted an Innovation in Renewable Energy Conference titled *Applying and Developing Renewable Energy Technology for the Benefit of the Caribbean Region*. The two-day conference is a joint activity of two projects funded by the European Union and implemented by The UWI in a consortium of universities and took place at the Institute of Critical Thinking at the St. Augustine Campus mid-July. One of the main goals of the conference was to bring together principal stakeholders in the energy sector to exchange ideas and promote effective collaboration on energy access and efficiency in the Caribbean.

Planting Digital Seeds

BY JOEL HENRY

In May 2016, AgriNeTT, a research project started by Computer Science lecturers at UWI St. Augustine was recognised at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Geneva. AgriNeTT placed in the top five among a host of international projects in the area of technology and agriculture. This outstanding recognition would not be its last. It's easy to see why.

AgriNeTT is an archetype for what research can be and the contribution it can make to Caribbean society. Its focus is on food production (one of the pressing issues of our time) but taking a multidisciplinary approach that includes specialists in computer science and agriculture. The project collaborates with organisations and individuals in the wider society and at the same time, provides opportunities for students to gain real-world experience.

"We feel encouraged," says Dr Margaret Bernard, Project Lead of AgriNeTT, on the recognition that the project has received. "It shows that at the regional and international levels the potential impact of the research is understood".

Infusing ICT into Agriculture

Dr Bernard is surprisingly mellow for the level of responsibility she holds as Lead, among her other duties. Apart from her role as project lead, she is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Computing and Information and Technology (IT) as well as Deputy Dean of Graduate Studies and Research in the Science and Technology Faculty. She emphasises that though she might be the most recognisable face for AgriNeTT, it is very much a team effort, "Many people have contributed in significant ways to the success of this project".

Why is AgriNeTT so well-regarded? AgriNeTT is a project that uses information and communications technology (ICT) to develop the agriculture sector and make it more internationally competitive. The project consists of two Open Data Repositories (online resources that collect up-to-date information on production and topographical aspects of local agriculture) and four mobile applications for farmers.

The apps provide farmers tools for information on crop prices (AgriPrice), record keeping (AgriExpense), land and soil (AgriMaps) and crop pest diagnosis (AgriDiagnose). Of the four, only AgriDiagnose is still in development, the others are available for download and use at the Google Play app store.

Collectively, AgriNeTT provides incredibly powerful tools for farmers as well as policymakers and agriculture sector players.

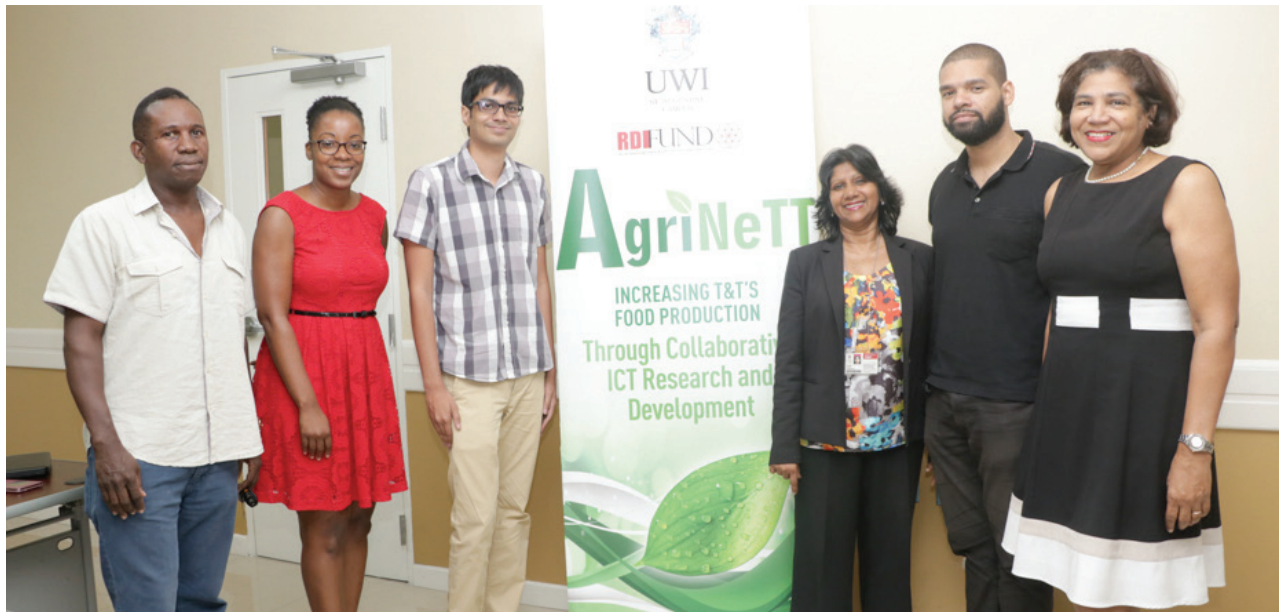
Dr Bernard gave the example of AgriExpense:

"At present, many farmers don't keep proper records. They don't track their expenses and tie them into revenue and profit. With a tool like AgriExpense they can record and use the data like any business. This can help them in getting loans, crop insurance and private sector investment. We don't have these things because we don't have the hard data".

And the data itself, collected on the open source platforms, could be of immense value to the sector when crafting policy or in dealing with the export requirements of other nations.

Team Power

Because AgriNeTT is an effective solution for the issue of food security, it makes sense that it would receive the recognition it has. The project was selected at the 2016 WSIS because it falls in line with United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal number 2, "No Hunger". WSIS is hosted by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the UN's special agency for ICT.



Some members of the team pose at an event banner: (l-r) Wayne Goodridge, Rene Jordan, Kiran Maharaj, Shamin Renwick, Kyle De Freitas and Margaret Bernard

This year, AgriNeTT was also given the FRIDA Award (which recognises innovative practices that further the development of Latin America and the Caribbean) by LACNIC, the region's Internet registry. In Trinidad and Tobago, AgriNeTT won a UWI-NGC award for Best Research Team – Encouraging Multidisciplinary Research.

Dr Bernard says the projects multidisciplinary and collaborative approach is one of its greatest strengths. Computer Science and members of the Agriculture Faculty worked closely on the project and project teams partnered with organisations such as the Ministry of Food production, NAMDEVCO, CARDI and many others.

"One of the big things for the University that has come out of this project is the extent of collaboration we have been able to forward," she said.

That includes students. Throughout the project's life span, AgriNeTT has employed students on short contracts, providing them with mentorship and the opportunity to work on an actual and large-scale project.

The Future of Caribbean E-Agriculture

AgriNeTT does however, have challenges. For the project to move from innovation to game-changer it must become adopted by the people it was designed for, the farmers. And though it would seem that the benefits of the technology would make them eager to do so, it's not so simple.

"You really are looking at a lifestyle change for them," Dr Bernard says. "They have been practising farming in a certain way for the last 40 years. To change that pattern is not easy".

Focus groups, meetings and "hand-holding" exercises have all been part of the AgriNeTT outreach to farmers. In addition, they have concentrated their efforts on the younger generation, as well as agricultural extension officers, who they hope will be technology ambassadors.

Dr Bernard acknowledges that adoption is the major challenge and should be the focus of the project's next phase but there is one major issue – funding. AgriNeTT was a recipient of a UWI TT Research and Development Impact Fund award, a three-year grant for projects with a high potential for a positive impact on society. That three-year period has now ended and the project must find new funding to continue. At present, the team is seeking new sources.

For any parties seeking viable solutions for the regional agriculture AgriNeTT seems a smart investment. In fact, the project has already moved beyond T&T. Presently, members of the team are working with the Jamaican Ministry of Agriculture on an AgriMaps app that is specific to the island. And beyond AgriNeTT, the Computing and IT Department is working with CARDI on two region-wide agriculture projects.

This is perhaps AgriNeTT's greatest accomplishment, unleashing the potential of technology on Caribbean farming. The door for ICT innovation in agriculture has been opened. As the Caribbean moves forward it may one day look back at the contribution of this seminal research project.

AgriNeTT

RESEARCH TEAM

Dr Margaret Bernard	Team Leader
Prof Carlisle Pemberton	Agriculture Expert
Prof Patrick Hosein	Open Data Team Lead
Dr Wayne Goodridge	Pest Detection Team Lead
Dr Rene Jordan	GIS Application Team Lead
Dr Gaius Eudoxie	Agriculture Expert
Kyle E. Defreitas	Software Developer
Kiran Maharaj	Software Developer
Omaira Avila Rostant	Administrative Coordinator
Terrence Heywood	Farming Community Representative
Shamin Renwick	Senior Librarian

■ FEATURE



The Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social & Economic Studies (SALISES) presented a Forum on Brexit: Implications for the Caribbean Region and the World at the Noor Hassanali Auditorium at the UWI St. Augustine campus in July. Two of the presenters were UWI academics - Dr Kusha Haraksingh and Dr Roger Hosein.

Dr Haraksingh drew on his experience as the Cariforum Lead Negotiator on legal and institutional issues and explained the result of the June 23 referendum on Britain's continued membership of the European Union that resulted in a vote to exit the EU, simply called Brexit. He said that four different but interconnected sets of

considerations arose from the vote.

The last issue was raised by Dr Haraksingh because the vote on Brexit was apparently influenced by two considerations which are troublesome in relation to regional integration movements, CARICOM included. These were the balancing of sovereign national interests with those of the wider grouping, and the more contentious issue of the free movement of labour.

Dr Haraksingh concluded that the withdrawal of Britain from the EU does not affect the validity of the EPA as the legal basis for trade relations between CARIFORUM states and the EU.

Dr Roger Hosein, a Senior Lecturer in Economics, presented relevant statistics to argue his position on the impact of Brexit. He told the audience that the British economy accounts for

Cariforum's Intersection with Brexit

BY KUSHA HARAKSINGH



Having led Cariforum as negotiator on legal and institutional issues, Brexit stimulated four different but interconnected sets of considerations: Britain's relationship with the EU, the parameters of which are now in flux; CARICOM's relationship with the EU

which is defined in the Cotonou Agreement but more so in the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) signed in 2008; CARICOM's relationship with Britain; and finally, CARICOM's internal configuration. The last issue is put into the pot because the vote on Brexit was apparently influenced by two considerations which are troublesome in relation to regional integration movements, CARICOM included, namely the balancing of sovereign national interests with those of the wider grouping, and the big elephant in the room, the free movement of labour.

In so far as the EPA is concerned, the EU came to the table with the ambition of securing a region-to-region agreement but the final product was much more nuanced. Cariforum (that is, CARICOM and the Dominican Republic) insisted that member states should be parties to the Agreement in their own right, since the grouping did not have the requisite legal personality under international law to undertake obligations which had to be implemented at the national level. Moreover, Cariforum insisted that in the event of a breach of the Agreement there would be no collective sanctions applicable to the whole grouping. And even though the EU sought one of the hallmarks of a single market, the free movement of goods, Cariforum insisted that it was not ready to make that commitment. Further, Cariforum secured in the Agreement, the recognition that 'the pace and content of regional integration are matters to be determined exclusively by the Cariforum states in the exercise of their sovereignty and in the light of their current and future political ambitions'.

This led to debate over the architecture of the Agreement. The EU insisted for a long time

that the main purpose of the Agreement was to promote regional integration and that accordingly Part 1, following the Preamble, should be entitled 'Regional Integration'. They were met with the riposte that while regional integration might be a tool to promote sustainable development, one should not mistake the implement for the product. They eventually gave way and agreed to the title 'Trade Partnership for Sustainable Development'.

From the outset, which was one of the points of separation between Cariforum and its partners in the ACP grouping, Cariforum had the ambition of concluding a comprehensive agreement, to include not only the trade in goods but commitments in the areas of development cooperation and the trade in services. The insistence on the inclusion of services and investment in the Agreement made it necessary for the European parties to the Agreement to be both the European Community and its member states because the latter had not transferred competence in those areas to the Community. Thus, Britain is a signatory to the EPA in its own right, a matter separate and apart from its decision to leave the EU. However, there is room for debate over the territorial application of the EPA, that is, whether on the European side it applies only to territories that come under the reach of the Treaty establishing the European Community. In any event, it is clear that the matter of the bilateral trade between Britain and CARICOM would require a new instrument.

The withdrawal of Britain from the EU does not affect the validity of the EPA as the legal basis for trade relations between Cariforum states and the EU. The EU might well wish to propose revisions to the EPA but would have to follow the procedures outlined in the Agreement. Basically, no alterations are possible unless the parties agree, so in effect the Cariforum states have a veto on this matter. Of course the Agreement provides for the possibility of denunciation after notice, but that is an unlikely event.

Dr Kusha Haraksingh is a founding Dean of the Faculty of Law and currently a Consultant in the Office of the Vice Chancellery

LOOKING AHEAD OF BREXIT ON T

AN OVERVIEW B



The Forum was chaired by SALISES Fellow, Dr Michelle Scobie (at podium) and Head, Trade and Development Unit, UWI, St Augustine; Dr Anthony Gonzalez; Mrs Marie-Louise Norton-Murray, President, European Business Chamber in the Faculty of Law, UWI, St. Augustine; Lead Negotiator in the Cariforum Col



TO THE EFFECT THE CARIBBEAN

BY HAMID GHANY



and the panelists (seated in photo, L-R) were: Dr Roger Hosein, Former Director, Institute of International Relations, UWI; Dr Kusha Haraksingh, Founding Dean of the College of Negotiators.



0.88% of the global population (around 65 million), yet accounted for around US\$2.7trillion in GDP in 2014 or 3.7% of global GDP. Whilst the UK may not be a very large economy it plays an important part of the EU by accounting for around 16% of EU GDP.

He felt that there might be challenges for regional tourism as the cost of vacationing in the Caribbean for British nationals would increase with a depreciated value for the pound sterling. He also raised the issue of remittances to the region from the CARICOM diaspora in the UK. He felt that uncertainty and an expected contraction of the UK economy could cause a temporary dip in remittances.

Dr Hosein felt that CARICOM may have lost its opportunity to use the UK as a gateway to the EU and may now need to build ties with other EU

member states for entry. He concluded by raising the possibility that the EU may use this as an opportunity to move in the direction of broadening the scope of CARICOM for inclusion in a wider Latin American region. The full texts of these presentations are carried here.

Feedback from Faculty post-event: There were over 60 persons in the seated audience at the Auditorium and based on viewer data received, there were 115 people viewing with live stream of this event. They were located in Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Jamaica, and the United Kingdom.

Dr Hamid Ghany is a senior lecturer in Political Science and Coordinator, Constitutional Affairs and Parliamentary Studies Unit at the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences

BREXIT and CARICOM

BY ROGER HOSEIN



The British economy accounts for 0.88% of the global population (around 65 million) but accounts for around US\$2.7tn in GDP in 2014 or 3.7% of global GDP. Whilst the UK may not be a very large economy it plays an important part of the EU accounting for around 16% of EU GDP and

by creating uncertainty in that market it will affect the global economy directly and indirectly in a pronounced way. The UK may also hold special relevance to some economies as a trade partner, especially those from the EU and some of those from the Caribbean especially the Dominican Republic.

CARICOM Performance

CARICOM economies as a whole has improved since the global financial crises and indeed the Table 1 below shows that as compared to 2010 all CARICOM economies by 2016 are forecasted to do better than they did in 2010 with the exception of the commodity exporters Belize, Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. Note though that Guyana, Belize and Suriname are still forecasted at positive growth in 2016, however, T&T is forecasted for negative economic growth.

A few areas in which Brexit can affect CARICOM are considered. On June 22, the exchange rate was US\$1=0.7314 pounds. After Brexit, the British pound devalued to US\$1=0.8994 pounds. This means that the cost of vacationing in the Caribbean by British nationals would have increased, especially to those economies with exchange rates on a fixed peg with the US\$. This could likely lead to a decline in occupancy rates within the region. Affected economies would have to search for ways to reduce costs and to increase the amount of tourists they attract from the USA, China and other areas.

Another possible effect is that Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows from the UK to the Caribbean may fall. Some countries like Trinidad and Tobago received 13% of its total FDI in 2015 from the UK so the uncertainty of Brexit is likely to create a fall in FDI flows.

CARICOM has a sizable diaspora in the UK with migrants making up 0.01% of the population in 2016. Uncertainty and an expected contraction of the

UK economy are likely to lead to a temporary dip in remittances. A dip in real economic activity in the UK can lead to a fall in remittance flow into the CARICOM region and for countries such as Jamaica and the USA that are heavily dependent on remittances in one way or the other. This will have to be monitored (Jamaica benefitted from US\$292 million in remittances from the UK in 2015).

Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago are the main countries within the CARICOM sphere from which the UK imports. The decline of the pound sterling may lead to a decline in some of these imports by the UK from CARICOM but at the same time, CARICOM may now be able to source some goods from the UK, in the context of the depreciated currency, cheaper than from other economies.

Another effect of Brexit is that CARICOM may have lost its opportunity to use the UK as a gateway to the EU. The CARICOM may now need to build ties with another EU member state as its gateway into the EU.

The UK is not such a big player in the global economy so as to lead a sharp plunge in commodity prices exported by CARICOM. To use oil as an example, the price decreased from around US\$49.34 per barrel to US\$47.85 on June 29.

A probably positive might be that more skilled jobs become available to CARICOM nationals in the UK as they erect barriers and rules on the movement of EU members. More scholarships may come the way of the CARICOM in relation to EU students and the depreciated pound offers our CARICOM students improved financial access to the UK as a place to study.

In closing, it is noteworthy that CARICOM countries dependent on development assistance may find themselves in a compromised position. The future of Cariforum doesn't seem clear. Even worse, Brexit comes at a time when the dynamic gains from the EU-Cariforum, seem to be swamping the static welfare loss of tariff revenues realized with the formation of EU-Cariforum agreement.

There is perhaps also the possibility that the EU may use this as an opportunity to move more in the direction of treating CARICOM as part of the Latin America and the Caribbean region.

Dr Roger Hosein is a Senior Lecturer in Economics at The UWI, St Augustine



UWI GLOBAL GIVING WEEK

Emancipate. Educate. Donate

August 1-7, 2016

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Since its establishment 68 years ago, The University of the West Indies (UWI) has contributed significantly to national and regional development not only in the training of the region's human resources but also in knowledge development, adaptive research and in the provision of advisory services both to the public and private sectors. The UWI has earned a reputation as the authority in Caribbean higher education and has produced legions of leaders among all sectors across the region.

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PROFESSOR SIR HILARY BECKLES

Vice-Chancellor, The University of the West Indies



JMMB Merchant Bank team leader Donna Duncan Scott (right) presented their cheque for US\$1million to Professor Archibald McDonald, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of The University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona (2nd left) for the UWI Global Giving Week at the programme launch at The UWI Regional Headquarters on Friday April 8, 2016. Vice-Chancellor Sir Hilary Beckles, launched the programme aimed at raising resources to fund research, educate and prepare leaders and drive regional development.



(L-R) UWI Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles; UWI Chancellor, Sir George Alleyne; Mr Derwin M. Howell - Executive Director, Republic Bank Limited; Ms. Jacqueline Quamina - Executive Director/Group Legal Counsel, Republic Bank Limited and Professor Clement Sankat, then Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal, The UWI St. Augustine Campus, at the St. Augustine Launch of Giving Week on April 29, 2016. "With the launch of this Global Giving programme we hopefully will see the coming of the day when our nation starts being defined by how much and how well we provide for each other." Global Giving Week Corporate Donor, Derwin Howell, Executive Director, Republic Bank Limited



Professor Eudine Barriteau, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal, The UWI Cave Hill Campus presents a personal donation of BDS\$5,000 at the Cave Hill launch of Giving Week on May 27, 2016.



On July 8, 2016 at the St. Lucia launch of Giving Week, The UWI Alumni Association - St. Lucia Chapter makes a donation of EC\$2,500 to the cause to Dr Luz Longworth, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal, The UWI Open Campus.

Standing on the Shoulders of GIANTS IN GENDER

BY TYRONE ALI

My first question to Dr Gabrielle Hosein brought spontaneous laughter: explain exactly how you move from being crowned Mastana Bahar Queen in 2000 to being appointed Head, Gender and Development Studies in 2016?

Her response: “In 2000, I was collecting data on young Indian womanhood for my MPhil in Gender and Development Studies, and was taking an ethnographic approach that included reflexivity about my own experiences. I was a young woman exploring various sites for feminism, from pageants to rapso to activism. Moving from these experiences through a feminist research institute marks my trajectory”. Being Ms Mastana Bahar was only one part of that”.

Gender Studies, Dr Hosein argues, is a complex area of scholarship that explores the fact that there is often no pure place for resistance by women and men who are embedded in the status quo and who are rewarded for meeting their ideals. The discipline involves examining those who spend their lives redefining how they live manhood and womanhood in ways that reflect the complexity of their experiences.

On the course of study and layered by life around her, Dr Hosein sought to understand how women negotiate their lives daily in a patriarchal world. This process of ‘identity negotiation’ is a central tenet of gender studies, and one that coincides with the philosophy of the IGDS. The convergence of this principle seems to have naturally led to her appointment as head of the Institute. She added, “As a scholar, I’ve drawn on research and experience to better understand the value of ethnography, the symbolic interlock of gender and culture, and the idea that there is no pure place for resistance in our lives given our simultaneous challenges to and investments in the status quo”.

Dr Hosein’s history with the IGDS started in 1997 as a student in the then pioneering MPhil (Master of Philosophy) programme. As faculty, she served under six former heads of the institute, all of whom she said, contributes to her outlook now and preparation for leadership. Her own path presently seems to be a uniting these influences. She testifies weekly to the versatility of a generation of feminists building on the work of those who came before in her column, *Diary of a Mothering Worker*.

She has a deep appreciation for mentorship - a prominent feature of the Institute that has directly contributed to the person she is today. As head, this will remain one of her key values.

IGDS Ignite is the mobilisation and mentorship programme she plans to use to interest students at the secondary school level - to read for a minor in

Interdisciplinary Gender Studies. This engagement she hopes, will lead to them building life-long skills whether such skills relate to civic society, economy matters, Caribbean social movements, or interest in higher education. In so doing, both the academic goals of the university are achieved while the Institute makes an investment in the future of the nation – our children.

Apart from the business of teaching, research and public engagement, the Institute is now actively promoting policy planning. Dr Hosein intends to frame the work of the IGDS as that of a policy think tank. This will entail activities such as bringing gender-sensitive analyses to public discourses and to create a link between research and public recommendations.

With regard to the mainstay function of the Institute, there is no plan for a major in Gender Studies. Dr Hosein believes there is greater benefit to the discipline and reach of the Institute, if many students from various faculties have an interdisciplinary approach to their chosen fields of study. This approach speaks directly to the concept of gender-sensitivity permeating all aspects of living. Focus will instead be on developing the graduate programme.

When asked to envision the IGDS three or six years from today and describe what she hopes to leave her successor, Dr Hosein responded, “I hope to leave a legacy that includes the Institute fully supporting the production and public impact of graduate students and staff scholarship. I see the Institute remaining a place where students feel welcome and safe to organise against hetero-patriarchal gender relations and brainstorm the promotion of gender justice. It is a legacy that will make the Institute feel like a youthful, vibrant space, a hub for student gathering, feminist discourse, activist engagement and debates about strategies for social change”.

“I hope to leave a legacy that includes the Institute fully supporting the production and public impact of graduate students and staff scholarship”.



The Quest for the PUBLIC'S HEALTH

BY SIR GEORGE ALLEYNE



This keynote address was presented at the opening ceremony of the Public Health and Society in Latin America and The Caribbean History Conference hosted by The Department of History, Faculty of Humanities and Education, The University of The West Indies, St. Augustine. Chancellor Alleyne's full remarks are carried at the **UWI Today** web page.

First, let me congratulate the organisers of this conference and thank them for the invitation to speak. Six years ago I spoke here on the challenges of Caribbean public health and presented data on the epidemiological picture, the transitions that are occurring and the specific disease problems which needed to be addressed. But I do not think such an approach is appropriate for this conference. It is a pleasure to see the Department of History of the University of the West Indies collaborating with institutions the distinction of whose academic credentials is unparalleled to present a conference in which history is linked with public health and society. The link between society and the public's health is strong and binding but to my knowledge has not really caught the fancy of the professional historian. I welcome this linkage and hope that this is the start of an initiative which will fill a gap in the Academy and our society.

In general, I am not enamored of historical determinism, and I am constantly bothered by the obvious inability to prove the counterfactual. But I have come to accept that the functioning of peoples and societies of past generations presents us with a laboratory for some analysis of the present. Given the centrality of health both at the individual and population level to the vitality and functioning of any society, it is crucial that there be a historical lens on our health. I am rather chagrined that there is not a rich literature on the history of Caribbean public health. There are factual accounts of the health events in the Caribbean, but there is not a literature of their analysis in the context of the ideologies and mythologies that are peculiar to this region. I would venture to say that the linkages that bring current practitioners of public health a sense of their past are yet to be fully developed. I hope that conferences such as this may give a spark to development in this field.

There are many definitions of public health some of which are long and some of which are short. It has been variously defined as:

"The science of protecting and improving the health of families and communities through promotion of healthy lifestyles, research for disease and injury prevention and detection and control of infectious diseases. Overall, public health is concerned with protecting the health of entire populations"

or as

"It promotes and protects the health of people and the communities where they live, learn, work and play"

But the one which I have always favored is that it is *"The science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the organized efforts of society"*

You will note that it does not say health of or for whom. It is implied that it is for the body public – all the people. You will also note the centrality of society to public health and you will also perceive that there is no limitation on the efforts to be applied, as we recognise now that caring for the public's health involves and harnesses to the task all the available scientific, educational, technological and social skills and knowledge of society. There is an indissoluble link between society and public health that trends in both directions. Society as a whole has an obvious impact on public health, as it is its efforts that are organised to care for the people's health and conversely public health influences tremendously how society functions in its various roles. The health of the people represents one of the critical inputs into that social area or dimension that is fundamental to human development.

Even before entering medicine, I was fascinated by the development of thinking in medicine and health in general and I do believe it is salutary to look at the paths that have been trod to bring us to this point. It is not only in the sense of learning from one or other specific episode or figure from the past because much of what we learn is through a successive accretion of knowledge, but it does give me a sense of appreciation, admiration and often humility at what was done and the extent to which much of the present represents the utopias of those who went before us. I will try to relate some of this particularly to the Caribbean.

Health has been a concern of civilisations from time immemorial and there are numerous ancient writings on the state of individual health and the measures taken to identify and treat disease. The history of medicine is filled with great names. There is the great polyvalent Egyptian physician Imhotep who was also an architect of one of the Pyramids. Individual medicine flourished in the ancient Egyptian courts and we read of physicians who were for example keepers of the king's right eye and another who was keeper of the king's rectum. I wonder how he discharged that duty. But my favorite is the great Hammurabi, King of Babylon whose code still makes fascinating reading almost as a primer for a managed care system. He laid down the scale of fees to be charged and the penalties, often severe, for incompetence or negligence.

The Greeks built on Babylonian, Chinese, Indian and Egyptian lore and practice but developed a more scientific approach to diagnosis and treatment. We read of Aesculapius the God of medicine who had two sons who were surgeons and two daughters Panacea and Hygeia. It is said that personal-care physicians worship the former and those in public health the latter. Aesculapius was so

REFLECTION

successful even in raising the dead that Pluto, king of the underworld was concerned about the fall in his population, so he complained to Jupiter who smote Aesculapius with a thunderbolt, killed him and then took him to mount Olympus. The work of Hippocrates of Cos is very much still with us in several forms. His legendary oath still represents much of medicine's ethical standards and his perception of the external influences on health and disease resonate even today. Roman medicine extended the Greek practice and much is made of the aqueducts and sewers of ancient Rome which demonstrated some appreciation for the virtues of environmental sanitation. But in the post-Roman age of darkness medicine descended again into mysticism and magic until the Renaissance saw a renewed attention to science such as it was.

I have always noticed that the overriding noteworthy feature of the ancient medical history is the focus on the individual. I am often amazed at the accuracy of the clinical observations, but then I am reminded of the teaching of my Professor of Medicine who would tell us that the ancients exercised the same five senses that we have and these must be the first instruments the good physician should use in establishing the state of health or the nature of the disease. It is hard to find in the writings and doings of the eminent physicians of history the notion that the health of the public as a collective was of prime importance. Indeed I find the Greek concern for the health and integrity of the person to border on the narcissistic.

Let us fast forward to the appearance of mercantilism, imperialism and industrialisation that led to the overcrowding in the cities that became the poles of production. The annals of public health are filled with heroes such as John Snow and Edwin Chadwick and even before Louis Pasteur and Robert Koch established the germ theory of disease which led to the birth of modern public health, they would point to the need for the change in sanitary conditions to protect the public's health. Attention often had to be focused on the epidemics of diseases such as cholera, tuberculosis and typhoid fever that were a consequence of the insanitary conditions in which people especially the poor lived and worked.



Dr Debbie Mc Collin



Dr Lovell Francis

But my public health hero is the 19th century German physician Rudolf Virchow who pioneered the reform movement for public health in Germany. His report of an epidemic of typhus in Silesia blasted the government and the recommendation was that the treatment did not lie in medicine but in “prosperity, education and liberty which could only develop on the basis of complete and unrestricted democracy”. He saw clearly the relationship between the public's health and the form of societal organisation. He made the famous statement “medicine is a social science and politics nothing but medicine on a large scale”. Virchow insisted on the role of the state in making the necessary changes in the sanitary conditions to protect the public's health.

In his last editorial in which he comments on the decline of the health movement, he emphasized the need for popular involvement and pointed out that “the task was to educate the people concerning the problems of health and to assist them toward winning the final victory by continuously providing for them new teachers”. There is a role for the people in seeking and obtaining the public's health and it is the notion of responsibility of the people to which I will return as being fundamental in the quest for the public's health.

His take on the role of the community resonates with me even now. He wrote:

“As regards the scope of public health care, it is the community that has the obligation to safeguard the right of each individual to exist, i.e. to exist in health. It is however clear that a grouping of single individuals can neither guarantee existence nor health just as it cannot abolish either death or disease”.

I have referred to the public and the poor almost as if it was a homogeneous whole. Virchow's focus was primarily on improving the health of the poor and disadvantaged through state action but it is clear that he saw public health as we now conceive it as the health of the whole population as something which should concern us all.

Part two of this address can be found at UWI Today online.

The health of the people represents one of the critical inputs into that social area or dimension that is fundamental to human development.



Sir George Alleyne, Chancellor of The UWI was born in Barbados and graduated from the then University College of the West Indies as the gold medalist with the degree of bachelor of medicine and surgery (MB.BS) in 1957, he obtained his M.D from the University of London in 1965. He entered academic medicine at The UWI in 1962, and his career included research at the Tropical Metabolism Research Unit for his doctorate in medicine. He was appointed Professor of Medicine at The UWI in 1972, and four years later became Chairman of the Department of Medicine. He is an emeritus professor of the UWI and was appointed Chancellor of the UWI in 2003. Sir George has received numerous awards in recognition of his work, including prestigious decorations and national honours from many countries of the Americas. In 1990, he was made Knight Bachelor by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for his services to medicine. In 2001, he was awarded the Order of the Caribbean Community, the highest honour that can be conferred on a Caribbean national.

 EVENT

Calling the Youths of the Nation

BY SHANELLE GLASGOW

Nikoli Edwards, former Secretary of the Guild of Students told **UWI Today** all about the upcoming **Trinidad and Tobago Youth Convention**. He is part of the **Commonwealth Youth Council (CYC)** that is working with the **Trinidad Youth Council, Tobago Youth Council, the University of the West Indies and the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs** to significantly impact the lives of young persons. With the theme of **Engage, Inspire and Empower!** - the TTYC will be held on **Saturday 27 August 2016** at the Centre of Excellence, Macoya from 10:00am – 6:00pm. Admission is free and the event caters to youths 15-29 years.

What is the Commonwealth Youth Council (CYC)?

The Commonwealth Youth Council (CYC) is possibly the best example of youth working on behalf of youth. Over 1.2 billion young people below the age of 30 across the 53 Commonwealth countries are represented by the council through its nine member executive and their committees. The CYC acts as a strong voice, articulating not only the needs of today's youth but also delivering a strong message, that youths should not be seen simply as beneficiaries of development but rather as partners in development. The council receives its mandate during the Commonwealth Youth Forum, which is held biennially. For this two-year term, young people decide on a social, economic, environmental and political agenda which is then delivered to Heads of Government.

What is your role with the Council?


I am the Vice Chairperson Policy, Advocacy and Projects of the CYC. I know it is a mouthful but as part of my mandate I head the communications arm of the council, develop advocacy campaigns, draft position papers and statements and lobby for the establishment of National Youth Councils, among other responsibilities.

In your capacity as Vice Chairperson-Policy, Advocacy and Projects, what are you passionate about?

I bring to the table a strong desire to see youth empowerment become a reality. Too often young persons have great ideas, solutions and transformative projects but they lack the support and resources. I therefore, would like to see more investment in the youth sector, not just through traditional investments in education but also in entrepreneurship, arts and culture, leadership training and the professionalisation of youth work. I would also like to see strong support for Juvenile Justice and Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms, as these will undoubtedly reduce instances of crime and recidivism.

What made you conceptualise the Trinidad and Tobago Youth Convention?

For far too long the youth of Trinidad and Tobago has not been properly engaged and asked their opinion on issues that affect them. Youth rallies in this country are usually politically motivated, as they are a means of seeking votes. I felt as though there was a long overdue need to engage youths neutrally and to allow them to be in charge of the type of engagement they feel may work best. This way they can agree or disagree with the statements made by speakers and can provide feedback that will help shape the youth agenda. There has also been a need to provide a youth expo that highlights products and services that appeal to young persons. This way they can network and make meaningful connections that will help them in their lives.



“Youths across Trinidad and Tobago have become frustrated with the lack of priority given to them.”

Why do you think it is important to have initiatives like this for the youth?

Youths across Trinidad and Tobago have become frustrated with the lack of priority given to them. Young persons are the main victims and perpetrators of crime, yet how are they engaged in the quest to find a solution to this issue? The state invests heavily in education every year to the benefit of young people; however how are their views and experiences being captured for the purpose of improving the education system? The same goes for health and for the arts and culture, two sectors which are heavily exhausted and yet there is a continued high demand for them. If we want to experience true development across this country, in a way where the vast majority of the population is in support, then we must employ youths as partners in development and these types of engagements will allow persons to feel empowered, important and interested.

What is your vision for the TTYC?

I hope that the TTYC can be the answer to thousands of youth who need to know that they matter. I would love for it to be an event that receives a lot of buy-in and support because too often corporate entities and others invest in sports and think they are making the greatest investment in youth. However, we must move away from that thinking and understand that not all young persons like or are involved in sport. It is better to create an enabling environment for young people to come into their own, where they are not forced into a box or a particular direction. Ultimately, I would like young people to be taken seriously and seen as having something to offer the nation at the end of this event while at the same time benefitting from all that we will offer.

What is the rationale for the theme - Engage, Inspire, Empower?

This theme is extremely dear to me because it speaks to the way in which we should interact with young people. Through the TTYC, we must first make a conscious effort to engage. Through engagement it must be a two-way conversation that allows young people to open up and feel comfortable to share their thoughts and ideas. Then we move on to inspire through motivational speeches and testimonials by other young people. A bit of inspiration goes a long way in igniting a fire that can do so much to break through stereotypes. Finally, we hope to empower individuals to be the leaders of change that will shape their future. You must be willing to give them the tools they need to be the best versions of themselves and in all of that trust the process.

What can young people attending the Convention expect?

Young people can expect a highly interactive day of events. At first we will have youth talks where inspirational young people would share their amazing stories and prove that despite the odds against you, you can rally through and make significant strides. There will also be live entertainment by numerous local singers, dancers and cultural groups. Then with the opening of the youth expo there will be hundreds of opportunities for the youth to benefit from. At the product and services booths there will be on display academic and skills building programmes; job placement agencies; health and safety campaigns; recreational, sporting and lifestyle offerings; volunteerism opportunities; finance, entrepreneurship and business advice; and much more.

What is one thing you hope a young person attending the Convention would gain from the experience?

I hope a young person attending can walk away feeling that they can conquer the world because support is there and opportunity exists. The unfortunate thing is that this particular type of support and opportunity is not easily available or highly advertised but this TTYC will bring them to the fore.

What is the next step following the Convention?

Following the first TTYC we hope to have numerous spin-off events and workshops. Youth work can never be a one-off event as young people need constant reinforcement and encouragement. Through the TTYC, we will lobby for greater engagement nationwide and ensure that support is given to other groups and young people who want to make an impact on the youth of our twin island republic.

Healthy Soils = Healthy Lifestyles

BY GAIUS EUDOXIE

In today's world of seemingly incurable diseases and high dependence on pharmaceutical drugs, a paradigm has emerged centred around alternative approaches to health, wellness and disease treatment. There is a new or rather renewed focus on holistic healthcare involving proper nutrition (diet) and physical activity geared mainly towards disease prevention, but also for treatment. Although my perspective may suggest a discussion on lifestyle changes, I wish to present another, more subtle relationship, one between the foods we consume and their origin, the soil.

The prominence of nutrition as a component of a healthy lifestyle and increased longevity has increased consumer awareness of the variability that exist within the expanding food market. Choices between processed and fresh foods are made every day by consumers guided in part by nutritional benefits. Pro-health groups lobby against processed foods, suggesting that natural foods are better. Further distinction is present at the production level where organically produced foods have established a sizeable market share, even though prices are noticeably higher.

According to the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), *“organic agriculture is a production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems and people. It relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects. Organic agriculture combines tradition, innovation and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all involved.”* Although the definition is distinctive the appeal for organic foods emanates from a perceived health and safety benefit, which is not conclusive. Our market place presents us with a variety of options, differentiating healthy, nutritious foods not on nutritional composition but mostly on production system. This is especially true for whole unprocessed foods.

Interestingly, an internet search of pro-health food stores in Trinidad and Tobago produces a number of hits indicating that there is a demand for healthy, nutritious foods. I have personally visited a few of these stores and the variety is expansive. However, the majority of products are packaged and not fresh whole foods. The Green Market is an example of one of the few places that markets the latter. So if you are wondering when or where does soil enter into this discussion on nutrition, well the simple answer to that is from the beginning.

From very young we are taught that plants get their nutrients among other requirements from the soil, which puts two pieces of the puzzle together. Tragically, modern day commercial agriculture seems to depend less on the soil. In these systems the soil serves as an intermediary between commercial plant supplements (e.g. fertilisers) and crops, much like a lawyer, arguing a case for a client to a judge. At the extreme, soil can be totally removed in systems referred to as “soilless culture” (hydroponics).



Research has shown that improving soil health and quality has a positive effect on crop nutrition.

Regardless of the system of cultivation, a large population demands food in great supply. Efforts aimed at meeting this demand tend to compromise nutritional quality at the expense of increased yield. Low input agriculture (limited use of plant supplements) results in “nutrient mining” the unreplenished removal by crops of soil nutrients such as phosphorous, nitrogen and potassium. This is a form of chemical degradation which results in lower yields and foods of low nutritional quality. Such practices often result in farmers shifting cultivation from one location to another in search of improved natural fertility. This practice is prevalent on slopes and forested areas and is accompanied by increased prevalence of erosion and flooding on abandoned sites. Foods from such systems may contain low levels of essential nutrients especially micronutrients (Figure) and other health components such as antioxidants.

At the other extreme, high input production incorporating use of synthetic or organic fertilisers may result in nutritionally better foods but may present nutritional imbalances as well as nutrient toxicity. Our soils play a critical role in buffering the availability and potential uptake of nutrient elements by plants. Plant uptake of harmful metal elements such as Cadmium,

Arsenic and Selenium are partially governed by soil properties, indirectly affecting their content in foods. Notably, neither practice is sustainable.

Research has shown that improving soil health and quality has a positive effect on crop nutrition. Implying that the hype associated with organic and other sustainable systems is well deserved. While I believe that such systems are the best option, implementation in the region is confounded by the tropical climate and soil variability. Organic matter is the key to sustaining soil quality and it is in short supply in the Caribbean, mainly reflective of a small livestock industry. Secondly, the year-round temperature (~30 °C) that brings tourist to our shores also accelerates the decomposition of organic matter, thus limiting its accrual in soils.

The end effect is temporary, with the soil reverting back to an equilibrium state. Another and probably more technical limitation is the value placed on soil analysis and crop nutrition. Farmers seldom test their soils and when they do they are for many reasons, unable to formulate a soil fertility and crop nutrition plan. Such plans typically indicate measures required to improve and or maintain soil fertility for a particular target yield. Soil testing, plant analysis and crop visual nutrient symptom identification, when used together gives producers the best arsenal for ensuring nutritious foods.

Research has shown that for many crop families a direct relationship exist between nutritional content of plant tissue and yield (including nutritional components). If plants have access to nutrients in the right proportions then not only will yield be optimized but foods will be highly nutritious. Unfortunately, traditional practices of topdressing with complete fertilizers at high frequencies and even the liberal application of organic manures contrast the science based management highlighted as crucial to soil quality.

With this approach in mind, improving the nutritional composition of foods does not mean that we all have to eat organic. Identifying appropriate nutrients (whether inorganic or organic) and their amounts that should be supplied to the soils, along with appropriate application methods will greatly increase the nutritional quality of the foods we consume. The combination of organic and inorganic fertilizers is especially promising and appears to stimulate nutrient uptake. Research at The UWI, St. Augustine has shown increased yield and nutrient quality of lettuce through use of compost tea, applied to a growing media containing compost. For your information, compost tea is water in which finished compost has been steeped to cultivate a liquid fertilizer for plants.

In closing, as we aim to live longer, healthier lives we need to pay attention to how our producers use the soil and align our policies towards encouraging increased nutritionally balanced foods, through soil diagnostic management.

UWI CALENDAR of EVENTS

AUGUST – OCTOBER 2016

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO YOUTH CONVENTION

August 27
Centre of Excellence

The UWI in collaboration with the Commonwealth Youth Council will be hosting the Trinidad and Tobago Youth Convention on August 27 at the Centre of Excellence, Macoya, from 10am to 4pm. The main aim of the TTYC is to highlight the achievements and advances of young persons, while also acknowledging the many issues and challenges still affecting youth today. There will be live entertainment and a youth expo. The target audience is young people aged 15-30 years old. All students are welcome to participate in this event.

From more information please contact
Nikoli Edwards at 772-0827

MATRICULATION

September 15
UWI, St. Augustine

The incoming students will be welcomed as new members of the St. Augustine Campus community. The event allows for the UWI to embrace their students as it promises to provide stimulating academic and social environment from students to grow and achieve their full potential. A number of university officials will be at the Ceremony to meet and welcome the new students, including the Vice-Chancellor, the Campus Principal, the Deputy Principal, Faculty Deans, the Director of Student Services and the Guild President.

For more information visit
<https://sta.uwi.edu/matriculation/index.asp>

UWI SPEC INTERNATIONAL HALF-MARATHON

October 23
Sport and Physical Education Centre,
St. Augustine Campus

Save the date for the 13th UWI SPEC International Half-Marathon kicks off at 5.30am at The UWI Sport and Physical Education Centre (SPEC). Registration and further details to follow.

For updates, please visit
www.sta.uwi.edu/spec/marathon



A ALMA BRASILEIRA - THE BRAZILIAN SOUL

September 7
Central Bank Auditorium

The Portuguese and Brazilian Studies Section of the Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics in collaboration with the Department of Creative and Festival Arts invite you to A Alma Brasileira -The Brazilian Soul, a musical celebration of the Independence of Brazil and 100 years of samba. This event serves as a fundraiser for the students of the Portuguese and Brazilian Section. The contribution is \$250.00 and the event will featuring acts like Anthony Woodroffe Jr, Heather Macintosh, Devon Seale and more, performing over 20 classic and popular samba songs in Portuguese.

For tickets call 383-9592, 299-8543, 384-7205

THE CRUX OF LEARNING

September 23
Daaga Auditorium, UWI, St. Augustine

The UWI St. Augustine and Guardian Group Limited present the Premium Teaching Awards 2016 which celebrates the work of exemplary teachers on the St. Augustine Campus. The theme of this year's award ceremony is Student/Teacher Partnerships: The Crux of Learning and will feature a special presentation by Dan Butin, Professor and Founding Dean, School of Education and Social Policy, Merrimack College. The Awards Ceremony takes place at 5pm at Daaga Auditorium.

To RSVP, please call 662-2002 ext. 82611 or email cetl@sta.uwi.edu. Updates will be posted on the Campus Events Calendar at www.sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar

GRADUATION 2016

October 20 to 22
UWI St. Augustine

Mark your calendars! The 2016 Graduation Ceremonies are scheduled to take place from October 20 to 22 at The UWI Sport and Physical Education Centre (SPEC). Updates to follow.

For more information, please visit The UWI St. Augustine Campus' graduation website, closer to graduation dates at <https://sta.uwi.edu/graduation/>



FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE – FOR NEW STUDENTS UWI LIFE SUPPORT AND UWI LIFE STUDENT

September 1 and September 2
UWI, St. Augustine

New students get to experience UWI first hand at the holistic orientation programme entitled First Year Experience. The campus begins its official 2016/2017 orientation programme by providing information about all things UWI-related from the faculty, halls, library, guild and more. Administrators will be on hand to ensure a smooth transition for incoming students and their accompanying parents during this exciting juncture in their lives.

For further information visit www.sta.uwi.edu/fye

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE DAY

October 1
Chinese Association

Confucius Institute at The UWI, St. Augustine celebrates "Chinese Myths and Legends" on Confucius Institute Day on October 1, at the Chinese Association in Port of Spain, from 10am to 3pm. Learn about contemporary Chinese culture, myths and legends and explore the opportunities available for study, scholarships and learning the language. Come experience the lion dance, understand the art of calligraphy and practice tai chi.

From more information please contact the Confucius Institute @ 662-2002 ext. 83213 or check Facebook for updates.

**UWI TODAY WANTS
TO HEAR FROM YOU**

UWI TODAY welcomes submissions by staff and students for publication in the paper. Please send your suggestions, comments, or articles for consideration to uwitoday@sta.uwi.edu

