



UWI TODAY

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES • ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER, 2015



UP in the CLOUDS

As he graduated from the Faculty of Social Sciences with a BSc in Economics, **Atiba Cudjoe** could not help but kick up his heels in celebration. We felt that the exultant spirit captured here by photographer Keyon Mitchell perfectly represents the feelings of the thousands who graduated at the 2015 regional ceremonies held by The UWI. In this special issue, our last one for the year, we celebrate all those journeys that have been undertaken and urge the travellers to keep sight of their final destinations as they negotiate their ways.

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■ CAMPUS NEWS

Our Population Dynamics

Did you know that it is quite likely that Trinidad and Tobago may never have a population size of 1.4 million persons? Or that the size of the population of Trinidad and Tobago may peak in the mid-2020s and begin declining before 2030?

In 2000, the national census revealed that the size of the population of Trinidad and Tobago was in the vicinity of 1.26 million with 7% of the population being 65 years or older. Today, the population size of Trinidad and Tobago is in the vicinity of 1.36 million with 9% being 65 years or older. By 2055, population size will have declined and is projected to be in the vicinity of 1.26 million but with 23% aged 65 years or older.

Our population dynamics will continue to spring surprises on us, yet we continue to ignore such dynamics. Interestingly, the invisible hand of such dynamics may either result in our children and grandchildren praising us or blaming us.

In Trinidad and Tobago, there has been very little if any reverence for demographic and population-related data that meet the full needs of professionals in the area. Yet key decision-makers including some members of the technocratic arm of the public sector and even politicians, give little or no priority to the development of such statistics, rendering human processes vulnerable in the face of growing social problems. In essence, these statistics constitute the only hope towards validly approximating the facts associated with such problems if they are to be remedied.

In January 2016, the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) will be hosting a conference, *“Population Issues and Dynamics in Trinidad and Tobago: Theory, Practice and Policy for Post 2015 SDGs.”*

The organizing group, the Caribbean Research Cluster for Population and Sustainable Development, is one of several research clusters associated with the Fifty-Fifty Research Initiative that was established in SALISES in 2012.

This will be the first of a series of country conferences to be organized by the Cluster and it seeks to explore a wide array of population issues that have affected development prospects in Trinidad and Tobago. Subsequent conferences will embrace a similar model focusing on jurisdictions, specifically independent and non-independent states mainly in the Anglophone Caribbean.

It targets the public sector, private enterprise, non-government organizations, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, grass-roots organizations and especially students pursuing CAPE studies and further tertiary level education.

Rarely, if ever, do local career guidance seminars feature professions such as *“statistician,” “demographer,” “research scientist”* or *“development policy analyst”* as alternative professional career options for young persons. CAPE graduates will be exposed to the activities and potential contributions of such professionals and as such, consider such options among their wide array of career choices.

The three-day conference is scheduled for January 7-9, 2016 at the Learning Resource Centre, The UWI, St. Augustine.

(Godfrey St Bernard)

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Values in Education



Only a few weeks ago The UWI St. Augustine Campus celebrated almost 4,000 graduates, comprising both undergraduate and graduate students. While it is always a wonderful feeling to present these academically successful young citizens, who must now take their place in society; we must continuously ask ourselves if we have adequately

equipped them with the resources they require to be truly noble, respectful, and positive contributors to our society.

We witness ever so often, in many places of the world, and even in our own country, many persons who have travelled this road of academic success; but are in many instances, influenced by a moral compass that manifest a value system that is less than desirable, and sometimes even damaging to society and humanity.

There is a pervasive view in our country that education is principally about maintaining an academic qualification, and about certification. But it must be more than this; it is also about the values that will help to shape exemplary citizens who can contribute not only to self-development, but also to national development which is equally important.

While there has been an almost universal clamour for skills development as we prepare them for the world of work, we must not forget to prepare them for the world of living, of sharing and giving, of respect for life and our rich diversity, of caring, loving and of compassion. Without this preparation, our society will be torn apart through competition, greed, insatiable desires, bigotry and even worse, loss of life through acts of violence; as we are witnessing here, and in the world. To this end, education must be about the development of the whole, of body and soul, so that we create a future where there is hope for peace, progress and happiness. Continuing to do the same in our educational system, will bring the same results at best, but the reality may perhaps be far worse. The intervention, based upon an inculcation of universal values, therefore cannot wait.

I believe that acquiring professional skills will not be enough for our students to lead successful and meaningful lives; these professional skills must be enhanced and guided by a strong set of morals and values. Values such as honesty, integrity, fairness, compassion, goodwill, caring for the environment and for the less fortunate, respect for human life, self-control, discipline, self-restraint, resolve, diligence, fortitude, humility, respect for the rule of law, respect for life and respect for one's religious beliefs and traditions.

Although I have said that values education must be

inculcated in our higher education institutions, I do also wish to emphasize that values education must be instilled at every level of our education system; in our pre-schools, primary and secondary schools as well as our universities and other educational institutions. In other words, habits to life and living must be formed early and reinforced steadily at every stage. I think it would be remiss of me if I do not also mention that our 'homes' have a formative responsibility. It is in the institution of family that one first learns obedience, respect for parents and the elderly, manners and love. It is the institution of family that provides protection, guidance, instruction, correction, affirmation and support. It is in the family that you learn right from wrong. If we lose sight of the important role of the family in society, we will put our society at risk. In this context, we must all do our part in our homes and in our institutions.

As an institution of higher education, while we concentrate on education for progress and development, we must also ensure that we pay attention to strengthening the foundation of our students through the infusion of moral and ethical principles while at university – for our graduates and students will continue to become leaders in our society as they are today. Moral and ethical principles certainly would not suddenly appear when they enter public life; it should therefore be initiated during their formative years, at the time that they pursued their various courses of study.

Our institutions should also prepare our students for a life of servant-hood. One of our former Prime Ministers, the late Dr. Eric Williams, known to many as the 'Father' of our nation, at an historic inaugural occasion, as he addressed the first graduating class of independent UWI in Jamaica in 1963, told the graduates, "this education qualifies you to work for the community." He was encouraging our graduates to understand that they must see it as their duty, their responsibility to society, to use their knowledge and skills to provide service.

We must always remember that there can be no greater education of a person, than to teach the right way to live. I propose to you, that this is what character education and individual virtue is all about.

CLEMENT K. SANKAT
Pro Vice-Chancellor & Principal

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Lessons from India

Renewed institutional purpose

BY REBECCA ROBINSON

The foundation of the best practices model is to understand, adapt and integrate locally, what works globally. With this ethos Campus Principal Professor Clement Sankat embarked on a visit to India under the ICCR's Distinguished Visitor's Programme 2015-16 and returned with new clearer visions for best practices for The UWI.

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) hosts foreign students, scholars and university officials on a ten-day fellowship that is intended to build relationships with universities in India, and promote internationalization of programmes and issues. Professor Sankat's specific focus was on The UWI drawing closer to Indian universities with regard to food and agriculture, medical sciences, educational training and research in some specific areas.

Accompanied by his daughter Suresha, a medical sciences student, the Campus Principal traveled in November to Manipal University, the University of Agricultural Sciences in Bengaluru and the CFTRI-Central Food Technological Research Institute in Mysuru. The last stop on the visit was the Brahma Kumaris headquarters at Mount Abu in Rajasthan, an organization that is well known for the promotion of Raj Yoga meditation in some 115 countries throughout the world, including Trinidad and Tobago.

Among the best operational take-aways for Principal Sankat was seeing how the universities centralized their systems to harmonize its outputs throughout the very large landmass that is India. When pressed for specifics on this, the Principal said, "I saw first hand, that if a university focuses on needs of people it can make an impact – by engaging with farmers in the execution of research to grow crops using less water, further mechanization of processes, researching and finding ways to add value to primary crop production and the provision of high quality seeds."

In this spirit of agricultural innovation Principal Sankat delivered an address that described the state of agriculture in the Caribbean. He detailed opportunities and challenges and sought to draw parallels with that part of India's tropical climate that also is pressed to be more sustainable – within the context of a changing global climate. Of course he made a call for greater collaboration between universities in light of shared points of culture, food and agricultural technologies, challenges and futuristic goals. Sankat said that the nexus for realizing the benefits to both countries is in post-graduate exchanges and in creating entrepreneurial partnerships.



Dr. Nirmala Didi, Director of the Brahma Kumaris Academy for a Better World, presents the 'Shiksha Vibhushan' Embellishment of Education Award to Professor Clement Sankat as B. K. Mruthyunjay, a governing member, looks on. The award was presented by the Brahma Kumaris Education Wing of Rajyoga Education and Research Foundation at a ceremony at the Gyan Sarovar Complex on November 11. At the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University, Professor Sankat signed a MOU on behalf of The UWI and spoke on Knowledge or Education with Character – Developing Responsible Citizenship for the Future.

It's about creating entrepreneurial partnerships

The vision for rebuilding and rekindling The UWI output through community outreach was also fueled by a model for using rice production in the development of bio-diesel. At the University of Agricultural Sciences there is an integrated research programme that is focused on farmer engagement for the propagation, exploration and commercialization of biofuel. Sankat said that he was impressed by the non-compartmentalized way that researchers and academics engaged farmers in problem-solving and collaboration. At the CFTRI-Central Food Technological Research Institute in Mysuru, this same esprit de corps was felt as both groups focused on the science and technology of managing the post harvest and processing of pigeon peas.

At the Brahma Kumaris headquarters at Mount Abu, Sankat was touched by how that institution brought a "values education" to the university system in India and around the world. Seeing and understanding their work magnified the gaps in The UWI system that should go beyond building societies to building better citizens – that in turn will naturally give rise to strong societies. With ethics and values seldom being transmitted at home or at a religious institution now, Sankat said that there are institutional lessons to take from the Brahma Kumaris values of service and self in preparation for good work and happier societies. Sankat felt it was auspicious that his visit coincidentally ended on Diwali Day there in India, where the festival of lights seem to be directly celebrating his optimism and the progressive models this trip provided.



Sharing Diwali celebrations with the Brahma Kumaris at the Shantivan Campus, Mount Abu.

■ CAMPUS NEWS

HUAWEI AND UWI JOIN HANDS

The UWI St. Augustine Campus and leading global information and communications technology (ICT) solutions provider, Huawei Technologies signed a 3-year MOU on November 16, for two key areas of collaboration between the organizations: the establishment of joint research and development cooperative programmes and support with teaching, research, the cultural and educational exchange of faculty and students, and staff development.

“This is an important and exciting moment for The UWI St. Augustine Campus, as we embark on signing an agreement with one of the world’s largest technology companies, Huawei,” said Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat. Recognizing that this kind of partnership with the private sector is absolutely important if The UWI is going to advance the quality, relevance and impact of its training to the benefit of the students it serves, the Campus Principal expressed that he is pleased that his institution can be part of this technological advancement.

Acknowledging the important global role and reputation that Huawei has established, Professor Sankat also congratulated the organization for demonstrating their commitment to making their technology internationally available to foster the advancement of education, as a key part of their Corporate Strategy. Huawei annually invests between 10% to 15% of its revenue into research and development, and delivers cost-effective and innovative solutions to allow schools and universities to engage students in a connected world. The company also builds the bridges to cross the digital divide, equalize educational opportunities, and help improve teaching quality. Most recently, Latin America Enterprise Chief Technology Officer, Pedro Gomez Martinez, delivered the Feature Address at the launch of the campus’ 2015 Research Expo, one of the key events that commemorated the Campus’ 55th Anniversary.

In his reply, Huawei’s General Manager for Trinidad and Tobago, Jason Deng, thanked The UWI St. Augustine for establishing this collaborative effort with his company. He used the opportunity to reiterate that Huawei, ranked 228 on the Global Fortune 500 listing, operates as a global enterprise, operating in over 170 countries, and employing over 170,000 global employees, with local hires accounting for 70%.

“Huawei has been operating in Trinidad and Tobago for the past nine years. This means that we are fully committed to T&T and we will invest in developing programmes to help bridge the digital divide and build needed ICT infrastructure. We want to share our expertise, share our knowledge of technology here in Trinidad and Tobago and build the local ICT industry,” said Deng. “This MOU is important for Huawei as



The MOU, signed by Huawei’s General Manager for Trinidad and Tobago, Jason Deng, and Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat.

we make efforts to help Trinidad and Tobago create a dynamic, Smart Education system, which applies technology to learning and makes the process of teaching easier and more efficient.” He shared Huawei’s vision for the future to connect people not only with other people, but with things (such as vehicles or household appliances), via the Internet of Things (IoT).

Also present at the signing were The UWI St. Augustine’s Campus Council Chair, Mr. Ewart Williams along with other council colleagues: Ashmead Ali, Mr. Krishna Boodhai, and Mrs. Maureen Manchouck; Director of the Office of Institutional Advancement and Internationalisation, Mr.

Sharan Chandradath Singh; Campus Chief Information Officer, Mr Nazir Alladin and the Campus Legal Officer, Mrs. Camille Ramcharan. . Huawei’s Enterprise Team was represented by Enterprise Manager, Stone Shi and Enterprise Account Manager, Timothy Odiean.

The Campus Principal also confirmed that a team of approximately 16 persons representing the regional UWI will attend Huawei’s Latin America ICT in Education Summit 2015 in Cancun, Mexico from November 19 to 20. The Congress will underscore Huawei’s promise of “Innovative ICT – Building Better Connected Education.”



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COCOA can still be KING

BY NATASHA COKER

The Cocoa Research Centre (CRC) scored a major feat on November 17 when representatives along the cocoa value chain in Trinidad and Tobago, and a few from the region, met under one roof for a good old-fashioned powwow.

The event occurred on November 17 at The University Inn and Conference Centre, not far from CRC's St. Augustine Campus home, located in the Sir Frank Stockdale building.

Everyone agreed it was high time the people in cocoa met and talked. But the people in cocoa were also resolute that the time had passed for mere talk. There is, after all, an industry to revive.

The Cocoa Research and Innovations Workshop brought together researchers, cocoa farmers, cocoa entrepreneurs and aspiring entrepreneurs, chocolatiers, technocrats, and even politicians under the theme "From Lab to Farm to Product." Major sponsors included the Dutch Embassy and Atlantic LNG.

Professor Pathmanathan Umaharan, Director of the CRC, whose institutional knowledge of the local cocoa industry is unsurpassed, identified where Trinidad and Tobago currently finds itself, compared to the glory days of 1921. Back then, this country produced 35,000 metric tonnes of cocoa, making it the fourth largest producer of cocoa in the world. Today we produced 500-600 metric tonnes.

What happened? Witch's broom.

"Witch's broom had a devastating influence on production," Umaharan, a professor in genetics, explained. This plant disease or deformity changes the natural structure of the plant causing a dense mass of shoots to grow out from a single point. The resemblance to a witch's broom is believed to account for the name."

The fact that The UWI, through the Cocoa Research Centre, is championing the revival of cocoa in Trinidad and Tobago isn't news, since The UWI has, arguably, always been there for cocoa.

It was the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, the forerunner to The University of the West Indies, which formed part of the early architects of T&T's comeback in cocoa. In 1930, the College established a research programme determined to reverse the crop's misfortunes on the island. Researchers were sent to Columbia, Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru to collect wild varieties of cocoa germplasm. Upon their return, these researchers transplanted these varieties in the Marpar Farms in Sangre Grande.

"It was felt that if the tree survived that condition, it should have resistance," Professor Umaharan said. Thankfully, there were survivors, and these were crossed to develop varieties for resistance and good yield and planted in farms across Trinidad and Tobago. Those interventions have resulted in this country now being recognised by Biodiversity International as having the largest and most diverse collection of cocoa anywhere in the world. Centeno is home to an International Cocoa Genebank which has 2,400 varieties of cocoa collected from all over the world on a 100-acre piece of land.

Deputy Principal, Professor Rhoda Reddock, representing The UWI St. Augustine Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat, paid tribute to the Trinitario cocoa – globally regarded as the basis for the burgeoning fine cocoa industry.

"Based on this, Trinidad has enjoyed a global reputation for the quality of cocoa it produces that fetches as much as three times premium in the global market over bulk cocoa," Professor Reddock said in her welcome remarks.

During the mini-workshops, participants were enriched with testimonials and information from an impressive line-up of panellists and moderators.

In the session titled "Quality Matters," Kampta Persaud owner of the 750-acre San Juan Cocoa Estate in Gran



Minister of Agriculture, Clarence Rambharat, with Deputy Campus Principal, Professor Rhoda Reddock at the launch of the Cocoa Research and Innovations Workshop. The Minister encouraged long-term investment in the industry. PHOTOS: ANEEL KARIM



Couva, Trinidad, underscored the importance of meeting international quality standards.

"If we're not going to meet the standards, we're not going to be able to sell our cocoa at a good price. We may not be able to sell our cocoa at all," Persaud said.

It was a sentiment that Jude Lee Sam of the Montserrat Cocoa Farmers' Co-operative Society Limited (MCFCSL), shared.

"The standards are there," Lee Sam said. "The thing is the commitment to do it and to do it all the time." The MCFCSL, a Trinidad and Tobago-based co-operative, produces up to 40 metric tonnes of cocoa annually to a clientele of exclusive chocolate makers around the world.

In the workshop entitled, "There's More to Cocoa

than Chocolate," participants heard the startup stories of chocolatier and founder of Cocobel Chocolate, Isabel Brash; the creator of Gina's Truffles, Gina Hardy, and Founder of Café Mariposa, Marcia Guerrero. Moderator of the session, Managing Director of the Grenada-based Belmont Estate, Shadel Compton, also shared her Agri-Tourism business model which has won Trip Advisor Certificates of Excellence.

There were also mini workshops on innovations in disease management, raising yield potential, cadmium and trade Implications, and branding and traceability.

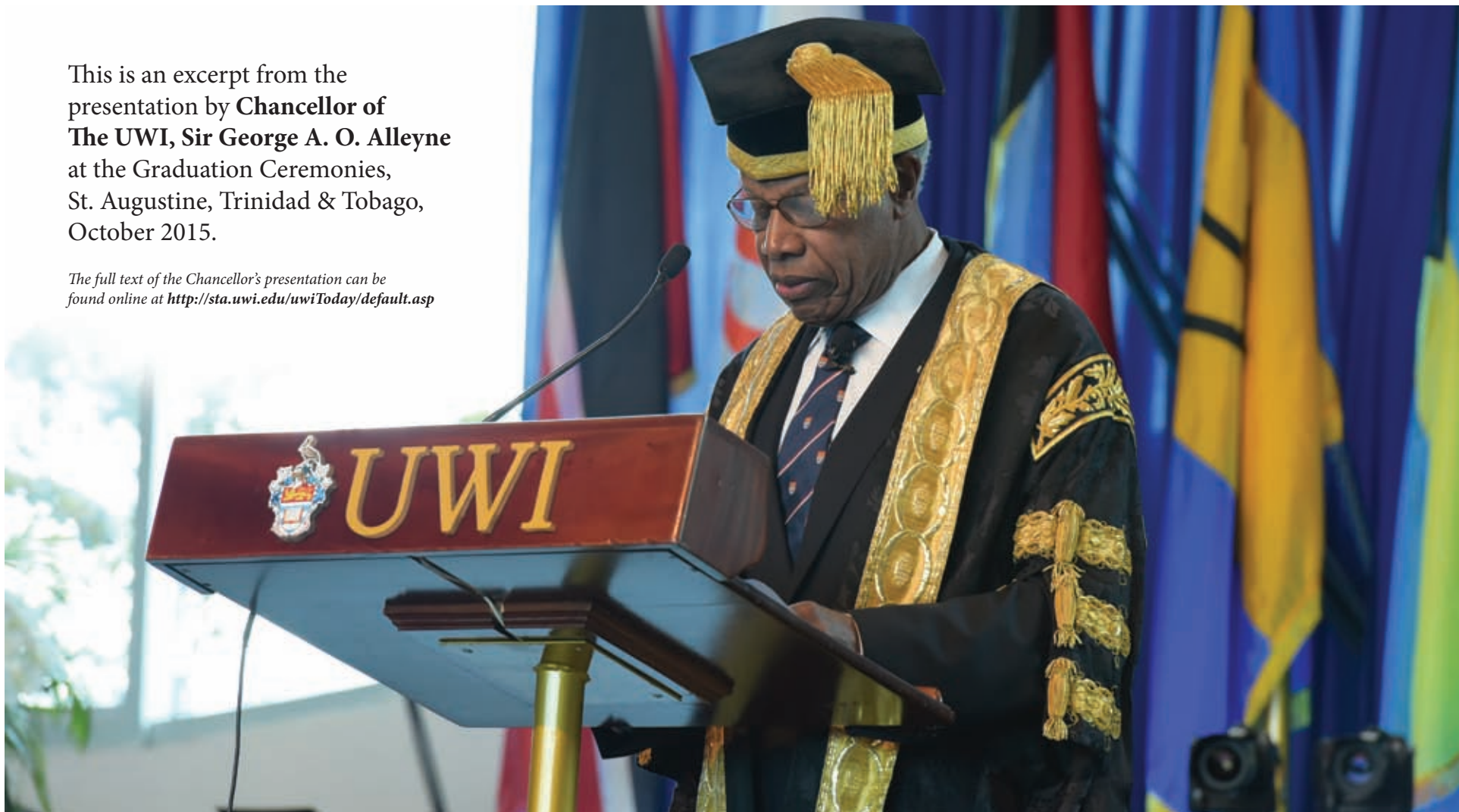
So, is T&T's cocoa and the chocolate really the best? Participants assessed the assertion in live taste tests. Guess what? We won!

■ UWI GRADUATION CEREMONIES 2015 CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS – SIR GEORGE ALLEYNE

IT TAKES MANY DISCIPLINES

This is an excerpt from the presentation by **Chancellor of The UWI, Sir George A. O. Alleyne** at the Graduation Ceremonies, St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago, October 2015.

The full text of the Chancellor's presentation can be found online at <http://sta.uwi.edu/uwiToday/default.asp>



My colleagues and I welcome you most warmly to this 2015 graduation ceremony of the St. Augustine Campus of The University of the West Indies. It is a pleasure to see so many friends and well-wishers at this major event in our University's academic calendar. This year this Campus celebrates its 55th anniversary, as it was on October 12th, 1960 that with 67 students, the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture became the Faculty of Agriculture for an institution that was a mere 12 years old and was still a University College in special relationship with London University. Professor Bridget Brereton, in recounting the

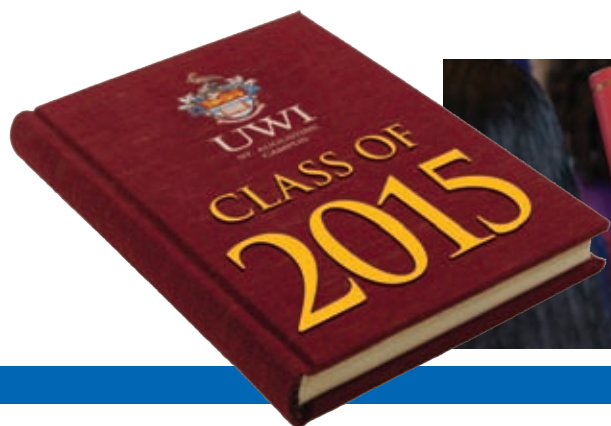
formal ceremony of handing over, notes that Arthur Lewis, who was then Principal of UCWI, described the merger as a "marriage being celebrated as one between a mature lady of forty and a twelve-year-old boy, and advised that the boy must be willing to learn and the lady to be tolerant."

History has shown that age disparity has been no impediment to marital bliss.

I wish to extend a special welcome to Sir Hilary Beckles who is attending this ceremony in his capacity as Vice-Chancellor for the first time. Sir Hilary is no stranger to you but I'm sure you would like to wish him well in this new

role. We are confident in Sir Hilary's capacity to guide the institution aright during his term of office. I also wish to recognize Professor Eudine Barriteau, Principal of the Cave Hill Campus and Dr. Luz Longworth, the acting Principal of the Open Campus, who are here in those capacities for the first time.

We are here to celebrate the achievements of these students who have satisfied the requirements of the University and will be recognized as graduates by the award of a degree or diploma. Graduation is a happy occasion for everyone. For the graduand there is the joy, the exaltation,



the expectation of the profuse and warm congratulations, the thought, erroneous though it may be, that the long days of study and the penury typical of the undergraduate days are over. For most of you there is the nostalgia that comes from leaving the friends made, the moments shared and the memories of the physical beauty of this place below the hills. For those with graduate degrees, the accolades that fittingly recognize the additional time and effort will be even sweeter.

For the friends and loved ones there is the pleasure at seeing the completion of one phase of a young person's life. Parents will often shed a silent tear at the realization that the child has indeed become an adult – not that an undergraduate degree is the only mark of the passage to adulthood – but there is no doubt that it is a significant one. In the moments of celebration let us not forget the University staff – all of them. There is the Faculty which has been responsible for transmitting the relevant information or showing you how to access it and internalize it to become the knowledge and wisdom necessary for action. We must also recognize the administrative and other staff; who share in this wonderful moment of feeling that yet another job has been well done and another class has run the course.

There is also the satisfaction of the governments of the region which have invested heavily in you because of their commitment to higher education as one means of procuring just and progressive societies. It is right and proper that in these ceremonies we always recognize the contribution of the people of the CARICOM region through their respective governments which, over the years have kept faith with the original promise they made to create and maintain a place of light and learning that would contribute to their betterment. Here especially we must thank the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for its unswerving commitment to and support of The University of the West Indies and particularly the St. Augustine Campus in its several parts such as the new South Campus at Penal-Debe, as well as the facilities of the Open Campus in this country.

The University of the West Indies is supported by almost all of the CARICOM countries and their recurring discussion as to the nature and size of that funding support. I wish to return here to a position on this that I have adopted in addresses I have given to other graduating classes elsewhere. I take the view that to the extent that a university has a positive impact on a society in many and varied ways, there should be public funding, although we have seen here and in other places the remarkable growth in for-profit tertiary institutions which treat students as customers rather than as young minds to be educated.

I have also expressed the view that part of university funding should come from student fees. I contend that tertiary education provides both public and private or positional goods. I am sure you social scientists know that a private good is an item of consumption that, if used by one, may not be available for others. The graduate benefits significantly from enjoyment of the private good and thus should contribute to the cost of that education which confers the private good. There is good economic evidence of the considerable private returns to university education. The difficulty arises in establishing the relative weights of the private and public goods, but to the extent that the

University has capped the student contribution at 20% of the economic costs, that aspect of the debate has been settled at least for now.

This position must overlay a basic thesis that no student who is qualified and wishes to benefit from university education should be denied the opportunity to do so. It devolves upon the State to find the mechanism to identify those students who genuinely lack the material resources to benefit from university education and provide those resources in one or other form. No one must be left behind. I have also proposed that in the Caribbean as is the practice elsewhere, there is need to foster the culture of families which can do so saving for the education of their children in the same manner as they make provision for acquiring other private goods. In addition, there the issue of equity which is one of my most sacred value principles. In this context, I often quote Aristotle who in affirming proportionality in his Politics states that “the worst form of inequality is to try to make unequal things equal.”

However, I must be fair and point out that there is another position to which I do not subscribe. It is posited that the social benefits of university education are so great that it is incumbent on the State to provide all the resources needed.

There is no doubt about the appetite of Caribbean students and particularly those of this country for tertiary education. Enrollment at St. Augustine this year has increased by 10.6 % and there are now over 17,000 students at all levels on this campus which I am told is almost bursting at the seams. These students come from all the contributing countries and from other countries as well. For example we have 150 from Guyana, 50 from the USA and 23 from Nigeria. The management of this Campus represents an enormous challenge, and I must thank Pro Vice-Chancellor Clement Sankat and his colleagues for their administration of this enterprise which is surely one of the largest businesses in this country, with obvious ramifications for its social and economic life.

My warmest congratulations to this year's graduating class! There are 3,658 of you with 2,576 first degrees and 1,052 at the graduate level. 271 of you are graduating with First Class honors, 10 with Distinctions and 250 of the postgraduates achieved distinction level. We have special congratulations for those students who have excelled. The majority of students and graduates are in the social sciences and they are predominantly female except in the Faculty of Engineering, where males outnumber females almost two to one. I must point out that over the past five years this campus has graduated 23,500 students. That is no mean achievement and we should thank and congratulate the present and past staff on it.

I wish to refer to an aspect of our Academy which I have dealt with before here and on other campuses. There is no doubt that one of the functions of our University is to contribute to the human development of the CARICOM Caribbean countries in its basic social, economic and environmental dimensions and we can use various metrics to assess that contribution. I am confident that the University's contribution has been positive whatever metric is used. On occasion I have referred to the work of

the University in fostering entrepreneurship and innovation and cited examples of the innovation which have been of direct benefit. I have spoken of the triple helix of innovation representing the intertwining of the interests and resources of the University, the Government and the business sector. We pride ourselves as being a research university with the ability to play our role in that helix. We claim to fit the definition of a research university as “an academic institution committed to the creation and dissemination of knowledge in a range of disciplines and fields and featuring the appropriate laboratories, libraries and other infrastructure that permit teaching and research at the highest possible level.”

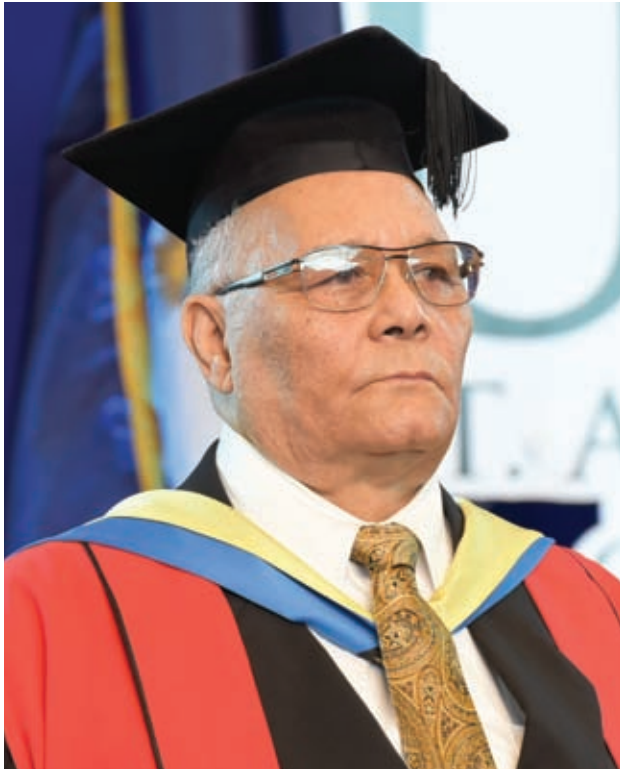
In that context I, like others, have emphasized the need for the so-called STEM disciplines – science, technology, engineering and mathematics – as central to the thrust for the economic aspect of development. It has been universally accepted that there is almost immediate job value for those disciplines and countries claim that their projected economic growth will need increased numbers of STEM jobs. It does appear however that the call for increases in these disciplines seems to be loudest when countries are in economic recession, given the belief that it is mainly expertise in these fields that can provide a lever for economic growth.

However, we must never forget that there are other essential disciplines in a good University and we must give proper weight also to training in the humanities and social disciplines. I was intrigued recently to review research which showed that enrollment in the STEM disciplines was not statistically correlated with the recent economic growth of the OECD countries and the major contribution to growth was the total number of students rather than those in any particular discipline. There was significant correlation between the total student enrollment and increase in GDP as a measure of economic growth.

I found this interesting, as I have often been concerned by attempts to minimize the value of education in the humanities and liberal arts, pointing out a value-gap in knowledge and understanding between the sciences and the liberal arts. This in a sense is a refashioning of CP Snow's depiction of the two cultures and the difficulties they have in understanding one another. But we know that every good society needs both the sciences and the humanities and research universities must concern themselves with creation and dissemination of knowledge in a range of fields. It is predominantly, although not exclusively through the humanities and the social sciences that universities stimulate the cultivation of curiosity and imagination of thought that are necessary for the long-term human development. It is trite but true that the world is flatter and as a consequence there is more inter-dependence, diffusion of information and technology and more need for communication. The need for imagination and creativity needed especially by small states is very real and these are attributes which fall predominantly within the purview of the humanities and social sciences. The core of liberal arts education embraces the critical thinking, problem solving, information literacy and strong communication skills which are necessary not only today, but in the future in this flatter world.



■ **UWI GRADUATION CEREMONIES 2015**
FACULTIES OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
AND FOOD AND TECHNOLOGY



HONORARY GRADUATE
HOLLIS CHARLES
On Being Human

“The century in which you will grow old will see equally now unbelievable advances in human biology.

The mapping of the human genome which was completed in 2003 was a milestone in human development. Of greater significance however was the decision to distribute that information freely to all the world. The results of that decision are already beginning to trickle in. Growing of rudimentary body parts is already commonplace. This month the growth of a prototype kidney was announced and gene editing is the new frontier. The trickle will become a flood and will create in your century, a world that will be miraculous.

Not all of it will be pretty. Monsters will be created. Why? Because whatever can be done, will be done. The first monsters will appear in sport. Why? Because sport is entertainment and entertainment will continue to be the biggest business in the world.

You will have to be part of answering some of the most fundamental ethical questions about what being human really means. The next 100 years could very well become the most important period in human history.”

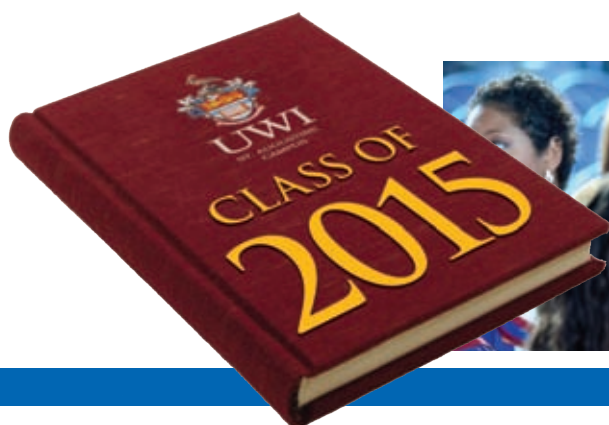


VALEDICTORIAN
RONIQUE THOMAS
A Passport and a Ticket

“As a young girl it was no surprise to see persons living in dilapidated houses confronted daily with the risk of hunger, high school drop-outs roaming the streets and even grown men and women who were unable to read and write. I learnt at that tender age that education was the passport to my future. I decided that someday, somehow my story would be different. From the streets of Roxborough to the corridors of Bishop’s High School, Tobago, to the quadrangle of the premiere educational institution in the West Indies; for me, one thing remained true, you cannot control the variables, but you can definitely control your perspective; and it is your perspective that makes the difference because how we think determines who we are and who we will become.

My story is no different from most of you, my colleagues gathered here this morning. For all of us, studying at The University of the West Indies and being able to graduate here today is an affirmation of our diligence, a testament of our resilience and a dream come true.”

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UWI GRADUATION CEREMONIES 2015 FACULTY OF LAW AND ENGINEERING



HONORARY GRADUATE JUSTICE JEAN PERMANAND *Code of Rules*

“For the Law graduates, it is likely that you will be entering the practice of the profession as some of you have already done so, therefore, I must remind you of the provisions of the Legal Profession Act, Chap.90:03 and to request you to ensure due observance and also to keep in mind your annual subscriptions and contribution to the Compensation Fund.

The Graduates of the Engineering Faculty, I wish to express the tremendous admiration I have for engineers. I know that I could never perform the feats of an engineer! Not only because of my size but the efforts that are to be put in and expected as a successful engineer, the building of roads for example, Wrightson Road; bridges throughout Trinidad and Tobago, ring roads and overpasses, the proposed causeway, perhaps I should not mention the St. Joseph Bridge here! Would engineers be able to harness the humidity in the atmosphere in order to cool buildings more efficiently? I feel our country owes a debt of gratitude to the petroleum engineers and to know that they are sought after worldwide!”



VALEDICTORIAN SOLANGE BAILEY *Remember Those We Touch*

“We really have to reflect and think about how we might have shaped the life of someone else while trying to mould our own futures. In the different responsibilities that we held in our various clubs, whether it be president of the Law Society, secretary of Engineering Students Society or simply group leader in a project, how did we treat the persons working with us? Did we show respect, listen to their ideas, try to understand their points of view? Were we harshly critical of those in a leadership position? One thing that is common to all of us is insecurity, which, in itself, can be crippling, especially now, at a time when we are attempting to make our own path. But within us all are also qualities that we are yet to discover, qualities that can be used for good purpose; for ourselves and for those we touch every single day. We must first find the courage to overcome our insecurities now, because many persons will be observing us. They will be looking to us for an example of how to lead their lives.”

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■ **UWI GRADUATION CEREMONIES 2015**
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES



HONORARY GRADUATE
NORMAN SABGA
Do Not Take Shortcuts

“Make your word count. Set the highest standards for yourself and take pride in all that you do. Nothing is achieved without hard work. This single statement resonates with me and continues to be one of my core beliefs. You see, there is tremendous dignity and wisdom in these words. As current trends and history have taught us, those who try to achieve success without sacrifice, ultimately deceive themselves and others. Nothing worth having comes easy, and if it is easy to get, then nobody wants it.

Be disciplined; do not take shortcuts. Doors will not instantly open to the highest position in any institution just because you have earned a degree. My point is that natural ability alone will only get you so far. You have to invest the time and effort for your gifts to unfold and your skills to get sharper.

There are no shortcuts to success. The journey would naturally be longer but more worthwhile. How you navigate through it will provide you with the knowledge and skills to oversee future tasks.”



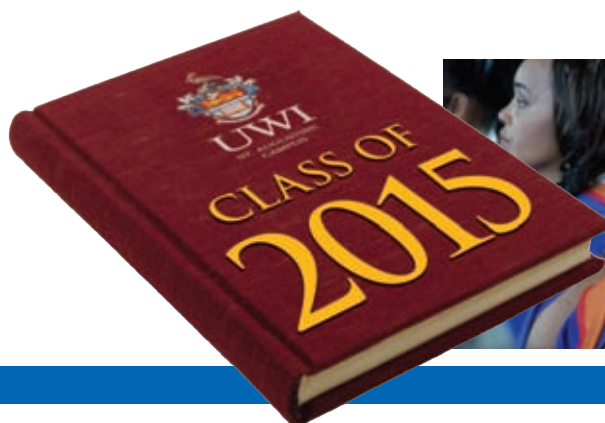
VALEDICTORIAN
JAEL DAVIS
This Powerful Weapon of Education

“Over the past four months, I have had the privilege of working with the Victim and Witness Support Unit of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service. During this period, I heard the cries of a mother whose son was murdered in her home while she was asleep. I intervened with several children who were brought by their parents to the Police Station deemed ‘beyond control’ because in our society, there is reason to suggest that the children are becoming the parents.

I listened to an unemployed mother who struggled to provide for her children after leaving her abusive common-law husband. I saw the fear in the eyes of a ten-year-old as he spoke about the children who had bullied him at school.

This is reality. These are the issues that face our Caribbean region. So today, graduates I ask you, what are you going to do with this powerful weapon called education that is now in your hands?”

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■ UWI GRADUATION CEREMONIES 2015 FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES



HONORARY GRADUATE GERARD BESSON *Between Reality and Truth*

“Now, as social scientists, it is vital that you recognize the difference between truth and reality. The reality he experienced in his dream, so real, was like any reality that is experienced – and like all realities it passes away, while the truth of his realization endures. Never accept reality, until it is proven, by truth.

Truth is a universal constant, it is like the Newtonian constant of gravitation, or Pi, the mathematical constant, and it is different from reality, because reality changes, alters, ends, and begins again.

Now you understand that with Sufi stories you must pay close attention, otherwise you may miss the meat of the matter. Sufi stories urge you to develop the faculty to tell the difference between reality and truth. And, in so doing, to thine own self be true.”



VALEDICTORIAN CAVINNE GOODING *What Sets You Apart?*

“What really makes you different from the hundreds of us that have just crossed this stage with the same type of degree, from the same institution? You have received a piece of paper, yes; a testament to the fact that you signed your name on the attendance register (or asked your friend to do so), worked as a team (or did the entire project on your own) and have written and passed the exams (by the grace of God). A piece of paper that, no doubt, you worked very hard for but what are you going to do with it? What sets you apart? You have a responsibility to give character to that piece of paper, you have an obligation to put value to it, to differentiate it from the hundreds of pieces of paper that fill this room.

While we may not have been consciously aware of it, our experiences here at the UWI have already contributed to the development of this character to which we will attach our certificates.”

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■ **UWI GRADUATION CEREMONIES 2015**
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND EDUCATION



HONORARY GRADUATE
DR MARJORIE THORPE
Equality and inclusiveness

“Sustainable development is people-centered development. It is pro-poor, pro-jobs, pro-women and pro-nature. Equality and inclusiveness are its defining principles. This being so, I would argue that your particular areas of study, the Humanities and Education, give you (men and women alike) an advantage should you choose to accept a lead role in what is essentially a transformative and humanizing endeavour. But I would go further and suggest that as relative newcomers to the seat of power and influence, women have the opportunity, indeed even the responsibility to bring a new lens to bear on our seemingly intractable problems; to advance different strategies, and to be strong advocates of measures that would promote the more humane, the more civic-minded society we all claim we wish to see established.

We cannot deny that women in leadership roles do still find themselves at times constrained by persistent anti-feminist attitudes... attitudes most vividly expressed in the themes and images of our calypsos and folktales.”

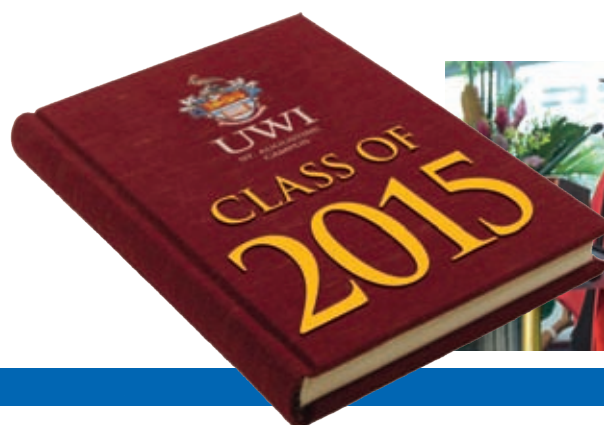
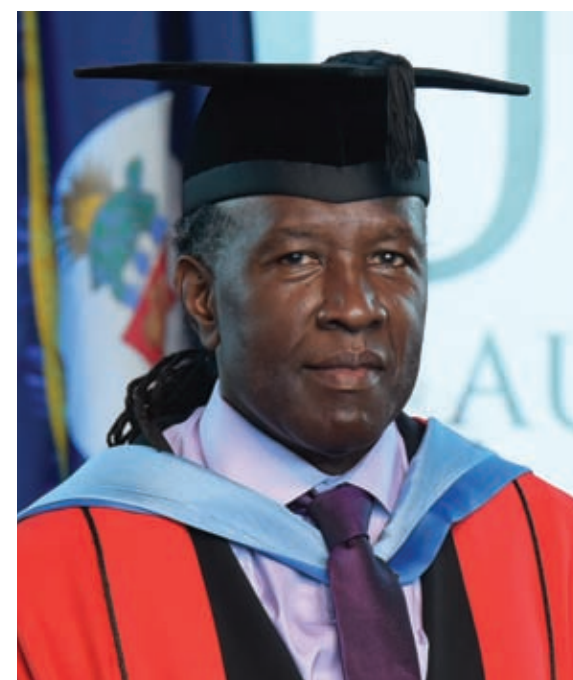
VALEDICTORIAN
LILY KWOK
That Leap



“My decision to abandon legal studies to pursue my passion was a pivotal point in my journey towards uncovering my Truth. And it was by no means an easy decision to make. Growing up, I felt an overwhelming debt to my parents to succeed. I felt like I owed them for all the sacrifices they made, as they gave up the comforts of all that they knew to move to Trinidad and Tobago over 20 years ago, with limited education and no English-language skills, to work immensely hard and give my sister and me the life we know today. Yet, if I never faced the fear of disappointing my family by following my aspirations, I would not be standing here today as the Valedictorian of this Faculty. I would have never discovered my love for my second major: linguistics. I would have never gained all the crucial values that the Faculty of Humanities and Education has bestowed upon me. And I would have never found the sense of satisfaction, fulfilment and happiness that I experience each day pursuing my field.”

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HONORARY GRADUATE
DAVID RUDDER



■ UWI GRADUATION CEREMONIES 2015 FACULTY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

HONORARY GRADUATE JUSTICE RALPH NARINE



HONORARY GRADUATE RAJKUMAR PERSAD



VALEDICTORIAN DR ERRON RAMDASS *Ambassadors for Life*

“Today we not only celebrate our own success but also the success of a great institution, The UWI, for yet again producing another class of intelligent, competent and good-looking individuals. May we ever be minded of our roles as UWI ambassadors and take pride in our Caribbean identity. Today we not only celebrate our own success but the success of our mothers and fathers, our family and friends, whose sacrifices and support were invaluable to our lives. To all our loved ones who may have passed on and could not be present today to share our joys, we say, ‘We love you and thank you.’ We salute our past and present governments for giving us the opportunity to study free of charge at the best university in the world. We pay special tribute today, to a man who went beyond the call of duty to ensure our best interests as students, our former Dean of Faculty, Professor Samuel Ramsewak; a man of wisdom, humility and a model doctor. We graciously welcome to our Faculty in a new capacity our incoming Dean, the well renowned and well loved, Trinidad’s very own ‘Dr. House,’ Professor Terence Seemungal.”

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UWI SPEC INTERNATIONAL HALF-MARATHON 2015

The UWI International Half-Marathon acknowledges with thanks the many sponsors and individuals who contributed to this 12th consecutive success.

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National Association of Athletics Administrators (NAAA)
Trinidad & Tobago Emergency Action Mission (TEAM)
Vincent Nero
WANTER Enterprises Limited

THE MEDIA AND ALL OUR DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS

Open International Male

1 RICHER PEREZ	1:08:00	3	29		CUBA
2 KENNETH ROTICH	1:08:06	21	24		KENYA
3 KIRK BROWN	1:09:12	4	28	KELLITS	JAMAICA
4 PEDRO ESPINOZA-PEREZ	1:09:57	1	32		MEXICO
5 RUPERT GREEN	1:10:49	2	30		JAMAICA
6 KELVIN JOHNSON	1:12:43	6	35	D'ABADIE	TTO - T&T
7 MATTHEW HAGLEY	1:13:12	295	28	DIEGO MARTIN	TTO - T&T
8 MICHAEL BISCETTE	1:13:25	5	29		LCA-ST. LUCIA
9 CURTIS COX	1:15:53	8	47	PORT OF SPAIN	TTO - T&T
10 LIONEL D'ANDRADE	1:16:02	11	35	PETIT BOURG	GUYANA/T&T
11 COLLIN PEREIRA	1:16:09	808	23	MAYARO	TTO - T&T
12 ELVIS TURNER	1:17:16	13	35	POS	TTO - T&T
13 JULES JOEL LA RODE	1:17:32	9	43	PENAL	TTO - T&T
14 KADE SOBERS	1:18:54	12	49		TTO - T&T
15 ROBIN ROWE	1:19:10	1152	27	KINGSTON	JAMAICA
16 MARTIN KENNEDY	1:19:22	1147	21	KINGSTON	JAMAICA
17 RICKY SINGH	1:22:10	973	45	BARATARIA	TTO - T&T
18 MICHEAL STONE	1:22:54	1149	21	KINGSTON	JAMAICA
19 KERWYN PANTIN	1:23:11	612	32	SANGRE GRANDE	TTO - T&T
20 JAMEEL CUPIDORE	1:23:18	187	21	PETIT VALLEY	TTO - T&T
21 MARCEL JOTIS	1:24:33	943	47	MAYARO	TTO - T&T
22 NIGEL PERNELL SIMON	1:25:06	164	42	PIARCO	TTO - T&T
23 JEAN-PAUL DRAKES	1:25:21	797	22	SAN JUAN	TTO - T&T
24 TED JOHN	1:26:20	560	25	PORT OF SPAIN	TTO - T&T
25 GUSWIL GEORGE	1:26:58	825	35	ST JAMES	TTO - T&T

Open International Female

1 CAROLINE KIPTOO	1:17:54	14	30	KENYA	
2 TONYA JACINTA NERO	1:18:54	15	26	ST JOSEPH	TTO - T&T
3 YAILEN GARCIA	1:24:41	16	35		CUBA
4 CELINE LESTRADE	1:31:17	17	31	WESTMOORINGS	TTO - T&T
5 APRIL FRANCIS	1:38:29	1177	25	ARIMA	TTO - T&T
6 AVEE-DOMINIQUE MARTINEAU	1:38:55	221	31	MARAVAL	TTO - T&T
7 CHRISTINE REGIS	1:39:04	102	52		TTO - T&T
8 JENNA ROSS	1:39:12	19	29	WESTMOORINGS	TTO - T&T
9 SIMONE CAPIATHA	1:41:20	871	31	MARAVAL	TTO - T&T
10 SAMANTHA SCOTT	1:44:21	377	24	WESTMOORINGS	TTO - T&T
11 JULIET JOHN-SAMBRANO	1:45:38	342	41	BELMONT	TTO - T&T
12 WENDY D'ARBASIE	1:47:00	942	49	MARAVAL	TTO - T&T
13 LORCA GATCLIFFE-FARAH	1:48:23	886	45	GOODWOOD PARK	TTO - T&T
14 LEISL PUCKERIN	1:48:43	142	49	SANGRE GRANDE	TTO - T&T
15 CANDICE ELKE-ANN BEKAROO	1:49:59	300	45	CHAGUANAS	TTO - T&T
16 WENDY SHALLOW	1:51:33	394	48	MORVANT	TTO - T&T
17 KEISHA BOWLA-HINES	1:51:47	91	37	CARENAGE	TTO - T&T
18 CAMILLE PATRICE HERNANDEZ	1:51:52	940	27	ARIMA	TTO - T&T
19 RHONDA SELLIER	1:51:55	445	48	PETIT VALLEY	TTO - T&T
20 SYANNE DOUGLAS	1:52:36	35	23		TTO - T&T
21 DEBRA AGONG	1:52:54	354	36	DIEGO MARTIN	TTO - T&T
22 ADEL ROSTANT	1:53:12	875	27		TTO - T&T
23 ALANA LEE WO	1:54:12	592	46	PORT OF SPAIN	TTO - T&T
24 ASHLEY THOMPSON	1:56:01	1062	28	GLENCOE	TTO - T&T
25 NISA CHARRAN	1:56:08	244	41	PETIT VALLEY	TTO - T&T



■ UWI GRADUATION CEREMONIES 2015

TOP 5 TRENDING MOMENTS

BY CHRISTINE NANTON

Graduation, undoubtedly, is the largest annual event that takes place at The UWI St. Augustine Campus. Large, not just for the number of persons both involved in the ceremonies, but also in terms of its reach. The reach of our graduation ceremonies spans not only the graduating class, but also includes their friends, family, alumni and other well-wishers. Given The UWI's place as a regional institution, it's safe to say the average person is somehow connected to at least one person in each graduating class.

Social media has expanded the reach even further with networking sites like Facebook and Twitter. For a time like graduation, they are the places for sharing stories and special moments for the graduating class and for their loved ones through photos, videos and extending congratulatory notes through special posts; for alumni, they take to social networking sites to share their fond memories and reestablish connections with the graduating class by sharing their own photo memories of their graduating ceremony.

The St. Augustine Campus took a very targeted approach to leveraging social media for the 2015 ceremonies. We looked at emerging trends in social media in higher education, particularly when it comes to graduation, looking at best practices set by universities across the US and the UK and combining some of these strategies with our own. One strategy included using data in our storytelling – outlining the facts and figures associated with the graduating class and connecting this data to dynamic photos of our graduates at the ceremonies. The result of our targeted effort was the highest recorded levels of engagement on our main social pages – Facebook and Twitter, in terms of the traction for the content that we shared over the three days. High engagement said we were doing something right.

At the time of writing, the organic reach of our posts on Facebook during the 2015 Graduation period (from October 22 to 24) reached a high of 64,435 Facebook users. Post reach quantifies the number of people who have seen a post from our page in their Facebook Newsfeed. Facebook engagement rate is measured in interactions. On a Facebook Page that translates into likes, comments and shares of your posts. Similarly on Twitter, over the 3-day period, our Tweets earned 50.9K impressions. Twitter impressions are described as the delivery of a post or Tweet to a Twitter user's stream and twitter engagement is measured when a user Retweets, favorites, expands, clicks on, replies to, or follows you from a posted Tweet from your account.

You can never tell just how your following will interact with content. Online, people are bolder and more impassioned with their opinions. It was interesting for us to see how our following identified with photos, videos and stories over the three days. Their comments and overall interactions were a huge part of making some of these moments stand out – particularly for our Graduation Ceremonies, which have followed the same format for most of the 55 years of our existence as a campus, it was really important for us to capture those memorable moments for our online following.

 **22K**
People Reached

 **12K**
Impressions



The PhD husband and wife duo

Fun Fact: Many of our fans/ followers shared this tweet using the hashtag

#RelationshipGoals

1,131 Facebook Likes, Comments and Shares

2,414 Twitter Engagements

20.9% Twitter Engagement Rate

 **21K**
People Reached

 **734**
Impressions



Singing Valedictorian for the Faculty of Medical Sciences

982 Facebook Likes, Comments and Shares

3,874 Facebook Video Views

95 Twitter Engagements

12.9% Twitter Engagement Rate

 **13K**
People Reached

 **6K**
Impressions



National athlete, Jehue Gordon, graduates

3,969 Facebook Video Views

135 Facebook Likes, Comments and Shares

564 Twitter Engagements

8.4% Twitter Engagement Rate

 **4K**
People Reached

 **7K**
Impressions



David Rudder receives Honorary Degree from The UWI St. Augustine

124 Facebook Likes, Comments and Shares

564 Twitter Engagements

8.4% Twitter Engagement Rate

 **6K**
People Reached

 **3K**
Impressions



A. Norman Sabga receives Honorary Degree from The UWI St. Augustine

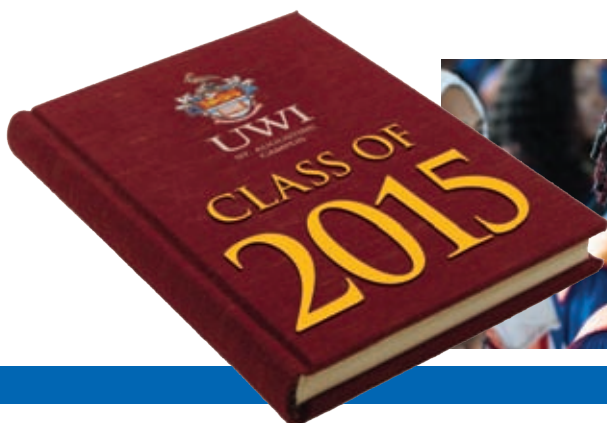
1,427 Facebook Video Views

8 Facebook Likes, Comments and Shares

183 Twitter Engagements

5.4% Twitter Engagement Rate

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■ UWI GRADUATION CEREMONIES 2015

THE MUSIC, SONG AND DANCE OF THE POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE

BY JEANNETTE AWAI

One of the most beloved aspects of UWI Graduation ceremonies is the live music courtesy the Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA) and accompanying bands. DCFA Head of Department and Senior Lecturer Mr. Jessel Murray gave us a behind the scenes glimpse of into what the production process for the big band sound driving all our Graduation ceremonies' pomp and circumstance.

DCFA oversees the recruitment and supervision of the bands that provide music for the respective ceremonies (Police Band, Fire Services Band and UWI Steel in 2015). The Head of Department (HOD) also consults with the Coordinators of the Performing Arts Units (principally Music and more recently Dance) to provide interludes.

Lecturers make recommendations and the Head of Department ultimately decides on the scheduling – though sometimes it has to do with student availability. Dance pieces are usually proposed based on previously developed concert material.

DCFA is always striving to present music which has a high impact whether it's a traditional piece such as "Some Enchanted Evening" or a student composition (the first work used this year was "Life's a Joy," composed by undergraduate Music major, Daniel Ryan).

When it comes to coordinating with the Fire Services and Police Bands typically, each Band decides on their



own repertoire, however, there are certain mandates – The prelude consists of freely chosen music, followed by the required processional music for graduates, staff, the Academic Deans, and lastly the platform party. The last musical element is recessional music for the entire company.

Outside of UWI Graduation Ceremonies, DCFA has been in high demand for several similar ceremonies. In the past two years, they have received numerous requests for Faculty graduations including the Faculty of Humanities and Education (FHE). DCFA have also been requested for seminar openings, workshops, and many other events. Services may be asked for a rendition of the National Anthem (either sung or played), other times it may be for full scale performances or background music for a reception.

The DCFA also recognises the achievement of their talented graduates beforehand and continues to showcase their multifaceted artists through a host of concerts and exhibitions throughout the academic year. The Dance Unit has major performances at the end of each semester – Fete de la Dance and Sole to Sole respectively while the Music Unit has ten ensembles that includes The UWI Arts Chorale and the UWI Steel (who perform together), The UWI Percussion, UWI Guitar Ensemble, and UWI Classical Indian Ensemble, and the newest ensemble – the UWI Wind Ensemble whose concert takes place later this month.



For more information about DCFA, please contact Mr. Joseph Drayton at 645-1955 or visit their website: <https://sta.uwi.edu/fhe/dcfa/>



■ UWI GRADUATION CEREMONIES 2015

MONIFA'S MOUNTAIN

She would not accept defeat

BY S A B E E R A H A B D U L - M A J I E D

This year against all odds, a former Unemployment Relief Programme (URP) worker Monifa Dennis graduated with a Bachelor of Education Degree first class honours from The UWI St. Augustine. Five days before her birthday, she also won the TELMAS Award for the most outstanding graduating student from the School of Education.

She never dreamed of this achievement when she was cutting grass along the Priority Bus Route, as a young mother. Monifa had no CXC passes and she had a child to support. But she had a dream. As she laboured early every morning for a minimum wage, Monifa yearned for a better life. She finally got a tiny breakthrough when she enrolled in government sponsored courses in upholstery, draperies and soft furnishings in her area community centre.

Emotionally, Monifa recounts that she once lived in rural Las Cuevas. With no mother to defend her, at age 16 she ran away from her abusive father. She had no income and life was very difficult. That's when she sought employment through URP. It was her main source of income for many years. Monifa became a mother at age twenty and it was not until she turned 27 that she began to seriously reflect that her life's dreams were not being accomplished. She believed that God heard her plight and sent someone to ask her to "help out" at an Early Childhood Centre.

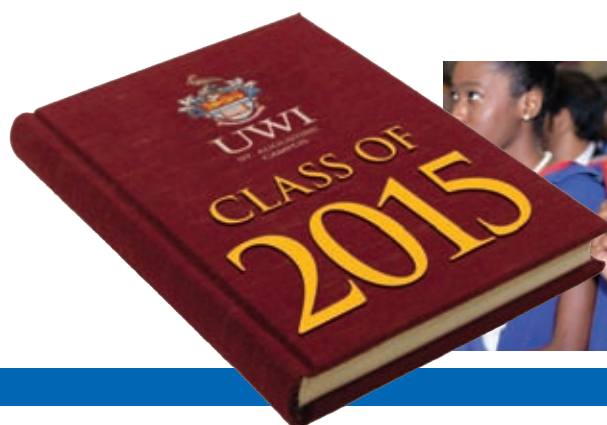
That opportunity she says helped pave the way to her present standing.

Although she possessed no CXC passes, Monifa was treated with respect by the teachers at the preschool and she did her best to help the children. One day, unknown to her a visiting supervisor from Servol observed her interactions with the children. She was impressed and encouraged Monifa to obtain training. In 2005 she enrolled in the Early Childhood Certificate programme with Servol. She graduated at the top of her class two years later. This encouraged her to pursue higher education, so she did her first CXC exam and got a distinction. Elated, she said to herself, "But Monifa you bright!"

Over a three-year period she attained six CXC passes. In 2012 she submitted an application to enroll in the Bachelor of Education Early Childhood Care and Education Programme at The UWI. Days before the start of the new academic year she got an email that her application was not accepted.

In keeping with her philosophy of, "I did not get this far to accept defeat," Monifa "marched up" to the University to seek answers for the rejection. She was advised that her application was missing supporting documents. Armed with duplicates of all documents requested, she presented them to the admissions clerk who matched them against what was presented on the system. The missing paperwork

Monifa Dennis graduated with a Bachelor of Education Degree first class honours from The UWI St. Augustine in 2015.



■ UWI GRADUATION CEREMONIES 2015

was accepted and she was advised to wait on word from the university.

“True to her word, that week the application was reconsidered and in the middle of September, two days before the matriculation ceremony, I was accepted to pursue studies in Early Childhood Care and Education at UWI St Augustine,” she said.

Today, she gratefully acknowledges the support of her husband of 25 years and her 20-year-old-daughter. They stood by her side through the first leg of her university journey. For Monifa, completing her undergraduate degree at the top of her class is only the beginning. She plans to enroll in the Master of Education programme to be better equipped to fight for the rights of young children and to be an agent of change and a positive contributor to society. Her mission is by word and deed to encourage young persons who feel that they can’t make it and may want to give up, to keep on trying. She tells her story so that others may know that there is hope if you have faith, persevere and do something to help yourself out of your situation.

The Bachelor of Education (BEd) Degree in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)

The Bachelor of Education (BEd) Degree in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) is a 3-year full-time programme (Evening) designed to provide professional development for teachers who work with young children. It is offered at The School of Education, UWI St. Augustine. Graduates who meet the GPA requirements can apply for seamless transition into the Master of Education Programme and later the PhD programme at The UWI, St Augustine.

To be considered for this programme you should have at least 5 CSEC or equivalent O’ level subjects one of which must be English language. You also need a Certificate or Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education or evidence of partial completion of a degree in the field. Persons over 21 years with experience and some CXC or GCE passes may also apply. The BEd ECCE is a 90 credit programme which includes professional ECCE courses, foundation courses and core teaching courses. The programme is delivered in the Blended Mode; some classes are face-to face and some are online. Students need access to a computer and the internet for this programme.

For further information

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OMARI’S RHYTHM OF LIFE

Back in 2007, Omari told Newsday writer, Janelle De Souza about his desire to pursue a degree in Arts and Cultural Management Studies. Eight years later, he is enrolled as a full-time student in the Faculty of Humanities and Education doing that BA in Carnival Studies and winning the Faculty Award for the Highest GPA for Level II.

If he had to give one piece of advice to his fellow students it would be that they should explore and enjoy all that the Campus has to offer and not just focus on the academics.

This is fitting advice from Ashby, who is heavily involved in the local music industry. Some may remember him from his early days as a member of the rapso group Kindred, but Omari went into production as well, earning himself quite a reputation in that area. Karega Mandela had singled him out for his good vibes. “I real like Omari’s vibes because he just want to make good music and not on doing music for any season,” he had said.

There is a sense that his civic responsibility goes deep. He had been a part of the Network Community Organisation’s “Rhythm of Life” programme, joining with Mandela, Brother Resistance and Sharlan Bailey to do school visits where they talked and sang and generally engaged in discourse with students.

“We try to give them some perspective on the things that are coming at them so fast now. We cover everything from self-awareness and self-respect to HIV/AIDS and then some schools have their own specific issues to deal with. We just try to be real with them and give them an idea about the things happening around them,” he had said in the 2007 interview.

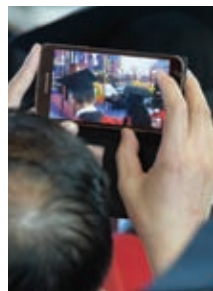
“He believes this is important because many people assume that because the children look mature and sometimes act like adults that they are, but in the end they are still children... children who need guidance,” wrote De Souza.

And it seems he is still giving back, being named President for 2015-2017 term of the Alumni Association of Woodbrook Secondary School, the place where he felt the foundation was laid for his successes.

He is founder and Managing Director of Jaliman Entertainment Limited, a multimedia service company, with over 23 years of experience in the industry.

Being a dedicated businessman has not distracted him from his academic pursuits one bit as his Faculty award shows. He describes it as validation for the work that he has put in and contributes his success to proper time management. Always one to look to the next level of accomplishment Omari has his eyes set on a programme at the MPhil level once he has completed his Bachelor of Arts.

Omari Ashby
Faculty Award
winner.



■ UWI GRADUATION CEREMONIES 2015
FAMILY MATTERS

THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE BAGGANS

BY SHANELLE GLASGOW



Kristian and Stephan Baggan became doctors together.

Kristian and Stephan Baggan are not the type of twins who dress alike or finish each other's sentences. They may wear the same clothes for an occasional prank but these 26-year-old identical twins have each shaped their own individual identities. Throughout their childhood, their parents fostered their distinctiveness by encouraging them to be different and though they attended the same schools, they were always in separate classes. Despite their differences, the pair share their aspirations. They are both graduates of the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery programme and both intend to specialise in surgery.

This identical goal to become medical practitioners is not by chance but due to the experience of their father, who is a doctor in the field of family medicine.

"When we were growing up, seeing how our dad helped people and how much better he made me feel anytime I was ill, inspired me to want to do the same for others and Stephan came to feel the same way as well," Kristian explained.

The Baggan twins entered the MBBS programme in 2009 and admit that the journey was very challenging at times. They confessed laughingly that being twins did have its advantages.

"Being in school together meant that we both knew what the other was going through, we were both able to understand what the other needed to focus on and we were able to push and motivate each other every step of the way," Stephan said.

Kristian and Stephan are currently interns at the Port of Spain General Hospital and upon completion of the one year internship hope to specialise in surgery. It is evident that through teamwork and acting as support systems for each other, the "Baggan Boys" have been able to overcome the obstacles they faced over their course of study. Speaking on advice they would share with current students of the university, both Kristian and Stephan agree students should aspire to be the best in their field of study. "Do not make excuses, stay focused on the end goal and make your degree a quality degree for you."



LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON



On October 23, Norman Sabga, the Chairman and Chief Executive of the ANSA McAL Group of Companies, accepted his Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from The UWI Chancellor, Sir George Alleyne. Seven years ago at the Campus' 1998 Graduation Ceremonies his father, Anthony N. Sabga, had tipped his cap in the same manner and received the same Honorary Degree. The Sabga duo will go down in history as the first father and son pair to receive Honorary Doctorates from the University.

When asked to describe how his father had inspired him, Norman Sabga repeated the words of wisdom that the elder Sabga has long uttered: "Find a job that you love and you will never have to work a day in your life." Anthony Sabga, or 'Dr. Sabga' as he is called, is responsible for laying the foundation that the ANSA McAL empire stands on today, a foundation that has allowed their businesses and brands to gain international acclaim.

The similarities between the father and son duo don't only end with their milestone achievements from The UWI, the pair also share similar traits when it comes to business acumen. Sabga has described the decision making style and entrepreneurship culture that he shares with his father. Their shared desire for continuous improvement has become a hallmark of ANSA McAL.

While delivering a special address at the Graduation Ceremony, Sabga shared some inspiring words with those in attendance. The man who is known for his prowess in his industry highlighted three core things, which he encouraged the graduates to keep near and dear in all their pursuits: faith, family and love.



■ UWI GRADUATION CEREMONIES 2015 FAMILY MATTERS

A MATCH MADE ON CAMPUS

BY SHEREEN ALI

At the ceremony on Friday October 23 there was one particular moment when the SPEC Auditorium exploded. While the ceremonies were all filled with cheers and standing ovations this one was so monumental that it will actually go down in the Campus' history books.

Samantha and Khellon Roach walked up the ramp to the Graduation platform together. Samantha stepped forward and was received by the Chancellor who tipped his cap to her. After returning the gesture Samantha looked back at Khellon and he joined her on stage in front of the Chancellor. It was only then that the energetic applause erupted as it was announced that Samantha and Khellon would be the first husband and wife in the Campus' history to be awarded their PhDs not only in the same academic year but also at the same graduation ceremony.

After getting to know the couple it is easy to understand why their relationship can fittingly be described as a UWI kind of love. Their relationship actually got its start on the St. Augustine Campus almost eight years ago when they met during a study group that was being held at the Student Activity Centre (SAC).

Samantha was completing the final year for her BSc in Economics and Khellon 'invited' himself to her study group, and as the old saying goes, the rest is history.

Interestingly, it seems that the development and growth of their personal lives and their relationship was never too far from the University. They both received Masters and Postgraduate certifications from the St. Augustine Campus. They are also both employed in the tertiary education field, with Khellon based at The UWI and Samantha lecturing at COSTAAT.

Even when they weren't studying at The UWI they were still in sync with each other, having completed an Executive Certificate programme at the same time and both receiving leadership awards together.



The Chancellor greets the Roaches.

Samantha and Khellon would be the first husband and wife in the Campus' history to be awarded their PhDs not only in the same academic year but also at the same graduation ceremony.

To an outsider their kindred journey may sound like a fairy tale that was simply meant to be but the couple emphasizes that none of it would be possible without priorities. When asked to explain further neither hesitated to say "God, Family, Education /Career, in that order."

Alongside their priorities the couple believes in Ecclesiastes 3: there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens. While enrolled in their PhD programmes the couple not only wed but also welcomed their first child, never letting one detract from the other. The validation of their wise words can be seen in their many accomplishments, both professional and personal, over the course of their relationship.

Khellon and Samantha hope that their union would be an example to all and were moved when they saw the waves they had made on social media. With the photos of their time on the Graduation stage shared and re-posted across Twitter and Facebook, the messages of praise came flooding in and they were delighted to see that their achievements were inspiring.

Though not certain as to what may be next for the Roach family they simply hope that whatever they do will contribute to the betterment of the Caribbean society that they call home. Their advice to anyone seeking to achieve success in any aspect of their lives would be to always have the right attitude. Samantha sums up the couple's advice: "The difference between an obstacle and an opportunity is your attitude toward it."



Waiting to be called.



Samantha summons Khellon.

■ UWI GRADUATION CEREMONIES 2015 FAMILY MATTERS

They have fed and clothed hundreds of UWI graduates and officials for nearly 50 years, and it fills them with as much pride as when it all began in 1969.

Mumtaz Mohammed and his wife, Jacinta, have witnessed the growth of The UWI, St. Augustine firsthand, watching the student population grow from a mere handful to almost 19,000 in 2015. Mr. Mumtaz and Mrs. Mumtaz, as they are fondly called, have worked at The UWI as food service attendants, a butler, and a robing assistant for graduation ceremonies for as long as most can remember.

When they first started, the graduation ceremony was held at the main library, which was one-third of the size of its current incarnation as the Alma Jordan Library. Mumtaz recalls that the site of the massive block of buildings housing the Engineering Faculty was just a pond. He is happy to have seen this growth and is pleased that many of the students from the early seventies are running the university.

Indeed, he remembers 'college' versions of St. Augustine Campus Principal Professor Clement Sankat, Professor Brian Copeland, former Minister Pamela Nicholson, Prime Minister of St. Lucia, Kenny Anthony, Professor Stephan Gift, Attorney Christo Gift, and Chief Justice Ivor Archie. As an attendant in the JFK cafeteria from 1969 to 1983, Mumtaz feels these individuals developed under his care, as he provided four hearty meals for them, and more, every day.

Our job is like this, he says: If your last child had dinner at eight and then said they wanted something more later, you wouldn't refuse them.

"If, even after hours they said they wanted something, it was our responsibility to get it for them."

In the seventies, the UWI offered meal plans to all students living on the hall, which were paid for by Caribbean governments as a part of a total package including tuition and lodging. Meals cost TT\$7 a day (for four meals).

"Something better than Hilton," says Mumtaz with a chuckle. "Eggs, buljol, cornbeef, sardines – full works."

"For dinner," says Jacinta, "beefsteak, whole big legs of chicken, veggie soup, pumpkin soup."

Students, however, wanted the freedom and flexibility of having their money in hand. After negotiations from 1980 to 1983, he said the cafeteria unit was disbanded and meal services for the campus were given over to private enterprises. He was the only survivor.

Mumtaz recalls those early days clearly, smiling as he remembers a student from India who was a vegetarian. By the second year, he had tried a hard-boiled egg, and by the third, before he left, he was eating Trini-style baked chicken.

LOVING HANDS NEVER GROW OLD

BY DARA WILKINSON BOBB



UWI Chancellor
Sir George Alleyne
with Mumtaz and
Jacinta Mohammed.

PHOTO: SOPHIA PERSAD

Mumtaz Mohammed and his wife, Jacinta, have witnessed the growth of The UWI, St. Augustine firsthand, watching the student population grow from a mere handful to almost 19,000 in 2015.

■ UWI GRADUATION CEREMONIES 2015 FAMILY MATTERS

When they first started, the graduation ceremony was held at the main library, which was one-third of the size of its current incarnation as the Alma Jordan Library.

Mumtaz was also a butler. “The butler was the main caretaker. You are entrusted with the responsibility of the key to open the buildings by 6 am.”

When asked how she felt about her husband working on these shifts, late at night with culinary duties or early in the morning with caretaker responsibilities, Jacinta was clear.

“For me it was like sweetbread, because I did not have to get up in the morning to cook. They were entitled to breakfast. So all I had to do was make sure the children got off to school.”

She came on board at UWI in 1985 as a helper to her husband.

“I supported him right through,” she says. “Worked with him. But to say, take the spotlight? He was in the spotlight, I was in the shadow, and I was comfortable with that.”

She is referring to her role behind the counter or the bar while her husband attended to Chancellors and other officials. For graduation ceremonies, she was happy to assist as needed, for example, by pinning robes, while her husband had a more pivotal role. His role included making arrangements from the day before by providing a list of needs to the Principal’s Office, and arriving two hours before the graduation to greet the Chancellor, ensure that the food and drinks were well provided and set up, and that the dignitaries present were comfortable.

This requires a delicate balance and a certain temperament, he explains.

“You never go up front to them and mingle with them like a pal. They have their space, and only if you are invited then you approach... I have a responsibility to perform my duty in a certain manner at a certain distance, to serve the needs of the University and the guests.”

They both note, however, that they really appreciated how Chancellors, Vice-Chancellors and Principals would greet them warmly, hug them or shake their hands. Mumtaz remembers when the Queen of England visited for the opening of the new Engineering building. At the end of her visit she asked to address the staff of twelve persons and said, as Mumtaz remembers it, “I truly appreciate your kindness and the meals you have provided.” Then she nodded.

At the Graduation ceremony this year, Chancellor Sir George Alleyne publicly thanked them for their service.

“We really appreciated working with them and the support they have given us,” says Mumtaz. “It is always teamwork. The cleaner is just as important as the cook. We were a team... What I have learned in the kitchen – the cleaner, the cook, the butler, whoever you are – we are a chain. We need each other.”



The Mohammeds in early days.
PHOTO: MUMTAZ MOHAMMED



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■ SPECIAL HALF-MARATHON MOMENTS



The rain didn't dampen the spirits of the half-marathoners when Jehue Gordon fired the starting pistol at 5.30am for the 12th UWI SPEC International Half-Marathon on October 25. Since its inception in 2004, the race has grown tremendously and this year, 1,200 local, regional and international athletes competed.

The prizes were awarded at a ceremony on November 18 at UWI SPEC, St Augustine (full results are available on Pages 16 & 17), where male, female, wheelchair and physically-challenged athletes received their prizes across some 30 categories; but we wanted to share some of the special moments with the winners with you here.

Kenyan Caroline Kiptoo retained this year's women's title, with local champ Tonya Nero taking the both second place overall and the top T&T female runner. T&T female runners dominated the Top 5 with locals Celine Lestrade and April Francis also placing 4th and 5th respectively. There were no T&T nationals placing among the Top 5 Male athletes; these places went to Richer Perez (Cuba), Kenneth Rotich (Kenya), Kirk Brown (Jamaica), Pedro Espinoza-Perez (Mexico) and Rupert Green (Jamaica) respectively.

The National Amateur Athletic Association (NAAA) recognises The UWI SPEC International Half-Marathon as its official half-marathon championship. First Citizens also continued as presenting sponsor for this year's half-marathon.



■ FACULTY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES OATH-TAKING CEREMONIES

Taking The Oaths

Students from the various schools at the Faculty of Medical Sciences took part in the traditional oath-taking ceremonies before being admitted to practice in their disciplines.

Here are some images from the ceremonies held by the doctors, optometrists, dentists, nurses, and vets and pharmacists.



■ FACULTY AWARDS

■ Faculty of Social Sciences

The prize-winners of the Oral and Poster Presentations of the Department of Behavioural Sciences Postgraduate Conference (The Caribbean Today: Facing Challenges and Assessing Opportunities Through Postgraduate Research) pose with the Conference chairs... and their prizes.

Back row: From right, Conference co-chair, Dr. Wendell Wallace, First Prize Winner (Oral Presentation), Keron M.K. King, and Conference co-chair, Dr. Dylan Kerrigan. Front row: From right, Dr. Nasser Mustapha (representing the Head of the Department of Behavioural Sciences), Head of Department of Management Studies, Dr. Acolla Lewis-Cameron, Conference co-chair, Dr. Christine Descartes, Third Prize Winner (Oral Presentation), Katherine Inniss, and Best Poster Presentation Winner, Rhonda Jaipaul-O'Garro. 2nd Prize Winner (Oral Presentation), Sherry Ann Ramdeo was absent from photo.



Students receiving first-class honours from left: John Lee, Shalini Teekasingh, Esther Gaston, Tara Fitzwilliam, Odette Clarke and Maria Sawh.

■ Faculty of Law

The Faculty of Law held its first formal prize-giving ceremony on October 30, and Reginald Armour, SC, President of the Law Association of Trinidad & Tobago gave the feature address, which ended as follows.

“As part of its statutory mandate of self-regulation, the legal profession of Trinidad and Tobago has its own Disciplinary Committee which enforces that Code. This Disciplinary Committee consists of voluntary, hard-working senior members of the profession; they take their job very seriously. Among the provisions of the Mandatory code is Rule 10 of Part B of the 3rd Schedule: *An Attorney shall not charge fees that are unfair or unreasonable*. The Rule further particularises the criteria by which the unfairness and unreasonableness of a fee may be assessed.

Much has been on the front pages of the local media in Trinidad and Tobago recently, including what is being referred to as wholly outrageous fees charged by certain Attorneys. As Graduates, you must be discerning. It is inappropriate to discuss publicly or to comment on the work or matters before or likely to come before the Disciplinary Committee. Nevertheless, it must be accepted by the legal profession and I acknowledge that there is work to be done to redress the damage being done by a few. It is the responsibility of all of us, in the best interest of our Community and Humanity to do all that we can humanly, to lift the regard which our Community has for the legal profession. Never forget that in this community of Trinidad & Tobago Attorneys are prohibited in mandatory terms [“**shall not**”] from charging unfair or unreasonable fees. All clients who are of the view that they have been wronged in this regard, including the State as Client, have the right according to law, the Legal Profession Act, to lay their complaints before the Disciplinary Committee of the Law Association. The complaint once laid will be adjudicated on, in accordance with due process.

As you embark on this very noble and exciting profession, mindful of your responsibilities to community and humanity, go forth with confidence, with moral force, with commitment to integrity and excellence. Go forth as social engineers, trained in the law. We have a national and a Caribbean community to build; that community needs you, each one of you today, for the future of the tomorrow that is yours.”



■ Faculty of Food and Agriculture

The top students who received prizes pose with Dean Isaac Bekele at the Faculty of Food and Agriculture's Awards ceremony. From left: Ronen Francis, BSc General with double majors in Geography & ENRM, Neila Ramjattan, BSc General Agriculture; Aria Laidlow, BSc General with double majors in Geography & ENRM; Ariel Mohan, BSc General with double majors in Agricultural Science & ENRM; Mitch Jno-Charles, BSc Agribusiness Management; Parbatie Ramgoolie, BSc Human Nutrition and Dietetics; Jameisia Legall, BSc Human Nutrition and Dietetics; Ronique Thomas, BSc Human Nutrition and Dietetics; Astrid Leon, BSc General with a major in ENRM and minors in Entrepreneurship and Communication & Extension and (missing) Vishram Bickaree, BSc General Agriculture. PHOTO: TERRY SAMPSON

■ Faculty of Engineering

Akua Sasha Clerfond, graduated with a BSc in Land management (Valuation), from Geomatics and Land Management. Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Stephan Gift, presents her with her award at the annual ceremony.




 ■ COMMUNITY

The Lows of Life in the HEIGHTS of GUANAPO

A Better Place is an eye-opener of how communities live

BY JEANNETTE AWAI

On November 2, Green Screen – The Environmental Series celebrated their fifth anniversary under the theme *together*, with a Benefit Launch and debut of their film, *A Better Place – a documentary in five parts* produced by Carver Bacchus, Managing Director of Sustain T&T and directed by award-winning filmmaker Miquel Galofré. In his introductory speech, Bacchus described the film as a “creative artifact and testimony of sustainability and creativity.”

Indeed, the film diverges from traditional documentary genre expectations by using local artists and musicians to guide the stories of five community-based organisations as they affect diverse areas throughout Trinidad. According to Bacchus, “the music is the foreground and not the background.” In addition to having their unique soundtrack,

each featured organisation was supported by the Global Environment Facility’s Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP) which was implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The film opens in the heights of Guanapo showing members of the community rummaging through a dump site. It’s an unfamiliar scene to The UWI’s Department of Chemistry and Veterinary Science whose members have been involved with the UNDP GEF-SGP Science Education as a Climate Change Resilience Strategy (SECCRS) project since 2014.

A Better Place centers on the Aquaponics (a system combining aquatic animals such as fish in tanks with plants in water wherein, the fish waste produced acts as a food

source for the growing plants, and the plants in turn, provide a filter for the water the fish live in) portion of the project – an offshoot of their work with The UWI-Trinidad and Tobago Research and Development Impact (TT-RDI) Fund facilitated project. Led by Dr. Denise Beckles the project determined the extent of contaminants from landfill in the air, soil and water. Members of the Heights of Guanapo community were not only trained to use aquaponics to avoid soil and water contamination from the landfill, but also a portion of them were used as mentors to teach in The UWI After-School Care Centre’s (ASCC) Children’s Discovery Workshop that took place in August.

The idea of living in proximity to a landfill while depending on it for your daily livelihood may seem like

Guanapo Aquaponics Project

The aquaponics project in Guanapo has engaged the attention of the Tunapuna/Piarco Regional Corporation. Several councilors from surrounding areas have visited and agreed to maintain the Guanapo demonstration site. They have also requested that demonstration systems be set up in other TPRC burgesses. The project team and trained Guanapo facilitators are ready to assist with propagating the aquaponics project in other areas. The project will also continue with a series of proposal writing and project leadership workshops to assist the Guanapo Community Environmental Development Organization and other NGOs to win funding and execute their project ideas.



a farfetched concept to some, but this is the reality of the Guanapo resident and the film captures their unfiltered stories of hardship. One of the residents who also served as a mentor for the ASCC Children's Discovery Workshop cautions the public in a heartbreaking scene to "think before they throw away their garbage...portion your food remains in a separate bag because it's going to end up as someone's next meal."

Dr. Carla Phillips, lecturer at The UWI School of Veterinary Medicine (UWI-SVM) serves as the SECCRS project representative in the film and says that seeing herself on screen was "rewarding to make the public aware of the role that the aquatic veterinarian can play in food security and community development."

She feels the film's only drawback is the omission of the aquaponics systems' products. "At no point did the audience see the animals that fueled the system or the many plants that were actually derived from the system to show that the repurposed materials we used actually did work well."

Overall however, Dr. Phillips says she is hopeful that the film will enable wider audiences to recognise the value in recycling, repurposing and reusing materials to reduce the waste produced per capita; consider aquaponics as a viable and inexpensive option in subsistence level farming and home gardening and perhaps, most importantly recognise that out of hardship great things can be achieved.

SECCRS Project Team Leader, Dr. Leonette Cox of



PHOTOS COURTESY: SUSTAIN T&T

The UWI's Department of Chemistry advocates the use of projects to change communities. She advises that "a good project to submit for funding is one that has impact long after the project closes. The RDI funds projects with a research agenda, but I think it is important to clearly articulate who the project impacts. Staff members submitting projects to the RDI-fund or even the GEF-SGP should make sure that their heart is in whatever project they choose. The in-kind contributions and the effort that go into making these projects successful greatly outweigh the monetary contribution from the funders."

Dr. Cox wants to raise awareness of the plethora of project grants available at The UWI St. Augustine Campus, "It is not widely known that the University holds multiple GEF-SGP funded projects. Also, there are GEF-SGP planning grants up to US\$5000 available to help get organisations started on projects that may qualify for full funding."

The documentary highlights the human element behind community outreach proposals while showing how real change can be effected through recognising a need, seeking practical solutions and coming together to find funding through grants such as GEF-SGP so that we can indeed make the world a better place. In the words of director, Miquel Galofré, "Communities have heroes and I'm happy you can see for yourself, how beautiful you are."



One of the residents cautions the public in a heartbreaking scene to "think before they throw away their garbage...portion your food remains in a separate bag because it's going to end up as someone's next meal."

Jeanette G. Awai is a freelance writer and marketing and communications assistant at the Office of Marketing and Communications

Dr. Bennie Berkeley
engaging students in
discussion of their
research interests

TAKING SOCIOLOGY TO SCHOOLS

The Sociology Unit launched its School Outreach on October 28 at the Bishop Anstey Trinity College East (BATCE). This outreach is the newest addition to the activities of the Unit: yearly conferences, its weekly Open Forum and community outreach programme all aimed at taking the work of the University beyond its physical space and to carry intellectual thought beyond the academic community.

The outreach provided both staff and students of the Sociology Unit the opportunity to interact with Lower 6 and Upper 6 students of BATCE. Dr. Anand Rampersad, Instructor in the Sociology Unit, talked to them about careers and the skills they could develop through the study of Sociology. They were also informed of the degree structure and opportunities for further study at The UWI. Shanice Williams and Fareena Alladin, both post-graduate students and research/teaching assistants in the Unit, shared their research interests and experiences as students of Sociology. The students also had the opportunity to meet one of the first lecturers they may have as students of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Dr. Bennie Berkeley. Dr. Berkeley gave the students practical advice on their syllabus and encouraged the students to share their own research interests with the team. The students were then offered the space of the Unit's Open Forum to present their projects to a wider audience.

UWI CALENDAR of EVENTS

JANUARY–MARCH 2016



POPULATION ISSUES AND DYNAMICS

January 7-9, 2016
UWI St. Augustine

The UWI Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) St. Augustine Campus is hosting the Population Issues and Dynamics in Trinidad and Tobago – Theory, Practice and Policy for post-2015 Strategic Development Goals (SDGs).

The conference will explore themes about the Fertility Dynamics and Implications for Development; Trends and Differentials in Morbidity; Globalisation, gender and sexual reproductive health in Trinidad and Tobago.

For further inquiries, please contact Dr. Godfrey St Bernard or Ms. Taresa Best at crpsdtt@sta.uwi.edu.

For more information, please visit <http://sta.uwi.edu/conferences/16/population/themes.asp>.

UWI FETE – ESCAPE TO PARADISE

January 24, 2016
UWI St. Augustine

UWI Fete presents their annual all-inclusive UWI Fete with the theme Cuba – Escape to Paradise. Experience a great party featuring the best soca bands and performers, Cuban-themed cuisine and cocktails and much more. Early bird tickets are available for TT\$1200 until December 15. Get your tickets at Pepper Advertising, Picton Street, Newtown or contact Mrs. Alana Campbell-John at Student Advisory Services at Alana.Campbell-John@sta.uwi.edu or call 662-2002 ext. 82326.

For more information, please continue checking the Campus Events Calendar at www.sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar.



CLASSIC CONCERT

February 14, 2016
Hyatt Regency Hotel

The second annual Classic Concert with the theme – Pappy – Tribute to Roy Cape, is an exclusive event that showcases the range, versatility and talents of Mr. Roy Cape, DLitt (Hon.), as well as the Roy Cape All Stars, and their many talented friends including 3Canal, David Rudder, DLitt (Hon.), Olatunji and more. The price of tickets will be TT\$1000 for all patrons.

For more information, please continue checking the Campus Events Calendar at www.sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar for updates.

AFUWI 19TH ANNUAL AWARDS GALA

February 24, 2016
New York

Save the Date for the American Foundation for the University of the West Indies' (AFUWI) 19th Annual Awards Gala – The Legacy Continues at the Pierre Hotel, New York, NY. More details to come.

For further information, visit: <http://www.afuwievents.org/afuwi/>



SPORTS AND HIGHER ED

January 13-15, 2016
UWI St. Augustine

Save the date for the 2nd Biennial Conference on Sport Studies and Higher Education: An Interdisciplinary Approach under the theme, Physical Literacy: Gender, Science, and Sport for Development. They conference will feature panels addressing sub-themes including but not limited to topics such as The Role of the State; Sexuality and Gender Identities in Sport, Anti-Doping Policy and more.

For further information, please email sportstudiesconference@sta.uwi.edu or visit www.sta.uwi.edu.



BASIC SURGICAL SKILLS WORKSHOP

March 19-20, 2016
Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex, Mt. Hope

The University of the West Indies Department of Clinical Surgical Sciences in conjunction with the Royal College of Surgeons host “Basic Surgical Skills (Intercollegiate BSS) Workshop.” This workshop costs TT\$9500.

For more information, please contact Ms. Melrose Yearwood: 645-3232 or 662-7028 ext. 2864. Fax: 1 (868) 663-4319. Email: melrose.yearwood@sta.uwi.edu.

For more information, please visit the Campus Events Calendar at www.sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar.

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

