



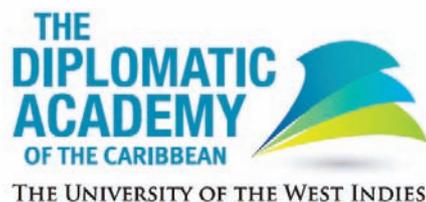
# The Old Yard

The UWI Department of Creative and Festival Arts once again showcased, *“The Old Yard: a showcase of Carnival masquerade traditions”*. Featured were traditional mas characters, vintage kaiso and pan.

**CAMPUS NEWS – 03**

*Coming Soon*

■ Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean



**CAMPUS NEWS – 08**

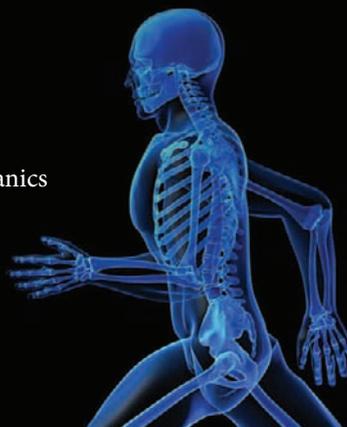
*Witness to History*

■ China Mission

**RESEARCH – 10**

*As Good  
As New*

■ How Biomechanics helps athletic performance and rehabilitation



**CAMPUS NEWS – 14**

*One Health*

■ Working together to solve major health problems facing the Caribbean



# COMING SOON!

# The DIPLOMATIC ACADEMY of the Caribbean

*New and innovative training techniques  
will be used in practical, hands-on modules.*

**There is no doubt** that the challenges of modern international relations and diplomacy demand evolving learning and training.

While the basics of diplomacy remain, namely the pursuit of foreign policy objectives and interests, this pursuit goes clearly beyond the national level, into the realm of regional and global interests and objectives.

The modern day diplomatic academy seeks to provide learning and training not only to diplomats and national government officials, but it addresses much wider audiences, such as other State Agencies, NGOs, Business and Civil Society.

The UWI's Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean, the first of its kind, will reach out to a cross section of target groups and beneficiaries, beyond the strict confines of CARICOM, to all those involved in one way or the other in international cooperation and transactions. When it is launched in the middle of this

year, it will meet a clearly felt need, in the absence of any proper training and learning facility regionally, to offer programmes in diplomacy at various levels and on diverse but relevant subjects.

The Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean is a joint project between the Government of Trinidad & Tobago and its Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and The University of the West Indies through its Institute of International Relations, established initially on a two-year project basis. While an integral part of The UWI and its Institute of International Relations, the Diplomatic Academy will have a separate identity and mandate.

New and innovative training techniques will be used in practical, hands-on modules. There will be experience sharing and learning as well as networking with the best expertise regionally and internationally. *For further information, please contact [andy.knight@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:andy.knight@sta.uwi.edu).*



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### *All Things New in the Month of March!*



**Around the world, since man first started** counting months on a calendar, March has signalled a season of awakening, of renewal. For us here in Trinidad & Tobago, we have traditionally welcomed in the Lenten season of self-imposed restraint.

As I write this, I am just back from an exciting though fast-paced visit to China. There I was privileged to be present when China Agricultural University (CAU) welcomed and honoured our Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to their university – one of the most respected in China and our partner institution in Beijing. As you are aware, the Confucius Institute (CI) opened at The UWI St Augustine Campus in October 2013; since then we have made much progress. This critical partnership with CAU is on track to flourish and the St Augustine Campus is looking forward to a visit in April from CAU's President, Dr Ke BINSHENG and his team of agricultural experts and planners. We expect to do something special with our new 200 acre site in Orange Grove – the creation of an agricultural innovation park. We also had a flying visit to Wuhan University another of China's old distinguished higher institutions and there we're collaborating through the Institute of International Relations to establish a Centre for China-Caribbean Studies. This is another first for China and The UWI. You'll read more about this China mission within these pages.

In this issue, we note the internationalisation agenda of the University being fulfilled in another way. The Caribbean-Pacific Islands Mobility Scheme (CARPIMS), funded by some €6.8million from the European Union under its Intra ACP Mobility Scheme, facilitates the movement of Masters and PhD students and staff among a consortium of Universities from the Caribbean and Pacific regions. Its primary goal is to build the research and teaching capacity of participating institutions and their regions. The UWI has been awarded the largest Caribbean-Pacific grant for the third consecutive year. Two young ladies, who benefitted from this scholarship opportunity in 2013, speak in their own voices about their on-going Samoa experience.

We are bringing the world to our door with the upcoming launch of the Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean, a joint project of the Trinidad & Tobago Ministry of Foreign Affairs and The University of the West Indies. This Academy will complement the Institute of International Relations in that its mandate would be to develop world class, future thinking diplomats through experiential, modular training and exposure to the best in the field from the region and around the world. The occasion will also mark the opening of our new Conference Centre. Several firsts for The UWI and our country!

'As good as new' is the theme of an article by Dr Sybele Williams, lecturer in the Department of Physics where she is researching anthropometry – non-invasive monitoring of musculoskeletal disorders. It's a fascinating read on a cutting-edge area of research on how Biomechanics helps athletic performance and rehabilitation.

A week of Campus Council meetings has just ended, during which the Campus reported to stakeholders on all facets of our work and progress – much of which is addressed here in UWI Today but more on that in our April issue.

These are exciting, new times for the St. Augustine Campus of The UWI. Join us on this journey of 'great expectations'!

**CLEMENT K. SANKAT**  
Pro Vice Chancellor & Principal

## EDITORIAL TEAM

CAMPUS PRINCIPAL  
Professor Clement Sankat

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS  
Mrs. Dawn-Marie De Four-Gill

EDITOR  
Mrs Maria Rivas-McMillan

## CONTACT US

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## Caribbean Business Executives Focus on FINANCE AND GROWTH



*“The ability of a country to increase its national output is dependent on its capacity to create economic value and to convert this value into long-term benefits for its citizens. That is the essence of sustainability to which countries large and small must strive. The challenge for Caribbean countries is to develop a sustainable model for development; a model that includes a steady flow of innovative ideas, new technologies, knowledge, alliances, investment in enterprise and access to capital”.*

### Professor Compton Bourne

Executive Director, Caribbean Centre  
for Money and Finance (CCMF)

Caribbean entrepreneurs have repeatedly cited access to capital as a major constraint to business start-up or continued growth of entrepreneurial firms. This position however counters the view of a highly liquid environment and some believe that the projects that do not receive financing, perhaps do not qualify for capital or may have been led by a team or sponsor that lacked the passion, vision or enthusiasm to reassure the providers of capital. While gaps in management may result in a business venture being deemed unattractive, for reasons such as, innovativeness or newness of product, little or limited understanding of the product or the industry and uncertainty of outcomes are also factors identified.

Further, the relationship between market liquidity and economic development in the context of CARICOM-member states requires an in-depth examination. This includes a look at the structure of the financial market in terms of the products and services offered, the sectors into which the majority of funds are channelled and the extent to which the legal, regulatory and policy frameworks facilitate the creation of new wealth.

Professor Bourne, who has researched and written extensively on finance and development, believes it is imperative that the Caribbean adopts an outcome-oriented approach to transformation in which the role and function of the participants in the development process are aligned to creating sustainable value. Industries such as renewable energy, technology, clean energy, digital media, and climate change technology are seen as relevant to the transformation process but their start and growth may require innovative business models inclusive of access to a mix of capital including risk/venture capital.

The extent however to which venture capital can fulfil its socio-economic role is dependent on the existence of the supporting elements of the wider ecosystem. The issue of venture capital financing and its relevance to regional growth will be critically examined at the **Third Caribbean Business Executives Business Seminar** to be held at the **Hyatt Regency Hotel in Port of Spain, Trinidad on April 4<sup>th</sup> 2014**.

Be part of this action towards regional transformation by registering for the seminar.



## Best Practices in Higher Education: The Way Forward for the Caribbean

The UWI is partnering with UNESCO – both the Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (IESALC) and the Kingston Cluster Office for the Caribbean Region - to explore various responses to the changed higher education environment in a second Conference on Higher Education in the Caribbean (II CCHE) this May at its Regional Headquarters in Jamaica.

Under the theme, **Best Practices in Higher Education: The Way Forward for the Caribbean**, II CCHE will focus on Quality Assurance and Recognition of Studies, Titles and Diplomas; Research Management and Impact; and the Financing of Higher Education. The presenters, facilitators and expert discussants from across the wider Caribbean and internationally have been tasked with the formulation of recommendations of ways in which to respond to some of the challenges facing Higher Education Institutions, as identified in the conference subthemes, and so strengthen their capacity. II CCHE will also facilitate more extensive partnerships among participants and with other education stakeholders to achieve common regional goals.

Within the framework of the first Caribbean Conference on Higher Education (Paramaribo, Suriname, 2010), the conference will consider and contrast emerging needs and new commitments and enunciate a new Declaration and comprehensive regional plan of action.

### ■ CONFERENCE SUBTHEMES

Financing of Higher Education  
Research Management and Impact  
Quality Assurance and Recognition  
of Studies, Titles and Diplomas

### ■ FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Email: [lacc@uwimona.edu.jm](mailto:lacc@uwimona.edu.jm)

ICCHE web page: [www.uwi.edu/lacc/cche\\_2](http://www.uwi.edu/lacc/cche_2)

# The Power of Memory Over Imagination

**Rachel Manley is in town** as this year's writer-in-residence for Campus Literature Week, an annual event of the Faculty of Humanities and Education's MFA Creative Writing Programme. Though perhaps best known for her trilogy of her famous family: *Drumblair-Memoirs of a Jamaican Childhood* (1996); *Slipstream: A Daughter Remembers* (2000) and *Horses in Her Hair* (2008), few may recall that she is also a published poet. She's graciously spared some time to answer some questions about her writing and life.

Her experiences have taken her from England to Jamaica, to the United States and to Canada in numerous crossings and re-crossings. Where is home? I begin by asking her. "Home is where I live. My address". She's adamant about that. Having to move often has given her the ability to make wherever she is at the moment "home". She continues, "but if home means familiar, then Jamaica is what is familiar to me... I don't usually find it changed... it doesn't matter what government's in, it just seems the same."

What then has been her source of inspiration- her muse? That question makes her smile. "My grandparents", she says simply. "After three books dealing with them and history, you kind of need a new muse or else you end up writing the same things. But they are the force that inspires me..."

The conversation turns to her current project – a work of fiction. "I can promise you with absolute certainty, I will never write another!" She claims to be overwhelmed by the "huge prairie of possibility of fiction"! "In memoir", she explains, "you are guided by the simple truths of what



Rachel Manley

are - it's kind of a roadmap for you that keeps you safe. You don't have to make too many moral decisions because you know you have to tell the truth. You are guided by what is the truth, but with fiction anything you write, could be anything you want it to be. It's just endless possibility... I get seasick with it... I guess it's the difference between memory and imagination...my memory is exercised, it's fit; my imagination ....is kind of squashed....when I gave up writing poetry ...and went for non-fiction prose I had kind of said no to imagination and now to ask it to wake up again, it does not want to wake." But is there any other aspect of memory still left to be explored? "I plan to do a book of short stories...I do have other stories...some are more to do with me, not the family...but in themselves are entities that are worth writing".

To young writers starting out, her advice is to "remember the background you are coming from always... the rich oral tradition, the responsibility...to tell the stories of your own generation and the ones before that might not have been comfortably literate". Also important is "a social message that shines light on the things in our society... even if the overall purpose might be to entertain."

Fifty years from now what would she want people to remember about her writing? "I would like them to remember through *Drumblair*, and *Slipstream* and *Horses*, my grandparents and my father, and the huge, imaginative strides they made for Jamaica – that's what I want them to remember."

## ■ CAMPUS NEWS

# Life in SAMOA

*Where Adventure Begins*

One minute it's just a dream. The next you're on a Pacific island and living that dream.  
For **Melissa McAllister** and **Ramona Boodoosingh**, dreams do come true.

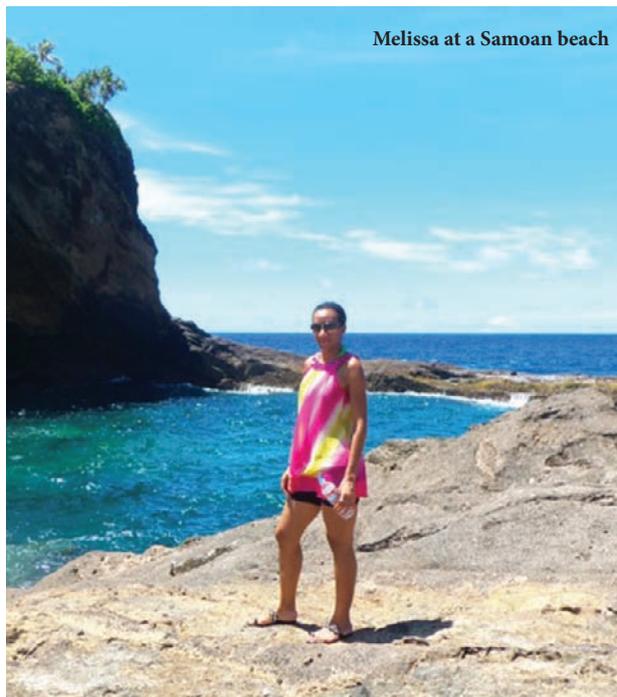
## MELISSA McALLISTER

I struggled to complete my application then, while on the verge of giving up, CARPIMS emailed about the application extension!

I had obtained a BSc Accounting Special degree at UWI and I'm doing a Master's in Development Studies with my thesis topic in micro finance at the National University of Samoa (NUS) through the CARPIMS programme.

My Samoan experience had a rough start... we were robbed within the first night of my colleague's arrival but the university moved us within the day. I feel very safe here and the scenery is lovely. I started teaching dance to children and adults, assisting the dance group Salsa Samoa by conducting dance classes and organizing performances at different social events. I am also learning the cultural dances of the Polynesian Islands. Luckily for me, most Samoans speak English pretty well. I speak slowly because my "Trini accent" is a bit difficult to understand (but they still love to hear it).

A Samoan funeral and the Si'i (gift exchange) are interesting. The custom is for people to carry gifts for the family of the deceased and in return the family gives gifts. We went with NUS staff to present a bouquet and gift items to a staff member's family and among the many gifts to NUS were raw chicken, pigs and cows. As a result funerals are so expensive that people often take loans to cover the cost.



Melissa at a Samoan beach

Living conditions generally are very simple and open. In most villages, families live in open houses or "fales". Samoans are not very materialistic so they don't desire many possessions and they can manage to live in houses with no walls. For most families in rural areas living conditions appear less than desirable though they seem fine with their way of simple living. Samoans call the areas where families live 'better off', a "palagi"/foreign lifestyle. They eat a lot of meat especially pork and do not cook with a lot of seasoning. Their dress code, like everything else, is very simple; it's very normal to see men and women in a T-shirt and "lava lava" (wrap skirt) along with a pair of slippers (which they quite often refer to as shoes).

Both Samoa and Trinidad and Tobago enjoy the closeness of families, although this is more prevalent in Samoa because of traditional customs of living in the same compound. Also Samoa appears to be 10 years behind our country in terms of development. Samoans are less vocal, especially when in the presence of authority.

The world now seems a smaller place. In Samoa I have made friends from all over the world. The Pacific region is a culturally enriched region, though with development challenges. I have learnt to observe the customs and practices of a different culture and use this information to better understand individuals. Moreover I have learnt to be grateful for many things that I once took for granted. You can live a simple life and be happy.

## RAMONA BOODOOSINGH

I completed a BSc in Chemistry and Management and a Post Graduate Diploma in Mediation Studies at UWI. Here I'm pursuing a Masters in Development Studies at NUS. My thesis research focuses on support services for survivors of Intimate Partner Violence. The experience has been amazing.

As with all countries, there have been the good, the bad and the ugly. I am grateful for the opportunity to be reminded of how much I took for granted at home. I am a vegetarian and within two days of being in Samoa, I realized starvation was a real possibility. Vegetarians find it rather difficult here. I decided to eat seafood - it is not full proof as I have often faced a plate of many meats which do not include fish!

Electricity is very expensive, internet plans are done by data and purchasing drinking water is advisable. Honestly, I miss YouTube.....a lot. It is amazing to live in a country where the culture is thousands of years old and some parts are so strikingly beautiful and unique. Artefacts tell of ancient stories and I often feel that I am living an episode of National Geographic.

Samoa used to exist for me only in an atlas. When natural disasters occurred, I felt sad but did not empathize. Now these are



Ramona in Samoan print

my friends' homes and this is also my region. I was really blessed to intern with the UN Women Multi Country Office, under the Ending Violence Against Women Programme.

I try the Samoan language with sometimes tragic results. I accidentally called a matai (chief), a chicken pen (pamoa) by misspelling his name (panoa) in a group email. This resulted in my "punishment" of fruit smoothies for all!

Traditions are deeply entrenched in Samoa; Fa'asamoa (Samoan way) is an integral part of life. Family and the church are very important. Modesty in dress for women is preferred with the traditional dress being called the pulatasi, a top which reaches to the knees or below and a floor length skirt.

Taro (dasheen) and coconut are as basic a food item as rice, roti and bread in Trinidad and Tobago. Interestingly, cassava is considered pig (pu'aa) food it is not easy to find. The traditional cooking method is the umu, constructed above ground using heated lava stones to bury the food which has been wrapped in some cases in banana or taro leaves. It is normally constructed on Sunday for the Sunday lunch by the men in the family.

In closing, please send me salt fish, Maggi vegetable soup and preserved mango.

### ■ About CARIBBEAN-PACIFIC MOBILITY SCHEME (CARPIMS)

CARPIMS nurtures cooperation and mobility between regions in the areas of postgraduate education and staff development. It is funded by the Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency of the European Union. CARPIMS comprises 10 Caribbean and South-Pacific Higher Education Institutions which act as host institutions. The University of Porto and UNICA provide technical and other assistance. The project forges strong cooperative links, enhances institutional capacity and creates an active network of the host institutions to directly address common issues and challenges.

**For details, one-on-one application assistance, visit: [www.sta.uwi.edu/carpims](http://www.sta.uwi.edu/carpims) or email [CARPIMS@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:CARPIMS@sta.uwi.edu). Applications close March 31, 2014**



# Undergraduate Admissions 2014/15



## Year: 2030

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I completed the **BSc Political Science** at The UWI St. Augustine Campus Evening University

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## CAMPUS NEWS

**On February 22, 2014** I took my two dogs to the kennel and prepared for a long arduous flight to China. Since there are no direct flights from Port of Spain to Beijing, I went through Newark and racked up 9,039 miles on American Airlines, landing in the late evening of February 23, exhausted and dishevelled.

The driver who was supposed to greet me at the Beijing Capital International Airport, an architectural marvel, was nowhere to be found. And I checked carefully the hundreds of placards being waved about by other drivers at the welcoming area but no sign of “Knight”. But I did see this one sign that read “Invest TT”. So, being resourceful, I went over to the tall man holding the sign and simply said: “I am from Trinidad, are there others from the Trinidad and Tobago team?”

Luckily, those words got the attention of this Chinese man who obviously didn’t speak much English. He took me over to a tired group of Trinis who welcomed me with open arms and allowed me to hitch a ride with them to the Grand Hyatt Hotel where we were staying.

The first thing I noticed, as we drove through the streets of Beijing to the hotel, was the smog. We could hardly see anything as we drove by – the smog was that dense.

Through the haze we saw a glimpse of The Forbidden City and the famous Tiananmen Square and then we arrived at the magnificent 5 star hotel, the Grand Hyatt Beijing which sits inside Oriental Plaza – one of the largest commercial complexes in China.

As I walked through the door, I felt immediately at home. There was a kind of a carnival atmosphere in the lobby and both Sharan Singh, Director of the Office of Institutional Advancement and Internationalization, and Professor Sankat, Principal of the St. Augustine Campus, The University of the West Indies, were there looking no worse for wear after their long flight to Beijing. Once checked in, I entered the elevator to the welcoming sounds of pan music. Perhaps this was the hotel’s way of welcoming the folks from Trinidad and Tobago.



HE Chandradath Singh impresses on the pan

The next day, the Principal, Sharan Singh and I boarded a flight to Wuhan in Hubei province. Our task – to sign an Exchange Agreement between Wuhan University and The University of the West Indies for the establishment of a joint Wuhan University-UWI Centre on Caribbean Studies. And what a reception we received at Wuhan University, considered “the most beautiful campus in the whole of China.”

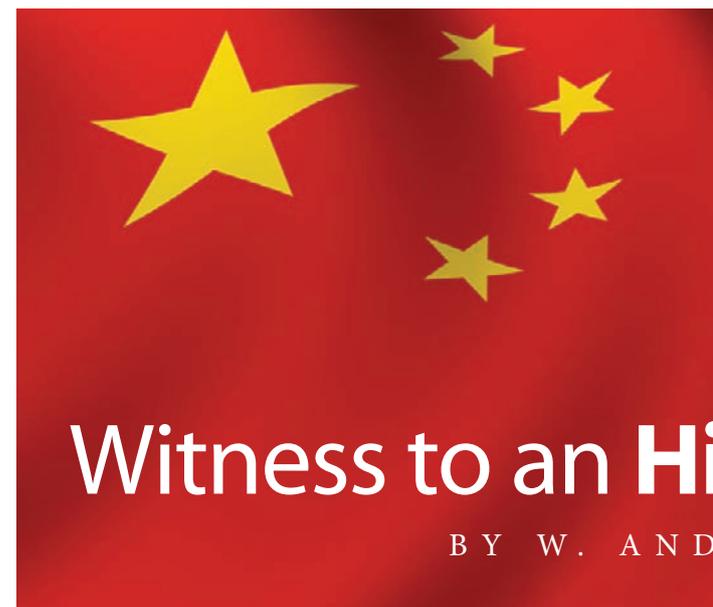
We were met by Professor Xiaotong Zhang, someone with whom I had been working for over a year to cement the relationship between the Institute of International Relations and Wuhan University’s Department of Political Science and Public Administration (PSPA), after the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Wuhan University and The UWI in 2013.

On the afternoon of February 24, Principal Sankat signed the exchange agreement with Mme. Feng Youmei, the Executive Vice President of Wuhan University, in the presence of Ding Huang, Dean of Political Science and Public Administration (PSPA) Professor Yan Shuangwu, Vice Dean of PSPA, Associate Professor Zhang Xiaotong, and Cheng Xuemeng, Minister of International Office of Wuhan University. Sharan Singh and I witnessed the signing on behalf of The UWI.

Vice President Feng Youmei warmly welcomed us and expressed her heartfelt thanks to Professor Sankat for making the maiden visit to Wuhan University. In her speech, she spoke highly of the collaboration that has been developing between the two institutions and expressed the desire to seek out other channels and chances for the further exchange of culture, academic thought, and languages, etc., between both sides. Principal Sankat in his speech thanked Wuhan University for engaging in this collaboration and expressed the hope that faculty and students at the Institute of International Relations and across The UWI campuses will benefit from exchanges and joint research collaboration with respect to understanding the relationship between the wider Caribbean and China.

After the formal signing, we were treated to some of the best food of the province of Hubei, both at lunch and supper. I have begun to understand how important it is for Chinese to build relationships with foreigners through food and Gan Bei. Not accepting a toast and not at least trying out some of the local delicacies such as frog, Mian Wo, Shaomei, Tangyuan, Wuchang fish, or turtle meat, can be considered uncivilized or potentially disrespectful. So, one has to demonstrate genuine respect for the elaborate efforts made by the hosts to bring one into the “inner circle”. I must admit that the artistic presentation of Chinese cuisine is so exquisite that it seems like a pity to dig into it and destroy the work of art.

The night before we left Wuhan, we were told that there were about 20 students at a pub waiting to meet us. Despite feelings of weariness and thoughts of getting to the airport early the next morning for a flight back to Beijing, the Principal, Sharan Singh and I decided to accept the invitation of the students. And we were glad we did.



The highest political echelons of both Trinidad and Tobago and China oversee

Just imagine, twenty or so bright, articulate young Chinese students, most of whom understood and spoke English quite effectively, sitting in a pub and drinking in all that we had to say about The UWI, about the St. Augustine campus and about the Institute of International Relations. They were extraordinarily attentive. But they also spoke of their love of Caribbean studies and their knowledge of such great Caribbean scholars as Sir Arthur Lewis and Professor Norman Girvan. And they knew of distinguished Caribbean writers like V.S. Naipaul, Derek Walcott, Austin Clarke, and Earl Lovelace.

You see, this group of terrific young people have formed what they call “Friends of the Caribbean” club. This club meets regularly to discuss all things Caribbean – music, art, culture, politics, literature and regionalism. Several of them expressed an interest in taking courses at the Institute of International Relations and in observing our carnival. Some were even familiar with our own Bunji Garlin and his infectious soca hit “Differentology”. I think I speak for both Professor Sankat and Sharan Singh that this evening with the Wuhan University

# Historic Moment

BY KNIGHT



the signing of the MOU by Principal Sankat and CAU President Ke Binsheng

students was time well spent. Our hope is that through the MOU that now exists between The UWI and Wuhan University we will see an increase in the numbers of Trinidad and Tobago students interested in travelling to Wuhan and exploring the music, art, culture, politics, literature and emerging international relations of China.

Leaving beautiful Wuhan was tough, but we had to get back to Beijing to meet up with the Prime Minister and her entourage for the historic opening of this country's new Embassy. Many people I have talked to express surprise that the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago did not have an embassy in China until 2014. After all, the relationship between The People's Republic of China and the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago dates back to the 1970s when Trinidad and Tobago embraced the "One China" policy and supported mainland China's entrance into the United Nations and the UN Security Council (at the expense of Taiwan).

You would recall that just last year, Xi Jinping became the highest ranking official of the People's Republic of China to visit our country since China and Trinidad and Tobago

established diplomatic relations on 20 June 1974 (some 40 years ago). It was during that visit, from 31 May to 2 June 2013, that the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, the Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar, promised to open an Embassy and Cultural Centre in Beijing to facilitate the growing trade and investment opportunities for our country's businesses and to cement a relationship with China that dates back some 200 years when some Chinese workers first made Trinidad home.

We know that Chinese settlement in Trinidad and Tobago began around 1806 when the ship *Fortitude* brought a group of Chinese men from Macau and Penang to work as free labourers and peasant farmers. Between 1853 and 1866 some 2,645 Chinese labourers came to Trinidad – most from Guangdong province – and worked on sugar and cacao plantations. At its peak, in 1960, there were about 8,361 Chinese living comfortably in Trinidad & Tobago. While that number dropped between the 1960s and 2000, we seem to be witnessing another wave of Chinese immigrants who are interested in setting up businesses in Trinidad and Tobago.

Prominent citizens of Chinese descent include Sir Solomon Hochoy, former Trinidad and Tobago Governor General, Professor George Maxwell Richards, Eugene Chen, Robert Chee-Mooke, Brian Kuei Tung, Howard Chin Lee, Lawrence and Albert Achong, John Lee Lum, Sybil Atteck, Edwin Hing Wan, Raymond Choo Kong, Richard Chen, Lenn Chong Sing, Anya Ayoung-Chee, Chris Wong Won, Rupert Tang Choon and Professor John Aleong.

So there is a relatively long history of Chinese-Trinidadian relations which was tapped into when the Prime Minister gave her speech formally opening the Embassy in Beijing. Being a witness to this historical moment was a pretty cool thing for a Bajan-Canadian. As a relative "outsider" I am sometimes bemused by the political shenanigans of local politicians. I think it's called "bacchanal" here. But when something like this happens – the opening up of an Embassy in China, an emerging economic power – people should rise above partisan politics and applaud the government – any government—for accomplishing such an achievement.

Foreign Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, the Honourable Winston Dookeran, said in his speech at the opening of the Embassy, that such an achievement does not happen overnight. His predecessor laid the foundation for this particular occasion, but he (Dookeran) was fortunate to be the one who signed, sealed and delivered the deal. Foreign Minister Dookeran acknowledged the groundwork also done by the Opposition PNM when that party was in office.

This historic day was capped by the conferring of an Honorary Professorship on Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar by the China Agricultural University (CAU) – the largest and most prestigious Agricultural University in China. The CAU also signed a MOU with The UWI which will allow that institute to help the St. Augustine campus develop 200 acres of land in Orange Grove, across from Trincity Mall, into a field station and experimental farm. Principal Sankat has been a champion for the development of food production and agriculture as a means of solving the food security crisis



The UWI team - Principal Sankat, Professor Andy Knight and Sharan Singh - with their Chinese hosts

in Trinidad and Tobago, and he and his counterparts at CAU see great promise in the collaboration being developed through this MOU.

There are at least five things that stick in my mind about this historic state visit to China.

First was the dense hazardous gray smog in Beijing. While we were there the concentration of toxic small particles was at two dozen times the level considered safe. For four days, I could not see the Great Wall of China, the Olympic Village, the famous JP Morgan building, and any of the skyscrapers that famously outline the skies of Beijing. My throat and lungs suffered as a consequence.

Second was the hospitality of our Chinese hosts – both in Wuhan and in Beijing. There was a sense that these folks are really serious about developing a long-lasting bond with their Trinidadian and Tobagonian counterparts. And we really liked the students at Wuhan University!

Third was the efficiency of the Chinese government's military police who cleared the heavy Beijing traffic to make way for the Prime Minister and her entourage. It reminded me of that famous Sunday school story about Moses parting the Red Sea to get the children of Israel out of Egypt.

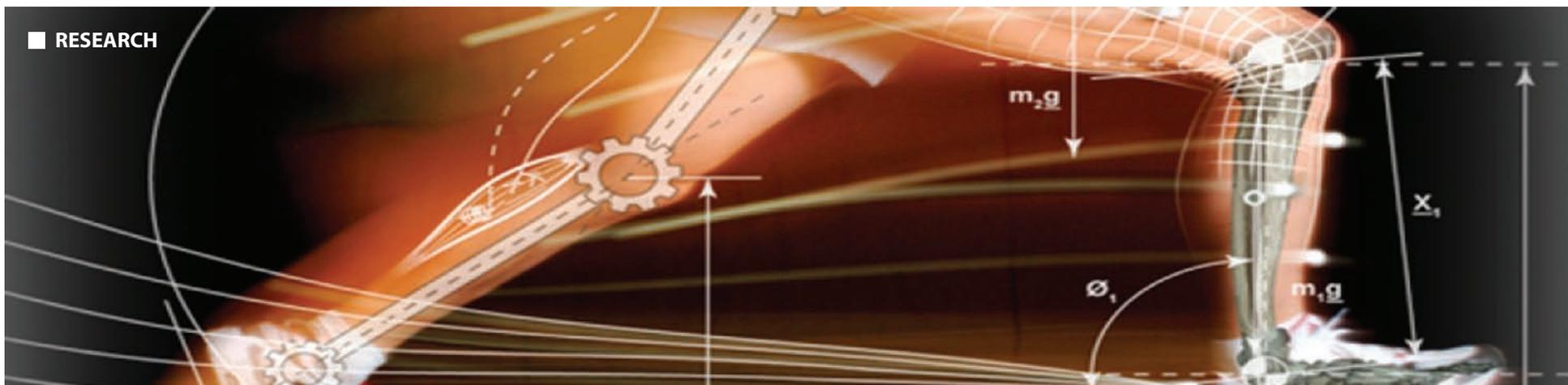
Fourth was the opportunity to see the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, located close to Tiananmen Square. How many people ever get the chance to enter the meeting place of the National People's Congress, which seats over 10,000 representatives? Its carpeted State Banquet Hall with its galaxy of lights is a thing to behold.

Fifth was the delightful music played on the pan by none other than the newly appointed TT Ambassador to China, H.E. Chandradath Singh (the father of Sharan Singh). Not only was His Excellency eloquent in his speech to open the Embassy, he was dexterous in his handling of the beautiful red steel pan that was left as a gift to the Chinese government.

One never knows how relationships between asymmetric partners will turn out. Certainly it is quite possible that China will get more out of the deal than Trinidad and Tobago. But what a great experience to be a witness to history!

**W. Andy Knight** is Director of the Institute of International Relations, The University of the West Indies and Professor of the University of Alberta, Canada. He is the author of several books and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

## RESEARCH



# As Good as New

*How Biomechanics helps athletic performance and rehabilitation*

BY SYBELE WILLIAMS

**The World Cup. The Olympics.** The adulation of the crowd for medalists and winners. Daryl loved watching those events. However, since boyhood his favorite sport was cricket. He and his father had spent many hours together over the years listening to commentary, watching matches on TV and at the Queen's Park Oval. Somewhere between the heart-thrumming sound of the conch shell and the crowds rising in ecstatic jubilation as stumps flew through the air, Daryl realised he wanted to be a professional cricketer.

He joined the coaching school of the local club and trained every free hour he had. He was lucky. He had talent and quickly gained the skills to be an exceptional bowler. The spin he put on a ball allowed it to slip past batters and shatter their chances of amassing runs for their team. That awesome right arm, his magical manipulation of the ball and the speed and power which he achieved in bowling helped him quickly catch the attention of the major players in the sport. At his first selection Daryl surpassed the expectations of his teammates and silenced the naysayers. His star blazed to new heights as a highly successful international career developed.

Then during a desperate attempt to catch the ball at a high-pressure match he landed badly on his right shoulder. Everyone held their breath as he was taken off the field.

From that moment the pace of his sporting life slowed down.

He had damaged his shoulder; surgery ensued. All went well and he entered rehabilitation. Daryl conscientiously followed his rehabilitation programme because he had so much invested in quickly returning to play. In good time he started training again. Functionally all seemed well, but somehow that unique skill wasn't there as it was before.

Frustration. Questions.

What was wrong if everything went so well? How might this loss of skill be explained? Could it be retrieved through more individualized rehabilitation and specific training?

To answer these questions and others, clinicians, physiotherapists and coaches turn to researchers in the field of biomechanics in order to gain more in-depth understanding of how the human body moves in health or after the treatment of injury or joint disorder.

Why biomechanics? What does this subject involve?

Biomechanics is a discipline that advances the objective understanding of how the human body responds, for instance, how much stress, acceleration and impact it can handle. This is achieved through the creative and substantial

application of knowledge and experimental techniques in physics, engineering, biology and medicine.

We enjoy looking at athletes like Daryl compete as they seek to achieve personal goals and break world records. The grace, speed, strength, fluidity and skill of their movements are exciting and beautiful to observe. Then injury occurs, resulting in loss of mobility and flexibility, and depending on the degree of injury, disability and possible termination of a sporting career. The rehabilitation of the injured athlete is thus a major area of research in the field of biomechanics. Especially when the injured athlete displays joint dysfunction which normally results in pain and has a negative influence on the range of motion (ROM) in a joint and important aspects of motor control like eye-hand coordination.

Sporting activities are comprised of various types of movements. As such, visual assessment of athletes' performances by professionals in sports-related fields often involves describing movement in operational terms, such as positioning (the hand or foot moves from one particular position to another), continuous movements (those which require some adjustment of muscular control during the movement), manipulative movements (those which involve handling of sporting equipment particularly with the fingers or hands), repetitive movements (those in which the same movements are repeated like dribbling a ball) and sequential movements (relatively separate independent movements in a sequence). Visual assessment of complex three-dimensional body movements during sports or training is extremely difficult. It is highly subjective and primarily dependent on the expertise of the coach or health professional.

For this reason assessment is more often based on simple tests measuring the ROM of the affected joint. Such tests can be easily repeated over time to monitor an individual's movement capacity. However, these simple tests often cannot accurately represent the functional capacity of a joint during training or play. Furthermore, it becomes almost impossible for even an experienced observer to follow changes in joint angles and to determine the degree to which an athlete may have introduced compensatory movements when impaired mobility or pain is present.

Biomechanics uses modern devices and equipment to record and measure complex three-dimensional movements. The data so gathered then forms the input to mathematical models of the human body making it possible to extract quantitative parameters and develop analytical techniques for the objective description of movement.

Recent biomechanical research at the Department of Physics at The UWI in collaboration with the Department of Rehabilitation & Prevention Engineering, Institute of Applied Medical Engineering at the Helmholtz Institute in Aachen, Germany, investigated and compared the functional capacity of healthy, non-athletes with that of players on a professional handball team – athletes involved in sports which make particular use of the upper extremities. Measurements were performed using a state-of-the-art three-dimensional motion analysis system. Such systems allow even complex movements of the body and limbs to be tracked and recorded during simulated sporting activities in a laboratory environment.

Analysis of the results showed that the healthy non-athletes displayed an individual style of performing a task: a signature or characteristic movement pattern. Furthermore variations in movement patterns among these non-athletes made it possible to define a characteristic movement pattern for the typical activities of daily living (ADL) such as pouring liquid from a jug. These task-specific movement patterns make it possible to produce an objective reference for the rehabilitation of patients with joint injury or disorders. However, when the handball players were assessed, it was noted that their characteristic movement patterns for the ADLs were different. This seemed to arise from a combination of the athlete's unique style of movement and the sport-specific demands of their training and has important ramifications for how we define healthy movements for athletes and assess the outcomes of their rehabilitation.

Using the characteristic movement patterns of healthy, untrained matched subjects as references for athletes in rehabilitation may alter the athlete's characteristic movement pattern and the performance of those skilled movements which initially gave the athlete a competitive edge. These findings are expected to have a valuable impact on evidence-based rehabilitation.

Soon athletes such as Daryl could be rehabilitated with respect to their own characteristic movement patterns determined prior to injury improving the likelihood of retaining an athlete's unique movement style. This is just one example of how research in biomechanics allows us to better understand the human body and make more informed assessments and recommendations to the benefit of performance and rehabilitation in the sporting community.

■ OUR CAMPUS

## The Other Person in the Crowd

BY RENATA SANKAR-JAIMUNGAL

*WOW took more than 100 students out of their comfort zone in the practical aspect of the Networking Workshop*



Lecturer in French Dr James Bukari has the attention of some final year students. PHOTO: ANEEL KARIM

**Just do it.** That simple instruction means so much. It pushes me to overcome my fear. As someone in the marketing and communications field, I am expected to be an extrovert, but my fear is how do I walk out of my space to make connections? You know that feeling. You enter a room full of people you don't know and you feel awkward and uncomfortable to approach anyone.

Unfortunately in the world of work, networking has become a fundamental part of life and career longevity. Once you understand that it is really about developing mutually beneficial relationships and not so much about making friends, you might be able to let go of some of the personal inhibitions. You don't have to be the life of the party or the typical extrovert. But if, like me, you want to move up the ladder of success, and if you share my insatiable desire to learn, then you have to make some compromises.

For me, it means stepping out of my comfort zone to start a conversation that can go in any direction. It might inform me of a job opening or give me a contact that can possibly provide sponsorship for an upcoming project. It

might just be a tip about how to remove the wine stain from your jacket.

The challenge is to step out of your comfort zone. The UWI and Republic Bank World of Work programme helps with that. It focuses on outfitting students with the right tools for the world of work.

WOW took more than 100 students out of their comfort zone in the practical aspect of the Networking Workshop. This added element was a simulated cocktail reception where students tested their skills in managing a wine glass, conversation and an appetizer.

The result was that there was a complete refrain from the wine glass and appetizer just to get it right. The feedback they received was that in the real world you need to relax, act normal and just flow.

At the end of the session that's exactly what we saw, our students demonstrated a drive to just do it.... to go out there, extend a handshake and start a conversation. In time, the leading strings will come off and they'll be doing it for real – and nailing it!

*Renata Sankar-Jaimungal is UWI Marketing & Communication Officer*

## KUDOS to The UWI LIBRARY!

Nasser Khan, researcher and author of 'Shell Trinidad through the Years' was in his glee: "100% of the material in this book for the period 1913-1974 came from The UWI Library!"

He was especially jubilant because the Caribbean Advertising Federation (CAF) had announced the winners of the American Advertising Awards, formerly known as the ADDY Awards and his book – published by Safari Publications Company Limited - had grabbed a Silver ADDY award for Book Design (Entire Book). There were a record 769 entries judged and were submitted by 45 different companies and organizations representing Barbados, Trinidad & Tobago, Jamaica, U.S. Virgin Islands, Curacao, Grand Cayman, Belize and St. Lucia.

To show his appreciation for the immense support received, he presented a copy of the book to University Librarian Jennifer Joseph. Also present for the handover were Dr. Glenroy Taitt, Head West Indiana & Special Collection Division, Keeno Gonzales, Library Assistant, WISC Division, and Kathy Ragoobarsingh, Manager/Director, HR, Shell Trinidad Limited.



(L-R) Dr. Glenroy Taitt, Keeno Gonzales, Jennifer Joseph, Kathy Ragoobarsingh and Nasser Khan. PHOTO: NASSER KHAN

## DR RICHARD ROBERTSON RECEIVES AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE



**Dr Richard Robertson**, Director of UWI's Seismic Research Centre at St Augustine, has been honoured by the Anthony N. Sabga Caribbean Awards for Excellence in the category of Science & Technology.

The Anthony N. Sabga Caribbean Awards for Excellence is the

English-speaking Caribbean's leading recognition programme in Arts, Sciences, and Public and Civic Work. The goal of the Ansa Caribbean Awards for Excellence is to recognise significant Caribbean achievement, to encourage and to support the pursuit of excellence by Caribbean people, for the benefit of the region.

Dr Robertson is a geologist and volcanologist whose work has been ground-breaking in the study of volcanoes and the geology of the region. A world expert, he is active in public education on the issue and has published academic books, and numerous refereed articles and book chapters.

His interest in volcanology was inspired by his personal experience in 1979, when he and his family woke to the eruption of the Soufriere volcano, which displaced thousands of Vincentians. He subsequently studied geology at The UWI, volcanology at the University of Leeds in the UK (MPhil) and completed his PhD in geology at Mona, Jamaica. His PhD thesis (The Volcanic Geology of pre-Soufriere Rocks in St Vincent) and his volcanic hazards atlas are benchmarks in volcanology in the eastern Caribbean.

## UWI IS NVIDIA CUDA TEACHING CENTRE

**Dr Ajay Joshi**, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, has a lot of which to be proud. Nvidia Corporation of the United States, considered the largest graphics chip and high performance computing hardware company, has renewed The UWI as a CUDA teaching centre for yet another year. CUDA is an acronym for 'Compute Unified Device Architecture'. It is a platform and language for Parallel Programming for high performance computing.

Dr Joshi is also the Leader, Computer Systems Engineering Group and Principal Investigator for Nvidia CUDA Centre at UWI. According to him, The UWI was first given the status of CUDA Teaching Centre in 2011. As a certified teaching centre, UWI has access to webinars for CUDA related programming from experts in various fields, to the CUDA Cloud Training Platform and to its technical team for support.

■ Further information on his group's research can be found at [www.rndrepository.com/padlab](http://www.rndrepository.com/padlab)

## OUR CAMPUS

The UWI Alumni Association, (Trinidad and Tobago Chapter), has presented former CARICOM Secretary-General and current Ambassador to CARICOM, Sir Edwin Carrington with a Pelican Award, its highest peer award, for distinguished service to the Caribbean. The Pelican Award was first conferred in Jamaica in 1967 and Sir Edwin is the first to receive this award from The UWI Alumni.

On its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Alumni Association honoured 24 graduates of the St. Augustine, Mona and Cave Hill Campuses, all of whom are leading professionals and personalities.

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal Professor Clement Sankat congratulated the Alumni Association on its milestone year. He referred to Sir Edwin as representative of the very best of UWI graduates – a great leader, statesman, regionalist and exemplar.

All awardees, he said, had distinguished themselves and their Alma Mater through their contribution to their profession and to the development of the country and region. He quoted Vice-Chancellor, Professor E. Nigel Harris, who had once noted that “if our University’s 90,000 graduates were to stop working for a single day, Prime Ministerial offices in several Caribbean countries would close, half the Cabinet and government offices in all 17 English-speaking contributing countries would cease operation.”

Pelican Awardee Sir Edwin Carrington averred that The UWI Alumni are known to hold positions of leadership, influence and prominence. He expressed his honour to have been chosen for the prestigious award. He encouraged awardees to productively engage in their Alma Mater in four ways - through the donation of funds and resources to The UWI; by being marketers for the University; by being seen as role models for The UWI’s current and prospective students; and by forming an umbilical link between The UWI and its graduates to be excellent examples in society. He invited the Distinguished Alumni Awardees to join him in a solemn undertaking to improve their contribution and make a worthwhile investment over the next three years in all four ways to The UWI.

## Distinguished Awardees

**Pelican Awardee: SIR EDWIN CARRINGTON** is the holder of a Bachelor’s Degree in Economics from London University, a Master’s Degree in Economics from The UWI and pursued further advanced studies in Economics at McGill University in Canada. He is also the recipient of Honorary Degrees. He was the longest serving Secretary-General of CARICOM, holding that position from August 1992 to December 2010. He was knighted through the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

**DR. SHANGO ALAMU** attained a BSc in Agriculture in 1974 and a doctoral degree in Tropical agriculture in 1979 from The UWI and has been a practicing farmer for the past 30 years. As a research fellow in The UWI Department of Crop Physiology, he was the first scientist to unearth the methodology of promoting flowering in Aroids, a strategy that is currently utilized internationally in developing this family of plants through hybridisation. He is the Managing Director of Agronomics Inc and has done considerable work on the conservation and preservation of the environment particularly in the Caura Valley.

**MR. GERRY BROOKS** is Group Chief Operating Officer of the ANSA McAl Group, and graduated with a Bachelor of Laws Degree from The UWI in 1982. He pursued his LEC and was called to the Bar in 1984. He is also the holder of an MBA from Columbia University.

**MR. IAN CHINAPOO** was appointed Executive Director of the Trinidad and Tobago Unit Trust Corporation, one of the country’s largest financial institutions with over 500,000 unit holders. He took up the post in 2013 and is responsible for the development and implementation of strategic initiatives at the Corporation. Ian holds a BSc in Accounting with First Class Honours from The UWI. He is a graduate of the Executive Leadership Programme from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.

# Pelican Award for SIR EDWIN CARRINGTON



Professor Clement Sankat (left) and President, UWI Alumni Association, T&T Chapter (right) present the Pelican Award to Sir Edwin Carrington.

**DR. VICTOR COOMBS** studied Medicine at The UWI, Mona Campus, and holds a Master in Business Administration and an MSc in Emergency Medicine from the St. Augustine Campus. His professional career had its birth, growth and maturation in Trinidad & Tobago’s energy sector where he worked for 30 years, 21 of which as Chief Medical Officer.

**DR. NAOLA FERGUSON-NOEL** completed her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at The UWI in 1996, and later attended the University of Georgia, College of Veterinary Medicine where she completed her Masters of Avian Medicine as well as a PhD in Medical Microbiology. She is currently an Associate Professor at the Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center (PDRC) at the University of Georgia, College of Veterinary Medicine.

**MRS. ANNA-MARIA GARCIA-BROOKS** graduated from the Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business (formerly The UWI Institute of Business) with a Master in Business Administration in 2005. She is also a winner of the Pro Vice-Chancellor’s Prize for General Proficiency. Mrs. Garcia-Brooks has been the General Manager, Group Marketing and Communications with Republic Bank Limited since 2006 and leads the bank’s strategic marketing and communications function in the Caribbean region.

**MR. KHALID M. HASSANALI** graduated with a BSc in Mechanical Engineering from The UWI, in 1974, and is currently the President/CEO of Petrotrin Trinidad and Tobago. He has more than 38 years’ experience in the local energy and industrial development sector, and has proven experience and competence in numerous fields, including a proficiency in cost and efficiency improvement, organisational transformation and business development, among many others.

**DR. FLOYD HOMER** holds a PhD in Forest Ecology from The UWI, St. Augustine. In the last 23 years, he has led international and national programmes related to forest, wetlands and coral reef conservation. He has also contributed to strengthening the capacities of government agencies and NGOs in 18 countries in the Caribbean to manage their natural resources. Dr Homer has worked with several international organisations, including the United Nations Development Programme and the World Wildlife Fund, UK.

**MRS. MARY KWAILAN LA BORDE** is the author of “Wind, Sea and Faith”, a book on her own life. In 1960, she sailed with her husband Harold La Borde across the Atlantic Ocean, and from 1969-1973, sailed with Harold and son Pierre, around the world. She and her husband were each awarded the Trinity Cross for their sailing endeavours. Mrs La Borde holds a BA in Modern Languages (French and Spanish) from The UWI.

**MS. ALISON LEWIS** holds a Bachelor of Science in Economics and Management from The UWI, St. Augustine. She is currently the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, and has served on numerous organisational boards and committees. She assisted in establishing a rotation system for the Offices of the Executive Directors in the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and in the structuring of the Trinidad & Tobago Heritage and Stabilisation Fund which was established as a sustainable investing approach to volatile energy revenues.

## OUR CAMPUS



BACK ROW, L-R: Dr. Carla Noel-Mendez, Khalid Hassanali, Rubadiri Victor, Dr. Victor Coombs, Dr. Ronald Ramkissoon, Ian Chinapoo, Sir Edwin Carrington (Pelican Awardee), Charles Percy, Dr. Shelton Nichols, Gerry Brooks, Ewart Williams (Chairman, Campus Council), Professor Dan Ramdath, Cheridan Woodruffe (President, UWI Alumni Association T&T Chapter), Alison Lewis, Hannibal Najjar. FRONT ROW, L-R: Dawn Thomas, Toni Sirju-Ramnarine, Dr. Naola Ferguson Noel (representative), Dana Seetahal, S.C., Mary Kwailan La Borde, Kizzie Ruiz, Anna-Maria Garcia-Brooks, The Honourable Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Ivor Archie, Principal Clement Sankat, Giselle Pinard-Thompson, Sunity Maharaj, Dr. Floyd Homer. PHOTO: ANEEL KARIM

**MRS. SUNITY MAHARAJ** is currently the Director of the Lloyd Best Institute of the West Indies. She is also the Managing Director of Caribbean Newsroom Limited, her own media production and consulting company. She has had a healthy career in journalism and media, which includes her introduction of several print and television initiatives. Mrs Maharaj holds a BA (Hons) in Communication and Social Science, from The UWI, Mona Campus.

**MR. HANNIBAL NAJJAR** is Director of Coaches and Head Coach (Soccer), Mid-Continent University, Mayfield, KY, USA, as well as a management and coaching consultant. Mr Najjar has had a career of 36 years of sports administration and consulting, coaching, teaching/learning, leadership and has established successful individual sports and entire athletic programs. He holds a BSc in Management Studies from The UWI, three Master's degrees, a BEd, an MPhil, and Middle School Teacher's Certification.

**DR. SHELTON NICHOLS** earned BSc and MSc degrees in Economics from The UWI, St. Augustine, before completing a PhD in Economics in 1995 at the University of London. Among several positions held, Dr Nichols served as lecturer in the Department of Economics at The UWI, St. Augustine, as Executive Director of the Caribbean Centre for Monetary Studies (CCMS, now the CCMF), as Deputy Governor, Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago and as a Commissioner on the Board of the Trinidad and Tobago Securities and Exchange Commission.

**DR. CARLA NOEL-MENDEZ** completed a BSc (Hons) in Management/Sociology at The UWI St. Augustine in 1990. After a brief stint in the public sector, Dr Noel-Mendez won a Rhodes scholarship to study at Oxford University, where she completed a PhD in management. Prior to her current position as Director of External Affairs at BHP Billiton Trinidad and Tobago, she worked at Procter and Gamble in Puerto Rico and as Trinidad and Tobago's Director of Tourism.

**DR. CHARLES E. PERCY**, who is Managing Director of Methanex Trinidad Limited, has had a distinguished career spanning more than 32 years in the petrochemical and oil and gas industries in Trinidad and Tobago. The holder of a BSc in Electrical Engineering from The UWI as well as an Executive Masters of Business Administration from the UWI Institute of Business, now the Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business, Dr Percy was a UWI Distinguished Alumni Award nominee in 2010.

**PROFESSOR DAN RAMDATH** holds MSc and PhD degrees in Nutrition from The UWI. He is an internationally recognized clinical research scientist who has excelled in the production of credible research to influence health policy, and in building capacity among healthcare practitioners and community groups, to promote better health outcomes of people in the Caribbean.

**DR. RONALD RAMKISSOON** studied Economics at The UWI, St. Augustine, obtaining BSc, MSc and PhD degrees in the subject. Before joining Republic Bank in 1992, he was employed by the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago for 12 years as an economist in the Research Department. Up until November 25, 2013, he was Republic Bank's Senior Economist and Manager of its Economic Intelligence Unit. Dr Ramkissoon is also a member of several business and professional bodies.

**MR. ROBERT RILEY** is the Head of Safety and Operational Risk, Competency and Capability Development at the BP Group in London, and previously served as the Chief Executive Officer of BP Trinidad & Tobago LLC and as its Business Unit Leader and Vice President of Law and Government Affairs. Mr Riley is an attorney-at-law, and a graduate of The UWI with degrees in Agriculture and Law. He was awarded the Chaconia Gold medal (National Award) for his contribution to national economic development in Trinidad & Tobago in 2003.

**MS. KIZZIE RUIZ** has had a relatively long and distinguished music career. Having successfully transitioned from the ranks of Junior Calypso Competitions, she is now considered one of the most compelling exponents of the calypso art form. Her successes culminated in her being appointed a cultural ambassador for Trinidad and Tobago. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in History and Communication Studies and is currently pursuing her Masters in Strategic Leadership and Management.

**MS. DANA SEETAHAL, S.C.** is an attorney-at-law with over 30 years' experience. She received a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) degree from The UWI in 1977 and was later awarded the Legal Professional Certificate from affiliate the Hugh Wooding Law School. A Fulbright scholar, she has also been a United Nations Human Rights Fellow and a Commonwealth Foundation Fellow. Ms Seetahal has acted as a criminal justice consultant to governments across the region and various international bodies.

**MRS. TONI SIRJU-RAMNARINE** has 20 years of experience in the oil and gas industry, and currently holds the position of Vice-President, Corporate Operations at the Atlantic LNG Company of Trinidad and Tobago. Prior to this, she was the Head of Sustainability and Corporate Communications. She holds a BSc in Chemical Engineering from The UWI and an MSc in International Management from King's College, London.

**MS. DAWN THOMAS** holds a BSc in Industrial Engineering (Hons) degree from The UWI St. Augustine and has completed the Executive Development Programme at the Richard Ivey Business School, University of Western Ontario, Canada. She is currently Group Chief Executive Officer of One Caribbean Media Limited, a post which she held at Caribbean Communications Network Limited. She was also CEO of Tracmac Engineering Limited and has served on many regional and international boards and committees. Ms. Thomas is a member of the Association of Professional Engineers of Trinidad and Tobago.

**MRS. GISELLE PINARD-THOMPSON** graduated from The UWI in 1997 with a BSc (Hons) in Management Studies. She started her professional career at GlaxoSmithKline in 1997 as the Marketing Executive for their over the counter (OTC) range of products. In 2013, Mrs. Pinard-Thompson was appointed Vice-President Corporate Operations of bpTT where, in addition to her Communications and External Affairs accountabilities, she now leads Compliance and Ethics, Facilities and Management Services and Regional Risk Integration.

**MR. RUBADIRI VICTOR** is President of the Artists' Coalition of Trinidad and Tobago. A multi-media artist/scholar and activist, he is uniquely networked amongst generations of creative practitioners in all fields in Trinidad and Tobago. In 2013, he was appointed an adviser to Minister of The Arts and Multiculturalism Lincoln Douglas. He has an Upper Second Class Degree in English Literature from the St Augustine Campus.

### About The UWI Alumni Association (Trinidad and Tobago Chapter)

The University of the West Indies Alumni Association was established under the University's charter, from which it derives its authority. The UWI Alumni Association - Trinidad and Tobago Chapter (UWIAATT) was re-established in November 1988 and serves as the representative body of the more than 40,000 UWI Alumni based in Trinidad and Tobago. From politics to business, science, education and the arts, in both the public and private sectors, UWI Alumni hold positions of leadership, influence or prominence. In the past 25 years the UWIAATT has epitomised its motto "we give something back to the UWI" through the contribution of financial and human resources to the UWI via its St Augustine Campus. The originator of the highly successful "World of Work" series for students, the UWIAATT has from inception provided 5 annual bursaries to needy students and over the past 18 years, has provided mentorship and guidance to more than 4,000 students at the St Augustine Campus.

**UWIAA**

The University of the West Indies Alumni Association (Trinidad and Tobago Chapter)

## ■ OUR CAMPUS

# One Health

*Working together to solve major health problems facing the Caribbean*

BY DR CHRISTOPHER OURA

*One Health* can be defined as “the collaborative efforts of multiple disciplines working locally, nationally and globally to attain optimal health for people, animals and the environment”. In simple terms, experts in different scientific disciplines working together to address major health issues – much easier said than done.

The UWI’s Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS) was founded on the “One Medicine” concept, which recognises the interdependence of the medical sciences. *One Health* goes a step further and includes the environment in this unarguable interdependence. The School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) is currently advocating the *One Health* concept, realising that veterinarians play a critical role in this new and globally accepted concept and, along with its parent faculty (FMS), is actively seeking to change the way we address some of the major health problems facing Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean region.

Recently, the European Commission (EC) approved an SVM-led project which partners with international organisations such as the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), as well as Caribbean governments, to roll out this *One Health* approach across the region. This should sow the seeds of One Health across the region, enabling the sharing of expertise and resources among Caribbean countries. Improved capacity and capability would allow for better preparation and response to outbreaks of infectious diseases in both humans and animals in future years.

The benefits are obvious. Most Caribbean islands and territories are small, resource-limited and have little capacity to respond to human, animal, zoonotic, aquatic and plant disease outbreaks. This lack of capacity, combined with the high burden of human, animal and plant infectious diseases, clearly point towards the relevance of pursuing a *One Health* approach involving close collaboration and sharing of resources between sectors both within and among island states.

The threat to people, wildlife and domestic animals across the world is increasing as environmental climate change, human population growth, free movement of animals and humans and changing land use cause new and old pathogens to emerge and spread. Human health is intimately connected to and dependent on healthy animals and a healthy environment. Each cannot be treated in isolation. A *One Health* approach

to the management of infectious diseases will improve chances of both controlling and preventing their spread and, in the process, will minimize the social, economic and environmental impact. The growth of the global population and climate change will make this approach even more of an imperative.

Mosquito transmitted viruses cause some of the most significant diseases known to both animals and humans. Dengue fever, together with associated dengue haemorrhagic fever, is the world’s fastest growing vector-borne disease. Add into the mix, the emergence of the Chikungunya virus for the first time within the Caribbean. This virus is currently spreading from island to island in the Caribbean and has recently been confirmed to be present for the first time in South America (French Guyana). The speed of spread of this mosquito-transmitted virus is extremely alarming and it is only a matter of time before we see this extremely debilitating virus infecting people in Trinidad and Tobago.

Efficient management, prevention and control of mosquito transmitted viruses, such as the Chikungunya virus, require a multidisciplinary *One Health* approach. First off, a rapid and timely diagnosis of the causative agent is required in the affected species (humans, animals and/or wildlife). A detailed understanding of the disease in each host species, knowledge of the drivers of transmission and knowledge of the social and economic impacts of the disease on the affected communities and populations (human/animal) is required. Such a *One Health* disease management approach would require input from medical and veterinary clinicians, diagnosticians, wildlife experts, entomologists (mosquito experts), ecologists, urban planners, social scientists, economists, policymakers and the pharmaceutical industry. Information gained from a multidisciplinary approach could then be used to develop a ‘disease action plan’ which would rapidly identify and control the disease in question with minimum social, economic and environmental impact.

Many of the most threatening mosquito transmitted diseases are prevalent in developing countries, where financial and technological hurdles persist, making diagnosis and control extremely challenging. These diseases are not going away. They will continue to pose a significant threat to human and animal populations within the Caribbean in the years to come. Our best recourse is *One Health*.

## Dr. Derek Gay on National Environmental Assessment Task Force

**Dr. Derek Gay**, Senior Lecturer of the Faculty of Engineering, has been appointed to the National Environmental Assessment Task Force (NEATF). Dr Gay’s appointment, the eleventh, completes the local arm of the NEATF.

The National Environmental Assessment Task Force was established to oversee all activities necessary to address the environmental impacts of the oil spills at the Petroleum Company of Trinidad and Tobago (PETROTRIN) affecting the coastline of the South West Peninsula of Trinidad and Tobago.

Other members of the Task Force are Dr. Allan Bachan - Chairman, Environment Management Authority; Professor Indar Ramnarine - Chairman, Institute of Marine Affairs; Christine Chan A Singh - Director of Fisheries, Ministry of Food Production; Dr. Rahanna Juman - Institute of Marine Affairs (Wetlands Ecology); Dr. Darryl Banjoo - Institute of Marine Affairs (Marine Chemistry); Professor John Agard - University of the West Indies (Pollution and Environmental Control); Neal Alleyne - Head, Petroleum Engineering, University of Trinidad and Tobago; Nigel Darwent - Deputy Chairman, Trinidad and Tobago Petroleum Company Limited; Jalaludin Khan - Member of the Council, National Trust of Trinidad and Tobago; and Dr. Akenath Misir - Principal Medical Officer, Environmental Health, Ministry of Health.



Dr. Derek Gay is presented with his letter of appointment to the NEATF by Senator the Honourable Ganga Singh, Minister of the Environment and Water Resources. PHOTO: [www.facebook.com/news.gov.tt/photos](http://www.facebook.com/news.gov.tt/photos)

# UWI CALENDAR of EVENTS

## MARCH 2014

### REVENUE REPORTING VISUAL ARTS AND SHORT FILM COMPETITION 2014

Deadline: March 31

The Trade and Economics Development Unit of the Department of Economics hosts a Visual Arts and Short Film Competition as part of a conference titled “Creating a Culture of Transparency: Revenue Reporting”. \$85,000 in prizes to be won. Students enrolled in a recognised programme by April 30, 2014, living or studying in Trinidad and Tobago, between the ages of 15-30 years, are invited to put their talents on display

For further information, please visit [www.sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar](http://www.sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar)

### “TEN”

April 12-13 2014

National Academy for the Performing Arts (NAPA)

Celebrate the 10th anniversary of UWI Steel, UWI Percussion and MustComeSee Productions! Together with The UWI Arts Chorale, they will be staging “TEN”, a two-night concert at NAPA. Tickets are \$125 per night, and \$200 for weekend passes.

For further information, please visit [www.sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar](http://www.sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar)

### SOLE TO SOLE - DCFA DANCE UNIT PRODUCTION

April 26-27 2014

Little Carib Theatre

The Dance Unit at the Department of Creative and Festival Arts presents Sole to Sole at the Little Carib Theatre, Woodbrook, Port-of-Spain. This unique production will feature original choreography with performances by the DCFA Dance Certificate students and many others. Nightly performances will begin at 8pm on Saturday 26 and at 6pm on Sunday April 28. Tickets are available at the DCFA, Agostini Street, St. Augustine.

For further information, please contact DCFA at 663-2222, 662-2002 ext. 82510

### SAME KHAKI PANTS

April 3-13 2014

LRC Auditorium, Little Carib Theatre

Theatre Arts students of the Department of Creative & Festival Arts put on Dr Efebo Wilkinson's award-winning play, “Same Khaki Pants”, April 3-6, at the Learning Resource Centre Auditorium, UWI St. Augustine Campus, and April 10-13, at the Little Carib Theatre, Woodbrook, Port-of-Spain.

For further information, please visit [www.sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar](http://www.sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar)



### COLERE TO KULTUR: UWI GUITAR ENSEMBLE IN CONCERT

April 12 2014

UWI St. Augustine

The UWI Guitar Ensemble hosts their annual concert, “Colere to Kultur” at the CLL Auditorium on Saturday April 12, 2013. The show begins at 6pm and admission is free.

For further information, please contact Michelle Wellington at 663-2141, [Michelle.Wellington@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:Michelle.Wellington@sta.uwi.edu); or Joseph Drayton at 645-1955, [Joseph.Drayton@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:Joseph.Drayton@sta.uwi.edu)

### SECOND CONFERENCE ON HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE CARIBBEAN (II CCHE)

May 8 - 9, 2014

Regional Headquarters of The UWI, Kingston, Jamaica

The conference will bring together presenters, facilitators and expert discussants from across the wider Caribbean and internationally to consider ‘Best Practices in Higher Education: The Way Forward for the Caribbean.’

For further information, kindly contact [lacc@uwimona.edu.jm](mailto:lacc@uwimona.edu.jm)

### 3RD CARIBBEAN BUSINESS EXECUTIVES SEMINAR

April 4 2014

Hyatt Regency, Port-of-Spain

The Caribbean Centre for Money and Finance's 3rd Caribbean Business Executives Seminar focuses on Venture Capital Financing in the Caribbean: Its Relevance for the Economic Transformation Agenda. Conference registration costs US\$400/person, and is payable in cash, bank draft and certified cheque.

For further information, please visit [www.ccmf-uwi.org](http://www.ccmf-uwi.org); email: [Kathleen.charles@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:Kathleen.charles@sta.uwi.edu) or [ccmf@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:ccmf@sta.uwi.edu); call 645-1174 or 662-2002 ext 82544

### MUSIC OF THE DIASPORA

April 19 2014

Daaga Auditorium

The Department of Creative and Festival Arts hosts one of its annual student concerts, Music of the Diaspora on Saturday, April 19 at 7pm. Music of the Diaspora will feature performances from The UWI Indian Classical Ensemble and Intermediate Pan Ensemble, which comprise students pursuing a BA in Musical Arts and a Certificate in Music. Tickets are available at the DCFA.

For further information, please contact DCFA at 662-2002 ext. 82510 /83622

### ONE HEALTH WORKSHOP: CONSERVATION OF Aquatic Ecosystems

June 24-25 2014

Amphitheatre B, Faculty of Medical Sciences

This is the first of a series of annual workshops held at the FMS, informing participants of the many areas in which a One Health focus is the best approach to problem solving. “One Health Workshop: Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems” takes place from 7.45am-5pm daily, at Amphitheatre B, FMS, Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex. Registration is US\$100.

For further information, please visit [www.sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar](http://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](mailto:uwitoday@sta.uwi.edu)

