

The Antigua and Barbuda High Commission Official Newsletter



A newsletter produced by the Antigua and Barbuda High Commission
London for nationals and friends of Antigua and Barbuda

Issue 143

**“Each
Endeavouring
all
Achieving”**

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Plans to Boost Agricultural Sector



*Dr Hon Baldwin W Spencer
Prime Minister*

Prime Minister Dr the Honourable Baldwin Spencer says Government is working to enhance the nation's Agricultural sector so that it can become an integral

part of the economic thrust of this country.

Antigua and Barbuda will receive help from the Republic of Cuba, who has indicated a willingness to provide seeds and technical support in the area of Agriculture.

During a recent official visit to Cuba, the Prime Minister had the opportunity to meet with Agricultural Specialists, who indicated a willingness to work with

Antigua and Barbuda in this regard.

The possibility of developing a program for Organic Farming across the twin island state was one of the issues discussed.

Posted On: June 7, 2011

Lovell Sees Indicators of Economic Growth



Minister of Finance and Economy the Honourable Harold Lovell is predicting that Antigua and Barbuda will begin to see an upturn

in the economy by year end.

The Finance Minister says there are a number of projects that the government is working feverishly to bring on stream.

According to Minister Lovell, there has been an increase in the amount of potential investment in the country over the past three months than there has been over the last two years.

He believes this is because

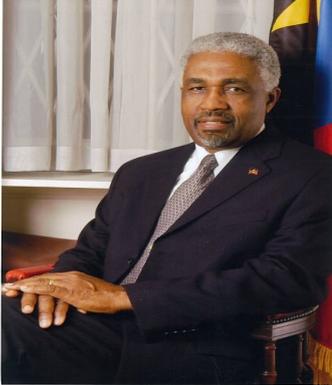
internationally the capital market is beginning to flow again and there is a sense of confidence growing.

Lovell reiterates that Antigua and Barbuda is going through a traditionally slow period, and as a result residents will experience some inconvenience.

Posted On: June 18, 2011

High Commissioner's Message

Migration and Remittance



His Excellency Dr Carl B Roberts
High Commissioner to the Court of St James's
October 2004

In this examination of the impact of migration which was started in issue # 142 of our Newsletter, I commence an analysis of the impact of Remittances on the country from which the citizens have migrated.

My primary aim is to start the discussion on the link which exists between migration and development that in the long run assists in raising the quality of life of the developing countries. The improvement in the standard of living and thus poverty reduction helps also to spread income across the population and bring gains in education, health and provisions of social services within the receiving country. What then do I mean by the word remittance? The Policy Brief (No 5 September 2006 by Focus on the subject of migration) provides the following definition:-

“Remittance refers to the portion of migrant income that, in the form of either funds or goods, flows back into the country of origin, primarily to support families back home”.

The above definition is quite useful here and covers the two main sources of benefit especially in the Caribbean Islands.

The first benefit provides much needed income to relieve many of the pressures which families in the 60s, 70s and beyond faced while island states in the Caribbean struggled to improve the livelihoods of their citizens. Cash remittance has been estimated at US\$300 Billion per year worldwide. In recent times, however, this figure has declined due to the financial crisis and downturn in the economies of many of the major developed countries.

All over the world remittances (cash especially) form a significant source of foreign exchange for many developing and emerging countries. In 1999 the total level of remittance received in Sri Lanka was US\$1.0 billion. For the Philippines the total amount of remittance was US\$ 6.2 billion in 2001. Remittance flows to Caricom in 2009 totalled US\$4.08 billion and to the OECS approximately US\$ 200 million in 2009.

Further analysis of the figures for the Caricom territories shows some interesting linkages. When we link the remittance with economic indicators we are able to produce the comparative table below:-

Remittance and Economic Indicators (top 4 countries)		
Country	Percentage of GDP	Per Capita
Guyana (2005)	25.7	265.7
Jamaica (2005)	18.3	622.78
Grenada (2005)	5.2	220.0
Antigua and Barbuda	1.5	140.0

High Commissioner's Message Continued from page 2

Between 1991 and 2009, Antigua and Barbuda's portion of remittance in the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) hovered around 9%.

Remittances are used to produce and achieve many social benefits. Traditionally families overcome the loss of the income earners who migrate abroad by prudent utilization of the remittance which are sent back home. The developmental aspects of these social benefits include improving the subsistence living of many families, raising health and providing for private education and improving living conditions (housing etc). Greater benefits could be achieved if more of these funds could be channelled into more productive activities for example micro and small business ventures. As governments in the region provide free primary and secondary education more funds received go to supplement savings. Women are usually the leading recipients of the remittances in the Caribbean as the migrant was historically a male member of the family.

In my research for this article, I came across only one survey which provided some indication of the utilization of the funds received through remittance. In a survey conducted by Ms Debra Roberts in Guyana, the following table was produced:-

Use of Remittance	Percentage %
Education	15
Real Estate	16
Business	8
Food	27
Clothing	20
Saving	14

The predominate use of the funds received went to satisfy basic needs – food (27), clothing (20) and real estate (16). Even though education (15) and savings (14) prepared the recipients for the future, the low level of use for income generating activities i.e. self-sufficiency, may point towards an expectation of continued flows of the incoming funds.

Many of the authors reviewed, proffered views that the indicated level of remittance was only a tip of the iceberg. Remittance into a country comes from one of two channels; within the formal channel (i.e. banks, money transfer companies) or through the informal channel (i.e. visitors bringing sums of money and distributing it to family members whenever they visited as well as by unregulated agencies who advertise low fees to attract their customers). As it is not known how much is being sent via the informal channel, governments are being pushed into regulating both channels to optimize remittance while enhancing the developmental impact of the fund received.

In today's environment, the prospect of money laundering is an ever threatening concern. While governments would like to see this route of developmental assistance increase to support their tight cash positions, everyone would recognize and support the need to avoid the movement of the produce of crime from one territory to another.

One thought occurred to me as I reviewed the figures and linkage for the OECS to the economic indicators. It would appear that where the per capita GNI is higher, the level of remittance per capita is lower. The table below points to this and perhaps suggests one area where more research is needed. What other factors are influencing these ratios?

ECCU Member States	Remittance % GDP	GDP Per Capita US\$
Antigua and Barbuda	1.4	33,249
Anguilla	4.2	36,406
St Vincent and the Grenadines	5.1	15,884
Dominica	5.3	14,036
Grenada	5.5	15,034
St Kitts and Nevis	7.1	27,152
St Lucia	3.3	14,947

Non-financial remittance also provides assistance to recipient countries. The many barrels of goods purchased abroad and sent back home either at Christmas or following some disaster are examples that spring to mind. The Government of Antigua and Barbuda, like many of its counterparts in the region, facilitates this movement of material by a "Dollar Barrel" programme around the last quarter of each year. Items are purchased overseas and are packed and shipped to families in the Caribbean under this programme providing relief similar to that of sending cash through the money transfer companies.

It would be quite significant if more information, analysis and statistical assessment can be done on this important aspect of development. The assessment would then be utilized to develop clearer policies on the repatriation of funds so that the sender as well as the receiver is protected, the source of the funds properly assured and developmental impact maximized through micro-financial education for those most in need of this guidance and protection.

We are all our brothers' keepers and with "all hands on deck", the shared task of developing these Small Island Developing States (SIDS) will become easier.

Airport Passenger Duty (APD)

Keep up the Campaign - Lobby your Members of Parliament and any other influential persons who will assist the Caribbean in its fight to make APD more fair and equitable. APD in its present state affects every Caribbean family.

Increased Air fares mean tourism, hotels etc.. will be affected, travel less frequently. The UK Government has produced a Consultation paper proposing two Options — Option 1—to introduce 'new band systems and two classes of travel' while Option 2 proposes 'three distance tax bands and two classes of travel'

The Caribbean submitted on 17th June their own proposal putting forward a case for their choice of Option 2

The debate continues as the Caribbean awaits the UK Government's decision

Treasury Department Moves to Centralize Payroll Processing

In a process that took just over one year, the Treasury Department has successfully added all weekly paid Government employees to its automated payroll system, as it moves to centralize payroll processing.

The automation began five years ago with monthly paid established workers and pensioner's being added to the payroll module of FreeBalance, the Government's integrated financial management system.

Putting weekly paid workers on the system has been the most difficult phase of the process.

According to Accountant General Dr. Cleopatra Gittens, the success-

ful addition of the Central Board of Health's weekly paid staff in 2010, and now the weekly paid staff of the Ministry of Public Works, are major accomplishments.



She commended the staff of the Payroll Unit of the Treasury Department, the administrative staff at the Ministry of Public Works and the Central Board of Health for this achievement.

The automation process involves recording biographical and financial data for each government employee.

Dr. Gittens says the transition will not be complete until all the infor-

mation from the public sector data collection exercise has been inputted in the system.

She is urging all those who have not already done so, to submit their completed forms.

The Accountant General said complete payroll automation would bring a number of advantages including a more secure payroll process, the ability to accurately track employment in the Government system, and production of a comprehensive list of Government employees.

Employees will also be able to see their pay slips and quickly identify any errors in their pay.

Posted On: June 14, 2011

Farewell to Mrs Paulette Otto

Mrs Paulette Otto, who after 41 years of unstinting service in the Public Sector of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, in many varied roles, her last being Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, retires on 1st July 2011.

Dr the Honourable Baldwin Spencer, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda hosted a reception in her honour to pay tribute to the long serving Public Servant. The reception held on Tuesday 28th June 2011 was attended by Government Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, staff from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Representatives from other Ministries, Family and Friends.

From His Excellency Dr Carl Roberts, High Commissioner and staff we wish Mrs Otto God Speed and best wishes as she undertakes this next chapter in her life.

Windies Squad For Fourth Digicel Pearls



The West Indies Cricket Board selection committee has named an unchanged 13 man squad to face India in the fourth Digicel Pearls one day international at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium on Monday 13th June. The members of the West Indies Squad are: Darren Sammy – Captain, Carlton Baugh, Devendra Bishoo, Darren Bravo, Kirk Edwards, Danza Hyatt, Anthony Martin, Kieron Pollard, Kemar Roach, Andre Russell, Marlon Samuels, Ramnaresh Sarwan and Lendl Simmons.

Meanwhile West Indies all rounder Andre Russell has declared that when he eventually retires from the game he wants to be known as a legend and nothing less.

Russell played a superb back-to-the-wall innings for West Indies but they fell to defeat at the hands of India in the Third Digicel Pearls One Day International at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Ground on Saturday.

“When I retire from international cricket, I want to be called a legend. I want to stay here and con-

tribute as much as I can,” Russell said after his pyrothetics with the bat.

The young all-rounder from St Catherine in Jamaica came to the crease at Number 9 and saved the West Indies from disaster. He blasted an amazing 92 not out from 64 balls as the home side reached 224-8 from 50 overs. The Windies bowlers then went to work and had the Indians deep in trouble but they rebounded to reach 228-7 — to win by three wickets with 22 balls to spare.

The right-hander smashed the balls all parts of the field and way out of the ground as he counted eight fours and five sixes to beat his previous ODI top score of 49, made against England in Chennai in the recent ICC Cricket World Cup.

“When I went in I was not nervous. I actually ran all the way to the crease. I was pumped up from the start and I knew the team needed me today in a big way. I was batting with a senior partner so I knew I had enough time to get myself settled, build an innings and get a good score for the team,” Russell explained.

“It was set-up for me. I was able to get my eye in and then play my natural game. I knew I had the power to clear the boundaries, so I knew once I got the start and batted to the 45th over, I could get the benefits in the last five overs,” he said.

Playing in just his sixth One Day International, Russell featured in two significant partnerships. He added 78 for the eighth wicket with keeper Carlton Baugh (35) and another 51 in five overs with tailender Kemar Roach.

“I felt I played really well. What made this innings special for me was the fact that it was under great pressure and it came against India. They are the world champions and to get such a good score against them is a major boost.

“As a cricketer you always like to test yourself against the best. As a young man, trying to make a name for myself, I just want to continue to do well for West Indies and work hard on my game. This innings has given me a lot of confidence and self-belief. I would have to say, the only regret is that we ended on the losing side.”

Even though Russell’s batting brought him to prominence on Saturday (11th June) he still sees himself as a bowling all rounder.

“I see myself as a bowler first. That is the skill I work on the hardest, so I know I have to make some big contributions to the team with the ball as well. When I go to the nets I work on my bowling first and after that I look to get a knock. But I always work on my batting as I always look to play my part in the team,” Russell asserted.

India’s win gave them an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match rubber.

Posted On: June 13, 2011

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority brings party cricket to Essex!
As a proud sponsor of the Essex County Cricket Club, we will bring Antigua’s party cricket atmosphere to the Ford County Grounds in Chelmsford, Essex on July 2nd 2011, at 5:10p.m and join us as we show Essex, cricket, visit www.visitantiguabarbuda.co.uk

Prime Minister's Address at CARICOM Conference



"I am honoured to welcome you to Antigua and Barbuda and indeed to this final conference of the Students Engaging the CSME through Field Promotion project. Antigua and Barbuda is delighted to have been chosen to be part of this activity on two occasions. To the students from Grenada who journeyed to Antigua in 2009 as part of the earlier phase of this project, I extend a very warm welcome back. To those of you who are visiting for the first time, I trust that the experience will be as rewarding and fruitful as it was for the students from Antigua and Barbuda, who visited Belize during the period 13-19 September, 2009.

This activity is being held only two weeks short of the 5th Anniversary of the start of CSME Implementation. On 30th June, 2006, 12 countries of the Caribbean Community declared that they were in a state of readiness to operate the CARICOM Single Market and Economy and made the commitment to proceed to the Single Economy.

Critical to successful implementation and effectiveness of the CSME is the education of the various publics and their understanding and buy-in to the relevance, the scope, the benefits and the ownership of the CSME.

The objectives of this project: Students Engaging the CSME through Field Promotion, and similar projects, continue to be to educate the region about the CSME to win their support for regional integration and to demonstrate how to use the law, institutions and economic conditions to

seek employment and to develop business enterprises.

Even with the strides being made at the national and regional levels, the awareness studies and assessments of the Public Education efforts are still calling for increased activities. This is a herculean task which has some limited support through collaborations, since even at our national level there are dwindling resources and competing priorities. Many Community institutions are challenged with insufficient financial and technical resources and the present economic environment compounds the challenges.

However, as the CSME moves to the stage of "how to" it is critical that the next generation understand their reality on cross border operations and appreciate the facts about new opportunities. After all, without investment in the youth of the region, there can be no long term strategy for the CSME.

This is why a project of this nature that sought to engage the next generation in identifying career opportunities in the field with regard to wage employment, self employment and starting a business within the CSME was such a success.

As you will recall, the engagements involved investigation with the Ministries responsible for Labour, Commerce, local stock exchange, a company within the services industry, a large financial institution, the Minister responsible for issuing CARICOM Skilled Certificates, Immigration, a Private Sector Company and a cultural element.

Over 500,000 Euros was spent to initiate strengthening Community relationships and to provide practical training to two hundred and eighty three (283) students from twelve CARICOM Member States participating in the CSME.

The basic strategy was to ensure that students from one country would experience the CSME in a practical manner in another Member State. Many of the students who participated in the programme were able to identify potential opportunities for employment, creation of businesses and some have signalled their interest in remaining in the Region. These, coupled with the ongoing efforts to engage the CARICOM Youth Ambassadors, who are now excellent spokespersons for engaging peers and colleagues in a "youth friendly" manner, should be a great start to creatively engaging our youth in a long term strategy for the region. Even though it is said that the CSME is still in the implementation phase, we are seeing real movements in the region.

The CSME must be a Lived Experience and Create Benefits for the peoples of the Community and people must be able to experience the CSME and realize the benefits, so we remain committed to the development of youths.

We extend our gratitude to the European Union and Delegation of the European Commission to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean for the continued support and assistance in ensuring the successful completion of this project, the Focal Points in each Member State, the various Ministries, Private Sector entities that offered their time and information, the CARICOM Secretariat for undertaking such an ambitious project and to the youth, for remaining committed to the region.

In conclusion, I want to wish you all a very successful two-day activity. I trust that you will find a warm and welcoming environment here in Antigua and Barbuda and that the positive results of this entire project which has been conducted over the past 3 years will redound in lasting benefits to the Region".

Posted On: June 17, 2011

His Excellency Dr Carl Roberts, High Commissioner addresses Antigua and Barbuda Nationals at meeting on Sunday 13th June 2011



Seen above His Excellency Dr Carl Roberts and Mr Alphonso Peters, Education Officer ABNA

The Annual General 'Education' Meeting of the Antigua and Barbuda National Association (London) (ABNA) was held at Nesbitt House Community Hall in London on Sunday 13th June 2011.

The meeting was chaired Mr Alphonso Peters, ABNA Education Officer while the President of the Association, Mr Everton George provided members with a list of forthcoming events. His Excellency Dr Carl Roberts, High Commissioner for Antigua and Barbuda was the featured guest speaker for the day.

Presentations were also made by Mr Eustace Constance of Street Pastors and Mrs Kansia Xavier who currently fosters children spoke on that subject to encourage nationals to participate. Mr John Prince an Antiguan national, retired Headteacher and one of the founding members of ABNA also read two poems from his recently published Book of Poems 'Reflections'. Mr Keith Coates completed the evening with the reading of a chapter from *To Shoot Hard Labour*.

His Excellency provided nationals with an update on matters relating to Antigua and Barbuda's development and interests such as the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the drive to formalise an economic union creating more jobs, trading among the islands and freedom of movement and trade in services, disaster preparedness, water shortage and storage, regulations on the access to beaches in Antigua and Barbuda, government programme for using agricultural lands, the status of financial services sector in particular since the economic downturn, fuel prices.

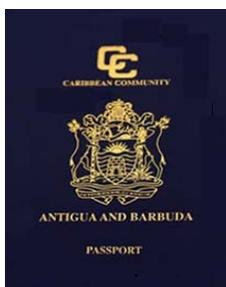
His Excellency was accompanied by his wife Mrs Pauline Roberts and Mrs Althea Vanderpoole Banahene, Minister-Counsellor at the High Commission.

The Next 'Reading' of Mr Prince's Book of Poems titled 'Reflections' will be on Tuesday 26th July 2011 from 6.00pm to 8.00pm at Hackney Central Library, 1 Reading Lane (Corner of Reading Lane and May Street), London E8 1GQ

For more details contact Mr John Prince on tel: 020 8533 1815



Mr John Prince read two of his poems at the Antigua and Barbuda Association 'Education' Meeting on Sunday 13th June 2011



NON MACHINE-READABLE PASSPORTS OUT-OF-DATE BY THE END OF 2011... PLEASE APPLY TO RENEW YOUR PASSPORTS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE

New Style Caribbean Community Antigua and Barbuda Passport

Antigua and Barbuda Police Stations Should Be Connected

Efforts are on the way to get all the police stations in Antigua and Barbuda connected to a central automated system by early next year. Deputy Police Commissioner Neal Parker said funds have been allocated for the purchase of the Occurrence Records Management System which would facilitate this. He said this is part of the country's commitment to improve information sharing under the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative involving Caricom countries, the US, and the Dominican Republic. Parker said that generally the local police force is using more technology in crime fighting, noting that linking up all the stations is a key component in the process.

However, he said that the technology was not cheap. "No matter how you look at it, it is very expensive. We would still have to negotiate with various vendors (and) there is a fair bit of competition out there so we would do the best that we can to procure assistance. Right now there is no dollar figure because it is all based on what we want, systems come in modules and



you can get them in incrementally, basic or intermediate and you can have very robust systems," Parker said.

Meanwhile, the deputy police commissioner has lauded businesses that have sponsored the 26th An-

nual General Meeting and Conference of the Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police (ACCP), scheduled to take place at Jolly Beach from today through May 12.

"The hosting of such conferences is very expensive and we can't do it alone. We count on sponsorship and the contribution from the private sector generally in order for us to work together. We have had a tremendous response to sponsorship and contributors. So far we have 12 exhibitors from abroad and locally," Parker said, adding that Motorola is the chief sponsor. The company will also be awarding a scholarship during the conference.

Posted 9th May 2011

Departure Tax Could be Reduced Shortly



Antigua and Barbuda and its Eastern Caribbean neighbours are "very seriously" considering reducing their departure tax. The Chairman of the Council of Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), Richard Skerritt of St Kitts & Nevis, said it was one of the strategic measures he and his counterparts discussed at their just concluded Tenth Meeting to stimulate intra-regional travel and facilitate easier movement of persons across the region.

"Ministers actually spoke to matters to do with incentivising intra-regional travel, which was a term used, and one of the ways of such incentive is to reduce the departure tax regime for intra-regional travel," he said. "In other words, looking seriously at the possibility of having lower taxes for intra-regional travel so that we do everything we can to lower the actual cost of air travel. We are very, very serious about the concern that there has been a decline in intra-regional travel and the need to do everything we can collectively to stimulate such travel back up to pre-2008 levels and above."

There has been a 40 to 50 per cent downturn in intra-Caribbean travel and the OECS Ministers said that has negatively impacted the viability of the indigenous small hotel sub-sector in the sub-region. Skerritt, who also chairs the Caribbean Tourism Organisation, said there

were several factors which could have influenced the noticeable decline in travel between Caribbean islands. Those identified by ministers at the meeting were the pricing of fares, cost of operations, and capacity.

"We made it clear that we do not believe that you can point a finger at one airline and say that is the reason why intra-regional travel is down. We may be able to say that that is a contributor, but we felt that it had also to do with the availability of disposable income for Caribbean people in light of very difficult economic circumstances," he said. The matter of stimulating intra-regional travel is listed as an agenda item for a possible meeting of OECS Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministers.

Posted June 7, 2011

NFW 2011 Launched in May

With National Family Week 2011 officially launched, committee chairman Cordel Josiah MBE said he was already looking forward to the planned activities slated to begin on May 15. Josiah said the week of activities coincides with National Family Month, which begins on Mother's Day and will run until June 19, Father's Day, and that this was an important time for the family.

"During that period we will be having a lot of discussion about the family to motivate our community into a more positive awareness," Josiah said. Observed this year under the theme, "Maintaining strong family relations in the changing world", National Family Week, which has and been celebrated in Antigua and Barbuda since 2004, aims to promote and strengthen positive

family relationships.

Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer's customary Mother's Day speech yesterday was incorporated into the launch and then the week of activities formally begins on International Day of Families next Sunday with a church service at Ebenezer Methodist Church. Couples who have been married for more than 60 years will be awarded at that event and Governor General Dame Louise Lake-Tack is also scheduled to address the nation on that day.



The opening activities will wrap with a media session on OBSERVER Radio's *Big Issues* beginning at 12:30 pm, where Josiah will explain the importance of family week. Media day will be held on May 16 and a panel will discuss the importance of family life on ABS Television's *Live* programme. Panellists will include Reverend Isaac James Schaeffer, founder and president of Covenant Point Institute in St Croix; Reverend Neilson Waite of Barbados, family therapist, founder and executive director of Network Services Centre Incorporated; and Reverend Karen Brotherson.

The week will culminate with the senior citizens' appreciation day and persons are asked to do something special for seniors in their families and communities.

Antigua and Barbuda Pensioners' Social Security Life Certificates

Kindly note that Pensioners' Life Certificates can be witnessed and signed at the

Antigua and Barbuda High Commission

2nd Floor, 45 Crawford Place

London W1H 4LP

For more information Telephone 020 7258 0070

Parenting Workshops

The Department of Youth Affairs is convening a series of Parenting Workshops (particularly for parents of secondary school children) from 21st June 2011 to 6th July 2011 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7:30pm. The workshops are being held at the Department of Youth Affairs, on Prime Minister's Office Drive, off Factory Road.

Posted On: June 17, 2011

50 Years For Swallow In The Business Of Calypso



some measure overshadowed his mastery of political and social commentary as evidenced by classics such as *Dawn of a New Day*; *One Hope, One Love, One Destiny*; *Rise Antigua Rise*; and *Man to Man*. But add to the mix hits that mesmerised the crowds like *Don't Stop the Party*, *Party in Space*, *Subway Jam*, *Satan Coming*

Veteran calypsonian Rupert "King Swallow" Philo has been recognised for contributing nearly 50 years to the soca and calypso art form. King Swallow, also called the Dean of Calypso, received the honour during a dinner and award ceremony organised by the National Festivals Office to mark the close of a 10-week workshop for calypso adjudicators.



Down and Soca Kingdom to complete the definition of a master at work.

To date, King Swallow has reigned as the Caribbean Calypso King, and is the recipient of three Sunshine Awards. He has also received national honours in Trinidad & Tobago and Grenada. Here at home, he has

been awarded Grand Cross of the Most Princely Heritage. King Swallow still holds the distinction of being the first calypsonian to grace the stage at Radio City Music Hall. King Swallow also established and managed the oldest calypso tent, the Calypso Pepper Pot dubbed the University of Calypso. The fierce rivalry between King Swallow and his long-standing rival Sir McClean "King Short Shirt" Emanuel contributed to some of the highest attendance at Calypso Monarch shows.

Other members of the calypso fraternity who paid tribute to the veteran calypsonian were Edmund "Mighty Douglas" Dowdie; Yvonne "YB" Benjamin; Carl "De Pan Man" Richards; President of the Calypsonians Association Adelza "Lypstick" Sheridan; Chevaughn "Lyrics Man" Weston; and Paul "King Obstinate" Richards. At the ceremony, the judges who attended the workshop also honoured King Swallow who was an observer during the 10-week session.

"Skin" Is Ready For The Movie House

They've brought us motion pictures like *The Sweetest Mango* and *No Seed*, now Howard and Mitzi Allen of HAMA Productions are looking to premiere their fourth movie, *The Skin*. This one is described as a supernatural thriller.

The film, written and directed by Howard Allen, tells the story of Michael and Lisa (played by Brent Simon & Aisha Ralph), a young married couple on the verge of losing their home. Their luck changes when Michael, while on a photo shoot at the historic Betty's Hope Estate, discovers an ancient vase and sells it to an antique dealer (played by Jeff Stewart). The couple gets little time to cele-

brate their good fortune before strange things begin to happen. The film incorporates the sights and sounds of Antigua & Barbuda including music by Kaiso Joe, Charmaine Bailey and Promise.

"I feel that the screenplay is truly a story written for the screen," Howard said. "It's written from a very visual place. It's also the first film where I had a full crew, a Director of Photography (DP), Professor Steven Torriano Berry of Howard University who also brought along his crew, film students, who concentrated on the technical side of filmmaking. This meant that I could focus on directing instead of doing everything else from being the DP to the sound engineer."

Working with a crew also was another learning curve as Mitzi ex-

plains. "For almost 20 years, three movies and countless TV programmes and documentaries, we have pretty much done everything ourselves and have developed our own shorthand," she said. "However, working with a full crew meant that we had to include others in the decision-making and planning. For me as a producer, it also meant that now I had to manage a team of people whilst at the same time ensure that the film was finished on time and within the budget."

Fans of HAMA's work will not have to wait long as a trailer and behind-the-scenes footage will begin airing on ABS and cable television from today. This project has garnered support from the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

Mount St John Medical Centre (MSJMC) receives donations



Mount St John Medical Centre (MSJMC) was the recent recipient of a large donation of technical aids and appliances designed for disabled children.

MSJMC received the aids from a group of teens from the Shady Grove Wesleyan Holiness Church in North Carolina who initially came on a mission trip to Antigua for a work project.

While on island the group went to the Amazing Grace Foundation where one of the teens, Sydney Fletcher, was so affected by the visit to the orphanage that when she returned home to the United States she told her father, Mr. Derek Fletcher, something needed to be done for the

disabled children at the orphanage.

Mr. Fletcher, who works for a company that builds and sells devices for disabled children, came to Antigua himself in 2010, with the same group of teens and Pastor Tony Parsons from the Wesleyan Holiness Church.

Mr. Fletcher visited Amazing Grace and felt he could get numerous devices to help the children. He also met with Ms. Salma Crump, MSJMC Marketing & Communications Manager, and offered to donate to the hospital numerous devices that would help the disabled children in the physiotherapy department.

Ms. Crump set up an appointment for Mr. Fletcher to meet with Barbara Bird, MSJMC Rehabilitation Manager, and from that point they began a partnership to get the devices to Antigua.

The cost for shipping the devices was raised by the church's youth group so there was no cost for MSJMC. On Monday May 9, 2011, Derek and Sydney Fletcher, and Pastor Tony Parsons unloaded a container with over 100 donated devices such as wheel chairs, strollers, walkers etc. that can be used for therapy for the children affected with childhood crippling diseases in Antigua and other surround-

ing islands.

"When I saw the first child, not more than three years old, being fitted for a wheelchair it brought tears to my eyes – because I know we were helping to make a big difference in his life – And that's what it's all about! He was pushing himself around in a matter of minutes. Prior to this he was being toted around by his mom in a stroller which was doing more harm than good. The feeling you get is indescribable." Salma Crump said.

Crump continued, "I cannot begin to thank Derek and his daughter Sydney and Pastor Parsons and his congregation, especially the youth group back in North Carolina. They not only raised the funds (over \$4000 US) to send the shipment to us they also flew to Antigua, helped to offload the container and did fittings for the kids we've seen to this point. So far various aids have been donated to the Amazing Grace Foundation, over 10 kids in the community, a child in Montserrat, and very soon we will be assisting some children in Barbuda. This has truly been a blessing."

If you're the parent or guardian of a child who may need some assistance please call the MSJMC Rehabilitation Unit at (268) 484-2700 ext. 2714 for more details.

Posted 16th May 2011

Antigua and Barbuda Health System under Review

The Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), is conducting an assessment of the Antigua and Barbuda health system.

The assessment is being implemented by the Health Systems 20/20 and the Strengthening Health Outcomes through the Private Sector (SHOPS) projects, with assistance from the Ministry of Health. It will gather information from both the public and pri-

vate sector to develop a sense of the opportunities and constraints on the health system.

The methodology is a rapid, integrated approach to assessing health systems, looking at six vital components: health financing, pharmaceutical management, governance, health information systems, human resources for health, and service delivery. Special emphasis will also be placed on the current and potential role of the private sector in the health system. Findings will inform stakeholders of critical systems strengths and challenges, and facilitate the prioritization of key areas of po-

tential technical assistance provided by United States Government agencies through the PEPFAR Caribbean Regional Partnership Framework.

To this end a team of seven consultants, headed by Ms. Sara Sulzbach, will be conducting visits and interviews at various facilities in the public and private sectors, commencing Monday 16 to Friday 20 May, 2011. This assessment will redound positively on significant interventions that can strengthen the Health System in Antigua and Barbuda. Stakeholders' input and cooperation are highly appreciated. Posted 13th May 2011

Belmont Clinic Performs Prostate Surgery

A pioneering medical laser procedure that helps to ease the symptoms of an enlarged prostate has been carried out at the Belmont Clinic. The first Laser Transurethral Resection for the Prostate (Laser TURP) procedure took place on Friday, May 6 by a medical team led by urologist Dr Dwayne Thwaites. The surgery is believed to have been done for the first time in Antigua & Barbuda, the OECS and possibly the Caribbean. Chairman of Belmont Clinic Dr Eumel Samuel explained the procedure.

“Basically, it is to relieve the vol-

ume of the prostate that is compressing the testicular urethra so that the patient can be comfortable with the passage of urine and would not have the symptoms associated with an enlarged prostate. Most patients can head out of that operating room for home within 24 hours,” he said.

Samuel and several other medical practitioners witnessed the procedure including Dr José Humphreys, Dr Rasheda Williams and Dr Olobukola Ogumbiyi; and nursing personnel Charma Tonge, Rosemary Beazer, Bobsey George and Alison James. Trans-urethral resection of the prostate or TURP is a highly effective and modern urological operation used to treat Benign Prostate Hyperplasia (BPH) or enlarged prostate. The procedure involves the insertion

of a triple lumen catheter through the urethra to irrigate and drain the bladder while a laser is used to remove parts of the prostate to ease urinary flow. A Laser Lithotripsy procedure for bladder stones was carried out on the same patient successfully. Lithotripsy is the use of high-energy shock waves to fragment and disintegrate kidney stones.

Belmont Clinic Ltd is a premier medical facility in the Caribbean comprising of a medical and surgical inpatient division, pharmacy, radiological and diagnostic department, outpatient clinics including Integrative Medicine Departments and two state of the art surgical suites.

Posted 9th May 2011

AUA Announces Health Fair



Each year, the American University of Antigua (AUA) and AMSA (American Medical Student Association) reach out to the Antiguan community by offering free medical exams during AUA-AMSA health fairs.

These fairs have quickly become an island tradition, having occurred every year since 2006. What started as a small philanthropic activity has grown into a large, enthusiastic event that takes over the Multi-Purpose Centre in Perry Bay. Both the Prime Minister and the

Minister of Health have attended past fairs.

The University has again scheduled a fair for 2nd July at the Multi-Purpose Cultural Centre.

A release from organisers urged the general public to have their vital signs screened by the students without cost. Attendees will be greeted by a student and subsequently taken to the various stations where their blood pressure, weight, eyes and glucose levels will be checked in sequence. At the end, they will be able to interact with doctors and get education on their overall health.

The AMSA - AUA Health Fair teams have a longstanding working relationship with various professional groups including JCI Antigua, Caribbean Glaucoma Society/Lion's Club, JCI Antigua, AIDS Secretariat, Society of Diabetes, Breast Friends, Antigua & Barbuda HIV/AIDS Network, Rotary, and the

Antigua Sickle Cell Association.

Participants should arrive between 9 am and noon to receive this personalized care and attention from the students, doctors, and support staff of the American University of Antigua. A complimentary shuttle (donated by Lower Buslines) will run from East Bus station to the Multi-Purpose Centre at 8:50 am and 10:50 am.

The return transfers from MPC back to East Bus Station will be at 10:30 am and 12:30 pm on the day.

Over 400 people visited the Multi-Purpose Centre during the most recent health fair in March.

Posted On: June 22, 2011

**Antigua and Barbuda National Association (London) and
ABNA (London) Youth Team**

Youth Explosion 2011

**An Arts Event Of Singing, Dancing, Music, Spoken Word and Much
More.....**

Saturday 9th July 2011

**Caxton House Community Centre,
129 St John's Way Archway, London N19 3RQ**

Time: 6:30pm-9pm

Website: www.abnalondon.co.uk

Em@il: abna_london_youth@hotmail.com

Facebook: [Antigua and Barbuda London Youth](#)

Caribbean Economic Integration Hinges on The Region's Youth



According to Ambassador Irwin LaRocque, Assistant Secretary-General, Trade and Economic Integration, CARICOM, the region's youth will play a critical role in the success of the regional integration movement.

Speaking on Thursday, June 16, in Antigua and Barbuda at the 'Conference of Students Engaging the CSME Through Field Promotion,' LaRocque said that the CSME would not be successful without the "full participation" of youth, particularly given that research had shown that young people under 30 represented 63% of the Caribbean's population.

Some 283 students traveled to various CARICOM countries to obtain first-hand experience of the oppor-

tunities that the CSME presents.

La Rocque noted that more publicity was needed, in light of the fact the CSME was "widely unknown, misunderstood and under-appreciated among youth," according to research done by the CARICOM Commission on Youth Development.

In this context, he said that the CARICOM Secretariat was "committed to undertaking a series of initiatives aimed at empowering and positioning young people to take advantage of and contribute to regional integration and the CSME."

Contrary to perceptions that regional integration had been put on hold, the Ambassador said, "the CSME is alive and functioning although its implementation has not been at a pace some would have hoped to see."

He told the youth participants that the work done over the past two years was pertinent in consolidating gains achieved so far.

"Your views will be key in deter-

mining how we proceed with the further development of the Single Market and Economy," he said.

'The Report of Eye on the Future: Invest in YOUTH NOW for the Community Tomorrow' indicated that most youth preferred to leave the region in search for career opportunities and a better life, LaRocque said that the exercise was vital in identifying what career opportunities existed within the CSME, giving expression to the Declaration of Paramaribo on the Future of Youth in the Caribbean Community.

The Antigua and Barbuda conference will be followed by recommendations; LaRocque said, "and will add another crucial piece of information and recommendations to what is already obtained in the Report of the CARICOM Commission on Youth."

The European Union, CSME Focal Points, and the CARICOM Secretariat were lauded by the Ambassador for the important roles each played in the success of the CSME project.

Posted On: June 21, 2011

Antigua and Barbuda Visitor Numbers Rocket



VISITOR ARRIVALS

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority has announced a significant increase in UK visitor arrivals for the first quarter of 2011.

Latest figures from the Statistical Division of Ministry of Tourism show an increase of 13.74 per cent from January to March against the

same period last year.

January and February yielded the highest increase showing that Antigua and Barbuda remains a sought after destination for winter sun, families and wedding and honeymooners.

Hilary Modeste, Director of Tourism for the UK & Europe commented: "We have launched a number of initiatives and activities to proactively support the trade and drive business.

"We are pleased by the momentum in visitor numbers and would like to thank the many travel agents that sell our destination. We expect to have a rebound year in 2011." The results highlight an increased interest in the destination which is re-

flected in Antigua and Barbuda's growth performance reported by leading tour operators including mainstream and specialists.

Airlines with direct services have also reported that the first quarter has shown Antigua to have the largest growth in the Caribbean:

Katie Parsons, Caribbean product manager, Hayes & Jarvis, commented: "Antigua has been the best selling Caribbean island for Hayes & Jarvis over the past 12 months; registering sales well up on the previous year.

"We have also found that destination weddings have been more popular than ever in Antigua."

Posted On: June 10, 2011

Major mango shipment to be exported

Agriculture officials are keen on increasing local mango production as they get set to export their first ever major mango shipment within the next two months. Chairman of the 2011 Mango Festival Caudley George is spearheading the move that has already resulted in a trial shipment being sent to England and plans for another five to six tonnes being shipped within six to eight weeks.

"We may have a few tomatoes going to Barbados but Antigua generally only exports a little Cavalier rum from time to time and the English Harbour rum but at the moment we don't have much going out of Antigua which is a sad case because we have the potential for that," George said.

The most recent export process started with a trial run in which about 10 boxes, with about six to eight of the fruit, were sent England. George said the aim of the trial was for the potential importers to examine the quality of the mangoes.

"We have been talking with a couple representatives from two supermarkets. We have two people in



the wholesale market differently – a major wholesale market in England called Spitafields; after that it will be a toss up to see who will get the most of what we send out because we are very limited at the moment," George said.

George said discussions were progressing smoothly and he expected shipments to be sent once

the mangoes were ready to be harvested. He said the export arrangement would go some way in decreasing huge wastage in the island but that efforts needed to be intensified to increase production if the true potential of the export market is to be tapped into.

George said the annual production already "is a substantial amount. The wastage alone is a substantial amount. We are talking about anything from 20,000 tonnes of mango and the wastage in between that is phenomenal, notwithstanding the amount we eat," George said. The agriculture official estimated current wastage at around 75 per cent because of poor harvesting techniques and strategies. George said the exporting drive is being facilitated by Derrick Symmons, who was born in Britain but has Antiguan and Barbudan roots.

posted 13th June 2011

UK Tourist Office targets Luxury Market

The luxury accommodation sector in Antigua and Barbuda will receive an extra boost, as the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority's UK Office directs a portion of its marketing activities towards the luxury holiday market.

Minister of Tourism the Honourable John Maginley said: "Our UK office has rightly focused on the luxury traveller. "While most UK travellers are still cautious when it comes to holiday spending, tapping into this lucrative market presents the perfect opportunity to further grow our business."

On June 14th, UK film crew from "Inside Luxury Travel" wrapped up a week of filming throughout Antigua and Barbuda, for a one-hour episode that will showcase the destination to over 500 million television viewers worldwide.



Inside Luxury Travel currently airs in 18 different languages in over 160 countries with a distribution that includes CNBC and the Travel Channel.

Antigua and Barbuda was pitched to Inside Luxury Travel producers as boasting some of the finest luxury resorts in the world offering the ultimate escape, stunning scenery, heritage, a range of quality activities and events, privacy and warm hospitality.

The Antigua and Barbuda episode airs in November. It will showcase luxury properties, dining, sailing and cultural activities in both islands.

Following the Inside Luxury Travel press trip, a group of 12 travel specialists will visit the destination in July on a familiarisation trip.

The Travel specialists represent luxury tour operators: Elegant Resorts, ITC Classics, Azure Collection, Carrier, Trailfinders, Travel Counsellors, Kenwood Travel, Tropical Sky, Turquoise Holidays, and Carolyn Lodge Travel.

Suzanne Walford, Market and Product Manager for Carrier, one of the luxury tour operator's on the planned trip said: "Antigua is a hugely important destination for Carrier within our luxury Caribbean portfolio – with the new high-end openings over recent years, the significant investment in perennial favourites and the direct access from the UK, the island presents a very credible alternative for the luxury traveller.

Summer
GOLD

She said that they found that clients who had visited one particular Caribbean island on a number of occasions were asking advice on alternative islands offering the same level of luxury accommodation. "Antigua is the destination we turn to first. As our second largest Caribbean island, we always aim to send our staff over as soon as possible so that they can confidently sell with the in depth first-

hand knowledge that our clients expect."

The Ministry of Tourism and the Antigua Hotel and Tourist Association are preparing an itinerary for the group that will showcase Antigua and Barbuda's up-market tourism product.

The latest UK visitor arrivals reported by the Statistics Division in the Ministry of Tourism, showed an increase of 13.74 % in the first quarter of 2011.

Hilary Modeste, the Director of Tourism for the UK and Europe commented: "We have launched a number of initiatives and activities to proactively support the trade and drive business. We are pleased by the momentum in visitor numbers and expect to have a rebound year in 2011."

Posted On: June 15, 2011

www.visitantiguabarbuda.com



Jolly Beach

“Each Endeavouring All Achieving”

This year marks the **30th Anniversary of Independence for Antigua and Barbuda.**

A series of activities have been planned. The Executive of Antigua and Barbuda National Association (ABNA) met with the High Commissioner and Minister Counsellor to ascertain ways in which the occasion can be celebrated.

Dates for Diary:
Sunday 30th October 2011, 3.00pm
 ABNA Anniversary of Independence Thanksgiving Service

Monday 31st October 2011, 5.00pm
 Evensong at Westminster Abbey for Antigua and Barbuda’s Anniversary of Independence
Saturday 5th November 2011 at 8.00m
 ABNA Anniversary of Independence Dance

Caribana Festivities Begins 10th June



Organizers of Barbuda’s Caribana are promising a dynamic and innovative weekend that will provide family-friendly entertainment.

The five day cultural festival will take place from June 10th to June 13th 2011, under the theme “Reviving our culture, come mingle, come revel, Barbuda Caribana 2011.”

As a warm up to the celebrations a preliminary Calypso Extravaganza was held on Thursday 9th June where the local calypsonians gave the audience a taste of their 2011 music.

After more than twenty one years of existence, Caribana is poised to catapult itself to the next level and aims to become a premier festival in the region.

Schedule of Events for Barbuda’s Caribana include:

- *CALYPSO EXTRAVAGANZA
- *CARIBANA OPENING PARADE
- *TEEN SPLASH COMPETITION,

- *BEACH BASH
- *CARIBANA QUEENS COMPETITION,
- *CARIBANA 20/20
- *CARIBANA CLASSIC HORSE RACE
- *CALYPSO MONARCH
- *CARIBANA JOUVERT
- *CARIBANA LAST LAP

Posted On: June 10, 2011



Antigua’s Carnival 2011

**Saturday
 Tuesday**



**23rd July to
 2nd August**

'Black Boys can' programme sets out to guide boys down the right path

The Commonwealth Secretariat has recently commissioned a programme looking at boys' underachievement in the Caribbean. The initiative is in keeping with part of the Secretariat's Human Development Plan in seeking to advance the UN Millennium Development Goals. The participating schools through the Ministries of Education were from Jamaica, St Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago. It is worthwhile to note that currently in Antigua the St John's Seventh Day Adventist Church is carrying a similar programme, *Black Boys Can*, to empower Black Boys in the community



A cross-section of the audience at the opening of the Black Boys Can programme at St John's Seventh Day Adventist Church

Leading young males away from a life of lockdown, low expectations, and loafing, the organisers of the Black Boys Can programme kicked things off recently at St John's Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Lending moral support with his presence was none less than Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer, as the organisers invited the entire country to join in a day of prayer; to support the march from Dredge Bay to Greenbay; a talent expo at the Multipurpose Centre and an award ceremony – honouring 50 boys from the community – at the SDA church in New Winthorpes.

Barbara Belle best illustrated the

bleak reality when during the launch programme she referenced a research project she'd been commissioned to do at the prison. She's interviewed, she said, about 100 boys and men at 1735 and "over 20 were juveniles ... two are sixteen ... and they're there for murder."

She asked one, "Boss, what you doing inside here?" she said. His answer, "Miss, me don' even know."

Black Boys Can, described as a programme of hope, is determined to create a more positive, purpose-filled future for the boys under its influence.

Education Director for Antigua and Barbuda Jacintha Pringle expressed the hope that the programme would motivate participating boys "to understand what it really means to be men," including learning to value themselves.

"Someone saw that in you there is hope, there is potential to become people of importance," the chief said to the boys present. "Let your life have meaning."

One of the ways the programme hopes to do that is by mentoring the boys and, explained programme organiser and Education Director for the South Leeward Mission of the SDA Eulalie Daley-Semper, creating in them an awareness of the many opportunities available to them. The programme is, therefore, in part about empowerment.

Belle, meanwhile, in her anecdotal and inspired presentation, focused on motivating not only the boys but the parents.

"Parents, we can make it," she said, emphatically. "Parents of challenging

boys, we can make it." Here's where the anecdotal bit came in: she talked candidly about her challenges with her own boys, and one of those in particular. A problem from birth, she admitted, "I almost gave up on him."

But, she continued, after she had all but washed her hands of him, "in my sleep, I got another message and I decided to reclaim him."

Getting him from his troubled youth to his accomplished adulthood, took, she said, "a lot of prayers, a lot of energy, and a lot of 'mind your business'."

With respect to the latter, she noted that, yes, she did go through bags if need be.

"I decided I was not going to give up on him because I saw the potential." But she was quick to add that she did not do it alone. There was their father, of course, but she also gave credit to the teachers.

"I said if you could only help me with this boy, we can make it," she said, paraphrasing her interaction with them. Several, whom she called out by name, went the extra mile, and then a little bit further still.

Even today, the son, a doctor in his field, still has a stubborn streak, she acknowledged, but he's channelled it positively.

"You can do it (too)," she told the boys. "All you have to do is leave the corner, leave the BET, (take up a book)."

The charge, challenging the boys to achieve, was issued by teacher Ronald Greenaway.

Posted 8th June 2011

Ministry Of Information to Assist Barbuda with Web-Based Promotion



The Barbuda Council has teamed up with the Ministry of Information, Broadcasting, Telecommunications, Science and Technology to promote Barbuda as a high-end destination online.

A meeting was held with Tourism

Chairwoman for the Barbuda Council Dorcas Beazer-Williams and Minister of Information, Broadcasting, Telecommunications, Science and Technology Dr. the Honourable Edmond Mansoor on Tuesday 14th June, to discuss how the ministry could help the sister isle with their web-based promotion initiative.

During the discussions it was noted that the internet is playing an increasingly important role in destination marketing and the travel industry has perhaps the greatest potential to grow and market online.

Beazer-Williams indicated that the council is hoping the Ministry can help build and increase Barbuda's brand awareness online.

She noted the council is hoping that this will translate to an increase in

market share through targeted and measurable online marketing strategies.

The development of a website to provide information such as tourist attractions, accommodation, transport and tour packages for tourists visiting Barbuda was also discussed.

Additionally Barbuda's Information Technology sector was discussed during the meeting.

Beazer-Williams, who is also responsible for youth affairs on Barbuda says she is hoping the Mobile IT Classroom, a component of the Connect Antigua and Barbuda Initiative, can be adopted on Barbuda.

Posted On: June 15, 2011

Study of Legislation Governing Beach Management



Antigua and Barbuda is proposing a study of the legislation governing beach management, in light of the environmental and economic impact of beaches on the country's growth and development.

The proposal is contained in a Gap Analysis submitted to the United Nations Environment Programme, following a workshop earlier this

year to estimate the economic benefits of biodiversity.

The workshop was attended by Senior Economist in the Ministry of Finance, Denise Knight.

The Gap Analysis found that although the beaches represent perhaps the country's greatest natural asset, no economic value has been placed on them.



The UN body will conduct further studies based on the analyses provided by Antigua and Barbuda and other Caribbean countries.

Posted On: June 23, 2011



"The Beach is just the Beginning..."



2007 Island Scholar Graduates



The Office of the Prime Minister joins with Mr. and Mrs. Bertram and Dawn Lewis of Creekside Development in announcing the accomplishments of 2007 Island Scholar Maurica Shenell T. Lewis who graduated from the Polytechnic Institute of New York University during their 156th Commencement Ceremony with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical and

Biological Engineering. Maurica, who is the daughter of Bertram and Dawn Lewis is one of the first recipients of the Silver Jubilee Scholarship established by Prime Minister the Hon. W. Baldwin Spencer in 2007. She is a past student of the Antigua Girls High School and the Antigua State College.

While at NYU Poly, Maurica attained Dean's List status and worked as a Science Teaching Assistant at the Urban Assembly Institute of Math and Science for Young Women. She also tutored other university students in Chemistry

and co-authored two academic articles for the Journal of Chemical Education. Maurica Lewis graduated with honours along with a minor in Bio-Molecular Science. Her immediate plans include pursuing graduate studies in Biomedical Engineering.

In commending Maurica for her exemplary performance, Prime Minister Spencer said that he is immensely proud of her achievements and is confident that she will continue to make her parents and Antigua and Barbuda proud.

Posted June 16, 2011

HELP SUPPORT UWI

The British Foundation of the University of the West Indies (BFUWI) - UK Chapter was formed to raise funds for special projects and initiatives such as student scholarships and bursaries, academic research equipment, fellowships, etc., which in turn will serve to fulfil the goal of being the best institution in the world and improve the quality of life in the Caribbean. Your contribution will make a difference!

For more details on how you can make a donation please visit BFUWI's website:

www.bfuwi.org.uk or contact, The Co-ordinator, BFUWI, 1 Great Russell Street, London WC1B, Telephone 0798 491 8742 or email: info@bfuwi.org.uk

MIBTST in conjunction with United Alert to carry out Emergency Notification Tests.

Posted 13th June 2011

As the 2011 Atlantic Hurricane Season begins, the Ministry of Information, Broadcasting, Telecommunications, Science and Technology in conjunction with United Alert, will conduct a series of emergency notification tests over the upcoming weeks. The emergency alert system enables the Ministry of Information, Broadcasting, Telecommunications, Science and Technology, in conjunction with the Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Services and National Office of Disaster Services (NODS), to alert locals and visitors via text messaging before, during and after emergency situations.

President of United Alert, Dr. Robert



Statica met with Minister of Information, Broadcasting, Telecommunications, Science and Technology, Dr the Honourable Edmond Mansoor, Telecommunications Officer, Clement Samuel, and representatives of the Telecoms Division and Telecommunication Companies APUA PCS, LIME and Digicel to initiate full testing of the emergency notification system over the next few months. Antigua Alert will provide a simple, effective way to broadcast cell phone text or email messages to groups of any size.

A group page, Antigua Alert (www.antigualert.com), has been created and customized at no cost to

the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, to serve as a portal that allows notifications to be sent at rapid speed in real time to all citizens throughout the country, in the event of a national disaster.

The Antiguan team has taken the lead in making the service available throughout the Caribbean to all governments, emergency preparedness departments, police, local governments, and first respondents as part of the government's contribution to the safety of the region.

United Alert is a group communication service originally built for emergency preparedness. It is comprised of a team of homeland security, information security, and graphic design professionals who originally launched the program in the United States in 2006 to provide this service to governments and schools at no cost.