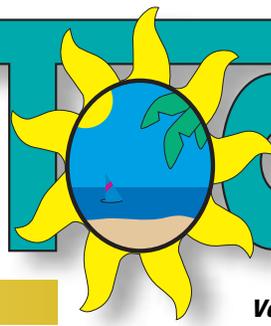


Caribbean Today

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Vol. 23 No. 10

THE MULTI AWARD WINNING NEWS MAGAZINE WITH THE LARGEST PROVEN CIRCULATION IN FLORIDA GUARANTEED



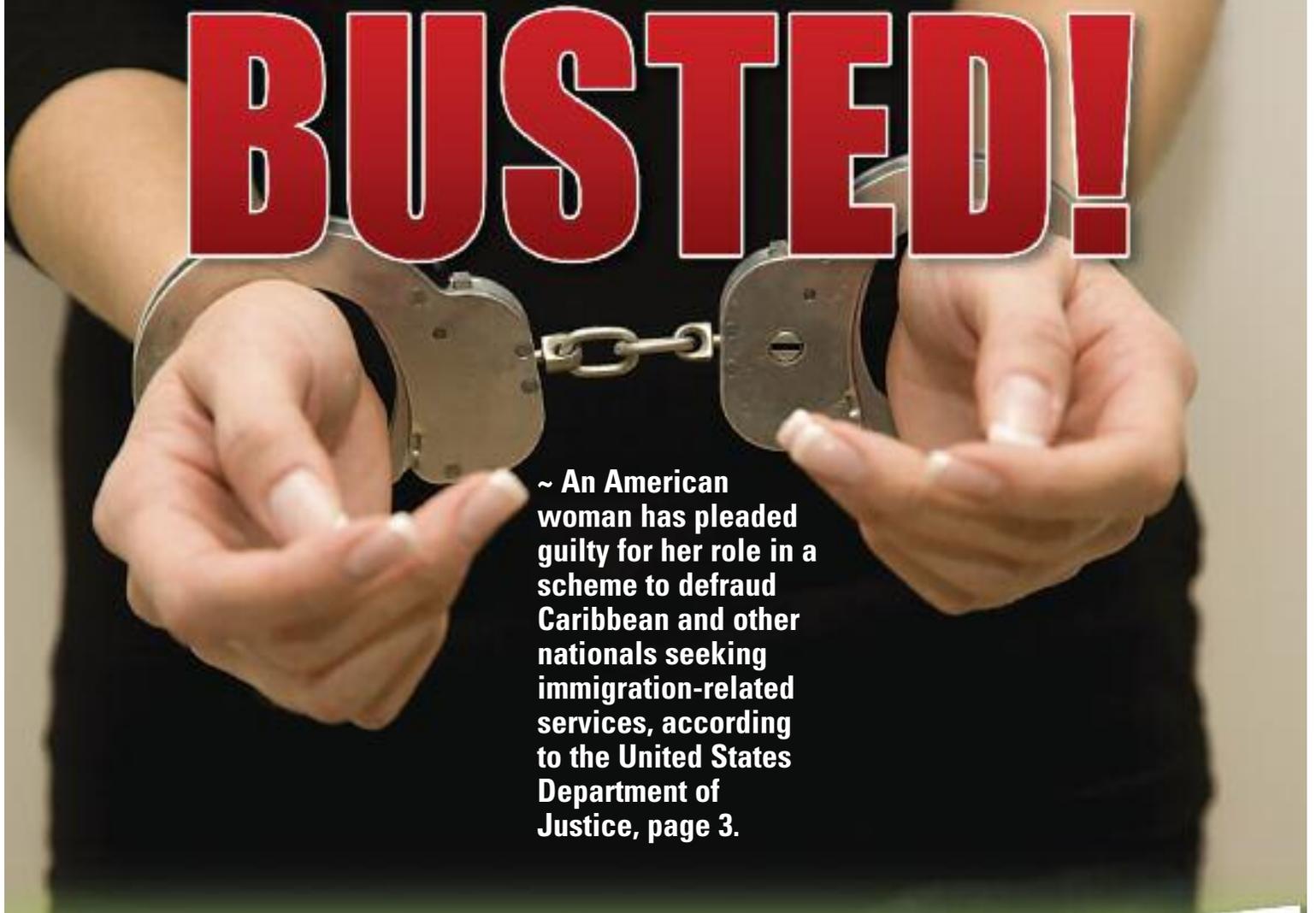
A study by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights has found that the problems of race are most persistent in the Caribbean, compared to other parts of the Americas, page 7.



Mia Love, daughter of Haitian immigrants and mayor of Saratoga Springs, Utah, was among the speakers at last month's Republican National Convention where Mitt Romney was confirmed as the party's candidate for president of the United States, page 19.



Grenada's first Olympic gold medalist Kirani James was given a hero's welcome when he arrived home for a weekend of celebrations following his historic win in London last month, page 21.



~ An American woman has pleaded guilty for her role in a scheme to defraud Caribbean and other nationals seeking immigration-related services, according to the United States Department of Justice, page 3.

JUST FOR KICKS



~ Jamaica and the United States clash again in two vital World Cup qualifying matches this month in their bid for a place at soccer's biggest show. Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba and Guyana are other Caribbean nations still with a chance to book a ticket to Brazil in 2014, page 21.

INSIDE INSIDE INSIDE INSIDE INSIDE INSIDE INSIDE

News.....	2	T&T 50.....	13	Arts/Entertainment.....	22
Local.....	6	FYI.....	16	Classifieds.....	23
Feature.....	7	Environment.....	17	Food.....	24
Viewpoint.....	9	Women In Business.....	18		
Jamaica 50.....	11	Sport.....	21		

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Buju Banton hires new lawyer to fight criminal conviction in U.S.

Grammy award winning Jamaican entertainer Buju Banton has hired a new legal representative in a bid to overturn his 10-year jail

rights attorney Chokwe Lumumba, replacing the singer's long time attorney David Oscar Markus.

Lumumba told **The**

Gleaner newspaper that he is concerned at the "very mysterious" way the firearm charge against Banton had been handled. "The district court threw it out and appears to have good reason to throw it out from the decision I have read. And then the Court of Appeal put it back in on some very flimsy grounds, it appears to me,"

he was quoted by the newspaper as saying, adding that he had already perused transcripts of the trial.

Lumumba said he intends

to have a face-to-face meeting with Banton, whose real name is Mark Anthony Myrie this month.

CHARGES

Banton was found guilty in February of conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute cocaine; possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking offence and using a telephone to facilitate



Banton, left, and former attorney Markus.

term in the United States on drug related charges.

According to media reports in Jamaica, the entertainer hired prominent human

Grenadian American legislator forms CUNY partnership on U.S. citizenship

NEW YORK, – A Grenadian American legislator here says he has formed a partnership with the City University of New York (CUNY) to provide free United States citizenship application assistance for Caribbean nationals in Brooklyn.



Williams

"As someone whose parents have experienced the immigration process first hand, I know it takes true bravery to start a new life in an unfamiliar place in order to provide a better future for your children," said New York City Councilman Jummaane Williams, whose parents hail from Grenada, in a **Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC)** interview

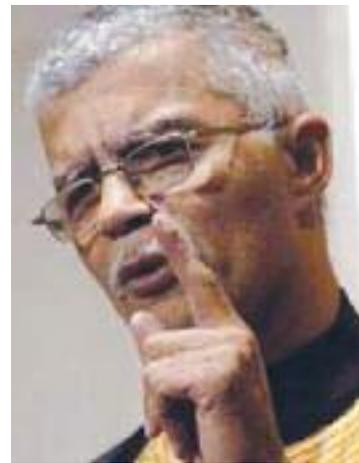
last month.

"The least community organizations and elected officials can do is make the process a little easier by providing free legal consultation to those in search of the American Dream," added the representative for the largely Caribbean 45th Council District in Brooklyn.

Williams said he and CUNY were scheduled to conduct a workshop for Caribbean immigrants in navigating the citizenship application process last month in an area with a high concentration of immigrants, especially from the Caribbean.

In 1997, CUNY founded Citizenship Now, a free service that provides immigrants seeking U.S. citizenship with one-on-one consultation with a lawyer or paralegal.

Ma Rock, St. Lucia's first female minister, dies at 86



Lumumba

a drug-trafficking offense.

The firearm charge was, however, thrown out by the presiding judge, who asserted that the singer had no idea others involved in the conspiracy were carrying guns.

Banton appealed the conviction, but it was dismissed by the U.S. Court of Appeal for the 11th Circuit in July. The Court of Appeal also ordered that the case be sent back to the trial judge for him to decide whether the singer should be re-tried on the firearm charge or sentenced to the five years allowed under the sentencing guidelines.

- Edited from **CMC**.

CASTRIES, St. Lucia, CMC – Heraldine Rock, the first woman to be named a government minister here, has died. She was 86.

Affectionately called "Ma Rock", the prominent farmer served as a government minister from 1974 to 1980 and was a member of the Castries Town Board 1964 to 1974.

Rock was also the first female vice-president of the United Worker's Party (UWP) that was formed by the late Sir John Compton.

The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) described her as a "pioneering Caribbean woman" under a project "Catalysts for Change; Caribbean Women and



Rock

Governance".

The cause of her death on Aug. 31 had not been disclosed up to press time, nor had any funeral arrangements.

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American admits conspiracy guilt in scheme to defraud Caribbean nationals

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A Missouri woman has pleaded guilty for her role in a scheme to defraud Caribbean and other nationals seeking immigration-related services, according to the United States Department of Justice.

It said Elizabeth Lindsey Meredith, 24, pleaded guilty last month to conspiracy to commit mail fraud and wire fraud, six counts of mail fraud and seven counts of wire fraud in connection with Immigration Forms and Publications (IFP), a Sedalia, Missouri company that sold immigration forms generally available at no charge from the government.

According to court documents, IFP sales representatives fraudulently told immigrants that the company was affiliated with the U.S. government and that fees paid to IFP covered government pro-

cessing charges.

Meredith faces up to 20 years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of up to \$250,000, the U.S. Justice Department said.

"Over a year ago, the Department of Justice announced its commitment to combating immigration service scams, which often prey upon individuals who are in this country legally and trying to abide by the rules," said Acting Associate Attorney General Tony West.

He said the guilty pleas represent an important step in the continued fight to protect vulnerable individuals against fraud.

FRAUD

Stuart Delery, acting assistant attorney general of the Department of Justice' Civil Division, said the agency is intolerant of those who

exploit government services.

According to court documents, Meredith was a manager of IFP, which operated in 2009 and 2010. In pleading guilty, the Justice Department said Meredith admitted that IFP representatives falsely told Caribbean and other immigrants that the company employed paralegals who would help customers correctly fill out immigration forms, that IFP handled excess call volume for US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), that fees paid to IFP included government processing fees, and that forms purchased through IFP would be processed more quickly than if consumers dealt directly with USCIS.

"Law-abiding immigrants sought help to complete government forms, but instead

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

Cuban spy appeals U.S. conviction

MIAMI, Florida - The lawyer representing one of the five Cubans convicted for spying has filed an appeal arguing that the United States government-owned Radio/TV Marti secretly paid millions of dollars to journalists to influence jury members against his client.

Gerardo Hernández is serving two life sentences on charges that encrypted reports he sent to Havana helped Cuban jets shoot down two unarmed "Brothers to the Rescue" airplanes over international waters in 1996, killing all four South Florida men aboard.

Martin Garbus, a prominent New York-based civil rights lawyer, said in the affidavit that the U.S. government tainted the jurors in the trial of the five Cubans by using Radio/TV Marti to hire journalists expressly to produce reports condemning the spies. Garbus said some of the payments were secret, arguing that prosecutors should have revealed them to the defence

during the trial. He said the government's "continuing refusal" to make some information public "amounts to a cover-up."



Hernandez

'PROPAGANDA'

In addition, Garbus said the negative reporting amounted to illegal propaganda "by agents, not journalists," designed to predispose potential jurors to convict the five.

"Every dollar for every article, image, radio or television show that was spent on this secret program violated the integrity of the trial," he said.

Radio/TV Marti and the dozen or so South Florida journalists mentioned in the affidavit have previously denied those allegations, first made

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

U.S. congrats T&T

WASHINGTON D.C. - The United States has congratulated Trinidad and Tobago on its 50th Independence anniversary, saying that both countries have shared a "long history of friendship and cooperation going back more than 200 years."

"From the arrival of African Americans to Trinidad after the War of 1812, to the drilling of Trinidad's first oil well by an American engineer in 1866, to our military cooperation during World War II, this relationship has contributed to the development of both of our countries and the peace and prosperity of our world," said U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on behalf of President Barack Obama, and the people of the U.S., in a statement.

She said the bond is enriched by the thousands of Trinidadians in the United States, including scientists, athletes, artists and educators.

"We share a long tradition of democracy, respect for human rights, and diversity," she added.

"I am delighted to send best wishes to the people of Trinidad and Tobago as you celebrate 50 years of Independence this August 31," Clinton continued.

"As you celebrate this special day from Port-of-Spain to San Fernando, know that the United States sends our best wishes for continued peace, prosperity and happiness," Clinton said.

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U.S. group accuses Guyana of using ethnic politics in diplomatic accreditation process

NEW YORK - The New York based Caribbean Guyana Institute for Democracy (CGID) is blasting the governing People's Progressive Party (PPP) in Guyana of engaging in "clandestine efforts" to force Italy to revoke the appointment of



Hughes

"The persecution and victimization of Nigel Hughes is part of the PPP's ongoing design of 'ethnic cleansing'" - CGID

attorney Nigel Hughes as its honorary consul in Guyana.

The CGID said Italian government officials have disclosed that Geoffrey Da Silva, Guyana's ambassador to Venezuela, late last month called on Italy's ambassador to Venezuela to pressure his government immediately remove Hughes's appointment.

"The persecution and victimization of Nigel Hughes is part of the PPP's ongoing

mentary Opposition party Alliance for Change (AFC), replacing current Speaker of Parliament Raphael Trotman. The combined parliamentary Opposition constitutes the majority in Parliament.

CGID said Hughes has been "severely critical of the PPP government's handling of the Linden crisis, where police shot and killed three residents protesting a 300 percent increase in electricity tariffs."

According to CGID, Italian officials said Da Silva informed their ambassador in Venezuela that the PPP government of Guyana would not accredit or recognize Hughes as honorary Italian consul to Guyana since he is now chairman of the AFC.

CGID President Rickford Burke said Hughes's case is one of "racial and political victimization by a PPP ethnicity which acts as if they own Guyana."

design of 'ethnic cleansing'," said the CGID in a statement on Aug. 29.

BACKLASH

Hughes was recently elected chairman of the parlia-

Caribbean professor named to International AIDS Society

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Celia Christie-Samuels, professor of pediatrics at the Mona campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI), was recently elected to the governing council of the International AIDS Society (IAS).

Prof. Christie-Samuels is the lone Caribbean person elected to serve on the council that will be headed by Dr. Françoise Barré-Sinoussi, 2008 Nobel Laureate of Medicine for her contribution

to the discovery of HIV, who is also director of the Regulation of Retroviral Infections Unit at the Institute Pasteur in Paris.

The new council members will serve for two years, and Christie-Samuels is among five people named to represent Latin America and the Caribbean.

In 2011, 2.5 million people were infected by the AIDS virus.

Nestlé helps Haiti's coffee production comeback

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The world's largest single buyer of coffee, food giant Nestlé, is to join a value-chain project to help Haiti's comeback bid as a world-class producer, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has said.

As world coffee prices rise to record levels, Haiti has not cashed in on its once principal agricultural product, with output shrinking to less than a tenth of its levels 20 years ago.

Now, in a bid to "double" coffee yields while improving food security for 10,000 small-scale growers and their families, the IDB said Switzerland-based Nestlé - maker of the Nescafe coffee brand - is to provide \$300,000 in technical assistance to a coffee value chain project.

The project involves Haiti's national coffee institute and agencies representing major coffee producer Colombia and coffee-consuming France.

"With appropriate invest-



Haiti's coffee set for rebound.

ments and cultivation techniques, their coffee output could double," the IDB noted.

Nestlé's assistance will focus on efforts to rehabilitate coffee orchards, improve farmer productivity, and transfer knowledge from Colombia to Haiti, aided by the French NGO Agronomists and Veterinarians without Borders (AVSF), the bank said.

FALL-OFF

Haitian coffee was once the country's main farm export, accounting for as much as 70 percent of its over-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

Tropical storm Isaac causes at least 24 Caribbean deaths

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti - The death toll from the Caribbean's encounter with tropical storm Isaac late last month climbed to 19 in Haiti, while five others were reportedly killed in neighboring Dominican Republic up to press time.

Marie Alta Jean-Baptiste, head of Haiti's Civil Protection Office, said the number of deaths could increase as

reports from around the country are finalized. Six people were reported missing and 22 injured after the storm hit between Aug. 24 and 25.

Media reports said that some of the Haitians died because their homes fell on top of them. Haiti, which is recovering from the powerful earthquake that killed an estimated 300,000 people in 2010 and left more than a million

others homeless, is prone to flooding and mudslides because much of the country is heavily deforested and rain-water rushes down barren mountainsides.

Assessment teams fanned the country to assess loss of crops and homes throughout the country where 390,000 quake evacuees remained under tents in the quake-battered capital.

- Edited from CMC.

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Cuban spy appeals U.S. conviction

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

public in 2006.

The five Cubans confessed that they are Cuban intelligence agents, but insisted they were only monitoring radical exiles who might stage terrorist attacks on the Spanish-speaking Caribbean island.

American admits conspiracy guilt in scheme to defraud Caribbean nationals

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

this company cheated hundreds of victims out of more than US\$400,000 and provided little or no help at all," said David M. Ketchmark, Acting US Attorney for the Western District of Missouri.

All five were convicted of 23 spying-related charges. Hernandez, Ramón Labañino, Fernando González and Antonio Guerrero remain in U.S. prisons; while René González, who finished serving his 13-year sentence, is now serving three years of parole in the U.S.

"This defendant managed the day-to-day operations of the Sedalia office; with her guilty plea today, all of the conspirators now will be held accountable for their fraud and deceit," he added.

Thomas Joseph

The *habeas corpus* appeal, filed earlier this year, is Hernandez's last-ditch effort to overturn his conviction.

The U.S. Supreme court already has refused to consider an appeal that the five did not get a fair trial in Miami.

- Edited from CMC.

Bride of 'Marry Caribbean Week' fantasy wedding dies in Montreal

Tricalouise Gurley, the bride who exchanged vows in June with her groom at the Marry Caribbean Week fantasy wed-

Canada-based Youth MOVE, was 30. She died Aug. 3 in her home in Montreal following a medical emergency.

Gurley married John Millard on June 6, 2012 at New York's Vanderbilt Hall, Grand Central Station during Caribbean Week in New York. The two met on the Internet in July 2011 and were selected after a contest promoted on *MarryCaribbean.com*. They had recently honeymooned in St. Kitts, courtesy of the Marriott Hotel and



Gurley and her husband John Millard following the Caribbean Week Wedding.

~ MarryCaribbean.com

American Airlines. Gurley was transitioning from Baltimore, Maryland to Montreal. She was pursuing her bachelor of social work degree.

"This is a tremendous loss to the youth movement, but I look forward to those of us who learned from her, taking this knowledge and passion forward to continue to positively effect change on youth and family serving systems," the Youth MOVE National Board and Staff noted in a statement.

- Edited from News Americas.



"This is a tremendous loss to the youth movement, but I look forward to those of us who learned from her, taking this knowledge and passion forward to continue to positively effect change on youth and family serving systems"

- Youth MOVE

ding in Grand Central, New York has died.

Gurley, founding board member of the Montreal,

50 YEARS LATER: Good trade relations between T&T, Jamaica, Britain

MARIE CLAIRE WILLIAMS

LONDON, England - It was dubbed "A Summer like no other".

The Mayor of London Boris Johnson had planned what he called the biggest cultural festival in the capital to coincide with the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics.

And for the Caribbean countries of Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago it was a double celebration of their 50th Independence anniversary and Olympic victory. The two countries won five gold medals between them.

Jamaicans and Trinidadians here also hosted their own mini cultural festivals to mark political mile-

stones in east and north London.

Away from the festivities, however, both communities have been reflecting on their progress over the last 50 years and their relationship with Britain since Independence. T&T's High Commissioner to London Garvin Nicholas told the **Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC)** that one

of his country's achievements has been the maintenance of strong trade links with the United Kingdom.

"The United Kingdom depends on Trinidad and Tobago for a lot of their revenue and energy supply," he said. "Some of their biggest companies, such as British

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)



Nicolas

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Jamaican high school's alumni in U.S. offer students scholarships

DAWN A. DAVIS

“The thing about Kingston College, is once you enter through those doors and you leave, there is no way you cannot give back,” said Lindell Douglas of his alma mater.

Douglas graduated from K.C., a high school in Jamaica, in 1983. Now a managing partner and financial planner at the Plantation, Florida-based firm Ameriprise, he has decided to support the school. In 2009 he founded Fortis83 Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization to provide scholarships to K.C. students in need.

To raise money, the foun-

dation hosts an annual charity gala with proceeds from that function going to the scholarship fund. This year's event was attended by close to 100 patrons for an evening featuring music, fashion, art auctions and “yaad-style” spoken word.

According to Douglas, Fortis83 has awarded more than \$7,200 in scholarships over the past three years.

“Kingston College has done a lot to shape who I am,” said Douglas explaining why he supporting the school is important. “In 2009 I started to meet up with some of my K.C. friends on Facebook and it dawned on me that I need to give something back



Douglas

to the school.”

SELECTION

Before officially starting the foundation, Douglas said he visited the school, spoke to administration and guidance

counselors to identify students who were doing well academically but struggling with tuition fees, uniforms, books and maintenance.

“From the counselor we got names of a few students along with their report cards,” he said.

Cadeam Pike and Kahlil Rose, both Grade 10 students, and Kishane Robinson (Grade 9), are current scholarship recipients. The three boys are being sponsored through graduation. Fortis83 may also cover expenses if they decide to go on to sixth form, which is equivalent to the first year of college in the United States. The foundation

plans to add students as others graduate, maintaining three beneficiaries.

Because each scholarship recipient must maintain an ‘A’ grade throughout his K.C. experience, the foundation keeps track of the boys’ performance through reports from the school’s administration.

“We really want to give the scholarships, but we don’t want it to be a free ride. They have to show us that they deserve the funding,” Douglas added.

Dawn A. Davis is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.



50 YEARS LATER: Good trade relations between T&T, Jamaica, Britain

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

Petroleum, British Gas and Cable and Wireless, have made tremendous fortunes out of investing in Trinidad

and Tobago.”

Indeed, T&T is the U.K.’s largest export market in the Caribbean. According to the government department, U.K.

Trade and Invest (UKTI), in 2011 Britain exported goods totalling £118 million (one British pound = \$1.58) to Port of Spain, while its import bill from that Caribbean country stood at £193 million. The previous year, export services between the two countries stood at £30 million.

Trade between T&T and the U.K. is concentrated in the areas of oil and gas, security and defense, information and communication technologies, health, waste water, education and training and finance.

Jamaica is the U.K.’s third largest Caribbean market after Puerto Rico, importing



Jessop

£68.4 million worth of goods from the U.K. in 2010 and earning £47.8 million from exports. Britain’s main exports to Jamaica are chemicals, manufactured goods, food products, machinery and pharmaceuticals.

CONTENTION

But while the twin-island republic enjoys robust trade with its former colonial master, Nicholas said one area of contention is the recent increase in the controversial travel tax, Air Passenger Duty (APD), on flights from Britain to the Caribbean.

In Nov. 2010, the APD was increased from £50 (\$78.54) to £75 (\$117.92) per passenger to the Caribbean. The U.K. government raised the levy further to £81 (\$127.20) in April this year. Caribbean governments and

tourism stakeholders have so far been unsuccessful in their efforts to get Britain to review the tax increases.

“I believe that the United Kingdom owes it to the Caribbean, especially former colonies,” said Nicholas. “I think it is very important that the United Kingdom recognizes this relationship and they don’t pay lip service, but ensure that whatever special relationship they may have with others, that they see the Caribbean as a region that deserves a special relationship based on historic ties and contributions made.”

Nicholas told CMC that while Trinidad’s economy is not heavily dependent on tourism and has not been significantly affected by the increased APD, the impact on other Caribbean countries should not be ignored.

However, David Jessop, the executive director of the U.K. think tank The Caribbean Council, believes it is impractical for independent Caribbean countries to continue to expect any concessions from Britain.

“I think one of the problems is many Caribbean governments have not fully understood the fact that Britain has a very different view of the world,” Jessop told CMC.

“To make its economy more viable, the United Kingdom and U.K. companies have effectively disinvested and looked at other parts of the world where they see greater profitability. But the reality is that Britain doesn’t see the Caribbean in that context anymore.”

- Edited from CMC.



Nestlé helps Haiti's coffee production comeback

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

seas agricultural sales up to two decades ago. But the IDB blamed a persistent lack of farm investment among a combination of international

and domestic factors for output shrinking to less than one-tenth of its peak.

Coffee exports shrank to 16,000 bags in 2009 from 191,000 bags in 1990. But by April 2011, world coffee

prices had reached a 34-year peak above \$3 a pound. Last month, July coffee futures closed at \$1.84 a pound.

The IDB said that one of the project’s principal goals is to raise yields of coffee and other staples grown by farmers in “Creole gardens”, thereby strengthening their families’ food security. To help raise farm productivity, the IDB said Nestlé will supply high-yielding coffee seedlings to replace ageing coffee trees on Haitian smallholder farms. The company will also provide seedlings for staple crops such as banana and yams that promote food security.

Through its office in the Dominican Republic, the IDB said Nestlé will provide direct technical assistance to small coffee producers in Haiti.

- Edited from CMC.



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COLOR CONFLICT: Racial discrimination persists in Caribbean ~ study

CASTRIES, St. Lucia - A study by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) has found that the problems of race are most persistent in the Caribbean, compared to other parts of the Americas.

The findings of the study, which looked at the "Situation of People of African Descent in the Americas", was released here at a special ceremony on the fringes of the recent Caribbean community (CARICOM) summit. The study, which examined the issue in the Americas, found that although the problem is most persistent in the Caribbean, it is also most subtle.

Professor Rose Marie Belle Antoine, IACHR commissioner and rapporteur on People of African Descent and Against Racial Discrimination, has suggested that the subtle persistence of racial profiling and discrimination in the Caribbean could be because people have grown to accept it.

"Color prejudice is...perhaps the most under reported form of discrimination that we

have, but at the same time perhaps it is the most complained about in informal ways," said Belle Antoine.

ANXIETY

She said that though there



Belle Antoine

is an acknowledgement of social and cultural differences among races in the Caribbean, there still is anxiety when it comes to full and deep acceptance of these differences.

"While we pat ourselves on the back for being rainbow countries, the reality is that there are still race tensions in our societies," Belle Antoine said.

"In more modern times this has manifested itself most prominently in the relations between Indo and African Caribbean peoples, particularly in Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago."

Belle Antoine pointed to

"Color prejudice is...perhaps the most under reported form of discrimination that we have, but at the same time perhaps it is the most complained about in informal ways"

- Belle Antoine

studies done in Barbados which show that black entrepreneurs have greater difficulty in securing business loans and capital than their white counterparts, which she said places them at a disadvantage from the outset.

The study also showed that in the Caribbean, racial discrimination to Afro-descendent people is linked to the darkness of their skin, poverty and the control of economic resources.

CARICOM Secretary General Ambassador Irwin La Rocque, in receiving the report, said the Caribbean must take "careful note of the report given the demographics of our region."



LaRocque

"Too many persons of African descent in the hemisphere do not have access to basic services in health and education for example and thereby have difficulty in realizing their full potential and contributing meaningfully to the advancement of their families communities and nations."

La Rocque told the gathering that this situation in the region was one of the issues

that prompted CARICOM to support a resolution at the 61st General Assembly of the United Nations which resulted in Mar. 23, 2007 being declared "International Day to Mark the Abolition of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade". He said it cannot be denied that people of African descent have contributed immensely to the development of the region and as such should be respected for their contributions.

"Ladies and gentlemen this report may be a sober reminder of the deep-rooted problems which remain in the hemisphere," said La Rocque, "but there are sufficient examples of people of African descent who came to the fore in spite of the challenges."

"There is a need therefore, even in the Caribbean to enquire seriously and objectively into these issues with a view to constructing newer paradigms based on genuine equality and social advancement for all of our peoples."

- Edited from CMC.



Nearly one in four Caribbean men bisexual ~ U.N. study

NEW YORK - Could it be true? A new study claims that almost one in four Caribbean men are bisexual.

The information was gathered in a region-wide UNAIDS' Caribbean Men's Internet Survey, which contacted some 2,560 men throughout 33 territories online.

Across the entire sample, about 20 percent to 23 percent of those surveyed claimed they are bisexual, said Ernest Massiah, facilitator of the project and director of UNAIDS Caribbean regional support team.

Massiah also revealed that 15 percent of the men did not define themselves in any category although they engaged in sexual activity with other men.

According to the director, the most "shocking" aspect of the study involved the amount of physical and verbal abuse and visual intimidation levied against MSMs in their respective countries.

"What we are seeing across the region is that between five and 10 percent

of people have been assaulted because they were perceived to have a different sexual orientation," Massiah said.

NEW

For the first time, the study identified a new population of men – the educated MSM man. The MSM population is defined by the survey not only as openly gay men, but also men who do not self-

identify as gay or bisexual but participate in sexual activities with other men. The survey is being

implemented throughout the English, French, Spanish and Dutch speaking Caribbean countries.

"We are getting a population that we have not been able to get data from before, that is men with secondary and tertiary level education. We have a very educated sample here," the director said.

Previously, face-to-face surveys were the norm, but only accessed "certain members" of the MSM population.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)



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Citizen security program offers lifeline to Jamaican women in gangs

KINGSTON, Jamaica - For Pauline Crooks, quitting the Montego Bay gang that had helped her to put food on the table for six years wasn't a quick or an easy decision.

The single mother of three continued showing up at her "workplace" where the gangsters ran lottery scams even after she joined a parenting course offered by the Citizen Security and Justice Programme (CSJP), an initiative launched in 2007 by Jamaica's government to bring down crime in the island's most violent communities.

But one day something happened. It didn't involve Crooks's children or her family, but a victim of a lottery scam, a specialty of Montego Bay criminal crews. This particular person was elderly, ill and at risk of losing her home. By then the parenting course, which covers topics ranging from how to manage money to anger management, had started to sway her.

"I didn't want my children to grow up like I did. I wanted them to have a better life," she said.

Crooks did more than just leave the gang. A trainer saw in her the potential to become a social worker. With the CSJP's support, she enrolled in a certificate course at the University of the West Indies (UWI). Crooks now works as a liaison between the program and communities in western Jamaica and coaches new parent trainers. Her next step: earning an associate college degree, taking advantage of a CSJP scholarship.

"Sometimes I pinch myself," said Crooks, a high school dropout.

SUPPORT

Now in its sixth year, the CSJP is supported by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), which has provided the Jamaican government \$37.5 million in loans and grants over the past decade for crime prevention.

In 2012, the United Kingdom's Department for International Development made a grant for the equivalent of \$11.3 million to help expand the program to a total of 50 communities.

The CSJP targets urban neighborhoods with risk factors such as gang presence, high youth unemployment rates and a generalized sense of anarchy. Many of these communities, such as Crooks's Canterbury neighborhood, sprung up as informal settlements on the outskirts of cities. Over the years, as crime and violence worsened, some were literally taken over by

gangs.

Drawing from international best practices, the CSJP helps communities gain the means to organize and mobilize in order to improve their living conditions and establish a law-abiding culture. The program focuses particularly on young people, providing them with job training opportunities.

According to assessments by the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PSIJ), communities participating in the CSJP have seen sharp declines in homicides, shootings and violence-related injuries.

DESPERATION

While an overwhelming majority of gang members are male - and most of the violent crime perpetrators and victims are young men - the CSJP makes a special effort to reach women.

Arenica Stevenson, a community action coordinator, explains that in Jamaica's most troubled communities households are often headed by a single parent, which is usually a woman.

"If you can break the cycle with the mother, you can prevent it from passing on to the next generation," said Stevenson.

Some women fall in with gangs out of desperation. Crooks lost a job as a security guard when the company she worked for went bankrupt. She couldn't pay the rent or utility bills. Her children cried because they were hungry. So, she approached an acquaintance involved in a gang and asked for work. The job allowed her to make ends meet, but it wasn't without perils. During her time with the gang she was shot at and a family member was abducted by a rival group.

Most women involved in gangs are recruited at an earlier age. Like many young Jamaicans brought up in poverty, Leticia Scarlett was exposed to domestic violence as a child. Her mother eventually ran away from her abusive husband, but she also mistreated her children. Scarlett joined a juvenile gang when was 14, shortly after she dropped out of school and her mother kicked her out of their home. For three years she lived on the streets, drinking, fighting and stealing.

The turning point for Scarlett came when she was arrested at 17. A policeman referred her to a social worker who talked to her about the CSJP. The teenager, who had enjoyed cooking when she was a girl, became interested in a chef training course.



Female gangsters offered alternative to time in jail.

After attending cooking and baking classes for eight months - complemented with life skills training and remedial English and math lessons - she had progressed so much that she won a contest with a dish of her own creation, a yam and salt fish callaloo roll.

TURNAROUND

Scarlett's outlook has changed radically. Like other

young people in CSJP-sponsored job training programs, she will do an internship at a company or a government agency - in her case most probably at a hotel. She's even set herself a five-year goal of opening her own restaurant.

"I'm going to make something out of my life," she said.

Not all young people arrive to the CSJP through the justice system.

CORRECTIONS

• **Caribbean Today**, in its Aug. 2012 edition, published a story headlined "Miami Gardens proclamation honors Jamaica National Hero Marcus Garvey". That headline was incorrect and we apologize.

We also apologize for any other editing error which may have appeared in the story.

The proclamation marking Aug. 17, 2012 as "Universal Marcus Garvey Day" was made by the Miami-Dade County Commission, through the office of Commissioner Barbara Jordan, who represents District 1 of which Miami Gardens is a part.

"The county's proclamation honoring Marcus Garvey's 125th birthday anniversary, issued through the office of Commissioner Barbara Jordan, is in stark contrast

to the City of Miami Gardens' reluctance to offer any token of recognition or honor to Marcus Garvey," said Ras Don Rico Ricketts, who initiated the proposal for the proclamation.

"The final irony is that the person challenging Commissioner Jordan, for the District 1 seat on the County Commission (election on Aug. 14, 2012), was the mayor of the City of Miami Gardens who did little or nothing, to move the request to honor Garvey, forward."

• Jamaican-born singer, songwriter and musician Pluto Shervington was born Aug. 13, 1950. An incorrect birth date was published in **Caribbean Today's** July issue. We apologize for the error.

Nearly one in four Caribbean men bisexual ~ U.N. study

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

Massiah said that the use of the Internet and redefining their target populations was the key to the survey's success.

"It is a good way of doing research because you can get to people in a much quicker way than you would have if you tried to do an interview with an individual person," he added.

ABUSE

The study's results will be given to governments of participating nations to help develop policies and initiatives that will protect and service the MSM community.

In some nations half of the MSM population identified with being verbally abused and visually intimidated, he added.

"What we are seeing is that as a society, if you have a sexual orientation that is perceived as different, you can be physically abused and in a lot of cases you receive verbal abuse," Massiah said.

The UNAIDS-funded initiative was launched online last November and concluded in June.

- *Edited from News Americas.*

The program uses Jamaicans' love of sports to attract participants to its Goals for Life program.

"Jamaicans loooove football," said social worker Melva Spence. "So we hold tournaments in the communities."

Once potential candidates become involved in the competitions, they are screened to determine their skills and interests before they are placed in job training courses.

Besides promoting a safe and healthy activity, Goals for Life offers at-risk youths who often can barely read or write an opportunity to make a living by learning a useful trade.

"If we can save one life, then it will be worth all of the money," said Spence. "And I know we will save many more than one."

- *Story supplied by the Inter American Development Bank.*



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The hypocrisy of Republicans

Call it hypocrisy plain and simple! While Republicans have pushed an enforcement only immigration agenda and self-deportation, speaker after speaker at the Republican National Convention in Tampa last month were quick to tell of their immigrant roots.

United States Senator Rick Santorum, a hard nose objector to immigration reform, in his address on Aug. 28, spoke of his Italian grandfather while Ann Romney, wife of Mitt Romney, was happy to share that she was the descendant of a Welsh migrant.



FELICIA PERSAUD

On the same night, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie talked about America being made up of the sons and daughters of immigrants even as Mia Love, the rising black star the Republican Party (GOP) was quick to turn the spotlight on, shared her story of her Haitian parents move to the U.S. in 1973 with just \$10 in their pockets. Today, Love says, because of that dream, she is now mayor of a town in Utah.

Yet, despite all the talk about immigrants and the dreams of those past, the GOP remains stuck to a hard-line position on immigration, opposed "any forms of amnesty" for undocumented immigrants. This is the same party that has called for "humane procedures to encourage illegal aliens to return home voluntarily;" where several of its governors are passing their own draconian and racist immigration policies in states like Alabama, Arizona and Georgia and some of its members have threatened to sue the President for his humanitarian policy change that will benefit millions of young undocu-

mented migrants – at least temporarily.

NO MIDDLE GROUND

There is no middle ground in their stance, despite the calls from within their own ranks, including from Jeb Bush and his son, George P. Their own presidential candidate, Romney's position is a policy of "self-deportation." There are no ifs and buts about Romney's position, regardless of his pandering to the Latino voting bloc through the likes of Sen. Marco Rubio, who now claims Romney will change his tune on his tough immigration policy after the election.

Really? Rubio and Romney must consider immigrants to be fools. Just like they believe advertising to the Latino base in Spanish or trotting out their best brown and black party members and showing them off for the cameras at this convention, will win over immigrant and minority voters.

The reality is that Republicans have definitely "pitched" too "far to the extreme right" on the issue of immigration, just as former Florida Governor and GOP member Charlie Crist stated in his public op-ed in the Tampa Bay Times endorsing President Obama.

So for the top members to be citing immigrant roots even as they continue veering down this dangerous racist path is beyond hypocritical.

Christie, in his remarks, stated: "Standing strong for freedom will make the next century as great an American century as the last one."

Well, let me add dear GOP and Mr. Christie, that standing up for immigrants will also continue to make America stronger, in this century and the next.

Felicia Persaud is founder of NewsAmericasNow, CaribPR Wire and Hard Beat Communications.



It wasn't me, wasn't what it looked like

It's often said that there are more innocent people inside prisons than there are outside, because every prisoner professes to be not guilty.

The same applies to people who are locked in the emotional prison of love, for when they are accused of wrongdoing, or even caught in the act, they immediately proclaim their innocence. Yet the guilty exist, and in abundance too.

Some folks say the best thing to do when caught in the act is to deny, deny, deny. After all, the law states that guilt must be established beyond all reasonable doubt. So if you deny, deny, deny, you will sow the seeds of doubt and let your accuser begin to second guess.

The truth is, women are better at explaining away guilt than men, and that's why more men are found guilty in the court of love.

EVEN ODDS

Throughout history, men have borne the brunt and accusations of infidelity, lying, cheating, sexual trysts and other acts, when in fact the numbers are about even. But why do you think men of old had chastity belts made for their women when they went away for any period of time? The wives, of course, would act all demure and innocent and swear that they would never stray in hubby's absence. And yet, chastity belts were in great demand.

At times men are guilty.



But there's also the presumption of guilt. So you happen to leave your cell phone at home and go out for a few hours. Like cream to a cat, the cell phone will attract your woman, and she will go through it, just for the hell of it. That simple act brought down a billion dollar empire of a golfer.

So she finds texts to other females, and e-mails too. If your phone transmits e-mail, you are so busted. You have been found guilty and your only recourse is to plead.

What happens if the e-mails are in a foreign language?



TONY ROBINSON

"Baby, I'm just trying to brush up on my Italian, that's all."

SMOOTH OPERATOR

Men usually stumble, sputter and stammer and get busted, but women are as smooth as silk. When a man is found guilty he starts to get nervous and often goes overboard with his explanation, which invariably ends up being a wild and incredible tale.

"You know, I almost believed you, but you should have stopped before you mentioned being abducted by an all female gang."

Or...

"So you're keeping those condoms for your friend because he can't keep them in his house. You put them on for

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)





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VIEWPOINT



FLORIDA FORCE: A ham-handed solution to a problem that doesn't exist

Bill Internicola had to show his papers.

He received a letter recently from the Broward County, Florida, Supervisor of Elections informing him the office had "information from the state of Florida that you are not a United States citizen; however, you are registered to vote." So Internicola had to prove he is an



LEONARD PITTS JR.

American. He sent the county a copy of his Army discharge papers.

Internicola is 91 years old. He was born in Brooklyn. He is a veteran of the Second World War. He earned a Bronze Star for his part in the Battle of the Bulge. Yet he was required to prove to a county functionary that he is entitled to vote in an American election.

We learn from reporter Amy Sherman's story in The Miami Herald newspaper that this is part of a campaign by Florida Governor Rick Scott, a Republican, to weed non-citizens off the rolls of the state's voters. Initially, Florida claimed 180,000 were possible non-citizens. That number was eventually whittled way down to about 2,600 people. In Miami-Dade County, where the largest number of them live, 385 have been verified as citizens. Ten - 10! - have admitted they are ineligible or asked to be removed from the rolls.

TARGETS

The Herald recently analyzed the list and found it dominated by Democrats, independents and Hispanics. Republicans and non-Hispanic whites were least likely to have their voting rights challenged.

Voter suppression? Intimidation? No way, says Florida Republican Party Chairman Lenny Curry. He

blasted Democratic Senator Bill Nelson for criticizing the effort. Nelson, he said, "asks our public servants to ignore the threat to electoral integrity."

But the "threat" is very nearly nonexistent. Tova Wang, an expert in election law, told U.S. News and World Report in April that the number of people who have been prosecuted successfully for voter fraud is "ridiculously low." A 2006 report from the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law found documented examples of voter fraud to be "extremely rare" and likened it to one's chances of being killed by lightning.

The idea that voter fraud is epidemic stems from the occasional high-profile exception and from stunts like GOP activist James O'Keefe's sending some guy into a polling place to vote under the name of Attorney General Eric Holder. But stunts and high-profile exceptions do not dis-

prove - nor even address - the statistical reality Wang and the Brennan Center describe.

The demographic trend lines are clearly against the Republican Party. But rather than work to broaden the party's appeal, some GOP leaders have chosen instead to narrow the other party's base under the guise of addressing a problem that does not exist.

Thus, you get a campaign to gut the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Thus, you get restrictive new Voter ID laws. Thus you get Florida (like New Mexico and Colorado) culling its voter rolls of non-citizens and somehow, apparently by sheer happenstance, targeting those who are most likely to vote for the other party.

Thus, you get Internicola being asked for his papers.

MOTIVE

Yes, he provided them. But how many people, in a nation where voter turnout stands at a measly 45.5 percent, are going

to make the effort? How many, when repeated obstacles are placed between them and the polling place, are going to give up in frustration? And that, of course, is the whole idea.

This is a thumb on the scales. It is a blatant use of the machinery of government in the cause of voter intimidation and suppression.

Internicola happens to be - what are the odds? - a Democrat. He was "flabbergasted" to learn the state did not consider him a citizen. He called the county office and asked: "Are you crazy?"

But in the end, Bill Internicola had to show them his papers. For that, the governor and his party should be deeply ashamed.

Leonard Pitts Jr. is a columnist for the Miami Herald. (c) 2012 The Miami Herald Distributed by Tribune Media Services, Inc.



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

him too?"

The women though, never miss a beat, don't even bat an eyelash. They maintain an even breathing pattern as they explain away their guilt.

"Ha ha ha Honey, don't be ridiculous; so you saw me in his car a few times, he's just a client and we have to discuss strategy. What would I be doing with him otherwise? Plus he's married...don't be silly...ha ha ha."

Not only are women more

convincing than men with their 'It wasn't me, isn't what it looks like' explanation, but somehow they can also manage to turn it around and make the accuser feel guilty.

"Shame on you, shame on you, accusing me of carrying on with pastor, a man of the cloth. How could you ever think such a thing? You disgust me!"

CAUGHT ON CAMERA

Sometimes you think that you're invisible, and lost in a crowd, but cameras are every-

where, and they can be unforgiving and expose guilt that's hard to explain away. I'll always remember a good friend who was caught on camera having a great time at one of those New Year's Eve balls. His wife was watching the live broadcast as the cameras caught him whooping it up. As the countdown for the New Year began, so did her fuming, flaming, furious count to 10 too.

He was publicly busted and guilty as sin. And yet he

went home and pleaded, 'It wasn't me, wasn't what it looked like' explanation, saying something about popping in for a drink with friends on his way home and they dragged him on the dance floor against his wishes and horse dead and cow fat.

So many people are featured on the social pages beside others who are not their wives or husbands. But still, they plead, 'It wasn't me, isn't what it looks like.'

Then when you're spotted

at the airport leaving on the same flight as her, and spotted also on the return flight, how do you explain it?

When you're truly guilty, busted, caught with her underwear in your pocket, with your hand on the cookies, you had better warble, 'It wasn't me, wasn't what it looks like,' and make it plausible too.

- seido1@hotmail.com



Fall Health

The October issue of Caribbean Today will feature a comprehensive examination of how the healthcare industry serves the Caribbean community.

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Jamaica 50 for 50

Jamaica, T&T share 50th Independence in August

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, CMC – Jamaica's Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller arrived here late last month to participate in activities marking the 50th anniversary of Trinidad and Tobago's political Independence from Britain.

Simpson Miller was returning a visit made by her T&T counterpart Kamla Persad Bissessar, who travelled to Kingston for Jamaica's golden jubilee celebrations on Aug. 6.

While in T&T, Simpson-Miller was scheduled to participate in a number of celebratory activities, including the Independence Day Military Parade, the President's Toast to the Nation on the 50th anniversary of Independence, Aug. 31, and a private luncheon hosted by the prime minister.

Jamaica and Trinidad and



Persad Bissessar, left, and Simpson Miller

Tobago both celebrate their golden jubilee of Independence in August, having been the first two countries in the Caribbean to gain political Independence from Britain in 1962 following the collapse of the West Indian

Federation.

Read about influential members T&T's diaspora in the United States, starting on page 13.



'Jamerican Bar' holds grand gala Sept. 29

Popular entertainer Oliver Samuels is the scheduled master of ceremonies for the Jamaican-American Bar Association's (JABA) Grand Gala Ball and Awards Ceremony on Sept. 29.

The event is slated for the Hyatt Regency Pier 66 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

JABA, headquartered in Coral Gables, Florida, was organized 2007. It describes its mission as advancing the professional interests of Jamaican American attorneys, while providing the Jamaican

American community with the benefit of their legal expertise. It also aims to coordinate development of educational, mentoring and other assistance for "Jamerican" law students and new colleagues in the legal profession.

The present leadership of JABA, which operates



James

another chapter in the New York/New Jersey area, includes Don G. James, president; Marjorie Desporte, vice-president; Skeeter Scott, general secretary; Meena Lopez, treasurer; and directors Eddie Dabdoub, Camille Rainford, David Brown and Duane A. Crooks.

For more information about JABA, call **305-510-3870**, e-mail jamericanbar@aol.com or visit jamaicanamericanbar.org.



Celebration events continue across U.S.

Jamaicans across the United States commemorated the island's 50th anniversary of Independence on Aug. 6 and will continue the celebrations with a range of activities throughout 2012.

These include literary performances, art exhibitions, outdoor festivals, galas, reggae concerts, and church services in honor of the destination's heritage.

"We can't help but be proud of the historical triumphs that have helped shape our cultural landscape," said Jamaica's Director of Tourism John Lynch in a recent press release promoting the events.

"Through Jamaica 50 events, diaspora communities across the world are showcasing Jamaica's history through the various forms of cultural expression that have united

our people. We encourage Jamaicans and friends of Jamaica to join us in these celebrations, on island and overseas."

On **Sept. 23 at 7:30 p.m.** "Poets and Passion: A Caribbean Literary Lime" will be staged in the Caribbean Cultural Theatre at St. Francis College, 180 Remsen St., Brooklyn Heights, New York.

For more information, call **718-783-8345**.

From **Oct. 8 to 14, at 6 p.m.** each evening, there will be "A Salute To Our Heroes" (series of documentaries) at the Consulate General of Jamaica in New York.

For more information, call **212-935-9000**.

On **Oct. 19 at 7:30 p.m.** – "Poets and Passion: A Caribbean Literary Lime", will be staged at the

Caribbean Cultural Theatre in New York.

For more information, call **718-783-8345**.



U.K. priest leans on Jamaican roots

MARIE GREGORY

Father Howard James was born in London, England in 1959 of Jamaican parents who had migrated from their homeland.

He was the second of Oswald and Gloria's five children. The couple eventually returned to live in Harbour View in July 1962.

James's earliest memory of Jamaica is being given a flag and told to wave it. He claimed to have no idea what the excitement was all about at the time, but later realized it was Jamaica's Independence celebration.

He attended Essex Hall Primary School in Jamaica and gained a scholarship to St. Mary's College. James's time at St. Mary's would change his life, as it was there that he came under the guidance of Sister James Marie, a Franciscan missionary and first thought of becoming a priest.

Memories of his days at St. Mary's College include carrying his shoes and socks, with trousers rolled up, through bushes to school, stopping at a stream to wash his feet before putting on his shoes entering the school building. He was appointed head boy his final year.

DISCOURAGED

Although he thought seriously about the priesthood, James said he was discouraged by friends who had found, after

a few years of study, that the priesthood was not for them. He entered EXED community college to study to become a teacher. In those days the government provided J\$72 per month to education students. This helped James pay for his sister's boarding and to save J\$5 per month.



James

In 1980 the family returned to London and James accompanied them. Some years later, having worked as a clerical officer, he again thought about the priesthood. This produced a shock. Having attended Catholic primary and secondary schools, he discovered that he had been baptised Anglican.

On a youth pilgrimage to Italy in 1983 to thank Pope John Paul II for his visit to the United Kingdom, he was received into the Catholic Church as an adult convert in Rome, confirmed by Cardinal Basil Hume. His sister Diane, also baptised Anglican, was received and confirmed at the same time.

ON HIS WAY

The way was now open to study for the priesthood. James spent five years at Allen Hall Seminary in Chelsea, London, where he took a degree in soci-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)

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Jamaica 50 for 50

What Jamaica means to me

As we celebrate Jamaica's 50th year of Independence, we can be proud of many accomplishments as a nation. From music, athletes, work ethic and sense of style, we aim to be the best in all we do!

My earliest recollections of my Jamaican heritage growing up as a little black girl in England in the 1960s (I was born the same year Jamaica



Davis

received Independence from Great Britain) was the smell of stewed chicken and rice and peas on a Sunday, the home-made patties baking in the oven on a Saturday and the must-have bottle of red syrup on the dining table to wash the food down.

I knew of my strong heritage when I would see how hard my mother and aunt worked in order to be able to purchase their own homes and become independent, free from rental housing discrimination.

HOME COMING

It was, however, when I moved to Jamaica with my mother in the early 1970s that I

knew I had come home - this was indeed paradise! I now knew that people who looked like me were able to be great, lead and accomplish great things. Talk about mentoring, the whole country was a mentoring program for me, teaching me that I could be anything I wanted to be and achieve anything I set my eyes upon!

Now living in the United States, and specifically in South Florida, we continue to see the leadership qualities inherent in our bloodline. As we grow and excel in every arena, it is our children, who just as I came to know what it meant to be Jamaican all those years ago in England, through the sights, sounds and taste of Jamaica, they too will be the beneficiaries of our great ancestry!

- Edited from an article submitted by Alexandra Davis, a city commissioner in Miramar, Florida. Davis was recently named one of South Florida's "50 Most Powerful and Influential Black Business Leaders of 2012" by Legacy, a news/business publication serving South Florida's black professional community.



C. 'Eddy' Edwards

C. 'Eddy' Edwards is a leader in Caribbean entertainment marketing in South Florida.

A strong advocate of Caribbean culture, Edwards is chief executive officer of Riddims Marketing, Inc., an integrated marketing and events organization formed by Edwards.

He is producer/host of Caribbean Riddims, a radio program aired on WZAB 880 AM. Now in its 28th year, it is the longest running Caribbean radio program in South Florida. Edwards was voted "Best AM Radio Personality" for 2007 by New Times magazine and in

2009 was recognized by HOT105 FM as a Caribbean American Heritage Month Honoree for his contribution to cultural education in South Florida.



Edwards

Edwards is chairman of the board of directors for Jamaican Jerk Festival USA, Inc., producers of the annual Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival. He also serves on the board of for the Jamaica/USA Chamber of Commerce.

Edwards is founding president and former director of Jamaica Awareness Inc., a non-profit organization that presents Jamaican culture. He is a managing partner of STINGERZ Nightclub.

Edwards has also served as consultant to Guinness North America on the Caribbean market in South Florida; member of Tourism Liaison Committee for the Jamaica Tourist Board; chairperson, Media Committee, Jamaica Diaspora Foundation; and member of Business Owners Of Miramar.



Dr. Lloyd Cohen

Lloyd Cohen's career as an educator began at Mico Teachers' College in Jamaica. He migrated to Miami where he obtained bachelor's and master's degrees in education from the University of Miami. Later, he acquired a specialist degree in technology and doctor of philosophy degree in leadership and technology from Barry University.

Dr. Cohen has taught in Jamaica, The Bahamas and the United States, at various grade levels and schools, from ele-

mentary through college. As an adjunct professor at Barry University, he coordinated the Saturday Enrichment Program for Teacher-Interns.

He is a founding member of the Jamaican Association of Miami-Dade Educators, and was president for eight years. Dr. Cohen, along with two other educators from South Florida, provided summer in-service training for principals, teachers, and community leaders under the Centers for

Excellence Program at University of the West Indies in 2010.

He has served as chairman for the Education Committee of the Jamaican Diaspora, Southern United States since its inception in 2004.



Cohen

U.K. priest leans on Jamaican roots

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

ology and theology. He then attended Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium, where he received a master's degree in religious studies.

James was ordained a deacon by Bishop Donald Reece, his mentor from Jamaica, who was then based in Antigua. When Cardinal Hume ordained him a priest in 1991, James became the first man born in the U.K. of Caribbean origins to be ordained a Catholic priest in the U.K.

James was loaned to the diocese of Montego Bay, Jamaica from 1998 to 2000 and became parish priest of Our Lady of Fatima Church in the town of Ocho Rios, St. Ann. This appointment he really loved. James was able to erect the portico to the church so that brides arriving for their wedding would not risk getting wet as

they walked from their cars. A large, framed photograph of the church hangs in his office.

'DREAM'

Appointments in churches in London followed until James was offered the chance to become the administrator of Holy Family Cathedral in Antigua, an assignment he described as a "dream come true" as he had always wanted to work with Reece.

The secondment ended in 2006 when he returned to the U.K. and eventually to the position of parish priest of St. John the Evangelist in Islington, London.

James is a regular visitor to Jamaica and hopes to return to minister there eventually. He has watched the development of Independent Jamaica with interest. While the infrastructure has improved, he explained, the level of crime can be frightening. Yet James has a sense of freedom in Jamaica. When there he walks and jogs at the Mona Dam in St. Andrew. He talks about God freely in Jamaica which he would not do in London.

LONDON 'FREEDOM'

However, he loves living in

London, where, he believes, "you have the freedom to be who you are."

James is concerned with the corruption in Jamaica. Even so, there are bright spots. He admires track sensation Usain Bolt, but thinks he must be careful not to buy into superstardom. He has great regard for the school athletic championships in Jamaica, which gives many athletes a needed start. James is intrigued that some athletes have come from the United States to train in Jamaica.

James is involved in various organizations, including Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Sex Addiction and Depressives Anonymous.

He takes long walks around London, visits friends, watches sport, exercises, cooks, listens to music and enjoys television comedies.

There are few Jamaicans living in his parish, but James is involved with Jamaicans in the wider community and is visited by many from Jamaica when they come to London.

Marie Gregory is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.



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Trinidad & Tobago 50 for 50

~ A Caribbean Today special feature

Dr. Anthony T. Bryan

Trinidad and Tobago-born Dr. Anthony T. Bryan is a senior associate of the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, D.C. and a senior fellow at the Institute of International Relations, University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago.



Bryan

He has been an international consultant on political and business economic risk in the Caribbean and Latin America, and on energy security and energy geopolitics in the region.

Bryan has been a tenured professor at the University of Rhode Island and a tenured professor of international relations and director of the Institute of International Relations at UWI. He has also held visiting professorial

appointments at Indiana University, The University of Texas-Austin and Georgetown University in the United States, and at the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, Switzerland.

Bryan has also served as a senior scholar at U.S. think tanks, including the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C., and the North South Center of the University of Miami.

A major part of his professional career has been spent in consulting and advisement to the private sector, governments and international organizations. He has been a member of several Cabinet appointed committees in T&T on foreign relations and has testified on U.S.-Caribbean trade issues before U.S. Congressional committees.



Neki Mohan

Neki Mohan, who has worked throughout the United States, is currently the weekend morning anchor and reporter at Local 10 television station in South Florida.

Born in New York and raised in Trinidad and Tobago, Mohan is active in the Caribbean community and understands the unique qualities that contribute to the diverse blend that is South Florida.

Mohan joined the Local

10 team in July 2004, just in time to cover four hurricanes in a row. She got international attention reporting live from Jamaica during Hurricane Ivan. She came to Local 10 from Cleveland, Ohio, where she anchored the morning and



Mohan

noon shows and did special reports.

Mohan has also worked in Los Angeles, Jackson, Mississippi and Washington, D.C. She is a mentor with the Women of Tomorrow organization and participates in charitable causes, including The American Heart Association, The Boys and Girls Club and Overtown Youth Center.



Dr. Deanne Butchey

Before joining Florida International University (FIU), Dr. Deanne Butchey worked as a financial services stock research analyst at Credit Suisse First



Butchey

Boston in the firm's Toronto, Canada offices.

Prior to that, she was a financial advisor at Merrill Lynch in Toronto. Her professional qualifications include being a registered representative, licensed to sell securities in Canada.

Dr. Butchey currently leads FIU's College of Business Administration's drive for

accountability and transparency in its academic programs and the advancement of excellence in teaching quality as the assistant dean for accreditation.

She was a finalist in the 2012 Spirit of Service-Learning Award presented by the Returned Peace Corp Volunteers of South Florida, Inc.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)

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Trinidad & Tobago 50 for 50

~ A Caribbean Today special feature

Dawn K. Batson

Dawn K. Batson, has been involved with the Caribbean cultural arts movement as performer, arranger, conductor, teacher, judge, composer, musical director and producer.

She has toured Europe, the Caribbean and North and South America as music director and conductor with some of Trinidad and Tobago's top cultural groups and steel orchestras. Batson has also lectured at and coordinated teacher workshops on music business and Caribbean culture in T&T, Great Britain, France, Canada, the Netherlands, North Africa and United States.

She completed a Ph.D. program in international affairs/music at the University of Miami, a master of music



Batson

industry from U.M. and a bachelor of science in music education, specializing in strings, from Hofstra University. She is currently a professor of music and chair of visual and performing arts at Florida Memorial University.

Batson conceived and coordinated three international expositions on the steel band. She also produced cultural shows for past T&T presidents for visiting heads of state and is a cultural consultant for private and public bodies.

Batson was the first board chairman of the Trinidad and Tobago National Steel Orchestra and has judged for international steel band and calypso competitions throughout the U.S., T&T, Cayman Islands, Europe and Canada.

In Dec. 2010 she was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award for her contribution to the International Steelband Movement.



George Rahael

George Rahael founded Amera Corporation in 1979 following his arrival to the United States from his native Trinidad and Tobago.

Under Rahael's direction, Amera shifted the focus of the family's real estate acquisition and development business from Trinidad to select Florida markets. Starting with the acquisition of strip shopping centers and residential development in Coral Springs during the 1980s, and diversifying into Coral Springs and Fort Lauderdale commercial properties in the 1990s, Rahael has followed a market-sensitive, quality-minded approach to real estate acquisition and development.

Amera has received the 1995, 2001 and 2003 Coral Springs "Indy" Award recognizing outstanding economic and civic contributions made by business. The company also received the City of Coral

Springs 2002 "Orchid" Award for the most beautiful property, The Walk, which was selected by the city's citizens.



Rahael

In 2012, the ICABA selected and recognized Rahael as a distinguished achiever among South Florida's 100 Most Accomplished Caribbean Americans. He was also awarded the Urban League of Broward County's Community Builder Award in 2008 for his impact in strengthening, changing and empowering the county's communities.

Rahael is founder and former chairman of the Trinidad and Tobago/USA Chamber of Commerce. He is a founding member of the Council of Executive Officers of Coral Springs



Dr. Anique Bryan

Dr. Anique Bryan is a graduate of the University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine who has also obtained American Board Certification in family medicine.

Dr. Bryan has practiced as a primary care physician with Miami International Cardiologist Consultants since 2008. Prior to joining MICC, she was on faculty at the Miller School of Medicine and served for several years as an assistant professor of clinical family medicine in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health.

In addition, Dr. Bryan



practiced as a primary care physician and served as medical director for the faculty practice, taught clinical skills to

third-year medical students and participated in practice based research.

Dr. Bryan was also an associate at the Center for Women's Medicine at South Miami Hospital where she provided primary care to women. She has particular interest in disease prevention.

Dr. Bryan completed her primary and secondary education in Trinidad and Tobago, her family's county of origin. She has lived in Miami since moving here to pursue her medical school education in 1989.



Anne Lashley

Anne Lashley has been an art teacher at Bent Tree Elementary since 2008. She also taught at Zora Neale Hurston from 1996 to 2008, Royal Green from 1987 to 1996 and at Rockway Elementary.

Lashley supervises interns who are seeking a degree in art education and, this fall, is scheduled to run the new visual arts magnet program at Bent Tree Elementary.

Lashley, along with her husband, helped to organize the

arrangements for bringing Freddie Kissoon and the Strolling Players, a dramatic group from Trinidad to perform at Miami Dade College for Arts and Letters Day celebration and the African American Research Library and Cultural Center in Broward County South Florida in 2003 and 2005.



Lashley

Leroy L. Lashley

Leroy L. Lashley, PhD, is an adjunct professor of English and communications at Miami-Dade College, Kendall Campus.

He was a full time professor 1985-2009, prior to his retirement. He also was a professor of English at Howard University in Washington, D.C. 1973-1985 and a professor at Bowie University in Maryland, where he started a journalism program.

Lashley began his teaching career in Trinidad and Tobago. He taught at St. Margaret's Boys' E.C. in Belmont 1963-1967 before leaving to enroll at Howard University.

As a graduate journalism student at Northwestern University, Lashley was an intern on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., covering news stories for three newspapers on the two senators and three of the representatives from the state of Wisconsin.

He has contributed several scholarly works on calypso and cultural communication to various publications and international conferences. Lashley has presented papers on calypso in countries such as Italy, France and Brazil and several Caribbean islands.

Lashley has also been involved in community cultural activities. He was one of the early members of the Miami Carnival committee under the leadership of Al Thomas in the 1980s. In 2003 and 2005, Lashley initiated and organized arrangements to bring Freddie Kissoon and the Strolling Players, a dramatic group from Trinidad, to perform in South Florida



Lashley

Dr. Deanne Butchey

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

Dr. Butchey received the "Award for Outstanding Service" in 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 from the College of Business at FIU. Since spring

2008, she has led a service learning project in her online financial markets and institutions class where student groups teach financial literacy skills to high school students, recent immigrants and new-

comers to South Florida and other indigent residents through community centers, high schools, libraries and religious organizations.



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~ A Caribbean Today special feature

Erica Williams Connell

Erica Williams Connell, daughter of the late Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Eric Williams, was educated in T&T, England and Switzerland. She has spearheaded the establishment of the Eric Williams Memorial Collection Research Library, Archives and Museum at the University of the West Indies, T&T campus. The collection includes Eric Williams's personal library of over 7,000 volumes.

Williams Connell is involved in the Eric Williams "Schoolbags" Essay Competition in 178 schools in 17 Caribbean countries, an Oral History Project, the periodic staging of conferences and lectures on Eric Williams, and lectures on her father and the collection. Her writings and speeches have appeared in several

books and she has participated as a professor in the Black Exchange Executive Program at Florida Memorial College in Miami, Florida.

Williams Connell has addressed T&T's Parliament and has shared the podium at the inauguration of the Eric Williams Memorial Collection with former United States Secretary of State Colin Powell, and Peter Harborne, British ambassador to T&T at the launch of a stamp to commemorate her father on the 40th anniversary of T&T's Independence.



Williams Connell

Shama Harrysingh

Shama Harrysingh was born in Trinidad. She resided in Canada for years, but later made Florida her home.

As a philanthropist, Harrysingh gives back to her community by producing two radio programs in South Florida on WAVS and WSHR radio stations.

She is a former member of the Humanitarian Society of Boca Raton, Florida, and currently works as a public

relations officer for Divali Nagar South Florida, Inc.

Harrysingh does volunteers work in South Florida, including the annual "Sunfest" waterfront festival of music and arts. She volunteered at the 44th Super Bowl held in Miami in 2010 and currently volunteers as a literary class teacher in Boca Raton.

Harrysingh, has a bachelor of arts degree in econom-

ics from the University of Winnipeg, Canada and is a realtor and mortgage broker. She is also a certified etiquette coach, image consultant and professional communicator.



Harrysingh

Roget V. Bryan

Roget V. Bryan is founder of the law office of Roget V. Bryan, P.A., based in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. His civil legal practice focuses primarily on municipal/governmental law, sports law, foreclosure defense, corporate business transactions and general civil litigation.



Bryan

earned a bachelor of arts degree in history from Tufts University in Massachusetts, United States, where he also competed in track and field. He earned his juris doctorate in law and master of science degree in international affairs from Florida State University and has written, published and consulted on the Caribbean regionalism and integration, sports tourism and the Caribbean Court of Appeal.

Bryan is also a founding member and current president of the Trinidad and Tobago South Florida Chamber of Commerce.



FASHION CARNIVAL



Maria Elena Jute, left, and Nina Alcantara, right, directors of The ela Design Company showcase the Kallimani costume at the TRIBE 2013 band launch recently at the Queens Park Savannah in Port of Spain. The company unveiled runway-inspired costume designs and carnival "Monday Wear" for TRIBE Carnival band's 2013 presentation. Exotic Indian square patterns form part of the costume design with intricate bra and waistband pieces complemented by necklace and belly chain features..

Fall Shipping

October is the start of the Fall shipping season to the Caribbean. More than 500,000 Floridians identify their primary ancestry as West Indians, that is over a 117% increase from 1990. Florida's Black Household Income for 2000 was a whopping \$12.8 billion, that has continued to increase healthily over the subsequent nine years. C.T. will spotlight the various shipping services available to them via Land, Air and Sea to get their goods safely home in time for the season.

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IMMIGRATION FORUM

Immigration will be the focus of the African-American Research Library and Cultural Center's (AARLCC) fall lecture series this month in South Florida.

The free program, to be held from **1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 8** at AARLCC, will feature the theme "Engaged Voters: Making Sure Your Vote Counts" and is aimed at preparing citizens ahead of the United States elections in November. There will be eight lectures and a discussion led by members of a panel, plus a question and answer session.

The panel of immigration attorneys and Nova Southeastern University professors will break down current immigration laws and explain how subtle changes can have a major impact on society.

Scheduled lecturers include: Sharon A. Brown, founding partner and supervising attorney of Access USA Lawyer; Gary Gershman, an associate professor of legal studies and history, and the

current chair of the legal studies program at the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences at Nova Southeastern University; immigration attorney E. Gordon Rogers; Timothy W. Dixon, associate professor of history and legal studies in the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences at Nova Southeastern University.

AARLCC is located at 2650 Sistrunk Blvd. in Fort Lauderdale. For more information, call **954-357-2810**.

LEADERSHIP FORUM

A free two-day program to train South Florida residents for citizen leadership and community engagement will be held this month.

The Miami Community Leadership Forum is slated for **10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 8** and **1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 9** at the Joseph Caleb Center, Neighborhood Housing Services of South Florida (NHSSF), 5400 N.W. 22nd Ave. in Miami.

The event is sponsored by

PREVENTION EDUCATION



United States-based Baptist Health International (BHI) and the St. Kitts Ministry of Health recently formed a partnership to bring health education awareness on oral cancer to the Caribbean island. The St. Kitts Women's Forum helped promote HPV prevention and early detection. BHI, along with the ministry, presented a health education session titled "Risks of HPV and Oral Cancer" with BHI's Dr. Alberto Sirven, second left. Also present were, from left, BHI representative Kathleen Tuitt, St. Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Dr. Denzil Douglas, mistress of ceremonies Toni Frederick, and BHI's Director of International Marketing Raul Lopez.

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NHSSF is a non-profit that works with the South Florida neighborhoods to help them stabilize and become revitalized.

The forum is expected to feature instructors from the education sector, non-profit organizations and the private sector who will offer guidance to some 150 South Florida residents through a series of activities and workshops, including leadership training, self-exploration and skills assessment and an overview of how to understand community issues and policies.

For more information, call LaTonda James of NHSSF, **305-751-5511, Ext 1141** or e-mail latondaj@nhssf.org.

Program materials, lunch, and refreshments will be provided. Attendees will receive a certificate of completion for attending both days of the forum.

BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE

A "Haiti Back To School Drive" to provide supplies for children in the French-speaking Caribbean country, will be held **Sept. 15** in South Florida.

Participants may drop off supplies at two locations: North Dade Regional Library, 2455 N.W. 183rd St. in Miami Gardens and Coral Reef Branch Library 9211 S.W. 152nd St., Coral Reef.

Collection times are **10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

The event is being organ-

ized by the Dade County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., in collaboration with Delta Care Inc.

SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET

The Caribbean Bar Association will hold its 16th annual scholarship banquet on Sept. 22 at the Hard Rock Café, 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood, Florida.

A cocktail reception begins at 7 p.m. followed by dinner and entertainment. For more information, e-mail CBA President Carol Green at cgreen@delancyhill.com.

PINEAPPLE BALL

Pineapple Ball, the Jamaica Committee Inc.'s gala fundraiser for Jamaican charities, will be held on **Nov. 2** at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Coral Gables, Florida.

This year's ball will celebrate Jamaica on the island's 50th Independence.

It will feature twilight garden (trolley) tours and Jamaican music over the years.

"We will focus on the elements that make Jamaica so special," Adam Shepard, a member of the organizing committee.

The Jamaica Committee, Inc. is not for profit corporation based in the United States.

For more information, e-mail jamaicacommitee

@aol.com, or call **305-829-7706**.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Do you plan to begin receiving Social Security retirement benefits in the United States early in 2013? If so, now is the time to prepare.

Social Securing is recommending contributors apply up to four months before you want your retirement benefits to begin.

Applications can be made from home or office computers. The Social Security website at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Not ready to retire yet? Plan ahead and begin considering options regarding when to retire. Visit Social Security's website to use the retirement planner at www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2.

Also, use the Retirement Estimator for an instant, personalized estimate of future retirement benefits. Find it at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator.

HUMMINGBIRD GALA

The 2012 Hummingbird Gala, presented by the American Friends of Jamaica, Inc. and showcasing the country's history through music over the past 50 years, will be held on **Oct. 25** in New York.

Fab5 Band is scheduled to perform. Dave Barger, chief executive officer of JetBlue Airways, will be honored with the International Achievement Award.



Fast-blooming seaweed slowing coral reef recovery in Caribbean Sea

SYDNEY, Australia – Fast-blooming seaweed is the main reason why the Caribbean's coral reefs take longer to recover from stress than Australia's Great Barrier Reef in Australia and those in the Indo-Pacific region, Australian marine scientists have said.

"Indo-Pacific reefs have less seaweeds than the Caribbean Sea," said George Roff of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies in Australia in the journal *Trends in Ecology and Evolution* (TREE).

A recent study by the ARC, a world-leading research center on coral reefs, includes survey data from the Indo-Pacific and Caribbean reefs from 1965 to 2010.

"Seaweeds and corals are age-old competitors in the battle for space," Roff said. "When seaweed growth rates are lower, such as in the Indo-Pacific region, the reefs recover faster from setbacks."

"This provides coral with a competitive advantage over seaweed, and our study suggests that these reefs would have to be heavily degraded for seaweeds to take over," he added.

"This doesn't mean that we can be complacent. Reefs around the world are still heavily threatened by climate change and human activities," he continued.

DOOM, GLOOM

"Many of the doom and



- Photograph by Science Photo Library.

A diver explores a patch of seaweed.

gloom stories have emanated from the Caribbean, which has deteriorated rapidly in the last 30 years," said Peter Mumby, professor at the University of Queensland, Australia.

"We now appreciate that the Indo-Pacific and Caribbean are far more different than we thought."

Roff said the findings suggest Indo-Pacific reefs will respond better to protection, adding that steps taken to keep them healthy "have a better chance of succeeding."

The researchers also found that seaweeds in Indo-Pacific region bloom four times more slowly than those in the Caribbean.

"We're not sure why this

happens, but a plausible theory is that Caribbean waters are highly enriched in iron," he said.

"For thousands of years, the Caribbean Sea has received dusts that blow across the Atlantic from the Sahara, and the dust contains iron - an essential element for algae to grow," the researcher added.

"This suggests that the difference between the Indo-Pacific and Caribbean oceans and their coral reefs is fundamental, and occurs at a very large scale," Mumby said.

These findings were presented at the 12th International Coral Reef Symposium held recently in Cairns, Australia.

- Edited from CMC.



Economic impact of climate change among focus of St. Kitts seminar

BASSETERRE, St. Kitts, CMC – Issues affecting coastal resources, as well as the impact of climate change, will be among items discussed at the second in a series of climate change seminars for the sub-regional Organization of East Caribbean States (OECS) to be held here this month.

The Sept. 11-13 event will be held under the theme "Climate Change and Our Coast – Exploring possibilities, Finding Solutions" that the organizers said would be explored through presentations by experts.

The delegates will also discuss policy, legal and institutional arrangement in the OECS region and the OECS Secretariat said that it anticipates that the seminar will

generate "rich dialogue on the current and predicted impacts on climate change, especially in light of new research and observations which suggest that climate change and the attendant sea level rise will take place more rapidly than initially anticipated".

It said that the results of the seminar will be used to inform policy direction and advice for the advancement of climate change adaptation in the OECS.

The seminar will be hosted by the new OECS Climate Change Project – Reducing the Risk to Human and Natural Assets Resulting from Climate Change (RRACC) Project, which is funded by USAID.



St. Lucia snake declared world's rarest, endangered

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A small snake that lives only on the Caribbean island of St. Lucia has won the title of world's rarest snake.

"Our Amazing Planet", an earth science and exploration television news network, said that as few as 18 of St. Lucia's racers remain on earth, making it one of the planet's rarest animals overall.

Described as gentle and easy to handle, the remaining snakes live on a half-mile-square island just offshore of St. Lucia, the network reported. It said the mottled brown snakes, once abundant in St. Lucia, were decimated by the arrival of mongooses and fierce reptile hunters in the late 19th century.

It said the small, furry carnivores were brought in from India to control venomous



St. Lucia's racer snake.

snakes on the island, but the network said the mongooses, fearless predators, didn't discriminate. By 1936, it said the St. Lucia racer, a harmless species that grows to just under three feet in length, was declared extinct.

RELIEF

But, in 1973, a single St. Lucia racer was captured on Maria Islands Nature Reserve, a minuscule island off St.

Antigua and Barbuda tops Caribbean countries on 'healthiest' oceans index

PARAMARIBO, Suriname, CMC – Antigua and Barbuda has been ranked the top Caribbean country with the "healthiest" oceans, according to the latest global rankings.

With a global ranking of eight, Antigua and Barbuda had a score of 71, with Suriname placing second in the region and an overall global ranking of 11 and a score of 69.

Scores by the other Caribbean countries were The Bahamas (67), St. Kitts and Nevis (63), Trinidad and Tobago (63), Guyana (56), Barbados (53), Belize (51), St. Lucia (50), Jamaica (48), Grenada (48), St. Vincent and

the Grenadines (48) Haiti (44) and Dominica (43).

The Ocean Health Index said countries were assessed by marine scientists from a range of conservation, academic, and government institutions who developed a scoring system to assess the health of the oceans, with an eye to the benefits that the seas provide to people.

EVALUATION

Researchers evaluated ecological, social, economic, and political factors for every coastal country in the world, and then crunched the data through a computer model to

get a score for each.

The index looks at how well countries score on 10 goals in the waters of their exclusive economic zones, which typically stretch 200 miles offshore. The goals include clean water, food provision, carbon capture, biodiversity, coastal protection, recreational opportunities, artisanal fisheries, support of local economies, and a "sense of place".

For example, there are two ways a country can score poorly on fisheries: either by over fishing or by not fishing them as much as could be sustainably supported.



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- Edited from CMC.



WOMEN IN BUSINESS


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~ A Caribbean Today special feature

JOB ONE: Margaret Spence helps workers, employers cope with risk

DAWN A. DAVIS

So, what exactly does a claims and risk consultant do?

Margaret Spence can tell you. She has been in the business for more than 20 years. Spence, a Jamaican native, has a passion for helping employers manage workers compensation injuries, implementing strategies to reduce worker injuries and bringing dignity to a situation that often pits employee against employer.

In other words, it is about building strong communication and business relationships in the workplace to prevent adverse events.

After years of sharing her workers compensation expertise with companies such as the Palm Beach County School District, Palm Beach County Sheriffs Department, and many Fortune 500 corpora-

tions, among them Tyco International, Spence founded her own company in 1999, Douglas Claims & Risk Consultants, Inc. Based on a principle she has actually trademarked: Safety has to be implemented from the Board Room to the Stock Room

— employers can no longer accept injuries as the inevitable cost of doing business, Spence has developed a reputation as the go-to person when it comes to claims.

PROACTIVE

Alarmed at the growing number of injuries and settlements within the workplace, the claims professional developed a series of seminars that has successfully helped businesses navigate and reduce accidents on the job while increasing productivity. Her approach is proactive, helping management implement policies and procedures to keep



Spence

their employees safe.

“Knowing how to skillfully navigate the workers compensation system is crucial to limiting your company’s exposure to litigation and getting injured employees to return to their pre-injury job,” she said.

Spence is a motivational speaker. She goes beyond

workers compensation, inspiring business and community leaders with topics such as diversity and leadership, entrepreneurship, and maximizing performance. She often uses her own experiences as a Jamaican growing up in the United States yet holding on to her heritage as a foundation. It is this personal appeal balanced with her business savvy that connects with her audiences.

As a presenter Spence is dynamic and charismatic, qualities she honed throughout her career. She believes businesswomen must chart their own path with confidence as they reach for success.

“Unless we see success no one else will,” she said. “We must be comfortable with who we are and our role models have to start with us. When I

look in the mirror my role model is looking back at me.”

ATTENTION

But, it is her core expertise that has earned her attention among industry leaders and laid the foundation for her first major publication. Spence’s approach to managing risk led her to write a book on the subject, titled “From Workers Comp Claimant to Valued Employee”. Subtly trying to effect a paradigm shift, she highlights the roles of workplace participants and the value of each in chapters such as “Changing Your Perception of Light Duty” and “Lost Work Days a Billion Dollar Crisis”. Her advice and strategies are also circulated in industry publications.

Spence was elected to

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 19)

FULL CIRCLE: McDowell raises public awareness

Suzan McDowell is president and chief executive officer of Circle of One Marketing in South Florida, which has handled clients like annual “Jazz in the Gardens” music festival in Miami Gardens.

The company has also worked with The Children’s Trust Miami Heart Gallery, a traveling photographic exhibit of Miami Dade’s foster care children, and Make Healthy Happen Miami/Fe Sante Mache Miami, the Miami version of First Lady Michelle Obama’s “Let’s Move” campaign to end childhood obesity.

Founded in 2001, “The Circle” is among the firms focusing on the African American and Caribbean markets and can offer services



McDowell

including creative design, public relations, social media, community outreach, media-buying and event management.

McDowell was born in Kingston. She holds a bachelor of science in advertising from The University of Texas and worked 19 years in radio

and newspaper prior to founding the Circle of One.

McDowell works with organizations such as Women for Obama, Voices United and MAST Academy.

Circle of One Marketing won the 2011 “Small Business of the Year” award given by the Miami Dade Chamber of Commerce and was named “Business of the Year” by Legacy Magazine/Miami Herald.

The firm was also winner of 2010 “Corporation of the Year Award”, given by the Women’s Chamber of Commerce of Miami-Dade County, and named in the Top 100 Minority Business - 2006 to 2012 - by the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce.



Brown-Burton in line with the law

Jamaica-born Lorna E. Brown-Burton is an attorney who owns/operates the law office of Lorna E. Brown-Burton, P.A.

The practice has focused on worker’s compensation defense, representing employers/self-insureds/carriers for 25 years. Clients include Broward County Government, Broward County School Board and Broward Health in claims brought by the injured worker and consumer bankruptcy law.

Brown-Burton is also an adjunct professor at Broward College and serves on The Florida Bar Board of Governors for the 17th Circuit in Broward County. She is a former 17th Circuit representa-

tive for The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division, former president of the Young Lawyers Section of the Broward County Bar Association, member of the Broward County Bar Association and past chair of the Florida Bar Grievance Committee.

INVOLVED

Brown-Burton is a former president/chair of the Board of Directors of Legal Aid and remains involved. She is a member of the T.J. Reddick Bar Association, the Florida Chapter Affiliate of the National Bar Association and the Caribbean Bar Association.

Brown-Burton is a board member of the Greater Fort

Lauderdale Alliance Broward County, whose focus is economic development. She is second vice chair of the Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida Board, a member of Leadership Broward, where she was honored for her achievements in April 2010, and the Broward Women’s Alliance.

Brown-Burton earned juris doctor degree from Nova University Center for the Study of Law, now known as Nova Southeastern University Shepherd Broad Law Center and undergraduate degree, a bachelor of science in business administration, from the University of Florida.



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LOVE FROM TAMPA: Haitian American woman wows Republican convention



Love is a rising star in the GOP.

TAMPA, Florida - A child of Caribbean Americans was among the speakers at the 2012 Republican National Convention here late last month.

Mia Love, daughter of Haitian immigrants and mayor of Saratoga Springs, Utah, addressed delegates at the convention that selected Mitt Romney the Republican's candidate for president of the United States.

Love was one of the few black speakers at the convention. She chose to blame President Barack Obama for

fracturing America, claiming the president is dividing people and believes Romney and his running mate Paul Ryan will restore the American Dream.

Love, a rising star in the Republican Party, told her own American Dream story about her parents who came to the U.S. from Haiti with \$10 in their pockets in 1973.

"The America I came to know was centered in personal responsibility and filled with the American Dream," said Love. "It's in every child who looks at the seemingly

impossible and says, 'I can do that.' That is the America I know."

ROOTS

Love's race has been the subject of much attention, as she is the first black woman mayor in Utah history. She was born Ludmya "Mia" Bourdeau in Brooklyn, New York in 1975 and was largely raised in the state of Connecticut. After they moved to Connecticut, her parents brought her older siblings from Haiti.

Love graduated from the University of Hartford with a degree in fine arts and went on to work at Sento Corp. and the Ecopass Corporation.

At her college orientation, Love's father told her: "Mia, your mother and I never took a handout. You

will not be a burden to society. You will give back." She has said it is philosophy she underscores and uses it to sum up her conservative views.

In 1998, Love moved to Utah and got to know Jason Love, whom she met when he was a Mormon missionary in Connecticut. Love became a Mormon and married Jason. They have three children.

POLITICS

In 2003, Love won a seat on the Saratoga Springs City Council, becoming the first female Haitian American elected official in Utah County, Utah. She took office in Jan. 2004. After six years on the council she was elected mayor.

Love is currently running in the 4th Congressional District, which was created after the 2010 Census. She

faces competition from six-term Democrat Jim Matheson. She has said that if elected to the U.S. Congress, she would "join the Congressional Black Caucus and try to take that thing apart from the inside out." Love has described the caucus as "...demagoguery."

Love is pro-life and supports domestic energy exploration, local control of education, Second Amendment rights, and state control of public lands. She favors "fiscal discipline, limited government, and personal responsibility" and has said that she asks herself three questions whenever she approaches an issue: "Is it affordable? Is it sustainable? Is it my job?"

- Edited from NewsAmericas.



Bridgette Elliott: Busy filling multiple roles

Bridgette Elliott was born in Kingston, Jamaica. She was featured in Success South Florida Magazine's 2010 "25 Most Prominent & Influential Black Women", Program Success Magazine, the Miami Style Magazine, Bellamondos Magazine, and South Florida Times newspaper.

She has served as a board member for various organizations and was featured in the South Florida Business Journal as being the first African American president for the Bankruptcy Legal Assistants Association, Southern District of Florida.

Elliott owned a retail store in South Florida and is a self-published author.

Her experience in television spans from the areas of advertising/marketing/sales, event coordinator/director through editor/writer. She has been an on-air model, host and has experience producing commercials and live television shows.



Elliott

ing slots for health, beauty, fashion, electronics, books, art and music.

Elliott is the chief executive officer and owner of *Wornbycelebrity.com*, which produces an annual show to benefit charity. She produces pageants and fashion shows which give cancer survivors the opportunity to celebrate life on the runway and red carpet, treating them like celebrities for a day.

She also puts on an event to honor her aunt, who from pancreatic cancer, to bring awareness to the community. Last year's charity was the Lustgarten Foundation. For more information about last year's charity, see About Us page www.wornbycelebrity.com.

This year, Elliott created the *Sponsorist.com* page to benefit the Susan G. Komen for the Cure, a 501(c)(3) organization.



JOB ONE: Margaret Spence helps workers, employers cope with risk

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18)

the Board of Governors for the Greater Miami Society for Human Resource Management. In this role, Spence will continue to advocate for businesses' most valuable capital - human resources - serving as vice president at large for professional development.

An advocate for fair treatment of the injured employee, Spence believes it is important to keep ill, injured or disabled employees on the workforce and reintroducing them to the job when they are able to work. Demonstrating the importance of this principle, she founded "National Return to Work Week", which was included in the United States calendar in 2009. The second week in May underscores the concept that all employees, no matter their condition, are valuable to the success of any

business.

"There are those who question why we need a special program to help injured employees return to work," Spence said in one of her presentations. "The challenge, how do we continue to champion the return to work cause?"

Spence insisted injured employees can return to work successfully. Employers, she said, often weigh economics versus rehiring an injured employee. However, if done right, a return-to-work program can benefit both employer and employee, she added. Her success at instituting workers compensation strategies and procedures offers a shining example.

Dawn A. Davis is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.



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WOMEN IN BUSINESS



~ A Caribbean Today special feature

Jamaican CPA is about more than just numbers

DAWN A. DAVIS

Honored as one of South Florida's 25 Most Prominent & Influential Black Women, accounting and financial services pundit Pamela Watson has charted a successful path through business development and service internationally and within her community.

Watson founded Watson & Company P.A. in 1986 and in 1989 Watson and Company Consulting Services after years of honing her skills in the fields of accounting, forensic accounting, forensic auditing, governmental contract monitoring, royalty auditing, financial auditing, financial consultancy, computer analysis, taxation, and real estate development.

This long list of expertise is what got her noticed by the administration of then United States President Bill Clinton in 1993 when she was called upon to provide financial consultancy in drafting of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and a national Health Care Proposal.

"It was one of the most memorable experiences in my life," Watson said as she recalled meeting and working with the former president.

"We focused on ways to make sure uninsured people get access to insurance and healthcare. So, when I see the healthcare debate now, I am surprised and disappointed."

PARTNERSHIP

Watson has also extended her financial development experience to small businesses and municipalities in service to her local community. As an active partner to the Florida cities of Miami, Miramar, Lauderdale Lakes, Coral Springs, and the Dade County School Board, Watson has been integral in the growth and stability of these entities. Part of that local partnership means showcasing and marketing her



Watson

community to the world. Watson has been a cultural ambassador on visits to Costa Rica, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

"It was about fostering links where we encouraged companies to come to Miami-Dade County to open branches," she said. "When we went to Costa Rica it was to form links with the country's chamber and its counterpart in Miami-Dade."

On a national level, Watson had the opportunity to represent the interests of the U.S. government as part of a delegation to the former Soviet Union.

"What the U.S. does is ask professionals in various fields to go into a prospective country that is to receive aid to investigate the potential and get a sense of the pulse of the country," she explained.

"About 30 of us went in representing education, medical, psychology, business to assess the potential and prepare a report to the (U.S.) State Department."

RECOGNITION

For her mentorship to first-time and growing entrepreneurs, the certified public accountant has received recognition from government, industry, and community colleagues. Among her most cherished is being named to the Workmen's Compensation Committee by the late Florida Governor Lawton Chiles in 1994 for her work and advocacy for the

injured and disenfranchised.

Watson was recently saluted for her work and service to community with a "Jamaica 50 Diaspora Award". She was also acknowledged as one of South Florida's 100 most accomplished Caribbean Americans.

Her Outstanding Achievement Award from the Department of Commerce underscores the accounting expert's accomplishments as a black professional accountant. Her image was used on a Department of Commerce marketing brochure as a symbol of excellence.

With all of her professional work and success, Watson finds the time to give to charity. It keeps her grounded. She has worked with the Jamaica United Relief Association and supports her alma mater through the Excelsior Alumni Association of Florida.

DOING MORE

Watson's championing of organizations like the Lock Towns Community Mental Health Center in the Florida city of Opa Locka has also earned her respect. She also serves as a role model for young women through her work with the Partners for Youth Foundation.

"We are developing some smart young ladies who can take it to the next level," said Watson.

"What I have seen coming out of the Partnership for Youth program has certainly given me some encouragement. These organizations have given me perspective that I am on sound footing."

Watson is seeking to do more.

"I don't think I am a role model," she said. "I just do what I think is right, what is in my heart. I like to touch and feel humanity."

Dawn A. Davis is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.



Helping women work

JASON WALKER

Haitians have long been part of the development of the United States. Nancy Allen has continued this legacy in the realm of women in business.

Allen is president and chief executive officer of the Women's Business Development Council of Florida (WBDC), a not for profit organization whose mission is to assist in the establishment and growth of women in business. According to the WBDC's website, the council, working with other organizations, has "the mission of expanding corporate access to women business enterprises".

Allen has held her current posts with WBDC since 1999. She was the U.S. Small Business Administration's South Florida District 2011 Women in Business Champion of the Year.

She came to the U.S. with her parents from Port-au-Prince, Haiti when she was five, arriving first in New York. She moved to Miami, Florida five years later and, eventually, attended Florida International University (FIU) where, Allen said, she graduated with honors.

"My honors thesis was titled Population and Economic Growth: The Case of Haiti," she explained.

Allen also studied at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, where she obtained a master's degree in international affairs and international economics in 1982.

HISTORY OF HELPING

After graduate school, she returned to Haiti and worked for a consulting firm that had contracts with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Allen said she "worked on a private/public sector project that involved the Association of Haitian Entrepreneurs.

"My husband and I moved to New York in 1986 and I got a job with Catholic Relief Services where I did work primarily with micro enterprises in Latin America. We moved to Miami in 1991 and I first worked with St. Thomas University on a research project about the social, economic and political impact of immigrants in South Florida. Next worked with a nonprofit that worked in South Dade after Hurricane Andrew. I started doing training for the Women's

Business Development Center of Florida in 1996."

At a time when the U.S. is having challenging debates over immigration, She sees her life as a "classic" example of the immigrant story - balancing two cultures.

"I grew up here (in the U.S.), but with very close ties to Haiti," Allen explained. "We would go to Haiti every summer. I moved to Haiti after graduate school to give back. We left when the politics became difficult. I've always been very involved within the Haitian community in South Florida. Have sat on a couple of boards of Haitian organizations and my work with Americans for Immigrant Justice (AI Justice) has kept me involved with the Haitian community."

INSPIRATION

That involvement extended to the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake in Haiti.

"The impact of AI Justice's work with regards to litigation, policy reform and public education was clearly felt after the earthquake in Haiti," said the board member of the nonprofit organization, which promotes legislation that helps immigrants and refugees and aims to protect and promote their human rights through a combination of free direct services, impact litigation, policy reform and public education at local, state, and national levels.

"The resilience of the Haitian people is inspiring. I am hopeful that there will be continued social, political and economic stability in Haiti."

Allen touts the ability of female entrepreneurs.

"Women business owners are successful because we are experienced and qualified," she explained. "We are also flexible and for most of us it's about more than the bottom line - we treat our employees like family and we are committed to our communities."

Her own success, she said, can be traced to "the good fortune of having a great deal of blessings in my life.

"I have a wonderful family, I'm involved in meaningful community activities and I have a challenging and rewarding professional life," said Allen. "I count my blessings every day and strive to do right by them."

More information on Allen and her projects can be found at www.womensbusiness.info.

Jason Walker is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.



Allen

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Caribbean nations resume hunt for 2014 World Cup soccer places

Four Caribbean nations will this month resume their quest for a place in soccer's biggest show when they play in the CONCACAF semi-final round of 2014 World Cup qualifiers (WCQ).

Jamaica is currently in the best position of the Caribbean quartet to move on to the final stages of WCQ after securing four points from two Group A matches. The Reggae Boyz will tackle the United States twice in four days, hosting the Americans in Kingston on Sept. 7, then traveling to Columbus, Ohio for the return leg on Sept. 11.

The U.S. is tied for the group lead with Jamaica on points, but hold the edge over the Boyz on goal difference. Jamaica and the U.S. have each won a game and tied another.

In June, Jamaica beat Guatemala 2-1 at home and drew with Antigua and Barbuda, the other Caribbean team in the group, 0-0 away. However, Jamaica has never beaten the U.S. at the senior level and the Boyz are hoping



File photograph

Jamaica and the U.S. will clash twice over four days this month in World Cup qualifiers.

to break the jinx in the year the nation celebrates 50 years of Independence.

"We are preparing our-

selves to beat the USA team," Jamaica's head coach Theodore Whitmore said following the Boyz' 2-0 win

against El Salvador in a friendly international played in the U.S. last month.

Antigua and Barbuda also lost 3-1 to the U.S. away and has one point. Guatemala drew 1-1 at home with the U.S. to earn a single point as well.

On Sept. 7 Guatemala host Antigua and Barbuda. The two teams meet again in the Caribbean on Sept. 11.

STRUGGLE

Guyana, another Caribbean team in the WCQ, is struggling, without a point after two losses in Group B. In June the Guyanese lost 3-1 in Mexico and then 4-0 to Costa Rica at home. Mexico leads with the group with six points from two wins, followed by Costa Rica on four points. El Salvador has one point from a draw with Costa Rica.

On Sept. 7 Guyana will tackle El Salvador away, before returning home to face the same opponent on Sept. 11 in the last group match. Costa Rica hosts Mexico on

Sept. 7 before playing the return leg in Mexico on Sept. 11.

Cuba, the final Caribbean team in WCQ, has not fared well in Group C, losing both games 1-0 in June, first to Canada at home, then Panama away.

On Sept. 7 Cuba hosts Honduras. Four days later the Cubans travel to Honduras to complete their group fixtures. Panama lead the group with six points after two wins.

Canada is second on four, with Honduras on one. Cuba is still to earn a point. On Sept. 7 Canada hosts Panama, before traveling to the Central American country four days later for the return leg.

The top two teams in each group will advance to the final round of CONCACAF WCQ. The first three in that round will qualify for the World Cup in Brazil. The fourth place team will play a country from another region for a spot in soccer's showcase event held every four years.



Grenada's first Olympic gold medalist gets hero's welcome

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, CMC - Grenada's first Olympic medalist Kirani James was given a hero's welcome when he arrived home for a weekend of celebrations following his historic feat in London last month.

Hundreds of jubilant fans flocked the Maurice Bishop International Airport to welcome James, who demolished a field of seven other competitors on Aug. 6 to win the 400 meters.

James arrived on a chartered flight from Barbados on Aug. 30 and was given a red carpet welcome.

"This gold medal didn't just drop from the sky," said Governor General Sir Carlisle Glean, who also hails from James's west coast fishing town of Gouyave.

"The torch he has lit is a light that we all can see and we all must use ourselves to show others how they can get there.

"As a proud Gouyave man we congratulate Kirani for showing us that out of humbling beginnings great things can happen."

James was greeted by a delegation, which included the governor general, Prime Minister Tillman Thomas, Sports Minister Patrick Simmons and his parents.

PRIDE

"It's good to see the faces of everyone here and the

pride being displayed," said the runner, who turned 20 on Sept. 1.

"It's really humbling seeing everybody here and I am really looking forward to a weekend of celebration and you know I really want it to be a weekend of celebration



James acknowledges the homecoming crowd.

and nothing else."

James arrived to a festive atmosphere on the airport highlighted by steel pan music on the inside, DJ music blasting on the outside and hundreds cheering and waving flags.

"Everything else...I wish everyone could throw it out the window," said the quarter miler nicknamed "Jaguar". "Just do this for me and for the country. Enjoy this weekend and don't worry about anything."

Hundreds burst into loud cheers when James, dressed casually in black jeans, black shirt beneath an official Grenada Olympic Committee (GOC) green blazer, stepped outside. The country's most celebrated athlete waved to the crowded, thanked them

for the support and said he has been inspired to achieve greater things.

MARK

On Sept. 1, James was scheduled to attend a ceremony at a Boulevard in St. George's, named in his honor, and participate in a round-the-island motorcade to climax with a rally at the national stadium.

"This a very proud moment for all of us as Grenadians and a proud



James after winning gold in London.

moment for the Eastern Caribbean too," said Prime Minister Thomas. "You have made an indelible mark in the sporting arena coming from such a small country. You have created enormous possibilities and opportunities for us as a nation and its up to us

now to put the mechanism in place to benefit from what you have done for us."

James Olympic gold medal was also the first for the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean (OECES) sub grouping.



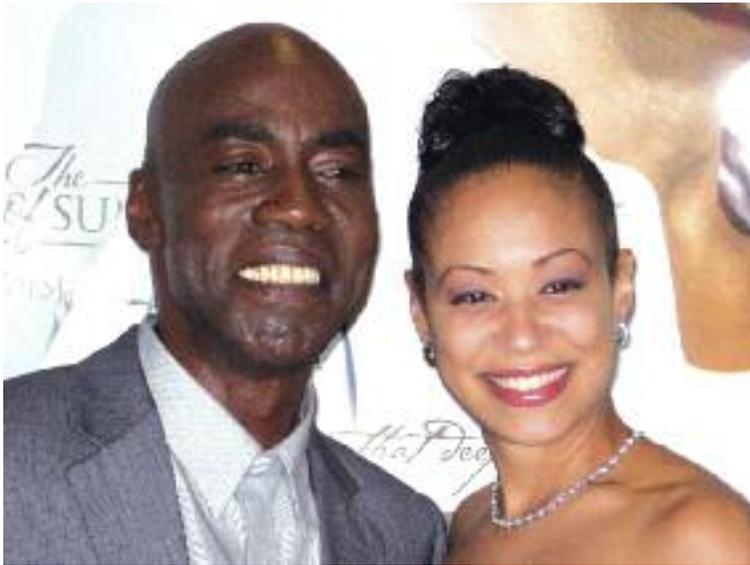
CARIBBEAN ROMANCE: 'Heart of Summer' offers lessons in choices

DAWN A. DAVIS

Well-read moviegoers will appreciate the references to classic Shakespearean characters Romeo and Juliet and the fair maiden Ophelia as they take in the warm and fuzzy, yet heart wrenching story of Omari and Naomi in the recently released film "Heart of Summer".

The story of forbidden love is universal. However, Jamaican-born director Adrian Allen puts a new twist on it in this film, incorporating modern urban life, Caribbean sensibilities and religious issues that build to a compelling crescendo.

Some moviegoers watch independent films expecting to see amateur footage, shaky camera work, and incomplete stories. "Heart of Summer" is not one of those. A striking feature of the film is its clarity and professional finish. The



Campbell, left, and Beckham

filmmaker and his production team created a piece of work worthy to be entered in any major film festival.

"Heart of Summer" premiered at Broward County's Hollywood Central Performing Arts Center as part of the South Florida Film

Festival that showcases the work of up and coming filmmakers, artists and musicians. Written by Tedrick Huff and Mark Bridge, the film was shot in South Florida utilizing the talents of local actors, many yet to be recognized. Internationally renowned Jamaican actor Paul Campbell stepped out of his past rough and tough roles to portray a pious overprotective father. So natural is his portrayal there is not hint of his past bad boy

image.

The love struck couple, played by Tesh Beckham (Naomi) and Lex Kelly-Meade (Omari), exude the innocence of young love battling to break through the disapproval of a stern single parent.

TRUTH

Viewers have no clue why Campbell's character is single, but through flashbacks discover the truth, which evokes Ophelia's image and hints at an event that will change the lives of all the characters in the film.

The second generation Caribbean American couple come of age and find a comfortable place within the complex family structure and values that characterize many dual culture families.

Audiences will easily relate to their push-pull dilemma as the star-crossed lovers try to balance the need to respect parental authority and discipline with the desire to fulfill the passion rising within.

Interestingly, the multicultural nature of the Caribbean is carried throughout the film in several ways - the choice of

music, artwork displayed in the households, rhythmic American and Jamaican cadence, and the mix of races representing one family. These elements tend to unify, bringing cohesiveness to varying themes in the film.

But all can't be straight lines. Something has to give. The lessons are evident - there are ripple effects in everything we do. Choices are made and there are consequences. The film delivers what could be a harsh lesson for some, but puts into perspective the reality that we call life. So be prepared to shed a few tears.

The challenge now is wider distribution. Too often independent, low-budget films fade away before they reach larger audiences because of lack of resources and funding. It would be a shame if this one does not make it, for it has so much to tell in a language we can all identify with - love, innocence, family and broken hearts which can be mended.

Dawn A. Davis is a freelance writer for Caribbean Today.



Caribe Arts Fest in Fort Lauderdale

South Florida will host a weekend celebration of creative expressions by Caribbean artists this month.

The free Caribe Arts Fest will be staged Sept. 28-30 at Huizenga Park, River Walk, Fort Lauderdale.

"Caribe Arts Fest aims to be a special upscale affair showcasing some of the hidden treasures of the Caribbean," said David Muir, chief executive officer for American Arts Initiative, in a press release announcing the event.

The vibrant energy of Caribbean culture will be on

display through arts, food and music. Among the highlights will be a showcase of fine art, sculptures, jewelry, films, fashion and a headline concert featuring South Florida reggae band Jahfe.

For independent film buffs, Caribe Arts Fest has partnered with Frank Cinemas to screen films made by local and international filmmakers.

For more information, visit www.caribeartsfest.com or www.facebook.com/caribeartsfest.



Documentary 'Built To Last' reveals Caribbean spirit

A documentary highlighting the spirit of Caribbean people was shown in London, England last month as the region's athletes geared up for the Olympic Games.

"Built To Last", produced by the Barbadian production company Studio Caribe, highlights the stories of Caribbean men and women competing in a range of Olympic, Paralympic and non-Olympic sports and the odds they faced.

The documentary was screened ahead of the highly anticipated sprint events in track and field at the Olympics. It was commissioned by the Caribbean Export Development Agency as part of the London Engage Initiative to help take Caribbean excellence to the world.

British Barbadian director Sanna Allsopp reportedly takes a regional approach to the documentary, sharing perspectives from across the Spanish-, French- and



English-speaking Caribbean. Film clips feature talent from Cuba and the Dominican Republic to Haiti, Guyana, Barbados, Jamaica, Grenada, and Trinidad and Tobago.

PROGRESS

"Built To Last" recounts the story of how Caribbean athletes have progressed to become household names in athletics, boxing, football, martial arts, swimming and cycling.

"What is it about this region that produces so many incredible sportsmen and women?" Allsopp asked in a recent press release.

The documentary takes viewers on a journey across eight Caribbean countries. It features interviews with musician Wyclef Jean, Professor George Lamming, and athletes Asafa Powell, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, Yohan Blake and Jehue Gordon, and Pamela Coke-Hamilton of the Caribbean Export Development Agency.

"For me, the shoot was a life-changing experience," said Allsopp. "We traveled to eight countries in a month, and we met the most incredible people. The Caribbean will to succeed despite the odds was very much evident."

The film is scheduled to begin screening around the Caribbean this month.



Calypsonian Mighty Power dies

Mighty Power, who contested Trinidad and Tobago's first ever Independence Calypso competition in 1962, died last month, days before the 78-year-old would have been honored at T&T's 50th anniversary celebrations.

Mighty Power, real name Sonny Francois, died on Aug. 9 after being diagnosed with cancer. The only other two surviving members of the 12

finalists in the 1962 competition are Grenadian-born Slinger Francisco, better known as the Mighty Sparrow, and Bomber, real name Theophilus Woods.

Power's most popular song was "Tun Tun", which was the runner-up for the National Road March title in 1981.

- Edited from CMC.



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FOOD FARE: Escape to Jamaica for delicious festivals

Jamaica will host several high profile food festivals, showcasing the Caribbean island's taste and culinary skills, in November.

The 13th annual Jamaica Epicurean Escape (JEE), featuring gourmet delicacies, history and entertainment, will kick off with an opening ceremony and charity dinner on Nov. 22.

The three-day international fest will showcase cuisine, celebrity chefs and wines to highlight Jamaica's culinary culture in its 50th year of Independence. It will be held at the Richmond Estate in Priory, St Ann, near Ocho Rios, and.

The event will also feature sidewalk cafés and cooking demonstrations, competitions, giveaways, and late night parties. The main attraction will be a grand tasting tent.

HERITAGE

"The Jamaica Epicurean Escape celebrates an important aspect of our cultural heritage and establishes the island as a premier culinary destination," said John Lynch, Jamaica's director of tourism, in a recent press release.

"The success of the event will not only serve to strength-



Lynch

en Jamaica's tourism offering, but will also give celebrated local and international chefs a chance to showcase traditional Jamaican dishes as well as fusion and international cuisine."

Also in November, Jamaica will host Restaurant Week, which runs from Nov. 13-20 and offers an opportunity to experience "adventures in tastes for less." Participating restaurants will be in Kingston, Montego Bay and Ocho Rios.

Additionally, the 2012 CB Pan Chicken Championship returns Nov. 18 in Jamaica. Following a series of regional competitions, the first and second place winners from each parish will compete in a cook-off for the championship title. The finals will take place in

downtown Kingston. The winner will receive a trophy and a cash prize of over J\$500,000 for being awarded Jamaica's

most creative jerk chicken chef.

For more information on Restaurant Week, visit

www.visitjamaica.com or www.facebook.com/restaurantweekjamaica.



Caribbean crave for health, nutrition

The combination of taste, health and nutrition with a Caribbean twist is the theme of this month's recipe courtesy of Publix Aprons - a Caribbean broccoli chicken salad.

However, there's also a special treat - a golden fruit bread - for those with a desire for desert.

Caribbean broccoli chicken salad

Ingredients

- 3-4 Deli chicken tenders (.75 lb)
- 1 mango
- Juice of 1 lime
- 1 head Bibb (or iceberg) lettuce
- 3 tablespoons mango chutney
- 2 tablespoons peach preserves
- 3 tablespoons plain low-fat yogurt
- 2 tablespoons light mayonnaise
- 1 (12-oz) bag broccoli slaw
- 1/2 cup golden raisins



Caribbean broccoli chicken salad

- 2 tablespoons sunflower seeds

Method

Cut chicken tenders into thin slices. Peel and slice mango (1 1/2 cups).

Squeeze lime for juice (one tablespoon). Remove lettuce core; separate individual leaves.

Prepare dressing in medium bowl by whisking chutney, preserves, and lime juice until smooth. Stir in yogurt and mayonnaise until blended. Add slaw, chicken, mango, and raisins; toss to coat.

Arrange lettuce leaves on serving plates and top with salad; sprinkle with sunflower seeds. Serve.

Golden fruit bread

Ingredients

- 2 naan or flat breads (regular or whole grain)
- 1/4 cup peach preserves, divided
- 1/4 cup golden raisins, divided
- Cooking spray

Method

Preheat large nonstick sauté pan on medium two to three minutes. Place two tablespoons peach preserves and two tablespoons raisins on one-half of each bread; fold over.

Coat bread with cooking spray and place in pan. Cover and cook two to three minutes each side or until golden.

Let stand three to five minutes to cool. Cut in half and serve.



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