"Hide Away" is the name of this painting done by UWI MPhil candidate, Candice Sobers. Candice is presenting a thesis, "The Aesthetics of the Mundane: Techniques of Resourcefulness and Survival Among Working Class Trinidadians," for this Cultural Studies degree. The practice-based research thesis is being accompanied by paintings, drawings and a handbook, "Threads of Survival: Sixty Resourceful Techniques for Family Life," as part of a series of that would represent the body of her work for the MPhil. Her three-year research has been a fascinating story of the travails and triumphs of six families. Please see Page 18 for more.
Vice-Principal of The UWI, Professor E. Nigel Harris was honoured in Scotland at the 600th anniversary of Academia of the University of St. Andrews on September 13.

He joined 18 honourees lauded by St. Andrews University as “some of the best minds of our generation, leading academics from around the globe,” as the university acknowledged “the outstanding achievements of women and men whose thoughtful scholarship and outstanding integrity has changed both our world, and the way we understand our place in it.”

Vice-Principal Harris was hailed as “not only an outstanding university leader but a man whose very distinguished record in medical research is widely recognized, particularly in the field of technology.” The university noted the Vice-Principal’s work in 1983 in the field of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, as a Welcome Fellow in the Rheumatology Unit at the Royal Post Graduate Medical School at Hammersmith Hospital in London.

Welcome Home, Jehue!

Congratulations are in order again for Jehue Gordon who won another gold medal at the Belgacom Van Damme Memorial IAAF Diamond League meet in Brussels, Belgium, on Friday September 6, clocking a personal best of 47.69 seconds. Just three weeks before, on August 15, Jehue had also taken gold at the IAAF World Championships in the 400m hurdles. Jehue was presented with the Chaconia Gold Medal at this year’s Independence Awards.

It has brought what must have been a hectic season to a close for the time being. As he returns to this St. Augustine campus to enter his final year in the Sport Management Programme, we welcome him back, and trust that with his commitment and discipline, he will find as much success in his pursuits here as on the athletic stage.

Well Deserved, Professor Deosaran

Professor Emeritus Ramesh Deosaran was awarded the Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for distinguished and outstanding service to the nation and his academic work at the Independence Day ceremony. Prof Deosaran, an Independent Senator, served as Director of the Centre for Criminology and Criminal Justice (CCCI) and the Ansa McAl Psychological Research Centre at The UWI, St. Augustine Campus.

“Prof Deosaran was instrumental in developing several successful programmes in psychology and criminology at St. Augustine. What set him apart from many was his willingness to make his views known publicly on matters of crime and its prevention, for example, but this was always rooted in his research. He has given distinguished service to the region and The UWI congratulates him on this national award. Well deserved,” said St Augustine Campus Principal, Prof Clement Sankat.
Whither Our Caribbean Community?

Ambassador Irwin LaRocque, Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) will deliver a Distinguished Open Lecture, discussing the status of the regional integration process and his vision for the future of CARICOM on Thursday October 3 at 5.30pm at the Daaga Auditorium on the St. Augustine Campus.

The lecture is part of a new series at The UWI St. Augustine, focusing on CARICOM: exploring its usefulness to the region and its future on its 40th anniversary celebrations. In his presentation, Ambassador LaRocque will trace the evolution of the integration process (the Federation, CARIFTA, Common Market, West Indian Commission, CSME) and discuss CARICOM today: what we set out to do; what we have done and where we are. He will also delve into his vision for the regional body, which includes active stakeholder involvement in integration, across youth, the private sector, media and civil society.

Ambassador Irwin LaRocque, a national of Dominica, is the seventh Secretary-General of CARICOM. He is the former Assistant Secretary-General for Trade and Economic Integration at the CARICOM Secretariat, a position he assumed in September 2005. Prior to that, he served at senior management levels in the Public Service of Dominica for over 18 years.

He believes that the CSME cannot succeed without the advancement of the social sector, such as human resource development and youth. Ambassador LaRocque has managed diplomatic negotiations with third countries and international development partners. He has much experience in management, public administration, economic development, trade, foreign affairs and diplomacy.

Members of the public are invited to attend at no charge.

For more information, contact the Marketing and Communications Office, UWI St. Augustine at 662-2002 ext. 83726 or email at marketing.communications@sta.uwi.edu

NEW DIRECTORS AT THE UWI CONSULTING COMPANY

Dr Keith Nurse assumed responsibilities as Executive Director of The UWI Consulting Company, effective August 1.

The UWI Consulting Company is the entity through which The UWI provides consulting services regionally and internationally. Dr Nurse will be assisted by Deputy Director Professor Claremont Kirton.

Prior to joining UWI Consulting, Dr Nurse served as a consultant and advisor to several governments and regional organizations, including the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Caribbean Export Development Agency and the Caribbean Tourism Organization. He also served previously at international organizations including the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Organization of American States and the Commonwealth Secretariat. He is the incumbent World Trade Organization Chair at The UWI and former Director of the Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy and Services, UWI, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados.

Professor Claremont Kirton is Professor of Development Economics in the Department of Economics at The UWI's Mona Campus, Jamaica. His academic research and policy oriented analytical work are concentrated on issues related to Caribbean economic development. He has researched and published in the area of banking and finance, dealing with indigenous banking, non-bank financial intermediaries (credit unions, housing finance institutions), financial sector crises and informal finance. Professor Kirton has provided advisory and consulting services to regional and international agencies such as the Inter-American Development Bank, Caribbean Development Bank, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Bank, and the European Union.

A Conversation with Sir Shridath

It is almost paradoxical that in a region renowned for its diversity, the strains of insularity still plague efforts at development. In the past, separate UWI campuses with different faculties, propelled students to move around in order to study their fields of choice. It promoted a larger, more profound sense of what it means to be West Indian among students, and those who have studied and worked outside of their homelands have attested to this broadening of their personal landscapes.

While this is still so, times have changed in that students do not move around as much among our campuses, and technology, even as it has brought everything into the home space, has not encouraged the human contact that physical interaction brings.

The International Office and the Institute of International Relations have been working together to find ways to open the minds and hearts of the student populace and came up with the concept of an International Week, themed, Knowledge Without Borders, that would bring a spectrum of events to the St. Augustine campus presenting elements of learning in a global context.

The IWeek, as it is called, runs from October 7-11, and features foreign films, international food, a student exchange fair, volunteer opportunities, music, and even foreign language speed dating. The week begins with a private ceremony at the JFK Quadrangle at 10am and a lecture by the doyen of West Indian integration, Sir Shridath Ramphal at 7pm. There will be many other fascinating lectures, panel discussions and dialogues as well. Wednesday October 9 has been dubbed International Dress Day, and the St. Augustine campus will be invited to turn out in national costumes of any heritage. Knowing the flair and panache inherent, we are sure to see some magnificent representations of our diverse heritage.

For more information about iWeek, please visit www.sta.uwi.edu/iweek

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UWI has chocolate on the brain these days as the folks at the Cocoa Research Centre (CRC) prepare for their third annual World Cocoa and Chocolate Day (WCCD) celebrations, set to take place on October 1. Introduced to the world by the International Cocoa Organisation (ICCO), the occasion was designed to recognise the efforts of the small farmers worldwide who cultivate the cocoa that becomes chocolate. The CRC, custodians of the International Cocoa Genebank, Trinidad (one of the largest collections of cocoa germplasm in the world), wanted to especially honour farmers from Trinidad and Tobago: men and women who nurture the revered Trinitario cocoa bean, born and bred in our soil and in very high demand from places like France and Switzerland, known for their brands of fine or flavour chocolate.

The CRC also wishes to raise public awareness about the plight of small cocoa farmers who work so hard but struggle to make an adequate living because the cocoa industry in Trinidad is very small-scale. Farmers also deal with issues of “low acreage and low productivity” says Head of the CRC, Professor Pathmanathan Umaharan. Therefore, their profitability “is very low and farmers are migrating out of the cocoa industry.” But, he continues, there are ways to combat this, including better management practices and niche marketing.

The CRC is inviting the public to visit the UWI’s JFK on October 1st, and join in their celebrations, where they will not only spend a day surrounded by the sights and scent of chocolate, but learn about the industry and the world renowned Trinitario cocoa bean. The day will take the form of an exhibition, where visitors can go from booth to booth, sampling pieces of fine or flavour chocolate, chocolate ice cream and Mexican hot chocolate. They can also purchase chocolate bars, bon bons, truffles and drinking chocolates from Trinidad’s famous chocolatiers, including Isabel Brash’s Cocobel and Gina Hardy’s Gina’s Truffles. There will also be other cocoa products on sale, such as cocoa butter soaps, drinks made from the pulp of the cocoa pod, craft items fashioned out of the husks and neutraceuticals (health items) made from cocoa. Visitors will also have the opportunity to meet Trinidad and Tobago’s top innovators in cocoa; learn about cocoa, the industry and the work of the CRC; and sign up for cocoa tasting and cocoa making classes. Other highlights of the day include games and competitions for adults and children, including a cocoa pod balancing race, ‘guess the number of cocoa beans in the jar’ and Jeopardy featuring cocoa based questions. For the chefs and food connoisseurs, there is the ‘Innovations in Chocolate Food and Beverage Challenge’ which invites members of the public who have a real ‘sweet-hand’ to create a dish using chocolate as one of its base ingredients.

The day’s events begin at 10am and end at 6pm, and members of the public are invited to attend at no charge.
Poverty and inequality are phenomenal issues that are at the core of development policies and initiatives. Yet, what defines development and what it means to manage for development have been the subjects of much debate, and increasingly so in the Caribbean.

This region, a melting pot of diversity, hosts a contingent of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) whose economies have been plagued with a number of challenges, mainly as a result of their shared colonial past, peculiar territorial construct, and the fact that their economies are driven by one productive sector.

It is against the backdrop of these challenges that one can locate the Conference on the Economy (COTE), an annual event held by the Department of Economics at The UWI. This conference has sparked the interest of many stakeholders who have a vested interest in the path to sustained development. It has stimulated discussions on current and relevant issues that address the social, economic and environmental problems of communities and by extension, nationalities across the region as well as in the global community. Currently, in its seventh year, the theme of this year’s COTE is ‘Managing for Development in Caribbean Economies: Addressing the Challenge of Poverty and Inequality’.

The theme of this year’s COTE is critical as the issues to be discussed affect the engine of the economy. Figuratively, the economy can be seen as a ‘car’ and development the ‘ultimate destination of the driver’ while the engine is its ‘people’. Inherently, people have always been at the heart of development. Hence, the theme of the conference addresses problems of the ‘engine’ such as poverty, the inaccessibility of an individual to basic amenities of life, and inequality, the uneven distribution of wealth and opportunities. Both problems are direct impediments to sustained development.

From its inception, the role of COTE has been to inform and educate, in the hope of shedding light and arousing attention to germane concerns of economies nationally, regionally and internationally. In addition to meaningful discussions, the conference also seeks to encourage the participation of the next generation of economists and social scientists through a strong youth component that encompasses sixth form students from our secondary schools as well as UWI’s undergraduate and postgraduate students. These activities involve an essay writing competition, two debating competitions and two poster competitions that specifically target these groups.

A key feature of COTE is that of acknowledging and recognising past Heads of the Department of Economics. This year’s conference will honour Dr Ralph Henry, a well-known and outstanding scholar in the field. Dr Henry holds a B.Sc degree in Economics from The University of the West Indies and is a grandaunt at the University of Alberta, Canada where he attained his doctorate in Education Administration in 1972. He has held a number of prominent positions, including that of Senior Lecturer at The University of the West Indies in 1980-1998, Chairman at the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago in 2003-2005 and the Chairman at the Kairi Consultants Limited from 1990 to present among notable others. To date, Dr Henry has published a variety of scientific papers that have contributed significantly to the field of economics specifically in relation to that of social economic theory and application. It is only fitting that The Department of Economics commends his achievements and contributions to the field by choosing to honour him at this year’s conference and allowing his work on poverty and inequality inspire the theme of the conference.

The Conference on the Economy (COTE 2013) will be held from October 10th to October 11th, 2013 at the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) at the St Augustine Campus at The University of the West Indies, Trinidad. The Feature Speaker at the Opening Ceremony of the Conference will be by Former Governor of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Euric Bobb. The Conference will also host informal Arm Chair Discussions on the 18th September and the 10th October to highlight issues in Poverty Reduction, Income Distribution and Intergroup Inequality in the Caribbean.
THERE'S A RESEARCHER IN ALL OF US

JOIN THE DISCOVERY
1-5 OCT, 2013
UWI St Augustine Campus

Join us at the UWI, St. Augustine Campus to learn more about our initiatives at the dynamic, interactive Research Expo, symposium, workshops, fun-park and marketplace. You can view the scientific experiments, enjoy mini-concerts, take part in the gaming zone, enroll in the interactive workshops, relax and watch our film screenings, win special give-aways and lots more.

ALL ARE INVITED

World Chocolate Day
JFK Auditorium,
Tuesday 1st October
(9:30am - 6pm)

UWI Symposium on Research,
Enterprise & Impact
Learning Resource Centre
Wednesday 2nd, October
(1-6pm)

UWI Research Expo
JFK Auditorium and adjacent spaces
3rd Oct. (9am-5pm), 4th Oct.
(9am-5pm) 5th Oct. (9am-5pm)

Mini Workshops
UWI St. Augustine LRC
3rd - 4th October
(10am-4pm)

UWI Market Place & Kids Fun Park
Learning Resource Centre Greens
5th October
(10am-3pm)

To register for the symposium, workshops and guided tours please call (868) 642-2002 ext 84451 or email: uiresearchexpo@sta.uwi.edu
www.sta.uwi/researchexpo

Sponsored by THE NATIONAL GAS COMPANY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO LIMITED
Adventures in Research!

The UWI St Augustine Campus has partnered with the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited to host an historic UWI Research Expo from October 1-5. The multi-faceted event will appeal to a wide range of stakeholders from university researchers, high school students and entrepreneurs to innovative pre-teens.

The diverse offerings of this Expo is a first for the university, as it encourages visitors to explore interactive displays, participate in a symposium on research, enterprise and impact, view UWI film screenings, enjoy mini-concerts, and have a chance to take part in more than 30 mini-workshops available at the Campus. On Saturday, young researchers-in-the-making and their family members can explore the UWI Marketplace and Kids Fun Park.

Speaking at the official launch of the Research Expo at the Office of the Campus Principal on September 5, Professor Clement Sankat, UWI Campus Principal, promised that the Expo would be “informative, engaging, exciting and memorable.”

“This university has a legacy of creating new knowledge and developing impactful research initiatives that have helped to develop our country and region in a wide range of disciplines in the arts and sciences for over fifty years,” he said. “Our students and researchers are passionate about what they do, they have an innate curiosity about the world and they continue to partner with local and international stakeholders to develop their innovations.”

Also at the launch, CEO of the Trinidad Chamber of Industry and Commerce (TTICC), Ms. Catherine Kumar, underscored the importance of public, private and tertiary learning institutions collaborating to support research initiatives.

“The Research Expo is an initiative that the Chamber fully endorses as it will help to put a spotlight on the central role played by research in private sector development and entrepreneurship and in building the competitiveness for our country.”

“It is my hope that this partnership between the UWI St Augustine Campus and the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago would encourage many other corporate entities to support university research, innovation and knowledge transfer. In this way, the private sector would play its part in ensuring that research not only responds to but also anticipates the needs of society and improves the lives of the people in our country,” Ms Kumar added.

Similarly, Vice President of Human and Corporate Relations at the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited, Mrs. Cassandra Patrovani-Sylvester, spoke of the legacy of innovation and entrepreneurship that has made Trinidad and Tobago a leader in the global energy sector.

“It is through this sense of adventure, this opening of the mind and harnessing of Trinidadian and Tobagonian ingenuity, that this relatively tiny country has become one of the largest exporters of ammonia and methanol in the world. Our courage and imagination have won us the respect of players many times our size.”

“It is therefore an open question what will come of projects like UWTs innovation and research initiatives. It’s exciting to think that many of the young minds that will benefit from this project will move on to create, innovate, and maybe even change the face of the country in ways we can’t yet imagine, using technology that hasn’t yet been invented,” she explained during her presentation at the Expo launch.

Next week, the UWI Research Expo kicks-off with a day filled with everything chocolate, at the Cocoa Research Centre’s celebration of World Chocolate Day at The JFK Auditorium on October 1. The next day, the Symposium on Research, Enterprise and Impact will be held at the Learning Resource Centre. It will feature presentations and panel discussions that highlight the key findings of some of the projects that benefitted from dedicated research funding from the government of Trinidad and Tobago, as well as other UWI projects.

These presentations will focus on the various initiatives that have contributed to national and/or regional development by creating enterprise solutions, engaging our communities or facilitating evidence-based policy-making.

The Expo itself opens on Thursday 3 and runs through to Saturday 5 at the JFK Auditorium and Quadrangle. Here, interactive displays including experiments, a gaming zone, zoology museum, as well as a seismic research booth, among many others, will be showcased by the respective Faculties and Units.

A wide range of free mini-workshops will also be held at the Campus, providing unique, hands-on learning opportunities for participants: including steel-pan tutorials, Understanding 4G Networks, Chinese Business Etiquette and Renewable Energy Application workshops, to name just a few. A comprehensive schedule is available on-line.

It’s an opportunity for the entire family to learn about UWI research at the Expo on Saturday 5, while at the same time enjoying products from Units including those of the University Field Station and Cocoa Research Centre at the UWI Market Place. At the Kids Fun Park, they can enjoy mini-concerts, storytelling and carnival character parades, get close to the animals in the petting zoo, and have fun in the gaming zone, fishing pond, bouncy castle and UWI SPEC sports challenge zone. The Expo is open to the public and guided tours are available for schools upon request.

For more information please email: uwiresearchexpo@sta.uwi.edu or visit the website at www.sta.uwi.edu/researchexpo
The University of the West Indies extends deepest thanks to all our major partners who made UWI Life 2013 a success. We hope this was a meaningful introduction to UWI life for the 2,000+ first-year undergraduate, evening, part-time and postgraduate students who attended, and their support networks - parents, guardians and spouses.

- Digicel
- Ginseng Up & Malta
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- Kimberly-Clark (Trinidad) Ltd
- Kiss
- LLB
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- Nestlé
- Optometrists Today
- Pizza Hut/Prestige Holdings Limited
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- Secret & Old Spice

First Year Experience 2013-2014
20 BIG YEARS for IGDS

A vibrant and productive entity on The UWI campus, the Institute for Gender and Development Studies (IGDS), proudly marks its 20th anniversary in the 2013-2014 academic year.

As part of the celebrations, commemorative events are carded to take place across the wider UWI family at the IGDS: the Nita Barrow Unit at Cave Hill, Barbados, and the IGDS: Regional Coordinating Unit and Mona Unit in Jamaica. The flagship event, however, is an International Conference on Gender Transformations in the Caribbean, which will take place from 6-8 November 2013, at The UWI, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago.

The IGDS, St. Augustine Unit will host this three-day regional conference on behalf of all the units.

The purpose of the conference is to bring together the main players who were responsible for its development and expansion, to highlight and promote the interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary discourses in the areas of Caribbean and diasporic research on gender and to continue the succession planning and handing over to new generations of scholars.

The research theme of the conference, “Continuities, Challenges and Transformations in Caribbean Gender Relations,” allows for this blend of joyful reunion and embracing of new partners in the emancipatory project that is Caribbean gender and feminist studies. Over the two days of presentations, scholars drawn from the Caribbean, USA, Canada, UK and elsewhere will deal with topics that range from environmentalism and eco-design in Guadeloupe to blogging and cyberfeminisms to language and performance in Bolivian wrestling. The range of presentations reflects the diversity of gender studies within and outside of the Caribbean and the potential scholarship waiting to be tapped.

The conference opens with an address by Dr Alissa Trotz of the University of Toronto on Wednesday 6 November, at the Learning Resource Centre Auditorium which will be the hub of its activities. The conference comes to a close with bang not a whimper, in an IGDS Fundraising Banquet at the Health Economics Unit Auditorium, Gordon Street, on Friday 8 November. The final event will honour and feature addresses by Professor the Honourable Barbara Bailey and Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, Principal of the Cave Hill Campus.

All events are open to the public and IGDS welcomes the UWI Community to celebrate with us for our 20th Anniversary.

For more information on how you can be a part of our regional legacy please visit the IGDS conference website at http://sta.uwi.edu/igds/20thanniversary/conference/index.asp or email us at igdssau2013@sta.uwi.edu

Blood Brothers

The ninth Sir Frank Worrell Memorial Blood Drive took place on September 6, and this year, former Trinidad and Tobago cricket captain, Daren Ganga was asked to be patron. As he addressed its opening, Ganga praised donors saying that they were “able to look past themselves, giving an actual part of their physical being for the benefit of another person, who they may or may not even know.”

The Sir Frank Worrell Memorial Blood Drive was started in Trinidad and Tobago in 2009 by Nari Contractor, to whom Sir Frank had donated blood after his head injury in 1962. It is held twice annually at the UWI St. Augustine Campus.

In photo, Daren Ganga poses with Campus Principal, Professor Clement Sankat. PHOTO: ANEEL KARIM

Come, Light A Candle

The UWI, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Ministry of Food Production and other stakeholders, will host a candlelight vigil on October 17, from 5.45pm to 6.30pm in front of the Main Administration Building at the St. Augustine Campus.

This vigil is part of the 2013 World Food Day observations with the theme “Sustainable Food Systems for Food and Nutrition Security.”

This simple ceremony is meant to signify the importance of linking the aspirations of the global community with individual commitments to “Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger,” Millennium Development Goal Number One. This year again, as a symbol of global commitment to “Eradication of Extreme Poverty and Hunger,” participants will hold candlelight vigils across all time zones of the planet.

Every year, World Food Day provides a sobering reminder that, in a world of plenty, more than 800 million people go hungry each day. This means that one in 12 people does not get enough food to lead a healthy and active life.

More than a decade after world leaders pledged, at the 1996 World Food Summit, to reduce the number of chronically undernourished people by the year 2015, much still remains to be done.

In Trinidad and Tobago, with sustained economic growth and national prosperity, poverty still affects more than 16% of our population.

Join us and show your commitment to play a part in the effort to reduce poverty, malnutrition and hunger! From our planet.
When news of the Mighty Sparrow’s illness broke, a collective sense of dread that we were on the brink of losing this giant gripped millions around the world. So it is with great relief that at the time of writing, word from his family is that he has taken steps towards recovery, which we hope will be full and fast.

But even as we celebrate his indomitable will and resilience—this is the man who more than once has had to declare that he was still alive in song—we are mindful of his advancing years. It seemed fitting to celebrate his life with him, so that he could be reminded of how enormous has been the space that he has carved in Caribbean memory. More than 25 years ago, The University of the West Indies conferred upon him an honorary Doctor of Letters (1987) and to many he has since been known as Doctor Bird. But sadly, many only know him by his songs, which have been one aspect of this phenomenal man.

All too often, the journeys and achievements of our icons remain sketchy for later generations. All too often available information is inadequate for people to really grasp the true measure of the men and women we choose as standard-bearers.

For more than fifty years, Slinger Francisco, the Mighty Sparrow, was music to our ears, and we wish to pay homage to his presence. Professor Gordon Rohlehr, the most fitting person to fully render such a tribute, has shared this fuller version of what he prepared for the citation when he was presented with the region’s highest honour, the Order of the Caribbean Community in 2001.

Slinger Francisco

Born in Grand Roı Village, Grenada on the 9th of July 1935, the infant, who was nineteen years later to become the Little, then the Mighty Sparrow, was taken to Trinidad by his migrant parents in 1937. His first public appearances as a performer were with St. Patrick’s Roman Catholic Church Choir and at school concerts at the Newtown Boys’ Roman Catholic School. Later he would sing his repertoire of sentimental Nat Cole, Sarah Vaughan or Frankie Lane ballads at parties. An early admirer of the calypso of Kitchener, Melody and Spoiler, he started in 1954 to make a precarious living as an itinerant troubadour making the rounds at nightclubs and restaurants, accompanying himself with his guitar.

In the 1955 Calypso season, he made his first appearance in a tent at the Old Brigade Tent, South Quay, Port of Spain, singing “The High Cost of Living.” Touring Guyana after the 1955 Carnival season, he improved his performance beyond recognition and emerged in 1956 as both Calypso King and Road March champion, singing the famous “Jean and Dinah.” In seven years’ time, he had performed sufficient calypsos to be able to publish several long-playing records and singles, and a songbook entitled “One Hundred and Twenty Calypsos to Remember.” What this meant was that the young Sparrow was recording close to twenty new songs per year.

Since 1956, he has won the Calypso Monarch title seven more times, the latest being in 1992, and the Road March a similar seven more times, the last occasion being in 1984. In addition, he has won the Calypso King of Kings Competition on both of the occasions—1985 and 1988—that he has competed.

Sparrow has, over his 46 years as a performer, received many honours and accolades. Some of the most significant of these have been a Chieftaincy of the City of Lagos, Nigeria (1977); awards or certificates of appreciation from the governments of Nassau (1980), the Virgin Islands (1980), Barbados (1981), Jamaica (1993), Trinidad and Tobago (1969, 1974 and 1993, when he was awarded the second highest honour in the land, the Chaconia Gold Medal for long and meritorious service). Besides these, he has been honoured in various cities: Detroit (1962); New York (1984); Austin (1985) where he was made an Honorary Citizen of the City of Austin; Newark (1986); Winnipeg (1987) whose Mayor proclaimed June 3, 1987, “Sparrow Day; Brooklyn (1990); Tallahassee (1994). The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine in 1987 conferred on him its Honorary Doctor of Letters Degree.

The Order of the Caribbean Community, however, is something special. The criteria that any recipient of this Order must satisfy are strict and difficult. A recipient must, first of all, have contributed to “the political, cultural and social development of the Community and the consequent impact on the life of the peoples of the Caribbean.”

The Mighty Sparrow has, as we have seen, been honoured in various Caribbean countries. He has located his narratives about society and politics in specific Caribbean islands.

Apart from direct social and political commentary, he has made an immense contribution to the social well-being of the Caribbean Community through his function as celebrant, chantwell, warner, prophet, satirist, purveyor of joy, delight and elation; raconteur of the folk tales of our daily grass-rooted life, maintaining and expanding the rich oral tradition of the Caribbean. The output of songs through whose performance Sparrow has achieved all this, has been phenomenal. He is at present in the process of re-recording his life’s work on forty Compact Discs. He easily satisfies the first of our criteria for the Order of the Caribbean Community.

Criterion No. 2 states that the recipient must have contributed to raising the self-esteem of the region. Sparrow’s achievement as a performer, social critic, self-made intellectual and entrepreneur, is living evidence of the example he has set the small people of the region of their own potential. As entrepreneur, for example, Sparrow has not only created and generated the cultural product out of his own and the region’s entails, but has created and accessed the local, regional and international markets within which the cultural product has been disseminated. For many years he owned and managed his own recording company and record shop. And during the 1980s, developed the famous Sparrow’s Hideaway as an entertainment centre.
Sparrow's success has not come easily. It has, as he asserts in his famous calypso, "The Outcast," been won in the face of immense social prejudice, hypocrisy and negativity. According to Sparrow:

"Calypsonians really ketch hell for a long long time To associate yourself with them was a big big crime If your sister talk to a steelband man The family want to break she hand Put she out, lick out every teeth in she mouth. Pass! You outcast!"

In response to these pressures, Sparrow has been rebel, warrior, the aggressive life-force beneath the very foundations of Caribbean society, pushing down walls, transgressing boundaries of race, colour, class and caste, defining freedom.

Sparrow has been an inveterate and eloquent campaigner for the music; for an increased percentage of playtime for local music; for adequate copyright legislation; for the ethic of hard work and professionalism. It was he who in 1967 ("Education a Must") advised Caribbean youth to value and make full use of the widening educational opportunity that had come with Independence. He has set an example in lifted up many of his colleagues and helped establish, in Derek Walcott's words, "the calypsonian as citizen rather than ruin revived for a season." Grass-rooted, connected, in touch; yet fluid, flexible, capable of adapting to whatever each circumstance demands, Sparrow has been an icon of the Caribbean person. "Man Will Survive," he sings, after economic misfortune and political catastrophe. "Age Is Just a Number," he declares, after recovering from illness. Thrice in his career: "Simpson" (1959), "Sparrow Dead" (1969) and the less direct "Man Will Survive" (1992) he has had to sing songs challenging and mocking rumours of his death and illustrating his awesome resilience, a power to constantly reaffirm and reinvent himself.

Criterion Three requires that the recipient of the Order of the Caribbean Community "must have contributed significantly to the forging of a stronger Caribbean identity within the Community and in the Diaspora." We may consider in this respect, Sparrow's focus on Caribbean politics in many of his songs; his memorable calypsos on the West Indian Federation and the deep regret he shared with many other poets and artists when that brave experiment at Caribbean unity came to naught; his playful construction of narratives about recognizable Caribbean types of men and women; his inscription of a powerful personal style of performance that has been imitated by younger singers up and down the region. Sparrow once defined his mission as being always to be doing "something new and better." He has tended to welcome new initiatives in calypso and has recognized the right of each new generation to be different from its predecessor. He has, in short, reinforced the self-confidence of the community of performers to draw on tradition or affirm change, as they might wish.

Contributing to a sense of regional identity at home and abroad required intervention at critical moments in the societies' evolution. Sparrow in 1957 along with the then youthful Lord Superior, led the famous calypsonians' boycott of the Savannah Calypso King Competition. That boycott established for good grass-roots people's understanding and statement of their identity as creators, indispensable to the making and performance of national culture. Similarly, "Kerry Packer" was addressing much more than cricket. That calypso was a blistering satire against the persistence of aristocratic privilege and autocratic control in Caribbean societies nearly two decades after Independence. Twelve years earlier, Sparrow had with "Sir Garfield Sobers" (1966) reaffirmed the age-old connection between great cricket and great kaiso, as he vigorously celebrated hero and tribe: "the greatest cricketer on earth or Mars" and the great team that Sir Garfield Sobers led had led to the first West Indies victory in a Test Series against Australia. Significantly, Sparrow had dubbed Sobers knight long before Her Majesty realized that she would have to perform that ritual.

"Mas in Brooklyn" (1969) recognizes the important fact that exile in the metropole has been a great eraser of the differences that separate West Indians at home. "It don't have no who is who/ Brooklyn equalize you."

Equalized through exile, Caribbean people enter joyously into their true identities: a Sparrow observation with profound implications. There can be no doubt at all that Sparrow has satisfied the third tough criterion for admission into the Order of the Caribbean Community.

The final criterion of the Order of the Caribbean Community involves "the projecting of the excellence of the Caribbean people on the world scene." Sparrow has done this in a number of ways. He has for nearly five decades been regularly criss-crossing the world as a performer in America, Canada, the United Kingdom, Europe, Japan, Africa and the Caribbean. "Leave the Dam Doctor" was a top tune in Nigeria fifteen years after it had been sung in Trinidad; "Mr. Walker" was as well-loved in Tanzania as in the Caribbean. Robert Mitchum sang and recorded a version of "Jean and Dinah" in 1957. In 1981, then United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim honoured Sparrow for his performance of "Wanted, Dead or Alive." Prince Andrew is reported to have bought several copies of "Philip My Dear". The former United States Secretary of State, General Colin Powell, confessed to his love for Sparrow's calypsos, to which he said he constantly listened while contemplating the weighty issues of National Defence. Internationally, Sparrow is better known, thank God, than most of our regional politicians.

There has been an international facet to his work from as early as "Russian Satellite" and "Princes and the Cameraman" to as late as "Isolate South Africa," "Crown Heights Justice" and "Don't Touch Mih President." As we have seen, the people in several of the places that Sparrow has been visiting over the years have showered honours on this son of Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago, the Caribbean, Brooklyn and the World. It is most fitting that the Caribbean Community should do so now.

In honouring the Mighty Sparrow, the Caribbean Community will also be honouring all those who have collaborated with him through the composition of lyrics, the arrangement of melodies and the accompaniment of his performances. Notable among these have been musician Bertram Innis and wordsmith Regionall Piggy Joseph, both deceased, the phenomenal Winsford 'joker' Devine, Calypso's major lyricist for three decades now, and the scores of musicians and supporting singers, too numerous to mention individually, whose contribution has been indispensable to Sparrow's success over these forty-six years. An oral and public art form, Calypso is as much the result of communal endeavour as it is of individual talent.

For his outstanding contribution to the development of the Caribbean Region, the Caribbean Community salutes its distinguished son, Dr Slinger Francisco, the Mighty Sparrow, by conferring on him the Order of the Caribbean Community (OCC).
Among our six honorees this year is Dr Lakshmi Persaud, award-winning novelist (five novels), writer and teacher. Dr Persaud will be conferred with the DLitt and will address graduates of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the ceremony on the morning of October 25. She shared some thoughts with editor, Vaneisa Baksh.

VB: “I feel compelled to write by the things that disturb me,” is one explanation you’ve offered for your drive (five novels in just about a dozen years is quite prolific). Would you say that it is your way of seeking to resolve or understand the nature of the disturbing things? Do you think it has led to writing that might disturb the reader?

LP: The things that trouble me greatly are the grave injustices done to the weak by the confident and powerful, especially when they cleverly present themselves as upright men with panache, and get away with it because the onlookers, the citizens, are short-sighted, lack integrity and courage, so no one dares to ask questions.

Writing about anything compels the writer to find out more about what has happened, why it happened, what factors were responsible for or influenced the situation with which she is engaged. This writing, to my knowledge, has not “disturbed the reader,” as you’ve suggested could happen.

Instead, readers fall into three categories. For example, my novel: “For the Love of my Name” is an allegory of a Caribbean region, the majority of whose citizens chose for partisan reasons, to support an illegal, authoritarian regime which damaged the economy almost irretrievably. A few reviewers marvelled at the courage of the writer and one even suggested that such writing showed that the Caribbean had matured, had come of age. Readers who supported the perpetrators of the regime dismissed the novel by a powerful silence. Thirdly, those who were indifferent saw it entirely as a work of fiction and commented on the author’s style of writing.

VB: The difference in the movement of time between the developed world and developing countries is a significant one, especially in terms of the demands it makes on family life, on mastery of technology, and the way humans communicate. What has it been like for you—as a woman, born in 1939, living for over 30 years in the latter environment before spending another 30 years or so in the former? How does one cope with this pace and its demands?

LP: One copes because one must, for to do less is to retreat and reduce participation in the wider society. The pressure to cope well, surrounded me—my three young children, who were told daily that their mother would put everything right soon.

Your learning curve is almost perpendicular. Within a short time (we arrived in the UK in August and school opened in early September), you have to understand the dual education system—private and state; you have to find out by any means which schools are considered good and which not as good.

You have to learn rapidly where to shop for fresh vegetables and spices, where the shops that offer good value for money can be found. You have to learn how to cook a variety of dishes with only a very few vegetables, as most of the tropical vegetables and fruits were absent from Mill-Hill shops in the ‘70s. Things have since vastly improved, with London’s population now representing a miniature of world culture, so creating the demand for a greater variety, and better quality consumer goods.

Punctuality is the norm for trains, buses, the theatre, for government and private functions. If it so happens that it is announced that the train will be five minutes late, travellers behave as if they were told it would be very late.

The importance of time to Londoners is not only their learning curve—private and state; you have to find out by any means which schools are considered good and which not as good. Your learning curve is almost perpendicular. Within a short time (we arrived in the UK in August and school opened in early September), you have to understand the dual education system—private and state; you have to find out by any means which schools are considered good and which not as good.

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The particulars you’ve mentioned in your question, one can master in a short time, but by far the most difficult in the ‘70s was human relationship. The culture is different, expectations are different. You may at times be embarrassed, by the simplest of things. I heard a pleasant looking West Indian woman, greeting those in the waiting room loud and clear with: “Good morning” when she entered the Mill-Hill Medical Practice. Maybe that was just her manner; she was brought up this way to greet those before her with a simple “good morning.” But here, everyone turned slowly towards the morning sound as a moving spotlight that suddenly stilled, framing her. Their eyes appeared to have projected themselves forward. Why? To use an English expression: “It is just not done.”

However, the most difficult to cope with, is the racism which your young children will face in school and not understand why it exists. My recent novel “Daughters of Empire” [2012] shows how one mother coped with all that was thrown at her.

VB: As a writer, one is often classified and asked to define oneself within certain parameters: as a woman, as a feminist; as a Caribbean woman; as a Caribbean Indian woman, as an immigrant; and so on, how do you feel about these attempts at classification?

LP: At birth, when I was still in a cradle, and later, swung to sleep in a hammock, the first aroma of food, the first taste of solids and the first sounds I heard of the spoken word would have had their origins in India. I accompanied my mother to ceremonies: weddings and pujas and kathas, the plays of the epic Ramayana, performed in an open Savannah. She took me at dawn to the river to bathe—karti, kaly nahan: Shivratree, I described in the novel “Butterfly in the Wind”—I prepared the deyas for Divali, and so from birth, begins the effortless absorbing of the culture of one’s family.

I grew up in a multicultural Trinidad, comprising also of varying shades of African and European culture; later, as I travelled to countries far and wide and studied in the UK, I absorbed a variety of thinking, beliefs, ways of doing things—the culture of the people.
It is understandable that one's perception and attitudes will be formed by one's experiences, so influencing one's writing, hence the reason for the classification. However, writers prefer not to be classified. Toni Morrison would not like to be classified as an African American woman writer. She sees herself as a writer who writes what she wishes to write. When Salman Rushdie, on a BBC TV interview, many years ago said he observed that she does not write about white people, she replied, "Why should I?"

Writers do not like classification; to them it means being put into a closed compartment, a man-made box. They are aware that it is not only gender, place of birth, race, place to which one has emigrated that influence us, which is what the classification you've identified is saying.

I shall refer to the above as Influences A.

There are many other influences which help to form one's attitudes or perceptions of things. For example, travel, family background, education, the time of birth and the age of the writer when writing, one's personality, one's motivation, i.e. why does one write? Is the writer living in a country that is well-to-do or very poor, democratic or authoritarian; what is the attitude to life of those close to the writer? I shall refer to these as Influences B.

We are each unique individuals as our DNA and thumbprints show. This is why classification should be used with care, being aware of its weaknesses will greatly assist the reviewer and reader.

With influences A which is what classification is based on, one may know where the writer is coming from, but we do not know where he is going, because B kicks in.

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's insightful observation helps to explain why one must be alert to the very many factors that influence attitudes: "The meaning of things lies not in themselves, but in our attitudes to them."

So when a writer is classified, he/she needs only to smile and think: C'est La Vie.

**VB:** How far should the separation of church and state go in a society like ours?

**CA:** I am aware that in the USA, this has become an issue from time to time—banning prayers in schools and removing the Lord's Prayer from public places—yet successive Presidents have closed their addresses 'May God Bless America.' Even now, the various State governments give very generous grants to religious bodies for the care of the aged, and other social outreach programmes. These instances demonstrate the difficulty in separating church and state activities, since 'the bottom line' is that both deal significantly with the same people. Lines cross inevitably. As I have earlier indicated, the church, in my view, is mandated to speak and act on behalf of the oppressed in the society, it cannot and must not fall into the condemnation of Karl Marx "that religion is the opiate of the people," closing the eyes of its membership and others to the realities of life; as if the church must deal with "heaven above" and leave "things of the earth" to the state and others. There has to be a balance, and this is informed by an intelligent theology.

**VB:** How does this honorary degree mean to you?

**LP:** This is an honour which I never expected would be conferred on me. It has left me with the feeling that I must now try even harder at all times, irrespective of what my task is, or where I am, to offer my very best graciously. It must be my default position.

I am also intensely aware that I have been greatly helped by my parents and family and by the excellent early education I received at the Tunapuna Government Primary School, and later at St Augustine Girls' High School and St Joseph's Convent in Port of Spain. I have also had the good fortune to have had intelligent, knowledgeable, articulate reviewers with insight and at times with courage, to swim against the tide.

Among our six honorees this year is the Rt Rev Dr Clive Ormiston Abdullah, the first national to be elected Bishop of the Anglican Church. Bishop Abdullah was also the first Bishop to serve on the University Council (1971-1975) and the first West Indian to serve on the Board of Directors of the Anglican Centre in Rome. Bishop Abdullah will be conferred with the LLD and will address graduates of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the afternoon ceremony on October 25. He shared some thoughts with editor, Vaneisa Baksh.

**VB:** You were ordained as the first national to be Bishop in September 1970, those were tumultuous times; the society was restless with revolutionary ideas; how would you compare these times with then?

**CA:** We are too close to the economic disparities that led to the situation in 1970. That said, comparisons are odious, as it is said. The faces of those "who have" have changed, but the "have-nots" are still primarily the Afro-Trinis. The cry today is for jobs, housing, crime reduction and the relevance of education. Then, it was for equality in the sharing of resources. There is an overlap, of course. Today, greed and the lust for power stalk the land. Then, the exodus of Caribbean people came almost exclusively from Jamaica, so that T&T had a strong middle class. Today, the middle class here is shrinking fast. When this happens narcissism sets in.

**VB:** What does this honorary degree mean to you?

**CA:** The decision by The University of the West Indies to award me the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws at the coming Convocation in October has brought a flood of mixed feelings. At first blush, I am thrilled to have been considered worthy of being a recipient of such a high honour. On the other hand, I am left wondering if, at this rather late stage of my life, there is more being demanded of me, and would I be in a position to fulfill the expectations that some may have of me. As I reflect over the years past, this award will stand above all others that I have received. I am so persuaded, since the University is a regional institution and its immediate purview is the Caribbean, making the award, in a real sense, a Caribbean one.
VB: You say you are a boy from the bush; what made the boy transfer to a laboratory; or would you say it was a bush lab?

ET: Being born in the “bush” you live in close harmony with nature so you have an inclination to study biology, but when I went to high school at Naparima College, biology was not taught at that time. I had to go abroad for my tertiary education and biology in general became my prime interest, specializing in the study of parasites. Why parasites? When I was little boy hookworm disease was very common in Trinidad and when I studied parasites I found the lifecycle of hookworms (and subsequently other parasites) to be very fascinating. When I completed my PhD degree I received a fellowship from the Rockefeller Foundation to study arboviruses (viruses transmitted by insects, ticks and mites) at the Trinidad Regional Virus Laboratory. Most of these viruses have wild mammals and birds as hosts so I was back in the bush collecting wild animals and blood-sucking arthropods and taking them back to the laboratory to test for the presence of arboviruses.

VB: What was your role in the first island-wide yellow fever vaccination programme in the late 1970s?

ET: The first island-wide yellow fever vaccination programme actually took place in 1955 as there was an outbreak of yellow fever at that time after an absence of 40 years. Then there was an epizootic (an outbreak amongst animals) in Howler monkeys in the Guayaguayare forest between 1977 and 1978. At the time the newspapers were reporting that the monkeys were being poisoned. I suggested yellow fever to colleagues at the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC) and officials of the Government. When we did further research, my colleagues and I actually found the virus in mosquitoes and the monkeys. That discovery sent the Government officials into an island-wide vaccination programme which was assisted by the Immunization Unit at CAREC. However, I did not actually participate in the vaccination programme.

VB: What would you say has been your most important contribution to humankind?

ET: Research work is like building blocks; you build on the work of other researchers and others will build on your work. It is not easy to say how my research on various subjects will help ‘humankind’ at this juncture, only the future will tell. Having said that I think one of my most important projects was one where I developed a technique to produce large amounts of hyperimmune ascitic fluids which were used to help identify unknown arboviruses. Many arbovirus laboratories in other countries used the technique developed by me and my colleagues.

VB: What does this honorary degree mean to you?

ET: Sometimes a scientific researcher works quietly in his laboratory hoping he will make a contribution to science and not thinking about rewards and awards, so when he is awarded an honorary doctorate at the end of his career, it’s like icing on the cake. Sometimes it is not easy to judge the quality of your own work, nor how it would help other researchers, so that being awarded with an honorary DSc suggests that your life’s work has been recognised. I will always cherish this honour from UWI.
How the Light Enters

UWI student and artist, Kwynn Johnson has been exhibiting her work at Soft Box Art Gallery, before taking it to Jacmel, Haiti in November. The exhibition, titled, "How the Light Enters," is a collection of drawings produced in the town of Jacmel. It forms part of her research for a PhD in Cultural Studies. It runs until October 21.

The City of Light

We are Jacmelians.  
The thing created a void.  
But the artist is in residence!  
Give me back my cement bag.  
give me back my canvas.  
Habitation and transcendence,  
The thing created an absence.  
We are Jacmel  
Our space etched with dawn,  
Our place etched with dusk.  
Sharing fried plantains.  
Sharing Barbancourt.  
Let the speakers echo kompa  
If you must.

Hadriana needs a turkey for the New Year  
Dancing with rubble on her shoulder.  
Balancing a bucket of water on her head.  
Rebuilding with rubble and street dust.  
Holding a Prestige wrapped in a napkin.  
for Depestre  
The mais-moullen is ready, forget the pumpkin.  
Bayard and Ebby are setting up the lights  
The Alliance is on their way.

tell Ambroise it’s time to wake up,  
Or the water truck won’t play My Heart Will Go On  
Dadou is coming from the cemetery  
Djuice is driving like a maniac.  
Because someone cut down the tree.

The city of light is guiding my way  
I need a motor-taxi to take me home  
The water is coming over the bridge  
There is blood under the Cap Rouge.  
The road of friendship is around the corner  
Lissa is baking bread  
Because Herby Marshal cooked the iguana.

Launder your day in the basin bleu  
Stop at Florita for wi-fi and coffee  
Pick up a baguette at Cadet’s boulangerie  
Send me a Vétiver bundle from Paskal  
The power comes back at three.  
Give Danticat a tourist mask  
It will scare off the spirits at last.

Blam! Stop hovering over me,  
You are blocking my light

Kwynn Johnson, 2013.

Translation and re-publication of a classic text

By Armando García de la Torre

Francisco Morales Padrón (Canary Islands, Spain 1923-2010) earned a Doctorate in History in 1952, taught at the University of Seville from 1958 to 1989 and was awarded Spain’s highest scholarly honour, the Royal Medal of King Alphonso X the Wise. His decades-long work in Spanish colonial archives produced several books illuminating the history of the Spanish West Indies. He wrote an unsurpassed history of Spanish Jamaica in 1952 and has complemented it with the book on Spanish Trinidad in 2011.

The book Spanish Trinidad opens with the story of Columbus’s arrival on the island in 1498 and traces its history to the British conquest in 1797. Morales Padrón sheds light on the lives of the first peoples of Trinidad, their contact with the first Europeans on the island, the Spaniards, and later the arrival of African descendants who were instrumental to the economic and social development of Trinidad from the 16th to 18th centuries. Spanish Trinidad also narrates how throughout the 16th century, the Spaniards used the island as a springboard in their quixotic search for the mythical kingdom of El Dorado whilst defending it from Dutch, French, and British pirates who encroached and attempted to seize the island, with quite devastating effects.

Spanish Trinidad provides the reader with a wealth of previously forgotten original sources, letters and documents from Governors and island citizens. The book situates the history of Trinidad from 1498 to 1797 in a truly global context. Historical literature on Trinidad has focused on the British period of colonisation, the 19th century leading to independence and after 1962. Spanish Trinidad offers an opportunity to understand what happened earlier—of how Trinidadians of diverse backgrounds interacted and attempted to create a new Trinidad. It book will be launched in Jamaica on November 13.

Armando García de la Torre (PhD, History, Washington State University, 2006) is Lecturer and Researcher in Spanish and Latin American History at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine campus, Trinidad and Tobago. His work focuses on the Spanish period of the Caribbean in a global context. He edited and translated Spanish Trinidad.
In his 1999 food memoir based on growing up in Barbados, “Pig Tails ’n Breadfruit” Austin Clarke relates what happened when a mule-cart driver transporting bags of flour had a mishap. One of his cart’s wheels hit a big rock on the road and it catapulted him, the mule, the cart and the bags of flour onto the road; one of them split wide open.

“Federation start. People began flowing out of their houses, alleys and lanes like peas spilling across a linoleum floor. The whole neighbourhood swarmed the mule cart with their bowls, plastic cups and cooking tots, and one woman, who could not find any utensil large enough to carry away the flour, resorted to using her ‘po,’ her bedpan, having first washed it out under the warm afternoon water of the public standpipe.

“The men and women knew about germs and mules and the public road and public decency, so they scraped off only the good flour from the top. They swept the black flour into the gutter, and washed the road with water from the public standpipe.

“The mule-cart driver then washed his face and continued on his journey. He understood the villagers. Flour was the staple of their diet, but during those starving war-days there was none, and the people had been ‘cutting and contriving’.”

That art of making ends meet with ingenuity, practicality and varying crimes and misdemeanours is universally practised and this was perhaps one of the major findings of the research done by Candice Sobers in pursuit of her MPhil in Cultural Studies at The UWI.

Sobers, who has a BA in Visual Arts and describes herself as “UWI furniture” chose to do her MPhil in researching the environment and coping mechanisms of families whom she’d become acquainted with through her husband. She started off with ten families, but for one reason or the other (in one case, the main link committed a murder and went to jail) the number decreased to six. In real terms, what she has done for over three years is to virtually embed herself with these six different families from various parts of the island, not just observing them, but partaking in what was to her a radically different way of living and of seeing the world.

The word research usually constructs images of laboratories or libraries; either way, it suggests something structured, solitary and, well... serious. In academic circles, research must meet rigid standards, and sometimes it is tough for researchers to get past the rigidity with which those standards are defined. Academic documents are a fine example of how unrelenting the language alone can be when it comes to making communication obscure.

So when Candice opted to do this research, she titled her thesis rather technically and almost as a mask of the raw nature of her research: The Aesthetics of the Mundane: Techniques of Resourcefulness and Survival Among Working Class Trinidadians.

The practice-based research thesis is being accompanied by paintings, drawings and a handbook, “Threads of Survival: Sixty Resourceful Technique for Family Life,” as part of a series of that would represent the body of her work for the MPhil. She had the handbook printed at her own expense, and planned to sell copies at her art exhibition which ran for a week in mid-September at the Art Society Gallery.

The exhibition too is part of the research.

The paintings and drawings on display were done during the course of her time spent with the people she’d begun calling by the academic term, “informants” but who are now remembered in a much more human way.

She has many stories to tell: some sad, some scary and discouraging, but at the same time, many display the capacity of the human mind to adapt and adjust to all manner of situations. And in the stoic, accepting way they have of coping with all the bottles and big stones life keeps throwing at them, there are remarkable examples of how different people’s realities can be, and how what can be normal for one person, is utter disaster for another.

In the process of this research which she officially started in 2010, having already established contact with the families, she too had to make many adjustments, becoming pregnant and then caring for a newborn while traipsing up and down from Couva, Macoya, Curepe, Santa Cruz and...
in Sangre Grande, down in a valley, a place so beautiful they call it Avatar.

I ask about the composition of the families, and she describes one household. In there are the grandparents and their four children—two girls, two boys—and their partners; one of the girls has what she refers to as a "visiting union" as the father of her one child does not live there. Her siblings altogether have another six children, ages ranging from three to seven. That's 16, sharing two bedrooms, and though all of them hold menial, low-paying jobs, except for the grandmother, things only hold together because of the things they do "by the side."

She was introduced to scams undertaken as routinely as a day's work. She heard about burglary things only hold together because of the things they do "by the side."

“She was introduced to scams undertaken as routinely as a day’s work.”

She was introduced to scams undertaken as routinely as a day's work. She heard about burglary and robbery techniques. Gambling, drinking, and drug use were constant factors, thought at varying degrees from family to family. And she formed friendships that have persisted.

When the grandfather, whom she calls that particular family's “main informant,” died, she realized a lot of her information was lost. He had shown her how to make concoctions like shampoos from Bois Canot and cocoa, and many other home remedies for ailments. She began to collect data for these techniques and recorded them, even as she was learning to incorporate them into her own lifestyle.

Even a treatment for fever.

“But then there is a fever technique that they showed me, with a burning plate, and when you use that, one night, it’s gone, and it’s not even something to take internally. It’s just something from the outside. So I thought these things were just priceless,” she said.

As she tells stories of her encounters and revelations, it is clear that this has been a life-changing experience for her. The art that resulted from her sojourn reflects it. The pieces depicting houses, cluttered kitchens, outdoor bathrooms and even a sexily clad woman making a detour to avoid people seeing where she lived—these pieces distort colours, lines, proportion, juxtapositions—pretty much the way artists do. But hovering at the edge of her words and images, there is something that says that the concept of what is normal, like art, has many different interpretations.
Students join inmates at Women’s Prison Emancipation Day Queen Show

BY WENDELL C. WALLACE

In Criminology and Criminal Justice, there has always been a discourse on deterrence versus rehabilitation as it relates to individuals who come into contact with the criminal justice system. With crime apparently spiralling out of control in Trinidad and Tobago and attempts at deterrence seemingly failing, rehabilitation of offenders seems a viable option.

While many students at the Campus are engaged in prison research at prison facilities in Trinidad and Tobago, few have chosen to return to share the results with the institutions. Part of the Criminology Unit’s focus is on outreach efforts aimed at giving back something tangible to the society while conducting meaningful research.

So we were happy to respond to the invitation of undergraduate Criminology student Nicole Huggins, who is attached to the Trinidad and Tobago Women’s Prison, to attend their Miss Emancipation Queen Show 2013. Arlene Hamblin (MSc student), Crystal Martin (MSc student in International Relations) and I attended, with Ms Martin taking on judging responsibilities. Prizes with a total value of $1,000 were personally donated to the Miss Emancipation Queen 2013 (Miss Gambia) by lecturer Dr. Randy Seepersad, Ms Martin and me on behalf of the Criminology Unit.

It was enlightening. The inmates excelled in the talent segment, evening gowns (every gown, headpiece and even items of clothing on display, were designed and sewn by inmates of the Garment Construction department at the Women’s Prison), and importantly, the intelligence segment where they had to answer several questions ranging from reparation and rehabilitation to the importance of Emancipation Day celebration for all races in Trinidad and Tobago. Three of the most provocative questions were: In recent years, it has been suggested that descendants of slaves should be compensated for the slavery experience. What are your views on compensation for descendants? Why is Emancipation a celebration for everyone and not just for Afro-Trinbagonians? What does the African slavery experience teach us about strength?

Answers to these particular questions above elicited rapturous applause from the audience. The Miss Angola representative answered question one by stating that she was against reparation for descendants of slavery as reparation fosters a continued culture of hopelessness and dependency and that while slavery was immoral we should learn from the experience and move forward. Miss Togo answered question two by stating that Emancipation Day celebration is important for all persons in Trinidad and Tobago as other races in Trinidad and Tobago had suffered from some form of bondage which required emancipation. Ms Kenyà’s response to the third question was to use her personal experience to demonstrate that despite the atrocities which the enslaved African endured, they showed strength, courage and determination and used a variety of means to survive the experience.

After this show we were more convinced that rehabilitation should be at the forefront of national crime reduction strategies. The Programmes Department of the Trinidad and Tobago Prisons Service should be commended for hosting this event.

Wendell C. Wallace is a Doctoral candidate and part-time lecturer in Criminology and Criminal Justice, and budding Criminologist at the UWI St. Augustine Campus.
Twenty years ago, a man stumbled upon some remarkable documents in Cape Town, South Africa. The contents of these documents would signal the beginning of a 14-year, life-altering journey for Professor Charles P. Korr, as he worked to uncover the story behind a strictly FIFA-compliant, eight-club football league formed within the isolated confines of Robben Island prison, most famously known for Nelson Mandela’s 18-year incarceration there. Now, I know what you might be thinking: A complex, well-organised football league in a prison? That's preposterous!

It’s one of the worst things you might expect to hear about a prison, especially one that housed political prisoners during South Africa’s era of apartheid. But then I had the opportunity to sit down with Professor Korr at the Hyatt Regency hotel as he was visiting the coast, Trinidad’s waters carved his initial impression, as his first field-trip was to the beach. Incredibly, the last time Professor's impression of Trinidad thus far. He simply described football as “more than just a game.” The sport became a symbol of hope and freedom to the prisoners, and created a unified front in the struggle against apartheid. Football would never be the same for the prisoners again; they had showed they could beat the authorities. Just imagine, the chairman of the league was PAC, and the secretary ANC. The league’s constitution contained a “no discrimination” clause. One of the most poignant consequences was that the guards were forced to take the prisoners more seriously as people, no longer to be considered of a lesser race. They would eventually even challenge one another, place bets, and ask after the strongest players.

Professor Korr considers his Robben Island research to be “far and away, the best and most important thing [he’s] done, and ever will do as an academic.” He says that the acclaim achieved by the film and book brought an interesting transformation to his and the prisoners’ lives, adding that the book could best be described as demonstrating that “revolutions are made by foot soldiers, not generals.” To put it plainly, my mind was blown. Truthfully, sports had never held much interest for me. In preparation for the interview, I read for the first time about West Indian cricketer Sir Vivian Richards, unequivocally revered as one of the greatest batsman of all time. His determination in the 1970s, regarded as the darkest days of apartheid, led the West Indies cricket team to a 15-year stint of victory. He wanted to send a message that all cricketers were equal, and cricket thus took on much greater significance than a simple series of matches when politics was brought to the pitch. What I read forcefully resonated with me after hearing Professor Korr detail what the Robben Island prisoners achieved through football. I never knew sports could be so impactful.

As the interview wound down, I inquired as to the Professor’s impression of Trinidad thus far. He simply turned his head towards the sea and said, “that.” Living in the land-locked state of Missouri, thousands of miles from the coast, Trinidad’s waters carved his initial impression, as his first field-trip was to the beach. Incredibly, the last time he’d been on the beach was in 1970. He frowned at the timing of his arrival, which coincided with the one week of the year that the Asa Wright Nature Centre closes for maintenance, an unfortunate coincidence which prevented him from exploring Trinidad’s oldest nature centre. I thanked him for his time, and he departed, leaving me quietly to my racing thoughts, and my newfound respect for the game of football.
From Mecca to Graveyard

A cricket lover faces heartbreak at his first visit to his beloved Bourda

By Dr. Rajendra Ramlogan

Bourda, sweet inimitable Bourda, the cricketing Olympus where George Headley took the English apart in 1930 with a century in each innings. Sixty-four years later, the Prince of Port of Spain, Brian Charles Lara strode unto the hallowed ground of Bourda and had his audience singing his praise as he destroyed England with a masterful 167.

Of course, we suffered also at Bourda before Fire descended in Babylon. In 1973, Walker and Hammond crushed our spirits with a 10-wicket victory over a team with five Guyanese (Kanhai, Fredericks, Kallicharran, Lloyd and Gibbs).

Of all our Test-playing adversaries, we saved the best for our former colonial master, England, who suffered the most at our hands at Bourda, losing four times and only winning once. Yes, at Bourda, we trampled their aspirations and made mockery of their historical claim to cricketing supremacy.

Even politics was part of the myth and mystery of Bourda. It was in 1981 at Bourda that we played one for Mandela as we rejected England’s Robin Jackman for his links with apartheid South Africa.

With these thoughts swirling, expectations rose as I strode purposefully down the fresh looking Shiv Chanderpaul Drive, only to turn the corner and be confronted with an image that has remained indelibly imprinted in my mind.

The faded sign of the Rohan Kanhai Stand. Crumbling fences, crushed under the foreboding gaze of the mighty Amazon.

What madness is this?

What has led to the demise of such a proud cricketing venue? Is it the developing world mentality where we quickly forget the past when provided with a new future? Is Bourda a casualty of the rise of Providence Ground? Do we honour a past cricketing icon and a present cricketing demigod in the presence of a decaying and dying cricketing venue?

Bourda was the stage where these giants played their part in the pantheon of West Indian cricket. The symphony of bat and ball rising and reaching a crescendo at this coliseum when the turtle destroyed the hare as Chanders took a mere 69 balls to blast an Australian bowling attack into oblivion. The man without knowledge as to why he is called “Tiger” truly roared on that day and Bourda rocked into oblivion. The man without knowledge as to why he is called “Tiger” truly roared on that day and Bourda rocked into oblivion.

Does our past mean nothing to us? Are we satisfied that we have transformed a mecca of cricket into a graveyard of past glories?

Madness!

It is all that resonates through my mind. This must be madness. I must have been transferred into an alternate world where love for our heritage is fleeting and the reverence for our cricketing ancestors is but lip service. My soul trembled as I gazed on the dying arena felled by human parsimoniousness. How I mourn your slow asphyxiation by human callousness. My celebratory aria composed as I anticipated my first encounter with Bourda was quickly transformed into a eulogy. The only words that resonated within were those of the immortal Shelley.

Yesterday Ozymandias, today Bourda, beware your fate. History and tradition mean nothing as our lands are slowly being strangled by a generation of barbarians who trample our proud memories into the ground. To borrow and transform the cry of David Rudder, Rally! Rally! Rally round Bourda.

“My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings:
Look on my works, ye mighty, and despair!
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare,
The lone and level sands stretch far away.

Dr. Rajendra Ramlogan is Professor of Commercial and Environmental Law in the Department of Management Studies. He has published numerous articles and authored several books including Sustainable Development: Towards a Judicial Interpretation; Judicial Review in the Commonwealth Caribbean; and The Developing World and the Environment: Making the Case for Effective Protection of the Global Environment.

“My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings: Look on my works, ye mighty, and despair! Nothing beside remains. Round the decay Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare, The lone and level sands stretch far away.”

“I must have been transferred into an alternate world where love for our heritage is fleeting and the reverence for our cricketing ancestors is but lip service.”
The focus in this tenth year of the UWI SPEC International Half-Marathon is giving; giving to charitable organisations, and so, the Marketing and Communications Office team came up with a plan to invite 10 people to champion 10 charities and to encourage the public, as well as staff and students to pledge $10 towards one of these people and the money would go towards their chosen charity.

The University’s Registrar, Clement William Iton has agreed not only to champion a charity, but to take part in the half-marathon as well. Editor, Vaneisa Baksh, put these mini marathon questions to him.

1. What is the charity to which you are affiliated?
   My wife’s NGO, Arts Insight, which seeks to empower differently abled persons.

2. What made you decide to participate as one of the Ten in this half-marathon?
   The Director of SPEC called and asked if I would participate and I reluctantly agreed as I have never ventured there.

3. How would you describe your outlook on life?
   I am an eternal optimist. I look for the good in people and situations.

4. What would you say is your daily motto or mantra?
   I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

5. What would you say is the most important aspect of your role as University Registrar?
   Serving all the various stakeholders, especially the students, employees, the Vice-Chancellor and the Chancellor.

6. You’ve brought a refreshing flamboyance to your position, has your approach brought any challenges?
   Refreshing Flamboyance! I am the same Will Iton that I’ve been since I discovered myself. I don’t take things personally and I can laugh at myself. Having said all that, I work hard at getting the desired results.

7. What advice would you give to a student in terms of choosing a career?
   Do something that you really like.

8. How do you keep yourself fit?
   I play tennis as often as Professor Al Wint, i.e. nearly every day. I swim in the sea at least twice per week, I go to the gym at least three times per week, and I walk my dogs several miles on the weekends. I have nine big dogs (Mastiffs).

9. Have you ever run in a marathon or distance event?
   No, but my twin brother [Wain] has and I followed him to the finish line.

10. Would you say you are an athlete or sportsman?
    Yes. I still play competitive tennis. I ran in the inaugural Carifta Games circa 1971. I played schoolboy’s football for St Vincent Boys’ Grammar School and Queens College (Guyana). I almost forgot I was the national table tennis champ for St Vincent for many years and represented St Vincent at Windward Island Championships and Caribbean Championships.
ART EXHIBITION: HOW THE LIGHT ENTERS
September 14–October 21
Soft Box Art Gallery
Port of Spain,

“How the light enters – Visualising absence and continuity in the Jacmelian ruinscape,” is an art exhibition by The UWI’s kwynn Johnson, MA, PhD Cultural Studies candidate, and artist. The exhibition will also run at the Alliance Française, Jacmel, Haiti, from November 15–25, 2013.

For more information contact: Dr Maarit Forde, Lecturer, Coordinator of the Postgraduate Programme in Cultural Studies, Department of Literary, Cultural and Communication Studies at 662-2002 ext. 83567 or email: maarit.forde@sta.uwi.edu.

GENDER TRANSFORMATIONS
November 6–8
Learning Resource Centre Auditorium
UWI, St. Augustine

Under the auspices of the Institute for Gender and Development Studies (IGDS), Regional Coordinating Unit, Mona, the St. Augustine Campus hosts the 20th Anniversary Conference on Gender Transformations in the Caribbean. The aim of the three-day regional conference is to map the legacy of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary discourses in the areas of Caribbean and diasporic research on gender.

For more information contact: IGDS at 662 2002 exts. 83573/83577, or igdssau2013@sta.uwi.edu

COTE 2013
October 10–11
Learning Resource Centre, UWI, St. Augustine

COTE is an annual landmark event of the Department of economics at UWI, at which findings from quality research and other studies are presented to inform stakeholders on economic and social policy. This year’s conference honours previous Head of Department, Dr Ralph Henry, and will examine the theme “Managing for Development in the Caribbean: Addressing the Challenges of Poverty and Inequality”.

For more information, please visit http://sta.uwi.edu/conferences/13/cote/index.asp.

UWI RESEARCH EXPO
October 1–5
JFK Quadrangle & Auditorium,
Learning Resource Centre
UWI, St. Augustine

Research that has made a difference will be showcased at the Research Expo, where interactive displays will feature work in the arts and sciences done by UWI staff and students. A Symposium on ‘Research, Enterprise and Impact’ will also be held at the Learning Resource Centre. There will be mini-workshops, book readings, concerts, special tours, films screenings and a gift shop where UWI products including UWI Press publications, chocolates and plants will be on sale. On Saturday, members of the public are welcome to enjoy The UWI Market Place and Children’s Fun Park.

For more information please contact: Anna Walcott-Hardy at 662-2002 ext. 84451 or email: uwiresearchexpo@sta.uwi.edu

SRC OPEN HOUSE
October 24
Seismic Research Centre
Gordon Street
St. Augustine

In celebration of its 60th anniversary, the Seismic Research Centre has been hosting a monthly Open House on the last Thursday of each month until November 2013. The Open House includes a tour of the facility, insight into monitoring techniques used for earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis, simple hands-on activities, important safety information and 60th anniversary memorabilia. All members of the public are invited to attend. Advance bookings are encouraged for 2pm, 3pm and 4.30 time slots.

For more information, please visit http://www.uwiseismic.com/

UWIAA DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS
November 2

25 special UWI Alumni Awards will be presented on November 2, 2013, to celebrate The University of the West Indies Alumni Association’s 25th anniversary year. All alumni of The UWI (degrees, diplomas, certificates) graduating between the 1960s and the present are eligible, EXCEPT current or retired full-time members of staff, and members of the current executive of the Alumni Association Chapter. Posthumous awards will not be made.

For more information, please contact: UWI Alumni Association, Trinidad & Tobago Chapter trinidad.tobago@alumni.uwi.edu

UWI TODAY WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU

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

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