



SUNDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2020

**Cheyene Chinchoy, a 20-year-old Human Nutrition and Dietetics student** in the Faculty of Food and Agriculture's (FFA) Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, dives for the ball at UWI's Sport and Physical Education Centre (SPEC). Apart from her academic pursuits, Cheyene is also a national junior volleyball player who has represented Trinidad and Tobago at several tournaments. In 2019, she represented UWI St Augustine at the **UWI Games in Mona, Jamaica**, winning the **"Best Libero"** prize (a libero is a player specialising in defensive skills). Cheyene is one of many student athletes at the St Augustine Campus who not only manages the challenge of combining sport with study, but use the character-building aspects of competitive play for her personal development.



PHOTO: ATIBA CUDJOE

## NEWS - 04

### Scholarships from Scotiabank

Canadian multinational strengthens relations



## HEALTH - 05

### Coronavirus and the Caribbean

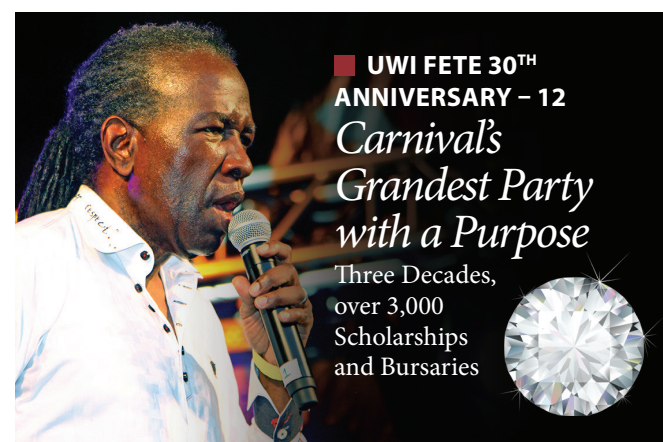
What are the risks for the region?



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**UWI FETE 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY - 12**

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## **WATER MANAGEMENT**

### **ADVICE TO FARMERS, FOOD PROCESSORS & HOME FOOD PRODUCERS.**

The dry season is expected to be severe once again, and water for food and agriculture will become harder to access. Wise management of your water resources will ensure that your supply lasts all season.



### **FARMERS**

- Use micro-irrigation techniques, example drip irrigation, as they provide water directly to the root zone, thereby minimising loss by evaporation and run-off.
- Avoid using overhead sprinklers, hoses with/without pumps, or flood irrigation methods.
- Monitor ponds and other water sources, and manage them so that you can provide sufficient irrigation to your crops over the entire season. Plan your crop intensity and types for the water that is expected to be available to you.
- Do not use water from drains, sewer overflows, etc. Where possible, test water sources prior to use, and use only good quality water.
- Establish a rain water harvesting system for next year's dry season.
- Use mulches to conserve soil moisture. This could be grass mulch or the popular plastic mulch.
- Monitor your soil water content regularly. Pay attention to the meteorological office for forecast bulletins.
- Plan to convert, where practical, all or part of your production system to water recirculating systems, for example, hydroponics as a climate smart system.
- **Livestock farmers:** Carefully limit water use to absolutely needed functions, for example washing of pens, to maintain sanitary conditions.



### **AGRO PROCESSORS**

- Monitor daily water use to ensure it endures throughout all your operational activities for the entire dry season. Check water scheduling advisories and storage tank levels regularly.
- Use minimum amounts to ensure a sanitary production facility and high quality product.
- Establish a rain water harvesting system for use in your activities next season.



### **HOME FOOD PRODUCERS**

- Use buckets and watering cans to irrigate (water) crops. Avoid using hoses.
- Provide adequate nutrition to crops. This will assist survival and production.
- Use mulches to retain water moisture and composts.
- Use drip lines to irrigate crops where appropriate.



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

# Sport and the Whole Student

**Who could possibly forget** that supernatural moment when the people of Trinidad and Tobago descended in a tide of red on the Hasely Crawford Stadium in 1989 for the World Cup qualifier against the USA? Even though we were unsuccessful, the overwhelming energy of togetherness and patriotism was one of our greatest expressions of nationhood. That is the power of sport.

Few activities have the power to energise, inspire and bring us together the way sport does. Sport has the capacity to do so much for society. That's why as a university we continue to invest in sporting activities and programmes. The most powerful example of that investment in recent years is the establishment of our Faculty of Sport in 2017. Based at UWI's Regional Headquarters in Jamaica and operating through Academies of Sport at the Cave Hill, Mona, Open and St Augustine Campuses, the faculty offers undergraduate programmes in sport coaching, kinetics, sciences, and leadership and management, and graduate programmes in sport science, medicine, physiotherapy, business management and even a PhD in sports.

Through the Faculty of Sport we have started to develop a new generation of athletes and sports industry professionals for the Caribbean. Our economies can benefit. Our sportspeople and teams can become more internationally competitive. And we can encourage more of our youth - even those not traditionally inclined to do so - to take part in sports.

This third benefit of sport and physical education in general is particularly crucial right now. Globally, as societies have risen in development and prosperity, and as work and recreation no longer require much movement or exertion, there has also emerged a new understanding of how important motion and physicality is for our welfare. Several studies have shown that there are many health benefits to sport and physical activity in general. People who take part in even moderate exercise on a regular basis have lower mortality rates than those who don't. Research has also shown that a sedentary lifestyle greatly increases the risk of cardiovascular disease. In the extreme there is the issue of physical literacy that I raised in previous issues of UWI Today – education that targets “mastery of mind and body, effectively striving for each individual to optimise the development and use of every facet of their physical bodies”.



*Few activities have the power to energise, inspire and bring us together the way sport does. Sport has the capacity to do so much for society.*

Apart from the long term health benefits, think of the level of sportsmanship we could achieve if we could only effectively do this on a national level and from a very early age.

Sport can improve our mental and emotional health. Conditions such as depression, anxiety, psychological distress and emotional disturbance can all be helped with exercise.

And then there are the character-building effects of participating in sports. The drive to compete, the value of teamwork, and the mental toughness required to win - or accept loss - are crucial in games and in life. Resiliency, a willingness to do the hard work, clear-headedness in times of stress, and a capacity to recognise and (when necessary) confront aggressors are universal assets that are developed on the field of play. A sense of connection and commitment to team, community and country are as important for a good citizen as it is a good sportsperson.

This is the type of graduate we want to help create - one that not only has the education necessary for a successful career, but also the

character and life skills for true prosperity and well-being, as well as the inclination to help others achieve the same.

Last year, through an initiative of Deputy Principal Professor Indar Ramnarine and the UWI Development and Endowment Fund (UWIDEF) we awarded ten sports scholarships to student athletes. In October 2019 we also made sport scholarships the recipients of funds raised at the annual UWI SPEC International Half-Marathon.

UWI SPEC (Sport and Physical Education Centre) is the hub of sporting and fitness activities on campus. On any day of the week, you can see students, staff and visitors engaged in the art of movement. And while there are different levels of performance, from peak athlete to first-time fitness enthusiast, what matters most is that they are here and they are moving.

I recommend that all of us in the campus community and our readers in the wider society follow their example. Start to move. Take a Sunday sweat with some friends in the park. Take a run around your nearby savannah. Wake up in the morning and do some jumping jacks. Nothing too strenuous, and of course be guided by your doctors and health limitations. But if you can, do something. Let us all get on the path of becoming whole.

*Brian Copeland*

**PROFESSOR BRIAN COPELAND**

*Campus Principal*

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## UWI NEWS

**Canadian multinational Scotiabank** will provide 15 new scholarships to UWI students per year for the next five years. This was announced on January 22 by Brendan King, Senior Vice President at Scotiabank International Banking at a ceremony held at the St Augustine Campus. King said the company was continuing on as title sponsor of The UWI Toronto Benefit Gala and increasing its annual support for student scholarships to CAD\$75,000 a year.

“At Scotiabank, we believe in the importance of investing in the youth of our communities to help them reach their infinite potential,” the Scotiabank Snr VP said. “We know that how we support young people today can help them for tomorrow, and that’s why we want to help them thrive. Our sponsorship will now include 15 Scotiabank Scholarships per year, designated to support students in need of financial aid. Through these scholarships, more students will have the opportunity to experience the incredible benefits from higher education.”

Speaking at the event, scholarship awardee Reanna Rajkumar, a second-year economics and management studies student, said, “This scholarship has indeed changed my life and the path that I would have been on today.... If I did not receive this scholarship then I would have had to put my degree on hold for some time. I am truly grateful that this is not the case and I am given the opportunity to continue working towards my goals in life.”

Scholarship winning criminology student Vakeesha John said, “To Mr King and the entire management of Scotiabank, this is a wonderful investment. You have made and continue to make a contribution to our region. These are the things that matter... the good. We will forever be grateful. We will make you, ourselves, our families, our countries, our region and our university proud.”

Danesha Ramdhanie, a third year veterinary medicine student, described to the audience how crucial the scholarship was for her to attend university:

“Due to financial constraints, family problems and the high cost of being a university student, I was very unsure of how I would be able to pursue my dreams of becoming a veterinarian. However, by the grace of God and Scotiabank, I was awarded this scholarship, and it has been nothing short of a blessing.”

Over the past 10 years, Scotiabank has been the lead sponsor for the Toronto gala, UWI’s largest fundraising event in Canada. The gala has raised close to CAD\$2 million and awarded 500 scholarships across the region since its creation in 2009. The 2020 gala will be held on April 4.

# SCOTIABANK TO PROVIDE 15 SCHOLARSHIPS A YEAR TO UWI STUDENTS

BY JOEL HENRY



Brendan King (second right) and Damian Jones (right), General Manager of Scotiabank Trinidad’s Corporate Banking, present tokens to student beneficiaries of The UWI Toronto Gala scholarships.

PHOTOS: KC MEDIA

Mr King visited UWI’s Mona Campus on January 21 (a day before he came to the St Augustine Campus). He met with Chancellor of The UWI, Mr Robert Bermudez, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal at Mona, Professor Dale Webber and St Augustine Campus Principal Professor Brian Copeland, among other senior university executives.

He also toured facilities and interacted with some of the past and current beneficiaries of Scotiabank scholarships on both campuses.

Professor Brian Copeland expressed gratitude to Scotiabank for its increased support, saying that The UWI shares the bank’s commitment to sustainable business and creating a better future for all.





## ■ UWI NEWS

**UWI has the expertise to guide not only the institution but the region**, and to participate in the global search for solutions to diseases like the coronavirus.

This was the message of UWI Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles at a January 30 public forum held by the university.

Titled “Demystifying the Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)”, the two-hour live-streamed forum brought together regional experts to examine issues related to the coronavirus outbreak.

Professor Christine Carrington, Molecular Genetics and Virology Expert at UWI St Augustine gave an information-packed presentation that pointed to “ecological changes” as the major cause of the rise of diseases such as the coronavirus, which “increase the probability of exposure of susceptible individuals/populations to the infectious agent.”

The forum also included presentations by Professor Clive Landis, Zika Task Force Chair and Pro Vice-Chancellor for Undergraduate Studies at The UWI; Dr Sandra Jackson, Department of Microbiology at UWI Mona; Dr Joy St John, Executive Director of the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) and Dr Roshan Parasram, Chief Medical Officer for Trinidad and Tobago. It was chaired by Pro Vice-Chancellor Global Affairs and Professor of Practice at The UWI, Ambassador Dr Richard Bernal.

Another UWI St Augustine expert, Professor of Veterinary Virology Chris Oura, looked specifically at the link between human, animal and environmental health:

“H1N1 (swine flu), Ebola, chikungunya, dengue – they originated from animals and then they jumped from animals to humans,” Professor Oura said.

He indicated a particular risk in societies where people live in close proximity to animals or where there are commonly unhygienic practices when slaughtering wildlife. The result can be the appearance of RNA viruses like the novel coronavirus, as well as influenza viruses. “Because of the nature of how they replicate, they are more likely to mutate... that mutation can enable them to jump species or it can enable them to transform from a virus that is not causing very serious disease to a virus that is causing much more serious disease or... to a virus that becomes able to transfer from human to human very easily.”

The similarity of the novel coronavirus to SARS helps to combat the disease. Like SARS, it seems to be transmitted through close contact. This means the virus could be easier to control than viruses that are transmitted over longer distances through aerosols, as it would present in clusters of people in certain areas. Oura states, “If you can snuff out the virus in those clusters... it will die-out without causing millions of people to be infected.”

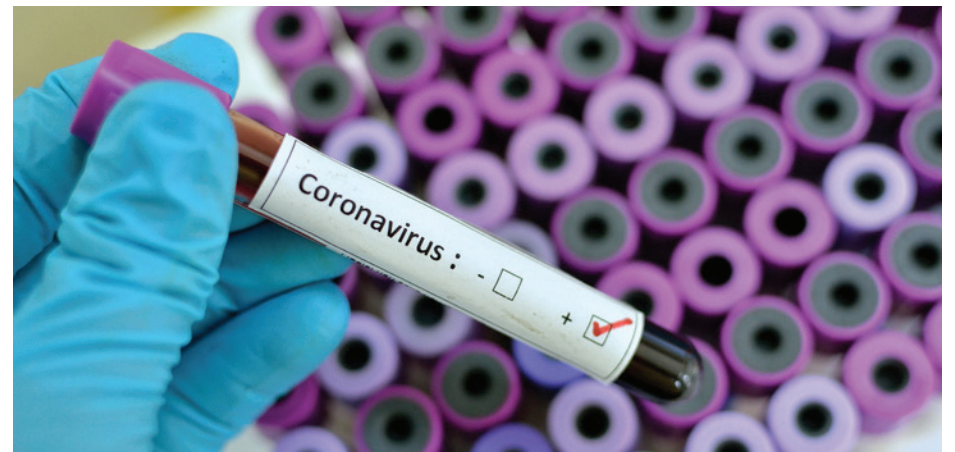
The fact that experts now know the genetic makeup of the virus bodes well for developing a vaccine. “You can then use what we learned with SARS vaccine development,” says Oura. This will however take time as it is critical to ensure that the vaccine is safe.

Meanwhile, vigilance is key. Though the virus is not in Trinidad and Tobago, good hand-washing protocols are essential. Oura observes that people often infect themselves by rubbing their nose, mouth or eyes. He advises consulting a medical doctor if you feel ill and have difficulty breathing, especially if you have an underlying health condition. He notes that presently there is no need for anyone to wear masks in Trinidad and Tobago for fear of the virus. If it does come here, a mask might help, though they do not stop aerosol viruses.

# CORONAVIRUS

## and the link between human and animal health

*UWI brings experts, resources to bear for disease prevention*



In the meantime, UWI continues to do its part in helping disease prevention. The veterinary school investigates and researches pathogens which can affect local animals. Regarding the novel coronavirus, the School of Medicine is setting up real time PCR assays - rapid, sensitive tests to diagnose the virus if necessary.

Even when the novel coronavirus is no longer a threat, Prof. Oura emphasises that stakeholders should endeavour to come out of their silos and collaborate. UWI's One Health, One Caribbean, One Love project is a good starting point. Its main objective is exploring the links between the relevant fields, and this can help stem future epidemics. Speaking for his field of expertise, Prof Oura clarifies the importance of veterinarians. “If we're able to stop these viruses at the animal stage, we will save so many lives and money because the viruses won't make the jump into humans.”

The forum's proceedings are available for viewing on demand on **UWItv's website [www.uwitv.org](http://www.uwitv.org)** and social media channels.



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## ■ CARIBBEAN PLANETARY HEALTH CONFERENCE

# FLOODING, DROUGHT, DISEASE

*Medical Sciences conference shows the clear link between the planet's health and our survival*



Professor Johnathan Patz speaking at the conference.

**Planetary health needs to be on the agenda** of every single human being if we intend to survive as a species.

The startling premonition came from Dr Sandeep Maharaj, Associate Dean of Distance Education, Projects and Planning at UWI's Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS) and Global Outreach Fellow at the Planetary Health Alliance (PHA).

The professor's remarks stemmed from a recent Caribbean Planetary Health Conference facilitated by the University of the West Indies' Entrepreneurship and Business Transformation Office at FMS which he helped to coordinate. Themed "Building Resilient Health Systems for Climate Change in the Caribbean", the conference took place on January 19 at UWI's Learning Resource.

A statement from the Rockefeller Centre Foundation-Lancet Commission on Planetary Health, defines planetary health as the recognition that "human health and the health of our planet are inextricably linked and that our civilization

depends on human health, flourishing natural systems, and the wise stewardship of natural resources. With natural systems being degraded to an extent unprecedented in human history, both our health and that of our planet are in peril."

Human beings utilise approximately half of Earth's livable surface in order to feed ourselves. It is estimated that one to two million hectares of tropical forest are being lost to urbanisation and food production per annum. This has led to increased carbon dioxide emissions, substantial loss to biodiversity and the spread of new infectious diseases.

With the planet's population expected to expand to 10 Billion by 2050 due to public health advancements that have increased individual longevity and reduced infant mortality, Dr Maharaj asserted that everyone needed to wake up to a reality that it cannot be business as usual.

"We create sustainability models for the (public) health care system but if we cannot create a sustainable model generally for mankind it makes no sense having a sustainable health care model," contended the Professor.

Close to home, he cited the devastating impact Hurricane Dorian had on human life in the Bahamas in 2019, declaring that the planet is no longer experiencing "global warming" but "global weirding". He said Trinidad and Tobago is a classic example of this condition as we continue to experience massive amounts of flooding in tandem with water shortages.

"The reality is if you expect to have a better life for future generations to come, planetary health must be focussed on as a priority," said Dr Maharaj.

Regionally, he said Caribbean governments needed to

place immediate emphasis on creating policies that would establish green cities, ban Styrofoam, reduce plastics, create bicycle communities, encourage carpooling, foster more sustainable technology-driven agricultural practices, promote the development of energy efficient architecture, and, particularly in Trinidad and Tobago, kick-start an aggressive reforestation programme.

Professing that all was not lost, Dr Maharaj stated, "Yes, we are hearing a scary story here, but there are many, many solutions available to deal with it. Yes, humans are creating problems for the environment, but the environment can also supply some solutions to these problems".

Speakers at the Caribbean Planetary Health Conference included local and international experts such as Professor Jonathan Patz of the University of Wisconsin-Madison; Professor Samuel Myers of the Harvard University Centre for the Environment and Director of the Planetary Health Alliance; Dr Maida Galvez of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai; and Dr Erica Wheeler and Dr Jonathan Drewry of the Pan American Health Organisation. Speaking on behalf of UWI at the conference were Dean of FMS Professor Terence Seemungal, Professor of Veterinary Virology Christopher Oura, and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Life Sciences Dr Adesh Ramsubhag.

UWI is a participating member of the Planetary Health Alliance, which was launched in 2016 with the support of the Rockefeller Foundation. The Alliance is a consortium of over 200 universities, non-governmental organisations, research institutes and government entities from around the world committed to understanding and addressing global environmental change and its health impacts.

## Conference looks at financing healthcare in challenging times

**How to sustain health financing levels?** What are the policy options and practical tools for Caribbean countries in confronting the health financing implications of fiscal challenges, climate change, population aging, technological advances and non-communicable diseases (NCDs)? Which countries are managing these challenges better than others?

These are some of the critical dilemmas and developments discussed by health policy advisors and managers at the 13<sup>th</sup> Caribbean Conference on National Health Financing Initiatives. The conference was held at The Valley in Anguilla from November 6-8, 2019.

Convened by the Health Economics Unit (HEU), Centre for Health Economics of The University of the West Indies and hosted by the Anguilla Social Security Board, the conference brought together health, social security,

university and business professionals to share knowledge, increase understanding and enhance national expertise and regional collaboration in designing and managing national health financing initiatives.

The conference was officially opened by the Premier of Anguilla, Mr Victor Banks, who emphasised his government's commitment to Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at a time when demands were expanding from all sectors for already constrained resources.

Presentations on the overall theme "Fiscal Space and Sustainability in Health Financing" were given by experts and practitioners from the Pan American Health Organisation; UN Defeat NCDs Partnership; Morneau Shepell Inc; the HEU, Centre for Health Economics; and

other facilitators and frontline managers of national health financing systems in the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean.

The Caribbean Conference on National Health Financing Initiatives emerged from calls for collaborative measures by Caribbean Social Security Organisations at their annual meeting in Belize City in 2005. The HEU, Centre for Health Economics (since 2011) is the coordinator of the conference.

Conference presentations may be accessed from the website <http://conferences.sta.uwi.edu/healthfinancing/>. Other conference queries may be directed to the **HEU, Centre for Health Economics**  
**Office Tel: 1 (868) 662 9459 or 1 (868) 645 7351**





# SPORT

## AT ST AUGUSTINE



PHOTOS: ATIBA CUDJOE



Dr Akshai Mansingh,  
Dean of the Faculty of Sport

**“With the establishment of the faculty, we have seen many benefits for sport,”** says Dr Akshai Mansingh. The faculty he is referring to is The University of the West Indies’ Faculty of Sport. And he should know. Dr Mansingh, a consultant orthopaedic surgeon and sports medicine

physician for elite athletes throughout the region, is the faculty’s dean.

Established on August 2017, the Faculty of Sport is the newest faculty at UWI in over 40 years. Its mandate is to respond to the Caribbean’s sporting needs. Its mission is to “provide high-quality education in sports with emphasis on application via research, and development of sports and athletes of the region to maintain their prominence on the world scene.”

Dean Mansingh says, “The faculty has intentions to utilise data to improve sport in every aspect. The programmes are created to shape future sport scientists and sport managers to serve the region.”

Cricket, football, track and field, and many others – sport is so integrated in Caribbean society that it is part of our identity. Recognising this, UWI’s planners felt there was a need for a space where those involved or interested in sport can come to sharpen their skills and become certified.

While the Dean’s office is based at UWI’s Regional Headquarters in Jamaica, the faculty is on every campus through its Academies of Sport. Each academy has their sections devoted to sporting activities, research and outreach. The Mona Academy also has a Sports and Exercise Medicine Clinic, and the Open Campus Academy of Sport was instrumental in helping the campus host their very first University Inter-Campus Staff Games in Grenada.

Dr Mansingh, himself a UWI graduate as well as lecturer and programme director of the Masters in Sports Medicine medicine degrees at UWI Mona, says the faculty has several responsibilities to regional and local sport. First, it provides programmes of study that run the gamut from sport coaching to sport management to sport medicine. Every student can move from certificate level up to doctorate.

The faculty, through the academies, is also a resource for athletes and teams:

“Each campus has the ability to provide state-of-the-art, high-level sporting facilities to be utilised by national teams and campus teams. The ability to monetise facilities for the benefit of the campuses is an important part of our directive”, says Dr Mansingh.

# SPORT is who we are

Dr Akshai Mansingh, Dean of the Faculty of Sport, talks about The UWI’s newest faculty and the need it was created to fill

BY OMEGA FRANCIS



**The sporting facilities will help each campus improve their teams, and allow these teams to combine and compete at the national level**

The sporting facilities will help each campus improve their teams, and allow these teams to combine and compete at the national level.

The Faculty of Sport also offers sport outreach programmes. These kinds of programmes have been shown to have a positive impact on crime prevention by using sport to encourage behaviours like ethics and fair play, and promote exercise and wellness.

Those who are interested in becoming students can access the numerous scholarships available to them. At Mona, there are about 120 scholarships, and ten scholarships and ten bursaries on the Cave Hill Campus. The faculty also reaches out to national sporting organisations to encourage their members to enrol. An education at the Faculty of Sport can enhance their skills – which will enhance their organisations.

But balancing school work and sports is not easy. Mansingh says the faculty has a “supportive structure” in place so that students can take part in lectures, coursework and exams even during competition time.

“We have decided to be open and facilitate the athletes’ sport and their academic life in a way that neither area is left wanting,” he says.

Mansingh, the former Chief Medical Officer of both the West Indies Cricket Board and the Caribbean Premier League, knows exactly what it takes to succeed in sport and academics. The goal for the Faculty of Sport is not just to help students balance the two, but prepare them for professional life afterwards, whether on the team or in the business of sport. And if they are prepared, then the region will be better prepared. And Caribbean sport can bloom.

*Omega Francis is a writer, editor and blogger based in Trinidad and Tobago.*



# SPORT

## AT ST AUGUSTINE



Professor Emeritus Funso Aiyejina,  
Head of the St Augustine Academy of Sport



Ms Grace Jackson, Director of SPEC

**We all know at least one.** The school mate with a supernatural touch on the ball. The co-worker or friend at the weekend game with professional-level skills. The promising junior athlete forced to make the decision between their passion and a viable career. If the environment had been right, if they'd received the proper training and encouragement. If there was a thriving sport sector, they might have gone on to be great athletes. Trinidad and Tobago might have benefited from their greatness.

It's that human potential, which goes unrealised too often, that the UWI St Augustine Academy of Sport

Sport was created to capture.

"The UWI is determined to push involvement in sport past a discipline purely for the 'naturally talented' and to champion the conscious development of athletes and sport administrators," says Professor Emeritus Funso Aiyejina, Head of the St Augustine Academy of Sport.

Professor Aiyejina is best known as a man of the Arts – writer, poet, playwright, editor, creative writing teacher and even Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education. From his office at The UWI Sport and Physical Education Centre (SPEC), his new role is master of sports.

"The University of the West Indies has sent a clear message to the region that we recognise sport as a fit subject for intellectual enquiry and is convinced that decisions about sport should be made on the basis of reliable data and science driven research," he says. "At a time when universities worldwide are demonstrating the need to diversify their programme offerings, The UWI has begun to champion sport as an area of research growth and as a revenue earner."

The academy is part of UWI's Faculty of Sport, a cross campus faculty with operational entities on each campus. They are the Mona Academy of Sport, Cave Hill Academy of Sport, Open Campus Academy of Sport, and the St Augustine Academy of Sport.

Although the Faculty of Sport is a cross campus faculty, each Academy's focus varies, based on the resources and the demands of their individual campuses. In general, they are tasked with developing and delivering academic and professional programmes, engaging in research, and

# Developing athletes and administrators

## St Augustine Academy of Sport seeks to change the landscape

collaborating with organisations on sport outreach. They are also mandated to develop leaders in sport, athletes and administrators.

The St Augustine Academy of Sport's focus is on academic programmes, sporting activities (such as the UWI SPEC International Half Marathon and the UWI-UNICOM T20 Cricket Tournament), and outreach activities to schools and communities. They work closely with the Director of SPEC, Ms Grace Jackson, an Olympic medal-winner and Jamaican records holder.

Currently, the St Augustine Academy offers a Certificate in the Art and Science of Coaching, a BSc in Sport Coaching, and a BSc in Sport Kinetics. Postgraduate programmes—which are on offer at Mona and Cave Hill—will be available soon.

Professor Aiyejina, who was invited out of retirement to fine-tune the administrative framework of the academy by Campus Principal Professor Brian Copeland, is guided by UWI's "Triple A Strategic Vision":

"This requires us to be aligned to the strategic directions of our enabling communities, to be agile enough to re-calibrate our product to suit changing societal demands, and to move away from the traditional ivory tower image of universities to the phase of a university that is accessible to all segments of our society."

The St Augustine Academy has the additional responsibility to provide spaces where staff, students and others take part in sports and fitness activities for healthier lifestyles. This semester, SPEC is offering swimming, dance, aerobics, aqua aerobics, karate and a host of competitive sports.

Looking forward, Professor Aiyejina sees raising public awareness as the academy's most urgent task. "There is a need to bring to the attention of the public the University's appreciation of sport as a viable and central subject of study, as a tool for enhancing a healthier lifestyle, and as a major driver of social cohesion. The more aware the region becomes, the more students will be drawn to the study of sport and its benefits." – *Omega Francis*

### Academic Programmes at the Faculty of Sport

#### Undergraduate

##### Programme

##### Campus

BSc Sport Coaching .....	Mona/ Open Campus/ St Augustine
BSc Sport Kinetics.....	Mona/ Open Campus/ St Augustine
BSc Sport Sciences .....	Cave Hill
BSc Sport Leadership and Management .....	Open Campus

#### Graduate

##### Programme

##### Campus

MSc Sport Science.....	Cave Hill
MSc Sport Medicine .....	Mona (Online)
MSc Sport and Exercise Medicine - Physiotherapy .....	Mona (Online)
MSc. Sport Business Management.....	Mona
UWI/FIFA/CIES Diploma in Sports Management .....	Mona (Online)
MPhil/PhD Sport.....	Mona
MSc Interdisciplinary Sport Pain Management.....	Mona
MSc Sport (Biomechanics, Coaching, Kinetics,.....	Mona
Strength and Conditioning)	



## STUDENT PROFILE

## Cheyene Chinchoy

**Focused on  
Balance in 2020**

BY NICKOLAI MADRAY



**Currently training for an under-23 women's volleyball tournament** in April 2020 while working on her final year project, student athlete Cheyene Chinchoy told UWI Today about the dedication it takes to balance both her academics and sporting career.

In her final semester pursuing a BSc in Human Nutrition and Dietetics, Chinchoy is no stranger to balancing her sporting lifestyle with her studies. She trains for five to six days a week and schedules her physiotherapy and massage sessions on her off day (she is recovering from an injury).

She noted, "One of the hardest things is to balance the school with the sport. Even though I may procrastinate a lot, I set aside enough time to focus on the project due at that point in time."

On Mondays and Thursdays, she reports to Couva at 6 pm for two-hour training sessions while on Tuesdays and Saturdays she trains at Chaguanas, under coaches Sean Morrison and Panchi Cruz. On Fridays and Sundays, her training shifts to Tacarigua at 6 pm and 7 pm, respectively.

When asked about her secret to attaining this balance, she states, "I try to make sure I am always relaxed and not in too much of a rush, whether it is in training or when it pertains to anything school related. If I feel stressed, I would not get anything done." She adds that, "It is not like I drown myself in school and training.... I also make sure to take time for myself because this is necessary. I managed it pretty well thus far throughout the years, so I just really want to get through this final semester."

During her primary school days, Chinchoy played lawn tennis and trained with the national team. However, at the age 12 she suffered a hamstring injury just before she got the opportunity to officially represent the nation at a tournament. After this, she focused on the sport of volleyball from forms one to three. In forms four and five, Chinchoy switched back to tennis and won a couple of tournaments, both in the doubles and singles categories. She then decided to revert to volleyball in sixth form after she lost the passion for tennis.

In volleyball, she made her debut for the National Volleyball Juniors team during a 2015 tournament in Barbados where Team TTO placed third. Over the years, Chinchoy has been selected for four national teams and has represented UWI St Augustine at the UWI Games, claiming the "Best Libero" award in 2019.

The 20-year-old from St James also took part in the Under-23 Women's Pan American Volleyball Cup Tournament held in Peru during 2018 and accompanied the Trinidad and Tobago Senior Women's contingent in 2018 and 2019 as a developmental player during two tournaments held in Puerto Rico.

One of the main goals Chinchoy has set for herself in 2020 is to make the selection for the national team representing in the Under-23 CAZOVA Championships which will be held in Haiti during April. She also has her eyes set on competing in a few senior tournaments. Off the court, she plans on graduating at the end of the semester and furthering her studies.

## STUDENT PROFILE

## Shemar Britton

**Reigning Under 21  
Caribbean Table-Tennis  
Champion seeks  
Olympic Berth**

**Reigning Under-21 Caribbean Table-Tennis Champion, Shemar Britton**, will be seeking to book his spot at the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo while also balancing his daily life as a student in a foreign country.

The 21-year-old Guyanese athlete decided to further his studies in 2018 by opting to pursue a BSc in Political Sciences at UWI St Augustine. Prior to his residency as a student, Britton frequently visited Trinidad and Tobago for tournaments where he started building a positive relationship with UWI's coach at St Augustine, Verna Edwards.

"This is an Olympic year, so it is a very big year for us. Therefore, the main goal is to secure an Olympic berth for Tokyo 2020. Another goal for this year is to win the Men's Singles event in the Caribbean Seniors Table-Tennis Championship," Britton detailed.

There are three ways to qualify for table tennis at the Olympics. Firstly, there is an automatic qualification for athletes among the top 20 ranking in the world. Secondly, there are team qualifiers where teams placed within the top nine in the world would be granted an Olympic spot. Lastly, every continent has four spots available for securing via a continental qualifier. Placing among the top four would guarantee a spot in Tokyo 2020. For Britton and his compatriots, the Latin American Singles and Mixed Qualification Tournament will serve as this premiere event to be held in Rosario, Argentina from April 15 -19, 2020.

Britton first started playing table tennis 11 years ago and has been representing Guyana for the past seven years in tournaments such as the Commonwealth Games. In Guyana, table tennis is a mandatory sport on the primary school's curriculum, and it was here where he was introduced to the sport at Mae's School in Georgetown. Afterwards, he attended Queen's College where he won many trophies representing the institution.

"Sometimes it is tough balancing school and training because some classes finish at 8 pm and then I have to head to training," he says.

He trains for two hours a day, three days a week. He also dedicates half an hour after each session to meditate. During meditation he focuses on envisioning where he wants to be in his craft, and the steps he should take to achieve these goals.

Britton left a word of advice to student athletes and even students studying in a foreign land by saying, "If you're doing it you have to be fully committed... just stick with it through the tough times and do not half-heart anyone or [your school and sport]."





## STUDENT PROFILE

## Nalini Maharaj

**“Preparation is key for this type of lifestyle. Prepare in advance and do not procrastinate!”**

BY NICKOLAI MADRAY

**Being a student athlete is not an easy task.** From training to school and vice versa, there are a lot of early mornings and late nights. According to Nalini Maharaj, “Preparation is key for this type of lifestyle. Prepare in advance and do not to procrastinate.”

Speaking from her experiences as a student athlete, she says, “Looking back on if I had the option to redo it, I would work on my distractions and the preparations beforehand, so that I can do it even better.”

Maharaj was always involved in sports. She started swimming from the age of four-years-old and represented St. Dominic's Private Primary School, both in the pool and in cricket. However, she started her involvement in lawn tennis at the age of 11 due to her father's passion for the sport. He introduced her to the court and she never looked back. One year later, she was competing in her first official tournament, which proved to be the start of her drive towards the game.

After the under-12 competition, Maharaj moved through the different age groups, competing in the under-14, under-16 and under-19 categories. During this period, she attended Lakshmi Girls Hindu College and won a couple national titles and awards.

The 27-year old athlete from St. Augustine is currently pursuing a double major in Geography and Agri-Business along with a BSc in Tourism Development and Management at UWI. While attending the university, she has represented the campus at various UWI Games, where she was crowned MVP in her discipline multiple times.

Speaking to UWI Today about the impact her training has had on her life, Maharaj says, “I am glad I was able to maintain that balance to juggle both academics and the sporting lifestyle because now I can adjust to various situations along with managing my time to a better extent. I also learned not to panic but to accept the situations at hand and prioritise the tasks to properly execute them to the best of my ability.”

During her younger years, Maharaj focused on the singles format of the game, however, in time she started venturing into the doubles and mixed doubles categories. At UWI, she teamed up with her fellow student athlete Aaron Wolforde and won the Chetwynd Tennis Club Open Mix Doubles Title in 2018. During Easter 2019, the duo was also victorious in the Mixed Doubles event at the St. Augustine Club Open Tennis Tournament.

Since Maharaj is in her final year and recently started working as well, she decided to select various events to compete in this year as she attempts to balance her time between school, lawn tennis and work. The 2020 Tranquility Open Tennis Tournament is the next event in which she is scheduled to display her talent.

*Nickolai Madray is a final year Sports Management student at UWI St. Augustine, a sport enthusiast and freelance journalist.*

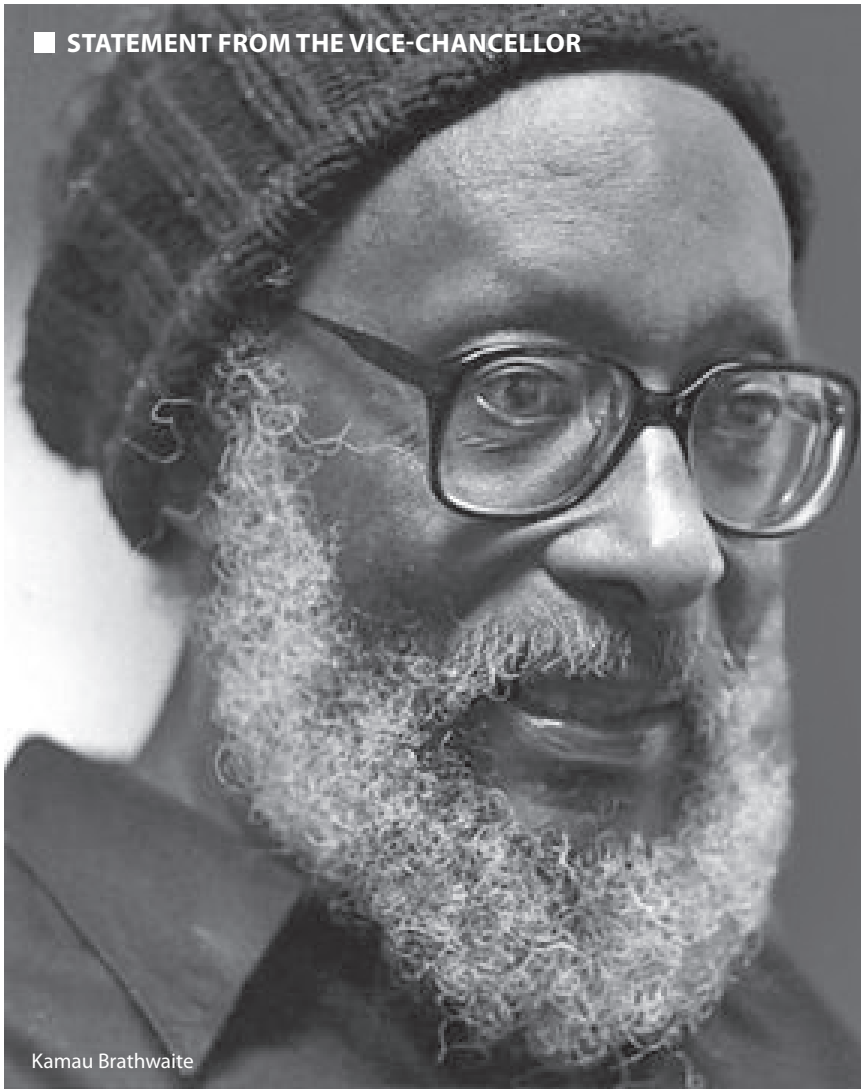
## 2020 UWI-UNICOM International T-20 Cricket Tournament

**High off an amazing performance** on the cricket pitch, an elated PowerGen Penal Sports Club show off their \$40,000 first-place cash prize and multiple trophies at the recently concluded UWI-UNICOM T-20. The two-time tournament champions defeated long-time rivals Queen's Park Cricket Club in this year's 2020 UWI-UNICOM International T-20 Cricket Tournament finals on Sunday 19 January at the Sir Frank Worrell Grounds at the UWI Sport and Physical Education Centre (SPEC), taking home the coveted challenge trophy as well the Player-of-the-Series and Most Runs titles through Ancil Bhagan and Steven Katwaroo respectively. The annual event is just one of several initiatives being undertaken by the UWI's Faculty of Sport to develop higher levels of competence and performance in the field of sport regionally.





■ STATEMENT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



# KAMAU'S ABENG

The UWI mourns the passing of  
Barbadian poet and academic,  
**KAMAU BRATHWAITE.**

*The following statement is issued  
by the Vice-Chancellor of The UWI,  
Professor Sir Hilary Beckles.*

Kamau Brathwaite

We came to know and love Kamau Brathwaite as the keeper of the “abeng”, the African inspired use of the conch shell to spread manifesto messages among mountain maroons and their fellow forest freedom fighters.

The “abeng man” grew a barberless beard, wore a roster of Rasta tams, sliding across our campuses, feet unchained in leathery slippers, and could never speak at a table without this thumb throbbing to the inner sound...the sound...the sound!

Our abeng blower took his task more seriously than many contemporaries were willing to admit. This was not Kamau’s thing; this was our war, our daily battles for justice, rights, and reasonableness.

When we worked together in the Department of History at The UWI Mona, he chose to live in a village on the edge of the Blue Mountains in eavesdropping reach of the maroons that still hold in sacred trust, life-giving terrain. He would come and go, the “mountain man” with his abeng, but always writing, speaking, blowing, publishing, and calling!

Primordial poet of the middle passage, and philosopher of the “inner plantation”, our abeng man took the words of empire, mangled their meaning, deformed their structure, and decolonised their meaning in order to promote the rebellion against the inner estate where the real bondage of his people had persisted beyond the lawless Act of 1834 that ignored “Ewompanation” for “Emancipation” when women were the majority on the plantations.

Regrounded in Ghana, where he discovered the abeng and began his journey as the craftsman of Afro-Caribbean words and the poetic verses they yield, our

abeng man co-mingled a life of teaching, instruction, researching, writing and under-the-tree-reasoning, with a commitment to academia, love of The UWI that sometimes he thought ripped at his ribs, and concern for the poorest at the door.

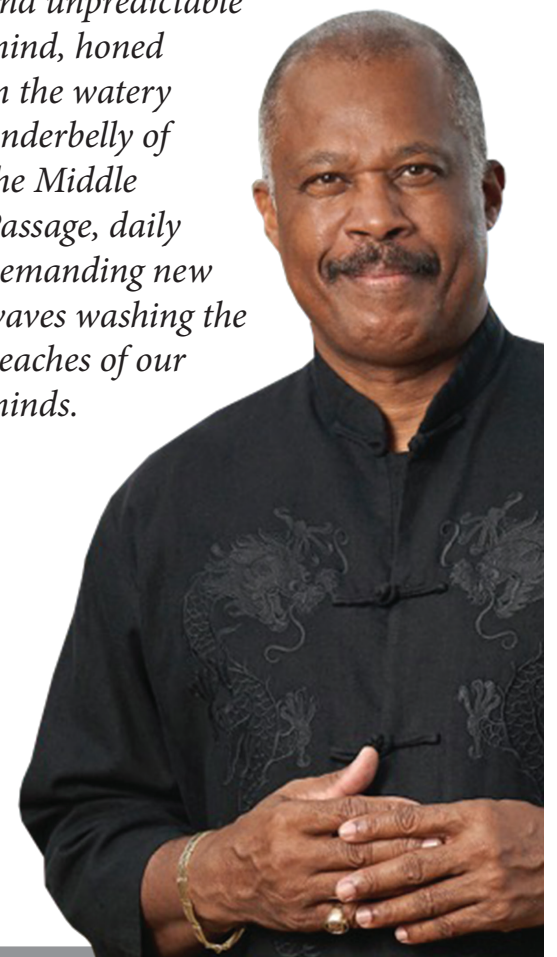
Over the years, I watched him up-close as a batsman examines a brilliant bowler and marvelled at his ancestor-given gifts. He possessed a beautifully turbulent and unpredictable mind, honed in the watery underbelly of the Middle Passage, daily demanding new waves washing the beaches of our minds.

The abeng man was a soldier for our souls. For more than three scores and ten, his poetic passages tell this tale. He cared for us—the used, abused and abandoned people/property of empire. He called on us to be metamorphosed into missionaries, ontological armies marching to freedom from fear and distancing ourselves from doubt.

Barbados born, the centre/host of the slave-chattel enterprise, he journeyed to England, the holder of the intellectual property right to black chattel commodification, and then to Ghana, home of the soul, before middle-passaging to Jamaica, the land that had taken a firm stand. Along this slave route he took his liberation that gave us the sound of the free life he lived until, finally, he passed the abeng.

The UWI had heard and honed his sound, redefined its mandate and mission, and detached itself from the colonial scaffold. The Caribbean crier is now silent though he will never be silenced; and so back across the Middle Passage he goes, for the final time to meet ancestors untold. They will blow the celestial abeng for him, and an African sun will shine upon their proud son.

*Over the years, I watched him  
up-close as a batsman examines  
a brilliant bowler and marvelled  
at his ancestor-given gifts. He  
possessed a beautifully turbulent  
and unpredictable  
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waves washing the  
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minds.*





■ UWI FETE 2020

# Diamonds are *Forever*

BY JOEL HENRY

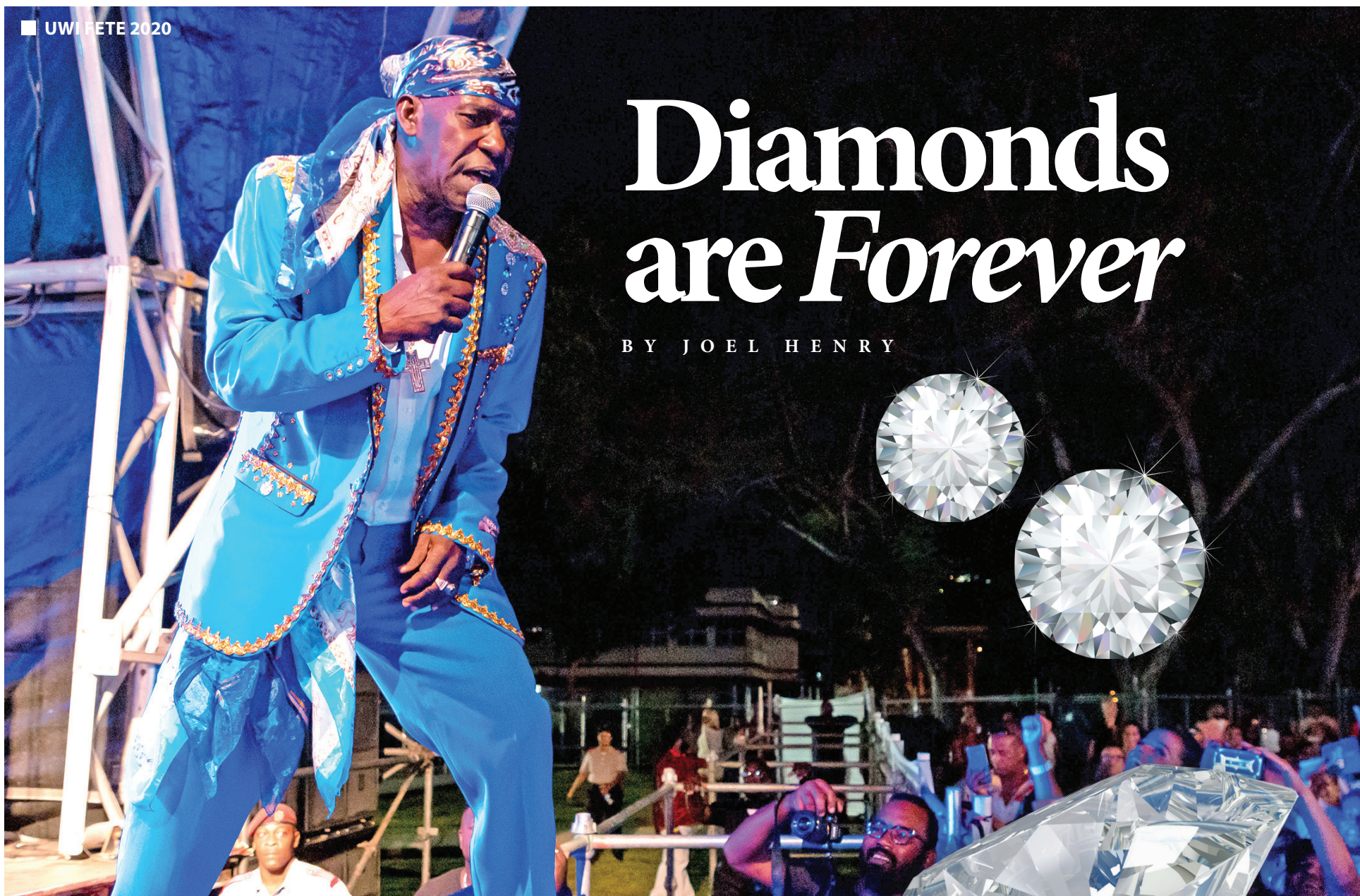


PHOTO: ATIBA CUDJOE

The surprising sound of pounding base echoes through the campus on Sunday afternoon, January 26. UWI Fete has begun. The Campus Principal's residence, normally one of the most peaceful spots at UWI St Augustine even during the busiest times, is at the heart of the action. A stream of guests come through the gates. The stream will flow well into Sunday evening. On the other side, a toy village of tents and booths decorate the lawn. Wines, vodkas, rums, and whiskeys of all varieties await them. The deep aroma of different cuisines intermingle on the walkways.

And down on the open field is the stage. From below it looks like the towering engine of a spaceship. In a few hours it will be the engine of UWI Fete, powering the crowd with performances by **David Rudder, Patrice Roberts, Superblue, Swappi, Voice, Ravi B and Karma, Kes d Band, and Raymond Ramnarine and Dil E Nadan, and Rhapsody the Band.**

They titled it "**White Diamonds**", and it's easy to think of it as just a high-end, all-inclusive Carnival party. But UWI Fete is much more. Its true value isn't in the performances, the food and drinks or even the outstanding Carnival vibes. The diamonds, the true wealth, is in the opportunity UWI Fete has created for deserving students for a full 30 years now.

UWI Fete is an initiative of the **UWI Development and Endowment Fund (UWIDEF)**. All proceeds from the annual event go towards students in need. Over the decades, these funds have had a transformative effect on the lives of hundreds of students, their families and the university. Over 3,000 scholarships and bursaries, valued at more than \$18.5 million have been awarded since the first UWI Fete. For students who may come from economic or social backgrounds where attending university feels inaccessible, scholarships give them access.

To commemorate its 30 years of positive contributions, UWI Fete honoured its founder, the late **Professor George Maxwell Richards**, former President of Trinidad and Tobago and Campus principal of UWI St Augustine. Although he passed in 2018 and his tenure as Campus Principal ended in 1996, Professor Richards has left a legacy for UWI St Augustine and many of its past, present and potential students of tomorrow through UWI Fete, a legacy of mining for the diamonds of opportunity.



PHOTO: ATIBA CUDJOE



■ UWI FETE 2020



PHOTO: ANEEL KARIM



PHOTO: ROMAIN DAVID



PHOTO: ANEEL KARIM



PHOTO: ANEEL KARIM



PHOTO: ATIBA CUDJOE



PHOTO: ANEEL KARIM



PHOTO: ATIBA CUDJOE



## ■ UWI IN SOCIETY

It was in 2011 that a small group of individuals with a passion for literature came together to create the festival that would become the NGC Bocas Lit Fest. Since then, the festival has had incredible growth, not only becoming one of the premier (if not the premier) Caribbean literary event, but also helping to nurture a decade's worth of poets, fiction writers, and spoken word performers. And UWI has been there there from the beginning.

"We were a group of people that felt (Trinidad and Tobago) needed its own literary festival," says Nicholas Laughlin, programme director of Bocas and editor of both *Caribbean Beat Magazine* and *The Caribbean Review of Books*.

The founder (and festival director) is Marina Salandy-Brown, who was also integral in the development of the Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival (TTFF). Among that founding group as well is Funso Aiyejina, writer, educator and advocate in creative writing, former Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education at UWI St Augustine, and now Head of the St Augustine Academy of Sport.

"The promotion of literature has been a life-long passion of mine," Professor Aiyejina says. "Before Bocas, I had been associated with the Semi-Lime Series at the Department of Creative Arts, Campus Literature Week, the UWI 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book Fair and Cultural Festival, the MFA in Creative Writing programme, and the Cropper Foundation Caribbean Writers Residential Workshop. I suspect that these antecedents informed Marina Salandy-Brown's decision to invite me to join the planning committee for what became Bocas Lit Fest."

Since 2011, the festival has grown in impact and prominence. The list of regional and international literary figures that have appeared at Bocas is massive - icons such as Derek Walcott, Earl Lovelace, and Lorna Goodison; highly celebrated newer writers like Marlon James, Kei Miller, and Nalo Hopkinson; and the up and coming talents such as Shivanee Ramlochan, Ingrid Persaud and Andre Bagoo. UWI staff and students like Professor Elizabeth Walcott-Hackshaw, Professor Emerita Barbara Lalla and Barbara Jenkins are also consistent participants of the festival.

"The UWI connection has been mainly through the Faculty of Humanities and Education, primarily because that is my home faculty and because that is the home of most of the experts in literature and culture on campus," says Professor Aiyejina. "From its inception, the faculty has provided whatever financial support it can afford to Bocas. But more importantly, members of the faculty have freely given of their expertise to Bocas Lit Fest as guest readers, discussants, judges, etc. Our MFA students have been given a platform at Bocas to showcase their talent and a number of our students often volunteer at the festival. Our staff and students have won a number of the prizes on offer at Bocas. Of the three years of the Hollick-Arvon Prize, UWI alumni won for two years (Barbara Jenkins for fiction and Danielle Boodoo-Fortune for poetry) and one alumnus and two staff members have won the OCM Prize (Vladimir Lucien, Jennifer Rahim and Kevin Adonis Browne). However you look at it, the relationship between The UWI and Bocas is a union made in the literary heaven."

#### SUPPORT FOR EMERGING WRITERS

One of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest's greatest legacies is its contribution to the development of writers.

"Reading and writing is mostly a solitary pursuit. It is valuable to have a space (for those interested in literature) to talk and create a critical mass," says Laughlin. "Bocas, along with others like the Cropper Foundation and UWI, give writers that space to develop their craft. We have always had things like workshops and seminars."

He adds that, "there is no literary agency in Trinidad," and the festival supported writers by linking them to foreign publishers and promoting them internationally.

"We have seen people come to one of our workshops and go on to win prizes and even publish their first book," Laughlin says. "From the beginning we have focused on new writers. We have always had that ideological commitment."

In its tenth year, they plan to take that commitment further. Even though the festival itself usually takes place over three or four days, Bocas has events and activities well-beyond that timeframe. At their recent official launch and open house on January 22, they announced a year-long schedule.

To commemorate ten years they were "expanding the programming that the festival has become known for, such as workshops and discussions, all year round," says Arden Sirjoo, the Bocas Media Coordinator.

This will include hosting writers such as Jamaican novelist Curdella Forbes and Bernadine Evaristo, the 2019 Booker Prize winner. Many of these events will be held at The Writer's Centre, the headquarters of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest in Port of Spain.

# Bocas celebrates ten years, takes the next step

BY JOEL HENRY



**TOP:** Prof Emeritus Funso Aiyejina (right) accepts token of recognition from Bocas Lit Fest Board President Rani Lakhan-Narace (middle) on behalf of the UWI Faculty of Humanities and Education. Bocas Lit Fest founder/director Marina Salandy-Brown is at the microphone. The token features an original letter penned by prize-winning writer and UWI MFA in Creative Writing graduate Barbara Jenkins.

**RIGHT:** Accomplished watercolorist Jackie Hinkson discusses his work with students as a senior, practising visual artist, and in particular his 10-year commemorative drawing for the Bocas Lit Fest, as part of Wednesday's open house programme at The Writers Centre.



## UWI team ready for HARVARD NATIONAL MODEL UN 2020

From February 13 to 16, a delegation of 20 UWI students will take part in the prestigious Harvard National Model United Nations (HNMUN) in Boston, Massachusetts. The team follows last year's delegation, which won several awards. Institute of International Relations (IIR) students from the St Augustine Campus were awarded "Outstanding Delegates" and "Diplomatic Commendation" in the 2019 HNMUN, competing against delegations from some of the world's top universities.

This year's team comprises of students from the St Augustine, Cave Hill and Mona Campuses. The four St Augustine delegates, all of whom are enrolled in postgraduate programmes, are Terri Ann Baker, Danielle Lewis, Joneille Johnson and Ryan Abraham.

HNMUN is a competition and the goal is for students to craft the "winning" resolution (a type of treaty) based on a main topic. Terri Ann Baker and Dr Ryan Abraham are assigned to India in the World Health Organisation as a double delegate on the topic "Global Disparities in Health Professional Training". Danielle Lewis is a single delegate representing Cyprus and participating in the United Nations High Commissioner for



Refugees (UNHCR) on the topic "Asylum and the Right to Healthcare".

Joneille Johnson is representing Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic in The Economic and Social Council and Regional Bodies – African Union on the topic "GMO Food Aid and Cultivation in Africa". Participants are eligible to win certificates for their performance, as was done by the UWI delegation at HNMUN 2019 held from February 14 to 17 2019 in Boston.

Founded in 1955, the HNMUN is the "oldest, largest and most prestigious model UN. HNMUN 2020 is its 66th session. Held at the historic Park Plaza Hotel in downtown Boston, over 2000 delegates from 60 countries will come together to debate and propose solutions to the world's most pressing issues.



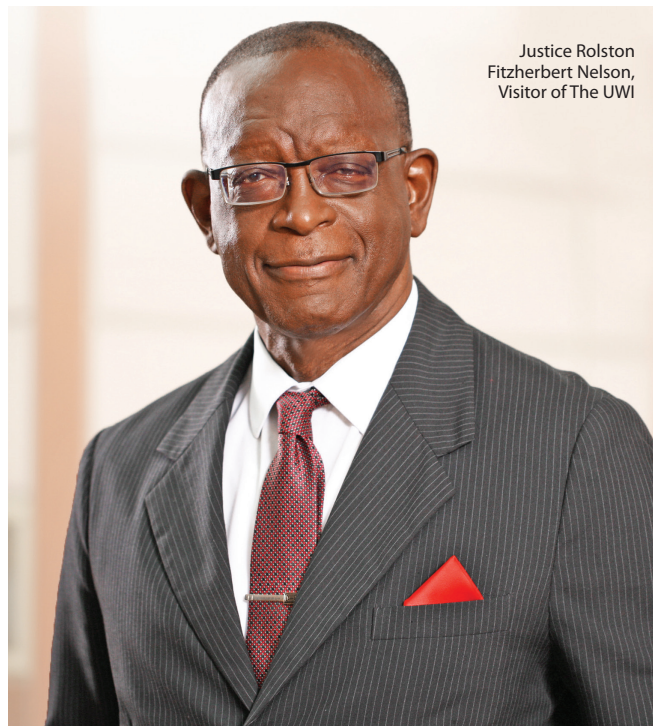
## ■ OUR CAMPUS

## Office of the Visitor, Justice Rolston Nelson, begins operations

On January 23, 2020, The UWI's University Office of Administration announced that the Office of the Visitor, Justice Rolston Fitzherbert Nelson, is now in operation. Justice Nelson was appointed in May 2019 as Visitor of The UWI - a position previously held the Queen of England since the University's inception.

The title of Visitor confers on Justice Nelson the right or duty of adjudicating over petitions of grievances submitted by staff or students of The UWI. A member of the staff or student of the University may lodge a petition with the Visitor seeking a review of a decision made by or on behalf of the university concerning the interpretation and application of The UWI's governing instruments. Such a petition may only be lodged with the Visitor after the petitioner has exhausted all internal avenues and mechanisms available. The Office of the Visitor is based at The UWI Regional Headquarters.

The process of Justice Nelson's appointment follows the precedent set by other Commonwealth universities to amend their charters to name their Visitors. On November 7, 2018, the Queen endorsed, and the Privy Council approved an amendment to Article 6 of The UWI Charter to have its council name its Visitor.



Justice Rolston  
Fitzherbert Nelson,  
Visitor of The UWI

At its meeting on April 26, 2019, University Council accepted the recommendation to appoint Justice Nelson, eminent jurist, as the first Visitor from the region. Justice Nelson will serve for a period of five years, in the first instance.

Called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in 1970 following his education at the University of Oxford and the University of London, Justice Nelson has served as a senior counsel, and then Justice of Appeal on the Supreme Court of Judicature of Trinidad and Tobago. He was judge, then senior judge and served as Acting President of the Caribbean Court of Justice.

During his career, Justice Nelson was also an educator at the Norman Manley Law School in Jamaica and the Hugh Wooding Law School in Trinidad. He is the author of several articles and case notes appearing in legal journals, including the *British Tax Review* and the *Jamaica Law Journal*. For over a decade he was the editor of *The Lawyer*, the journal of the Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago.

Justice Nelson is an Honorary Distinguished Fellow of The UWI and a former Visiting Fellow of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies in London.

## SECOND YOUTH ECONOMIC FORUM looks at health, education and climate change

**Climate change, health, and quality education** - they are some of the most pressing issues we face and all signs point to them becoming even more challenging in the future. Who better to address them than the young people of today that will have to deal with them?

In November 2019, economic students at UWI St Augustine took part in a forum to discuss these challenges and what we can do to solve them. Titled "Bridging the Gap to 2030: The Future We Want" the event was the second Youth Economic Forum (YEF). Held at the Faculty of Social Sciences Lounge, the YEF was an initiative of the Department of Economics; the HEU, Centre for Health Economics; and the Economics Society of The UWI St Augustine Campus.

"The Youth Economic Forum was birthed to give students of the Department of Economics (at UWI St Augustine) a voice," said Haleema Ali-Sisbane, member of the YEF coordinating committee and Contract Officer at the HEU, Centre of Health Economics, "reflecting their views on economic, social and environmental issues of regional importance as well as progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (of the United Nations)."

The first YEF was held in March 2019 and focused on the SDGs No Poverty and Zero Hunger.

"This second round of the forum mirrored the success of the first, evident from the rich discussion that followed the panel discussion in which the students' voices formed the core," said Mrs Ali-Sisbane.

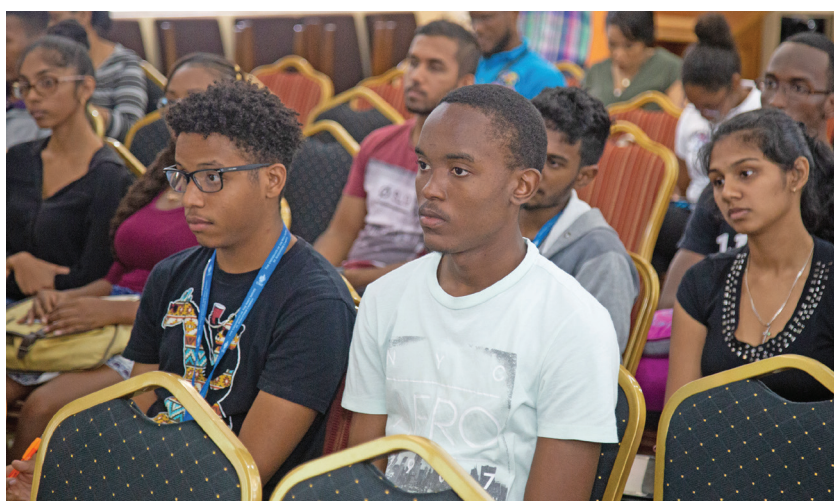
The panellists, all students in the Economics Department, included undergraduates Dana Sookdeo and Elicia Nancoo, PhD candidate Corine Gregoire, and MSc graduate Alana Span. The moderator was economics graduate Jason Alexander.

Speaking of their performance at the YEF, Mrs Ali-Sisbane said, "It is definitely heart-warming to see young budding economists at the forefront, engaging in meaningful discussions around issues impacting the Caribbean region. It definitely augurs well for regional development."

The third Youth Economic Forum is planned for March 2020.



FROM LEFT: Haleema Ali-Sisbane, Roxanne Brizan-St Martin of the Department of Economics, Dana Sookdeo, Kevan Roopan (President of Economics Society of The UWI St Augustine), Jason Alexander, Corine Gregoire, Alana Span, Elicia Nancoo, and Joel Jordan of the Department of Economics.



**"It is definitely heart-warming to see young budding economists at the forefront, engaging in meaningful discussions around issues impacting the Caribbean region. It definitely augurs well for regional development."**



# UWI Calendar of Events

## FEBRUARY – MARCH 2020

### The Old Yard February 16 UWI Open Campus

Join the Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA) as they bring traditional Carnival characters to life at their Old Yard – A Sense of Home. Witness bats, minstrels and burrokeets, Midnight Robber, and Dame Lorraine among others. Be there at The UWI Open Campus Quadrangle, Gordon Street, St Augustine. Doors open at noon. Tickets: Adults: \$60; Children: \$40.

For details, please call, text or WhatsApp: 272-3232, 727-6352 or email [dcfa@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:dcfa@sta.uwi.edu). For more information, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/UWI.DCFA/>.



### IconETech-2020



#### Emerging Trends in Engineering and Technology Conference March 13 to 15, 2020 UWI St Augustine

The Faculty of Engineering hosts the International Conference on Emerging Trends in Engineering and Technology (IconETech-2020). The conference aims to bring together leading research scientists, innovative engineers, and environmental policy experts to share their experiences, research results and entrepreneurial methodologies on fundamental developments in science and engineering concepts and their contemporary applications in technological advancements in the 21st Century. The conference takes place at the Faculty of Engineering.

For more information, please visit the IconETech-2020 website: <http://conferences.sta.uwi.edu/iconetech2020/> or email [IconETech-2020@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:IconETech-2020@sta.uwi.edu).

### Share Your Thoughts – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Black Power Revolution Call for Papers

The Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) will host a two-day conference to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Black Power Revolution. They have issued a call for abstracts. The deadline for submission of abstracts is March 6, 2020. The conference takes place from April 20 to 21, 2020. Details to come. Submissions can be sent to [Preeya.Mohan@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:Preeya.Mohan@sta.uwi.edu).

For more information, please visit the Campus Notices and Announcements page at <https://sta.uwi.edu/news/notices/>.

### Understanding International Sanctions – Implications for the Caribbean March 9 to 12 UWI St Augustine

The Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean (DAOC) hosts a training module on Understanding International Sanctions – Implications for the Caribbean with lead facilitator Prof Thomas J Biersteker, Graduate Institute of International Development Studies, Geneva. The co-facilitators will be Dr Zuzana Hudáková, Centre for International Studies (CERI), SciencesPo, Paris; and Dr Erica Moret, Graduate Institute of International Development Studies. The module takes place from 9am to 4pm daily at the DAOC.

To register and for more information, please contact the DAOC at 662-2002 ext. 85359, 85362 or email [DiplomaticAcademy@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:DiplomaticAcademy@sta.uwi.edu). For additional details, please visit <https://sta.uwi.edu/daoc/upcoming-modules>.

### Write Surgical Papers and Learn Surgical Skills March 14 to 17 Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex

The Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS), Department of Clinical Surgical Sciences in conjunction with the Royal College of Surgeons, presents workshops designed to help improve surgical skills.

- Basic Surgical Skills and Student Surgical Skills – Learn the basic techniques for instrument handling, knot tying, suturing techniques, tissue handle, wound management as well as introduction to laparoscopic techniques.
- How to Write a Surgical Paper – Medical Professionals: Find out how to get published in journals.

Registration closes February 14, 2020.

For more information, please visit the Campus Notices and Announcements page at <https://sta.uwi.edu/news/notices/>, contact Melrose Yearwood at [Melrose.Yearwood@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:Melrose.Yearwood@sta.uwi.edu) or call 645-3232 ext 2864.

### Academic Advising and Mentoring in Higher Ed – A Caribbean Context March 16 and 17 UWI St Augustine

Look out for the Academic Advising and Mentoring in Higher Education: A Caribbean Context symposium happening at the School of Education Auditorium.

The Symposium aims to:

- Situate the scholarly imperative of academic advising and mentoring in the Caribbean
- Explore different models and practices of academic advising and mentoring in the Caribbean;
- Explore strategies for improving academic advising and mentoring within Caribbean institutions of higher education, among other goals

For pricing information and other details, please visit: <http://conferences.sta.uwi.edu/aam2020/index.php>.



### techAGRI Expo is coming March 27 to 29

Save the date for the Faculty of Food and Agriculture's (FFA) techAGRI Expo 2020! There will be a mini market, wildlife zoo, agri-technology displays, food village and so much more. Look out for updates.

For more information, please call 662-2002 ext. 82242.

**UWI TODAY WANTS  
TO HEAR FROM YOU**

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

