



“We must show more love for the things we own, for their future is our concern,” Christopher “Tambu” Herbert sang on the 1988 Charlie’s Roots classic, “Culture”. Over 30 years later and a new generation of young artists have heeded Tambu’s call. Among them is 19-year-old Faculty of Humanities and Education student **Emmanuel Joseph**. In 2019, Emmanuel won the first ever “UWI Got Talent” competition at the St Augustine Campus for his magical performance on the steelpan. He’s been playing the pan since age 9, is the captain of the bp Renegades Youth Steel Orchestra and plays with the bp Renegades Steel Orchestra. Emmanuel is one of many artists at UWI St Augustine, whether students of their given art form at the **Department of Creative and Festival Arts** or a private pursuit of those in other faculties or departments. PHOTO: ATIBA CUDJOE

NEWS – 05

Another Victory

UWI students’ second win at Harvard National Model UN



OLD YARD 2020 – 08

Festive Innovation

Traditional Carnival for the modern age



ART AND CULTURE – 10

Modern Performers, Classic Moves

DCFA students learn Indian music and dance



ENVIRONMENT – 13

Trees, the Carbon Fighter

UWI/NGC partner on reforestation project





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FACULTY OF FOOD
& AGRICULTURE

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

Inspired Choices

It is undeniable that a young person in this society, at this point in time, will face additional risks and challenges if they choose to pursue a career in the arts instead of a conventional profession. We know the struggles our creatives face. Many can and do rise but it is not an easy path. This is the socio-economic reality of our society. The market is ruthless in its laser focus on what people want and need, what they view as valuable enough to spend their money on. That, unfortunately, is the way things work in the current paradigm. We can lament it, we can decry it, but it is useless to deny it. Most importantly, in recognising it, we can do our best to change it.

I see an education and career in the arts as just as ambitious and worthwhile as a career in every other profession - doctor, lawyer, engineer, etc. The problem is not with the pan or with the students, but with our society's inability to bring the necessary innovation and entrepreneurship into the creative space. To put it another way, we have not been creative enough in supporting our creatives.

Certainly attempts have been made. For decades policymakers have rightly recognised the potential of cultural industries in its strategies to diversify our economy. And there have been successes. But we have much more to do. Let us be clear, the arts have enormous value - material and otherwise. The examples are all around us. *Forbes* magazine put the value of the global music industry revenue at US\$19 billion in 2018. *Variety* reported in early 2019 that the global film box office was worth US\$41.7 billion in 2018. The US publishing industry alone earned US\$26 billion in 2018 (*Forbes*). A PricewaterhouseCoopers report on concerts and music festivals estimated they will bring in US\$31 billion worldwide in revenue by 2022.

Closer to home, we have seen how some entertainers, mas bands, event organisers, and participants in the tourism and hospitality business have earned great financial success. This year, the NGC Bocas Lit Fest celebrated 10 years of existence. Through their work in encouraging, training and providing exposure for local writers they have made an enormous



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contribution to what has in essence become a small but vibrant literary industry. The UWI, through its staff and students, has worked with Bocas from the beginning, and the festival is an inspirational example of what can be achieved through partnership and hard work, driven by genuine passion and a desire to better society.

This past Carnival, one of UWI St Augustine's own creative projects took place - The Old Yard. This annual event, now in its eleventh year, has helped to rejuvenate many of the older traditions and characters of Carnival. The product of our Department of Creative and Festival Arts, Old Yard is a laboratory

for our Carnival Studies and Theatre Arts students. 2020 may have been the biggest Old Yard yet. It was packed with exuberant attendees. This is remarkable considering there were no big-name performers or all-inclusive offering. They came out, paid their money and enjoyed traditional mas', old-time Carnival performances, stick-fighting and even tamboo bamboo. Art has value.

Old Yard is an example of innovation in festival management. It's the kind of innovation we need in all aspects of our cultural spheres. Anyone who knows the level of dedication and commitment required to be a great artist in any genre understands how short-sighted it is to dismiss or belittle them or their art form. The farsighted approach would be to invest in them - and not just financially - but through rigorous and creative planning for the growth of their industry.

We have to work towards the day where the parent, and even the students themselves can smile just as wide and feel just as proud reminiscing on a life dedicated to "beating pan". If that sounds improbable, perhaps the problem is not with our creatives but with the creative imagination of our society.

Brian Copeland

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EDUCATION


PHOTOS: ANEEL KARIM

CENTRE OF (EARLY CHILDHOOD) EXCELLENCE

BY JOEL HENRY

A mini-mas camp has been created at the UWI Children's Centre. Work stations have been set up at the stubby-legged tables, each with colourful and shiny mas materials, scissors and glue. And sitting in the stubby-legged chairs are the mini-mas makers, three-year old students constructing headpieces, armbands, masks and other items.

"We embrace our culture," says Dianne Phillip, Senior Administrative Assistant and Supervisor of the Family Development and Children's Research Centre (FDCRC). "We have an appreciation day for everything."

Camelia Tsoi Afatt, senior teacher of the four-plus students, elaborates:

"Everything is celebrated. Everything that makes Trinidad and Tobago a unique country, we celebrate."

The Children's Centre, located off campus on St John's Road in St Augustine, is part of the School of Education's FDCRC. Founded in 1998 by then Dean of The Faculty of Education Dr Edrick Gift and Dr Carol Logie, a Caribbean pioneer in early childhood education, FDCRC is one of the region's leading research, training and educational institutions focussed on young children. Both Tsoi Afatt and her fellow educator Roxanne Marcano worked at the centre from the beginning.

Appreciation days help to not only instil a sense of cultural identity, but also teach values such as tolerance and inclusion for those with different practices and faiths.

It is one aspect of the Children's Centre's very different approach to education.

"It's all about ensuring that the children cover all the learning domains - cognitive development, social development, creative development and physical development," says Phillip. "It's common to see only cognitive development (in schools). At our centre we focus on the whole child."

Even the mas making at Carnival Appreciation Day is very different to what you see at a traditional school. The students aren't being told what to make and how to make it. They are told to create. Both the three-plus and four-plus classrooms are covered in original student art. They also learn life skills such as cooking (following strict safety precautions), setting the table for meals and cleaning up after themselves. That's right, three-year-olds are doing all of that.

The Children's Centre uses a mixed methodology approach to educating students. They use aspects of learning centres, the Project approach, the High/Scope method and others that enhance learning by giving the children more opportunity to create, collaborate and initiate in the classroom.

"It's a combination of curriculum models," says Tsoi Afatt. "We adapt because we are in Trinidad and Tobago, and not everything that works outside of this country is best suited for our children."

They are most concerned with effectiveness, she says. "Child initiated learning builds learning that much faster and it becomes more meaningful to them."

The aim, a statement from the Children's Centre says, is to allow students to become "active learners", and develop "intellectual independence, self-reliance, and judgment". The children learn "critical thinking skills when they are given opportunities for innovation, experimentation, and intellectual synthesis".

The centre has been so successful that it has been adopted as the model for the Government of Trinidad and Tobago's early childhood centres.

The teachers (or "Aunties" as they are called) see the transformation in the children up close. Early childhood educator Caroline "Auntie Caroline" Olivier, says, "seeing how they grow and work together is truly amazing."

Auntie Camelia agrees, "The most surprising thing is how much they can do, how much they can learn when given the opportunity. That is one of the most amazing things about working with children. It has kept me here for 30 years."

The UWI Children's Centre is now accepting applicants for 2020/2021. Contact them at 1 (868) 662-2665 or 663-0488 or email uwi.fdcrc@sta.uwi.edu



■ CAMPUS NEWS

It's two for two for students from UWI St Augustine. Delegates from the campus' Institute of International Relations (IIR) have once again won commendations at the extremely competitive and highly regarded 2020 Harvard National Model United Nations (HNMUN). IIR delegates had also won commendations in the 2019 HNMUN, standing out among delegates from some 60 countries, among them the highest ranked universities in the world.

"It is staggering," said Joneille Johnson, an IIR graduate student, and one of the three delegates to receive commendation.

Joneille said the experience at the HNMUN, held from February 13 to 16 at the historic Park Plaza Hotel in Boston, made her "incredibly proud."

She received Diplomatic Commendation for representing the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic in the African Union. Her fellow delegates, Dr Ryan Abraham and Terriann Baker, received Diplomatic Commendation for representing India in the World Health Organisation as a double delegate.

"I feel so many emotions even now as I reflect," says Terriann. "This is my second time winning an award in a co-delegation and the first ever two-time awardee. I am over the moon. I hope that I can transfer my knowledge and become one of the trainers in the future."

Terriann was one of four IIR students who took part in the 2019 HNMUN, and with her partner at that time, Tonicia Williams, won "Outstanding Delegates". Competing against students from Harvard, Yale, Oxford and winning even once would be an amazing accomplishment. Terriann and UWI St Augustine's IIR have now done so twice.

A model UN gives students the opportunity to "role play" the life of a diplomat engaged in arguing for a resolution at the world's highest international body. The goal is to be part of the crafting of the winning resolution, which requires great research, public speaking, and the ability to form alliances with other delegates. HNMUN, which completed its 66th session in 2020, is recognised as the longest running and one of the largest college-level model UNs in the world.

"It was intense from the very beginning," says Terriann. "Students from all over the world came with guns blazing with the goal of awards on their minds."

Despite the pace and competitiveness, the students enjoyed themselves.

"Intense... but if asked 'would I do it all over again?' the answer would be a resounding YES," said Ryan.

Ryan, Terriann's co-delegate, said the experience made him feel "emboldened". With degrees in Medical Sciences, Medicine and Surgery, he says that, "seeing that my goal is to represent Trinidad and Tobago at the WHO, this experience serving on HNMUN's WHO committee and networking with all these future leaders, as well as winning an award, confirms I'm on the right track in making this career my own."

Like Ryan, Joneille stressed both the professional but personal development that the HNMUN has brought them.

"If I'm being perfectly honest, HNMUN seemed like a great opportunity for me to push past my comfort zone and witness how International Relations are put to work. The chance to travel, represent The UWI and compete amongst some of the most passionate and driven IR students across the globe was both terrifying and exhilarating. Plus, I've always been a sucker for a challenge and competition."

IIR students win yet another commendation at highly competitive Harvard National Model UN

BY JOEL HENRY



When asked why the IIR team performed so well, Faculty Advisor Dr Georgina Chami points to training and experience:

"First, the intense training and preparations organised and executed for delegates; second, the training team involved in the preparations are former delegates: Brandon Rampersad (former head delegate, Mona Campus), Nestor Garcia [who won Diplomatic Commendation in 2019], Usha Lakhan and Andel Andrew (St Augustine Campus). This allowed the team to gain first-hand insights and knowledge of the competition."

Dr Chami also pointed to the three delegates themselves, "the students must be commended for their determination, dedication, and drive to succeed and excel at HNMUN."



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PROFILE

The Believer

UWI Today sits down with University Registrar Dr Maurice Smith

BY JEANNETTE GAWAI

Upon first glance, the new University Registrar, Dr Maurice Smith is not what you would expect. Tall with a muscular stature, he resembles an NFL quarterback more than a member of academia. Yet, once he speaks, he commands the room like a veteran educator, immediately drawing his audience in like pupils in a classroom who suddenly grasp a difficult concept on the blackboard for the first time.

He quickly explains that he has navigated many spaces and all of them have been on purpose. “I’ve never had a job that I didn’t enjoy going to; the university is no different.” From someone else’s mouth, this statement would sound like a humblebrag discreetly showcasing a perfectly linear career. Indeed on paper, Smith’s résumé reads like a highlight reel: Jamaican Fulbright Scholar, Doctor of Education degree in Educational Leadership and Policy (with high commendation) from Howard University. Add in prestigious awards such as the Jamaica Governor General’s Achievement Award (2019) and the Prime Minister’s Medal of Appreciation for Service to Education (2016), and the list goes on. While those accolades certainly precede Dr Smith’s reputation, what speaks louder is his belief in the role that his church and education played in his life to help him walk in his truth.

“I grew up with my mother and my grandmother and two brothers and between being born and leaving high school, we would have probably moved six times. During one of those times, we lived in a church neighbour’s basement. I felt demoralised. This was not my best life and couldn’t be why God would have placed us on earth.” His eyes don’t waver but his voice is heavy with the memory of his upbringing. So it is surprising when he follows with, “Childhood for me was great. We had great support because we went to church. It was there we got a sense of hope and a word that said, ‘tomorrow is always better’. Being the last child, I knew that I had to take the family one rung higher.”

That strong work ethic came from his mother. “She was a bright woman; she did not go beyond high school but she was talented and did not have the opportunity. The challenge for us was to do well. So even if opportunities were not given to us, we could create them and the best way to create opportunity is through education.”

Dr Smith not only excelled in education, but also transformed the education system in Jamaica. He is credited as establishing the Belmont Academy; Jamaica’s first Centre

of Excellence. He is a former Principal Director of the National College for Educational Leadership and, in 2015, was appointed Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information.

Not even a year into his appointment (August 1, 2019), he injects this vitality and belief in excellence into his role as University Registrar. He heads up the regional Office of Administration, a job that is as wide as it is deep. He is responsible for “the custody of the Common Seal and for affixing it to authorise documents in accordance with the Statutes and Ordinances” according to Statute 13 of the University Statutes and Ordinances. He acts as Secretary for a number of bodies across the University system including the University Council, the Senate, and any standing, special or advisory committees set up by the Council or Senate.

Dr Smith succeeds C William Iton, who held the position of University Registrar for 12 years.

He visualises a UWI that is more efficient, more people-centred: “I want to ensure that we become leaner, and much more efficient in business processes...that we become harmonised so that our five campuses are speaking the same language. We want The UWI to continue being a first-class, quality institution with a fully comprehensive Human

Resources framework; where we recruit and retain the best staff, and we promote people transparently and fairly. We ensure that we have faculty and staff who want to give their best to their students and the institution.”

Such an ambitious agenda will have its challenges but Dr Smith is ready to face those head on. “I think the key to change is to continue the dialogue and engage people so that they don’t feel like change is thrust upon them. We make sure that their views are respected - even if we may disagree, we work our way through till we see it done.” Just as in his childhood experience, he sees these goals being achieved with a great team: “I think of myself not as a singular individual, my team members are a replication of me. We are working collaboratively and cooperatively. It’s a huge job, but I have people with huge talent and a great love for this organisation. We’re getting it done, one day at a time.”

With an open smile, he relaxes his demeanour and says, “It’s a great time to be in the university, we’re creating a world-class university for another 70, 140, another 240 years and I am privileged to be a part of the process.” University Registrar Smith is a living reminder that when we walk in conviction, work hard and come together, our beliefs can transform us and impact our world.

I think of myself not as a singular individual, my team members are a replication of me. We are working collaboratively and cooperatively. It’s a huge job, but I have people with huge talent and a great love for this organisation. We’re getting it done, one day at a time.



Dr Maurice Smith, University Registrar

■ OUR STUDENTS

“During my first performance on this grand stage, I started to tap my foot to my music and the crowd surprised me by clapping to the beat of my foot tapping!”

Emmanuel Joseph, 2020 winner of UWI Got Talent (UGT), reminisced on his performances and the experience of becoming the champion before a packed audience. The 19-year-old is a first year Humanities and Education student doing a major in Literatures in English and a double minor in Linguistics and Music. A pan player since the age of nine, versed on several types of pan, he wooed The UWI student population at every stage of UGT 2020.

The UWI St Augustine Students Guild Instagram page and flyers around campus informed Emmanuel about the competition but he initially had no interest in entering. He felt the need to stay under the radar and focus on his academic pursuit in his first year. Coming down to the wire, amidst the growing excitement, he signed up only two nights before the deadline. His audition was set for Thursday of that week at 1pm. He joked that he was early since he wanted to get in, audition, and get out as soon as possible. The sole instrumentalist, Emmanuel took this as his personal challenge. Each contestant had unique strengths: singers paint a picture that the audience can see in their mind's eye with lyrics, dancers bond with the audience through body movements and words from their accompanying music, and the spoken word artiste tells an engaging story with crescendos and drama. A panist, though, has to capture the audience with just his instrument. “I had to be my unique self. I had to use everything I learned to connect with my audience with no lyrics!”

Emmanuel Joseph went from signing up, to auditions and call backs to standing among the top five at the final showdown. He felt great about both his performances, the first being without background music which allowed him the creativity and originality which the crowd exhilaratingly relished; the other expressed an upbeat vibe, delivered without rehearsal but the confidence of knowing his craft. “I felt privileged to be standing among these incredibly talented artistes. In the back of my mind, I really felt I could win this; but I kept that at bay and remained humble. The only appropriate response, after hearing my name as the UGT 2020 winner, was to lift my head up and say, ‘thank you God!’ then, congratulate all my fellow contestants.”

UGT 2020 was the first of its kind. Jarell Alder, Programme Coordinator at the Division of Student Services and Development (DSSD), identified its key objectives: provide a platform for students to share their creative

Emmanuel on the Pan

First year student wins first ever UWI Got Talent

BY JODY ROBINSON



PHOTO: ATIBA CUDJOE

talents on a grand stage, create a unique and diverse student experience by executing an event of extraordinary product value and, finally, to change the student perception of Administration, allowing students to see it as current, modern, and relevant. There were several stages, including two days of auditions with 120 performers, call backs, a photoshoot, and workshops with industry professionals, then the final. A DSSD team, led by Alder, executed the blueprint with the support of the Guild of Students, Coca Cola and other external and internal partners.

Learande Philip, 2019/2020 Public Relations Officer for

the Guild, raved about the opportunity to be involved in a production of such magnitude, noting that the exposure and commitment required were highly developmental. Based on the overwhelming attendance and response from the student population, students are already ecstatic about UGT 2021.

One last word from Emmanuel Joseph. He believes the competition has brought him to another level in his professional career and urges future contestants to “use your strengths, improve on your weaknesses, and be open to advice. Make connections and enjoy the process; this is a great experience to have under your belt.”

Jody Robinson is a final year student from Jamaica completing a masters degree in Social Work. She serves as the PRO for the International Affairs Committee of the Guild of Students 2019/2020.



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■ THE OLD YARD 2020

A young woman in a cotton bonnet and lace gloves ran past, shrieking, YOU!! IS YOU! You is the daddy! Don't pretend you *doh* recognise me now!!

The alleged father of her child jumped in surprise, caught off-guard by her accusations and then applauded her performance. She continued to accuse him, making grand gestures and loud proclamations before setting eyes on another hapless victim and running off in his direction. The crowd cheered her on gleefully, part and parcel of the unique, interactive experience provided by UWI's Department of Creative and Festival Arts and aptly named 'The Old Yard'.

The Old Yard theatrical production provides performance space for traditional Carnival characters and pays homage to the "ole time days". Patrons strolled in and out of "De Latrine", children lined up at "De Parlour", and families sat together in "De Yard", each hand painted sign an unapologetic celebration of our culture. Throughout the venue, masqueraders roamed in full costume and loud character, to the delight and applause of the guests. Both professional and amateur portrayals were on full display, each giving a certain flair to the proceedings.

Rarely seen characters like the Pis En Lit and Cow Mas were warmly welcomed, judging by the joyful screams of the younger audience members as they watched. The Pis En Lit characters raced behind them with bedpans full of questionable but decidedly gross contents to their horror and amusement while the Cow raged recklessly across the yard toward the Matador and his taunting red flag.

In a room off to the side, there was an exhibition titled 'Baby Doll Mas: Old and New Interpretations'. The works of well-known local photographers like Maria Nunes and artists like Jackie Hinkson hung on the walls; Tracey Sankar-Charleau's hand-sewn dolls with brightly embroidered messages referencing social issues like abuse and neglect were on display. Meanwhile, Baby Doll masqueraders like veteran Hazel Brown gave live performances in a corner. Throughout, you could catch small pockets of conversations, on Carnival, traditional characters and the evolution of mas, by academic and enquiring minds alike. Outside, parents explained the Fancy Sailor to their curious children and watched with pride as they attempted to learn the Sailor's fancy footwork from an 85-year-old veteran. Education, a core principle of The Old Yard, came alive that day.

In another corner, local artisans offered handmade crafts. Hand painted leatherworks, jewellery made from copper, seashells and wire, brightly coloured handbags and garments: all made with love in Trinidad and Tobago. Locals and tourists alike exclaimed in wonder at the impeccable quality and affordable prices and purchased without hesitation. Next door, where volunteers helped young ones design their own mas, tiny sticky fingers and wide grins abound. The scent of corn soup, curry crab, *pholourie*, and chow wafted through the air, beckoning like a cartoon finger. The result was lines extending way beyond the perimeter. The *sno-cone* man was overwhelmed, hastily transferring crushed ice and tropical flavoured syrup into cups topped with creamy condensed milk. No complaints though, the action was taking place all around them and so the line moved forward slowly and patiently.

By day's end, The Old Yard had for yet another year successfully reinvigorated 'ole time mas' with new flavour that was both potent and purposeful.

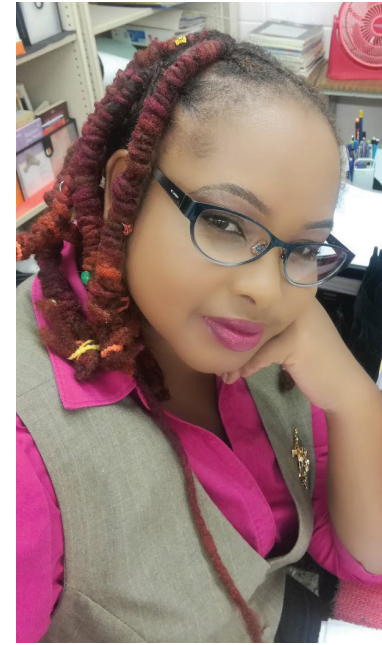
PHOTOS: ANEEL KARIM



What was old is new again

BY AVAH
A THERTON

TOY Maker: Tamara Da Breo



"My six year old enjoys TOY, at 3 she was a Blue Devil. Personally, being able to share my love for Trinidad and Tobago culture with her has been one of the greatest impacts for me. TOY is about the family experience and the sharing of traditions to ensure that they are not lost."

Tamara Da Breo speaks passionately about The Old Yard (TOY) produced by the Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA) for the last 11 years.

A DCFA staffer for almost a decade, teaching Festival Management

and Introduction to Business of the Arts and, before that, a DCFA student herself, Tamara has had the privilege of exposure to both the front and back end of production for this annual event. Now, as a practical trainer for students undertaking the Festival Management course, she helps stage what is unquestionably Trinidad and Tobago's most interactive Carnival educational experience.

On that Sunday, February 16, DCFA students had transformed the venue to resemble a heritage fair offering a fully immersive traditional Carnival masquerade. The audience became unwitting participants: victims of the Midnight Robber, alleged fathers of the illegitimate children of Baby Dolls, payees to demanding Blue Devils, and background choir members to vintage kaiso.

Tamara emphasised, "it is essential that we understand where we originated and how we as a people express and understand who we are and who we can become. Who wouldn't like to walk through a cultural history experience in [the] present time? The looks on the faces of patrons tells a story that makes this meaningful and worthwhile every year".

TOY provides patrons with unique opportunities: a chance to learn about our traditional Carnival characters in a relaxed and informal environment; to understand and address misconceptions about the origins and meanings of the festival; to appreciate the efforts of a grassroots initiative focused on cultural preservation. Such opportunities are few today, with complaints about the commercialisation of Carnival and the loss of these self-same characters due to lack of promotional activity and cultural continuity.

Against this backdrop, The Old Yard's team is determined to continue protecting cultural traditions through this interactive educational experience. It's a small team - Dr. Jo-Anne Tull, Louis McWilliams, Camille Harding, Joseph Drayton, Peter Craig and Tamara Da Breo - supported by DCFA staff and student volunteers. The team is responsible for all the elements - stage management, venue preparation and transformation, artists' liaison and accreditation, promotion, sanitation, and security. Students work with the committee to produce the event in addition to performing their roles as Fancy Sailors, BabyDolls, Dame Lorraines, Jab Jabs, Midnight Robbers, Moko Jumbies and more, alongside veteran masqueraders. Also showcased are Carnival and Carnavalesque characters from elsewhere, like the Fancy Indians of New Orleans, the Haitian Jacmel Carnival and the Barbados Landship.

The Old Yard may be a vehicle, as Tamara says, to change the general mind set with regard to the meaning and nature of Carnival. But it is through festivals like Carnival that we come to an understanding of the cultural landscape of Trinidad and Tobago.

(Avah Atherton)



■ ART AND CULTURE

Movement, Melody, Mastery

DCFA students learn the arts of India

BY JOEL HENRY

Abhijit's voice rises over the harmonium, filling the studio. Abhijit Anchortassoo, age 22 - a few minutes before he'd been a soft-spoken young man, now he's a powerful vocalist. His song is Indian classical music.

Winner of the NCIC Divali Nagar Youth Champ competition for both 2018 and 2019, multiple instrument-playing arranger and performer, and even a music teacher, Abhijit does all this and is pursuing his Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Musical Arts at UWI St Augustine's Department of Creative and Festival Arts (DCFA).

"I did my research and saw that UWI is the best in the Caribbean," he says when explaining his reason for choosing to come to the DCFA. "So I wanted to ground my experience here. And from what I've experienced it is the best. It's been an amazing experience."

Abhijit is one of many students in the DCFA's Musical Arts and Dance programmes that have committed to the artistic and cultural forms of India and Indo-Trinidad. The department's programmes are well-rounded, giving students the fundamentals of their art form and a deep education in several styles. Music students learn performance, theory, jazz, music history, steelpan and Indian Classical. Dance students learn Caribbean dance, ballet technique, modern dance, dance history and Indian dance.

Marquis Brown, age 21, a final year Dance student, says, "With Indian dance every single part of your body tells a story."

It is one of the reasons he was captivated by the art form. A young man of African descent, Marquis is an outstanding student, says Ms Deboleena Paul, DCFA's Lecturer in Indian Dance. Both Marquis and fellow student 22-year-old Tamara Francis, another exceptional dancer, were influenced by the work of Ms Paul.

"When I saw Ms Deboleena's choreography I knew to myself I wanted to see how much I could learn in Indian dance," says Tamara, who is from Mayaro.

The BA in Dance includes Indian Dance 1 and 2. In these courses students learn the language of Indian dance (Sanskrit) and about the eight classical styles and the many folk/festival styles. They are trained in three classical styles - Kathak, Bharatanatyam and Manipuri, and also learn some folk.

Although Abhijit learned the history of Indian classical music and about the genres of the art form, he already had a strong grounding through his family:

"My family is very musically oriented. It stems all the way back to my great granddad from when he came from India. He had deep roots in music. Our family has a passion for music that goes down the generations. My dad instilled that in me."

Abhijit plays the violin, mandolin, keyboard, dholak, tabla, harmonium, tassa and a bit of steelpan. He recently started bass guitar. He is a Vocal major at DCFA. He first began playing music at age 8 and won the Children of Mastana Bahar competition all the way back in 2011. Still, he says the Music degree has been vital for his development. In particular, he points to his education in Western classical music.



One of the great ironies of pursuing a career in the arts is being judged as unserious while going well-beyond the level of work and discipline required for conventional careers.



"I'm grateful to DCFA for giving me the edge with Western classical music," he says. "I have been taught to read and understand sheet music. I can sit down, read music and play with any musician. This gives me the ability to work better with foreign musicians."

He is also extremely grateful for the teaching of master Indian classical violinist, composer, arranger and educator Shivanand Maharaj, the Indian Classical Music instructor at DCFA.

"He is a role model for me," says Abhijit. "He's always a motivator. He always encourages me. He tries his best to provide opportunities for all his students."

(Mr Maharaj was in India for a performance at the Taj Mahal at the time of this writing).

The quality of the DCFA's lecturers and instructors is extremely high. Dance lecturer Deboleena Paul has three master's degrees in dance in her home country of India. She first came to Trinidad as a cultural ambassador of the Indian High Commission, representing the art form on behalf of India throughout the Caribbean as a dance teacher, performer and choreographer.

"As soon as I came off the plane in Piarco I said, 'this is like India,'" she recalls. "I thought to myself, 'I like this country. How can I stay?'"

Paul is surprisingly warm and easygoing for someone who has essentially dedicated her life to dance. Starting from age 3 in her home of Badarpur in northeast India. She has learned dance in schools, in private study as a disciple to various masters and at university. She has received national awards from the Government of India, including the Buddha Ratna Award in 2007.

Nevertheless, as easygoing as she seems, when it comes to teaching, she is very serious. Her students usually expect a two-hour class to extend to three hours.

"Especially when we are dealing with miss, because she wants perfection," says Tamara.

As challenging as it is, however, they embrace it. Marquis says, "The Time and energy that miss puts into us, we have to give her back that same thing. We have to give her back that same love and appreciation for the art itself."

One of the great ironies of pursuing a career in the arts is being judged as unserious while going well-beyond the level of work and discipline required for conventional careers. Tamara and Marquis have to spend several hours a day, several days a week involved in rigorous physical activity to improve Abhijit has to balance classes, assignments, practise and a career as a musician. They are all almost supernaturally focused with a maturity and commitment well beyond their years.

"There is always the challenge where you will find people that say 'why are you doing a music degree?'" says Abhijit. "I smile and I don't bother to tell them anything. I let my actions speak for themselves."

For anyone considering turning their passion for the arts into a career, he adds, "I work extremely hard and I encourage people, especially if they have a passion for art, pursue it. You have one life to live and you should spend it doing the thing you love most."

■ ALMA JORDAN LIBRARY 50TH ANNIVERSARY

“I let the vision come through...”

Celebrated Trinbagonian artist Donald “Jackie” Hinkson estimates that in his lifetime so far he has painted approximately 12,000 watercolours and produced about 10,000 crayon drawings.

An honorary graduand of The UWI, Hinkson has donated over 70 personal sketchbooks with original artwork to the Special Collections within the West Indiana and Special Collections Division of the Alma Jordan Library (AJL) to be preserved and shared as documentary heritage.

The current exhibition of 32 pieces of his work on the ground floor of the library is part of the 50th anniversary celebrations of the AJL. It is but a small fraction of Hinkson’s body of work, yet represents his aesthetic from 1982 to present.

In 2019, one of his murals, a 110 foot temporary installation, was placed alongside of the southern wall of the AJL, spanning the entire length of the front of the building. Hinkson had wanted to do a work that was monumental and that would capture the history of this land and our attitudes towards money and economics. He worked with several panels over several years. The 2019 exhibition at the front of the library is the first time it was mounted as a whole and our community was able to see the work as one cohesive piece.

In an act of supreme senselessness the mural was vandalised. In the aftermath, Hinkson said, “this incident does not shock me. It disappoints me but it does not shock me. Incidents such as this will not deter me from showing the work.”

He’s kept his word, once more sharing his work and his knowledge with the campus community and its visitors.

Thus far, the artist, in collaboration with the AJL, has used the exhibition to facilitate workshops for art students as well as a meet-the-artist Q&A event. There, he graciously hosted enthusiastic patrons from the general public who asked various questions about his approach to painting, an approach he has honed over his 60 years of painting.

The AJL building, an iconic structure at the southern side of the campus, was officially established in 1970. In 2011, the building was renamed after Dr Alma Jordan, UWI St Augustine’s first campus librarian, who served from 1960 to 1989.

The watercolours on display at the library speak of Trinidad and Tobago’s history – with images emblematic of key former ways of life such as the sugar mill and the aqueduct.

Jackie Hinkson helps Alma Jordan Library celebrate 50 years

BY DARA WILKINSON BOBB



PHOTOS: ANEEL KARIM

On the other hand, there are pieces with more vivid colour that reflect life in more recent times. The piece “Family Wants Answers” for example, depicts an incident of tyre burning and protest, with residents and police gathered around. Hinkson says that his work is a response to happenings in the society.

“I was just responding emotionally to different phenomena in the society and these may have been concurrent,” he recounts.

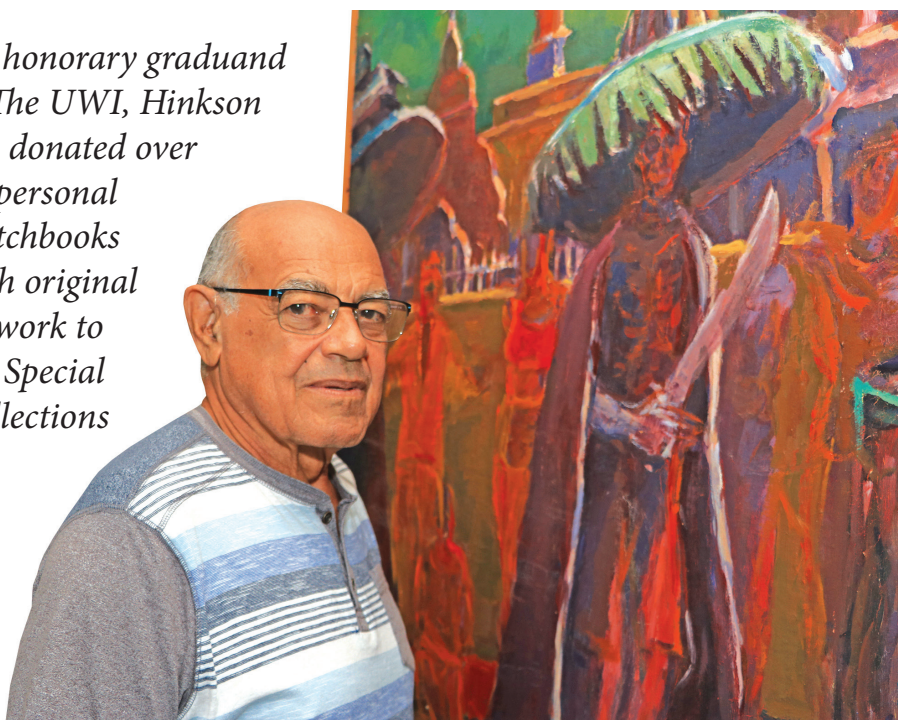
Sometimes Hinkson uses vivid colours that, as he says, convey his awareness of the heat. At other times, as with the watercolours, the effect is more “sombre” and “grey” as he

says. He noted that one piece, “Lapeyrouse Robbers” depicting midnight robbers by the cemetery, turned out similarly dark and sombre, with skull-like faces under the hoods of the midnight robbers, and Hinkson feels that this depicts the violence in the community.

His focus is on working hard and constantly improving his technical skills and knowledge. Even so, like any other human being, he responds to events. This response gets translated into visual symbols in a way he cannot consciously articulate.

He says, “I let the vision come through while I focus on the visual aspect.”

An honorary graduand of The UWI, Hinkson has donated over 70 personal sketchbooks with original artwork to the Special Collections



Students enjoying cake and ice cream outside of the Alma Jordan Library at a 50th Anniversary celebration event.

■ OUR CAMPUS



Bringing the Caribbean ‘Famalay’ together

BY VISHANI RAGOBEER

It’s 6 am, Sunday morning. Dark figures move towards the Old Administration Building, to the now bare flagpoles. Before long, these figures organise themselves into groups in front of the flagpoles, where 14 national flags will be hoisted to the tune of each country’s national anthem.

This is how the annual Caribbean Integration Week (CIW) began at the St Augustine Campus of The University of the West Indies. By the end of this exercise, the image of all the groups joined together, replete with their flags on full display, is perhaps the best illustration of the Caribbean ‘Famalay’.

An annual flagship event, CIW allows culture, education, and entertainment to intersect, fostering a deeper sense of regional integration while promoting the rich, diverse culture of the Caribbean.

“CIW’s philosophy stems from the reality that we need to build camaraderie amongst ourselves as a region,” explained Kareem Charles, the incumbent International Affairs Committee (IAC) Chairperson, under The UWI Guild of Students. IAC is mandated to promote the interest of regional and International students as they navigate their academic life at UWI.

So it was that, from January 26 to 31, the Guild’s national associations joined hands with the IAC to promote and share their individual cultures. This process began with ‘Fi D’ culture’, the night where representatives of each country made a short cultural presentation.

The greens by the “I am UWI” mural at the Student Activity Centre has slowly but surely become the niche space on campus where regional students gather to indulge in each other’s culture. Here, students of the Grenada Students



Association got the night going with their eloquent drama piece of Grenadian folklore, while the Jamaican Student Association capped the night off with “good vibes” from Tessanne Chin, Bob Marley and Koffee.

On the second day, students turned their attention to the intrinsic vulnerabilities of individual nations in the Caribbean in grappling with climate change via a panel discussion on “Building a more resilient Caribbean”.

These two events might seem incongruent but a deeper examination would allow the understanding that they both function to address the major tenets of sustainability and preservation in the region. Kareem noted the imperative for UWI students to understand the varying contexts in which they live and how these contexts add to the developmental narrative of the wider Caribbean.

“When persons hear the term ‘integration’ or ‘regional integration’, they often reflect upon the attempts made to unify the Caribbean in a more economic and political sense through the West Indies Federation and, later, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).” The Chairperson, a final year International Relations student, indicated that integration is a “core fundamental value”. He believes that once this value is embedded within a person, it can be externally manifested.

Integration does not only occur in formal spaces. CIW proved that each interaction, including games night, sports fun day and the highly anticipated ‘Pump yuh Flag’ boat cruise which ended the week of activities, was valuable. Whether it was in competition with each other or working towards winning complimentary PYF tickets, each activity was microcosmic of the engagement that should be pervasive in the Region.

Dominic Tyrrell, a regional student and performer at Fi D’ Culture, shared his enjoyment of the week, especially his exposure to the culture of many Caribbean islands. His only contention was that these events should be tailored to allow Trinidad and Tobago students to revel in the activities to a greater extent. Most events took place in the evenings or at nights so that the crowd primarily consisted of students who lived on or near campus.

CIW is not exclusive to regional students but rather all students are encouraged to come out and add to the efforts at promoting integration. Kareem committed to ensuring that the incoming IAC would redouble their efforts to reciprocally integrating Trinidad and Tobago students as they seek to integrate students of the region.

“As the future leaders of the Caribbean, one aspect for us moving forward is becoming more integrated.”

■ ENVIRONMENT

Trees to the Rescue

UWI partners with NGC on the company's massive carbon reduction project to restore Trinidad's forests

BY DIXIE-ANN BELLE

It takes no more than a glance at the news to see that our world is in trouble.

Temperatures are rising. Droughts drag on, exacerbating wild fires. Caribbean countries prepare for deadlier hurricanes. The effects of climate change are rampant, and many governments have begun implementing policies to combat the dangers. The UWI too is committed to applying research to make an impact. To that end, a ground-breaking partnership with the National Gas Company (NGC) is making an impression on Trinidad and Tobago's environmental imprint.

As a signatory of the Paris Agreement, Trinidad and Tobago is pledged to reduce its significant carbon emissions. Excessive carbon is one of the major culprits of environmental problems. This country has committed to a reduction of cumulative greenhouse gas emissions by 15%, by 2030. NGC's reforestation project is one such mechanism for achieving this goal.

Myles Lewis, NGC's Head, Corporate Social Responsibility, explains, "We have a Sustainable Energy Strategy which seeks to create value through the implementation of sustainable energy projects locally, in the Caribbean and in Latin American regions". NGC has been working to replant hectares of trees lost due to pipeline construction.

In 2005, NGC began replanting in Rio Claro, Moruga, Rousillac, Morne L'Enfer and Mayaro for several years now. Overall 100,000 trees were planted on 348 hectares of land. One of the results of the project was the creation of a significant carbon sink, an area that can absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

To monitor the effects, in 2018 NGC contracted UWI's Office of Research Development and Knowledge Transfer (now the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship) to conduct a carbon sequestration study.

Professor John Agard, Department of Life Sciences, Faculty of Science and Technology, led the research development team



Dayeron Mitchell, a student from Tobago, measuring tree height with a hypsometer. NGC allowed students to get experience and learn on the project.

which entered the forested areas to gather data. The UWI team ascertained biomass by measuring each tree's height with a remote sensing technique called Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) and by checking each tree's diameter so as to determine the amount of carbon stored by a tree. Samples of the wood were run through a carbon analyser.

Results were heartening. As of 2018, the trees had sequestered 2,243 tonnes of carbon and the research team estimated that the numbers would reach 5,228 tonnes by 2030. This amounts to at least 1% of the CO₂ tonnage this country aims to cut from the transportation sector by that date.

In applauding NGC's ground breaking initiative, Professor Agard shared his pleasure that "UWI is demonstrating that it has some knowledge and expertise which can be leveraged by companies in the country to decrease their carbon footprint".

The project has already attracted the interest of entities like the Inter-American Development Bank. In addition, The UWI team is partnering with the Institute of Marine Affairs and the British High Commission to conduct another study of blue carbon sequestration in mangrove areas. The goal is to duplicate this research in other Caribbean countries in the hope that "industries will get interested in replanting mangroves along the coastline to sequester carbon and protect the coastline from eroding," explained the professor.

This carbon reduction initiative underlines how everyone can contribute to climate change mitigation. "There is a strong need for education around our local forests and the key role they play in our survival," said Lewis. NGC plans to continue the project with planting and education as well as literacy and community economic developments and hopes to "play a role via knowledge and information transfer for other organizations seeking to initiate such a project."

Addressing individual responsibility, Professor Agard commended smaller scale tree planting activities but recommended going beyond planting a tree once a year. "We should have a longer term initiative where people are encouraged to plant trees on an ongoing basis." He observed that government's push for more households to have energy-efficient LED bulbs is a good one but stressed the importance of a simple remedy such as car-pooling.

Trinidad and Tobago, he said, has a very large carbon footprint considering its relatively small population. "We produce the world's second highest emissions per capita, but the work of NGC and UWI underscores that this country can contribute to rescue efforts to save the world."



Tiaron Tiaoti, a student from Fiji, measuring tree diameter.



(From left) Professor John Agard, Alister Narinesingh, and Project Manager Lena Dempewolf.

■ CAMPUS NEWS

Building a resilient Caribbean

BY VISHANI RAGOBEER

How do you contend with living in a space that is particularly vulnerable to climate change, while seeking to maximise use of the limited resources available? The answer is not simple; it is not black and white.

Malini Maharaj, Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Economics at the Faculty of Social Sciences, posits that the answer cannot be found in a textbook. She believes the answer can only come from local knowledge, ideas, and innovation.

Maharaj spoke recently at the event, “Building a more Resilient Caribbean: A panel discussion on Climate Change” The discussion was hosted by the International Affairs Committee (IAC) of the UWI St Augustine Guild of Students. “Context is a vital consideration when speaking of resilience in the Caribbean,” she said.

In the Caribbean context, the major sources of income are all natural resource-based. The economics lecturer explained that, once something happens to the environment, there will be complications in how Caribbean nations create income.

More importantly, the region must be cognisant of the vulnerabilities created by climate change in these spaces. The ramifications are not just economical but also social.

Maharaj recommends a realistic approach in seeking to protect our environment. “The economics make it a little bit difficult or a little bit more challenging to be as ambitious as we would like to be.”

The economics lecturer illustrated the point anecdotally. A hungry man cannot be told not to cut down a tree if that is his only source of income to buy food. In spite of all of the wider environmental benefits that can be garnered from allowing this tree to grow, it is the only foreseeable source of income.

Deputy Dean of Outreach and Internalisation at the Faculty of Food and Agriculture, Dr Gaius Eudoxie, identified three components of vulnerability: size, location, and exposure.



“If 2000 square kilometres are destroyed in the United States, that could be half of a person’s ranch or farm; in the Caribbean, that could be half or all of an island.”

The Caribbean is an explosion of culture that is known worldwide. However, the nations of the Caribbean occupy a relatively small amount of land space. In a comparative sense, therefore, size does matter.

“If 2000 square kilometres are destroyed in the United States, that could be half of a person’s ranch or farm; in the Caribbean, that could be half or all of an island.” As a result of this, Dr Eudoxie said, land is a very important factor when considering resilience in the Caribbean.

Expounding further, he explained that land is an aggregate resource that is finite. In the context that much of the economic activity of Caribbean nations is intrinsically dependent on land usage, climate change is not the only element affecting the land. The use, misuse, and overuse of the land must be considered as well since all of these affect to what extent, if any, Caribbean nations can prepare for any adverse impact.

“There’s not enough discussion on resilience at the preparedness stage,” the Deputy Dean stressed. While the outlook for the Caribbean looks bleak due to its susceptibility to natural disasters, the Deputy Dean believes all hope is not lost.

Dominica is a case in point. Following the catastrophic effects of Hurricane Maria on Dominica in 2017, that country presented a rebuilding solution that revolutionised the way it looked at hurricane-preparedness.

Dominica established the Climate Resilience Executing Agency of Dominica (CREAD), which is essentially a statutory government agency that focuses on coordinating a single climate-resilient recovery plan for Dominica.

The key is in recognising the vulnerabilities that exist and focussing efforts on building preparedness and engaging in better practices.

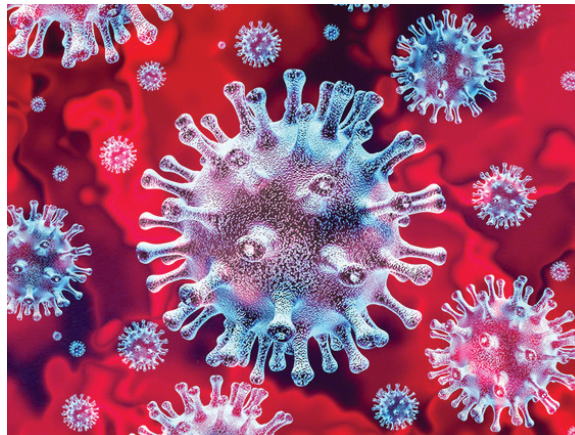
UWI ESTABLISHES COVID-19 TASK FORCE

Once again, The UWI is launching a task force to assist with the mobilisation of the region’s public health providers to deal with an incoming virus. Four years ago, the Zika virus triggered the response; today it is COVID-19.

Again, the task force will be chaired by Professor Clive Landis, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Undergraduate Studies and former Director of the George Alleyne Chronic Disease Research Centre, who has considerable experience in the field of Caribbean public health.

UWI is currently delivering a software engineering degree programme at its joint Institute in Suzhou, China, and has a large registered cohort of Caribbean students. It is engaged directly with public health officials in Suzhou, Caribbean diplomatic corps in Beijing, and the leadership of its partner university, the Global Institute for Software Engineering (GIST).

Vice-Chancellor of The UWI, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles stated, “Against the background of dealing with its internal affairs in China, The UWI has been working in close collaboration with regional health ministries and the relevant CARICOM agencies.” The purpose, he added, is to “provide the necessary scientific data on



Membership of the task force is drawn from the regional UWI medical faculties and external experts experienced in the laboratory and field deployment of an active scientific approach.

the virus and to work with government colleagues in creating an effective communications strategy for the region.” He concluded saying, “The task force will have a critical role to play in solutions building in the immediate future.”

Membership of the Task Force is drawn from the regional UWI campuses, comprising multi-discipline specialists, scientists, researchers and public health professionals with combined expertise in virology, epidemiology, laboratory diagnostics, critical care, respiratory medicine, veterinary medicine, tourism, trade, international relations and communication.

Commenting on the work of the task force, Professor Landis stated, “It is right that The UWI should deploy its full expertise as a public academy to help Caribbean communities cope at this instance of the COVID-19 epidemic. The primary emphasis of the COVID-19 Task Force will be to provide accurate and reliable information through UWI tv and other channels of communication. Armed with good information and strong partnerships, we will get through this viral outbreak as we did for ‘swine flu’, Chikungunya and Zika before it.”

■ OUR CAMPUS

IconETech-2020

FACULTY-WIDE ENGINEERING CONFERENCE TO FOCUS ON INNOVATION

BY DIXIE - ANN BELLE

Countries such as Singapore are enjoying competitive and dynamic economies largely because of their dedication to innovation. UWI has embraced the importance of this major factor in our region's development. The Faculty of Engineering is definitely doing its part, most recently by organising its International Conference on Emerging Trends in Engineering and Technology (IconETech-2020), scheduled for March 13 to 15.

IconETech-2020 is the first faculty-wide international conference involving all five departments. It will feature an interdisciplinary approach, and, as stated in the conference overview, will serve as a "platform to researchers in varied disciplines to attain the highest sustainable economic growth and employment and a rising standard of living, while maintaining financial stability nationally and globally".

The themes addressed in the conference could prove useful in promoting diversification in Trinidad and Tobago and by extension the Caribbean, which can in turn produce many sustainable benefits.

"Innovation, entrepreneurship and sustainability," emphasises conference chair Boppana V Chowdary, Professor and Deputy Dean of Research and Postgraduate Student Matters at the Faculty of Engineering. "These are the three buzzwords people are talking about nowadays." He explains, "The research reveals that innovation and entrepreneurship are the key for diversification of the economy in any nation".

Professor Edwin Ekwue, Dean of the Faculty of

Engineering notes, "We need innovation to modernise our industries, improve our processes and produce new ideas and products that will yield increased foreign exchange to the country".

Prof Ekwue explains that the papers presented at the conference will cover "entrepreneurial approaches in engineering education"; "advancing the chemical, food and petroleum sector"; "sustainable built environment"; "smart and intelligent systems"; "applied spatial information systems" and "land management" and "innovative mechanical and manufacturing systems".

Speakers will include Professor Devdas Shetty, Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of the District of Columbia; Prof Chandra Bhat, Director, US DOT Centre on Data-Supported Transportation Operations and Planning at the University of Texas at Austin; Prof Andrew KS Jardine, Founding Director of the Centre for Maintenance Optimisation and Reliability Engineering at University of Toronto; Mr Mark Loquan, President of The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited; Mr Anthony Sabga III, CEO of the ANSA McAL Group of Companies; Ms Franka Costelloe, President of the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association; Mr Vijay Pradeep, President and Founder of Virtana Inc; and Ms Valrie Grant, Managing Director of GeoTechVision.

There will be virtual presentations of several of the papers in the form of zoom and video presentations.

Prof Ekwue notes that the conference can also support the new UWI Entrepreneurship Ecosystem. "Faculties in the campuses throughout the university have been directed to form entrepreneurship committees," he says. The evolution of the programme will involve ideas from students, the public and staff being funnelled by faculty entrepreneurship committees to the St Augustine Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

Professor Raffie Hosein, Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering, sees the event as, "Another opportunity to reach out to stakeholders for their participation and support in the many areas of training and research being conducted in the Department of Chemical Engineering for advancing the chemical, food and petroleum sectors in Trinidad and Tobago and the region".

Prof Chowdary is pleased that members of the private sector and other stakeholders like the Minister of Trade and Industry will be present at the opening of the conference. He sees the potential for partnerships and support being established for students. Funding for instance could be used as seed capital for entrepreneurial endeavours. Prof Ekwue urges the general public to show their support "by making their contributions, registering for the conference as well as attending aspects of the conference, including our exhibitions by different departments in the faculty as well as other industries and agencies".

For more information on IconETech-2020 visit
<http://conferences.sta.uwi.edu/iconetech2020/>

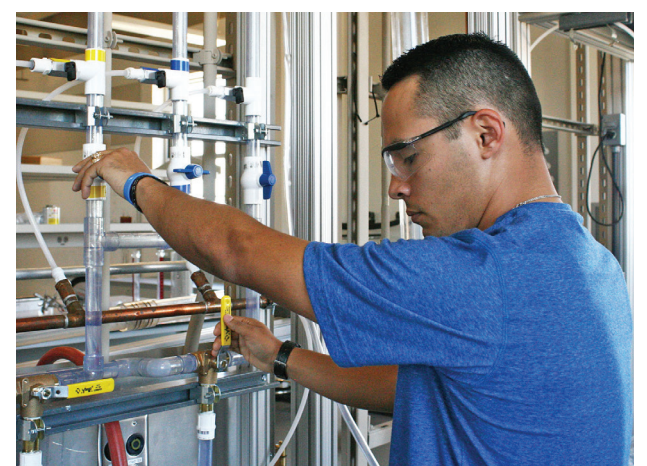
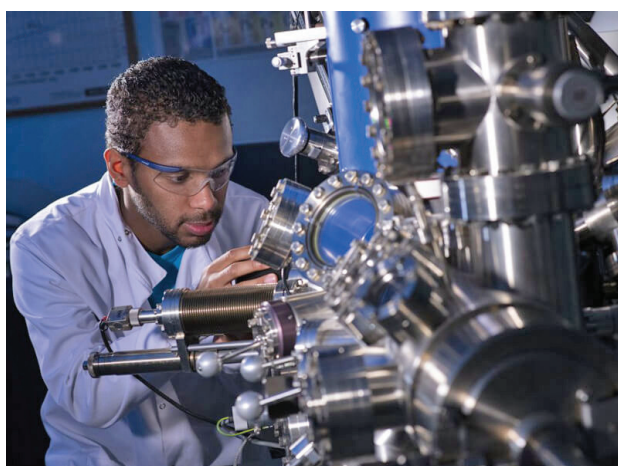
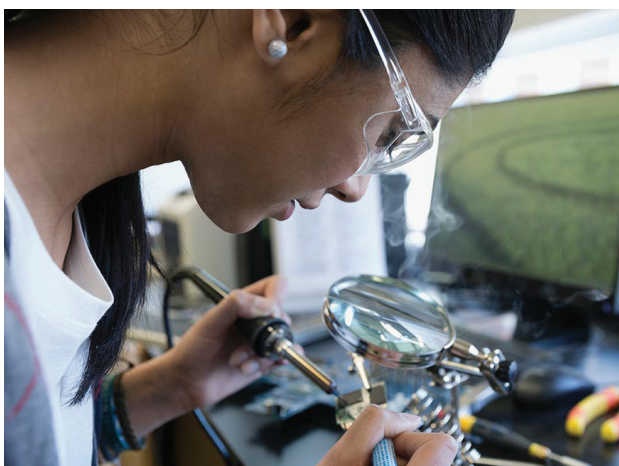


Professor Boppana V Chowdary

The themes addressed in the conference could prove useful in promoting diversification in Trinidad and Tobago and by extension the Caribbean, which can in turn produce many sustainable benefits.



Professor Edwin Ekwue,
Dean of the Faculty of Engineering



UWI Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY – MARCH 2020

Let Data Analytics Be Your Guide March 13 and 14 UWI St Augustine

Register now for the Department of Management Studies' two-day seminar on Unleashing Your Competitive Competencies with Data Analytics with featured speaker Prof Paul Dion, University of Toronto. The seminar takes place from 9am to 4pm at Room 107, Department of Management Studies and is open to the general public. The cost is TT\$3,500.

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

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.

Campus Council – Live Stream March 17 Online

Our campus hosts its annual Campus Council meeting at 10am at the Teaching and Learning Centre (TLC). Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal Professor Brian Copeland will present his report to the Council on all activities undertaken over the last academic year. Vice-Chancellor Professor Sir Hilary Beckles will also deliver remarks. Tune in to the live stream on UWItv at www.uwitv.org or view it on your local Flow EVO channel listing (Channel 102 in Trinidad and Tobago).

For more information, please visit the **Campus Events Calendar** at <https://sta.uwi.edu/news/ecalendar>.

Sign Up for Asset Management Short Courses

The Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering hosts a series of Asset Management Short Courses. Register for courses taking place throughout March and April including:

- **March 21 | 9am to 1pm** | Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence with Prof Chi-Guhn Lee, University of Toronto
- **April 4 | 9am to 4pm** | Optimisation of Plant Turnaround/Shutdown Process with Mr Kishore Jhagroo, Senior Lecturer, UWI Coordinator, MSc EAM.

To register and for more information, please call (868) 662-2002, ext 82170/82171 or email Continuing.Education@sta.uwi.edu.

Share Your Thoughts on T&T Literature

The Department of Literary, Cultural and Communication Studies, Faculty of Education has issued a Call for Papers for their 2020 Conference under the theme, The Literature of Trinidad and Tobago 1980-2020. Deadline for submissions is March 31. The conference takes place from September 23 to 26. Interested persons are invited to submit abstracts for panel proposals, individual papers, posters, or blogs/vlogs in any genre or combination of genres.

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

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.

Strengthening Community Resilience April 2 • UWI St Augustine

Register for the 4th Biennial Department of Behavioural Sciences Conference under the theme, Strengthening Community Resilience. The conference begins at 8 am at the Learning Resource Centre. Look out for presentations on current social issues impacting the Caribbean and the wider global community. There will also be a showcase of the innovative devices, systems and technology being used to deal with social issues and improve the social environment. Free to registered UWI students with ID. Students from other tertiary institutions pay \$100 and the general public pays \$200.

For more information, please email camille.huggins@sta.uwi.edu or call ext 85284.

Guest Edit the Caribbean Review of Gender Studies

The Caribbean Review of Gender Studies (CRGS) invites proposals for guest editorship for upcoming special issues. Selected guest editors will direct the entire special issue process, including preparing and publicising the call for papers, managing the peer review process and curating submissions such as interviews and personal testimonies, among other responsibilities. Submissions are open until April 30.

For more information, please email crgs.igds@sta.uwi.edu or visit sta.uwi.edu/crgs/.

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