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Open Letter

The e-newsletter of The UWI Open Campus

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University of the West Indies Graduate (Class of 1976-Mona) elected Director of Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO)



CONGRATULATIONS TO UWI GRADUATE

Congratulations to one of the University of the West Indies medical graduates, Dr. Carissa Etienne (Class of 1976 - Mona) the recently elected Director of the Pan-American Health Organisation (PAHO). This is the same post held by our Chancellor, Sir George Alleyne, for ten years. Dr. Etienne will commence her five-year term on February 1, 2013.

In her acceptance speech, Dr. Etienne said that "for a woman from one of the smallest nations in the world to be elected to the helm of our distinguished and beloved PAHO, is truly an honour and a privilege for me and my country, Dominica". Dr. Etienne also added that she looked

forward to working for the countries of the Americas, which have achieved many advances in health and development, but which also face many challenges.

She noted that "our region is strong (and) we now see political stability and economic prosperity in the region at unprecedented levels. At the same time, there are millions of people, some of them in our wealthiest member states that do not have access to the social determinants of health or the health care they desperately need. Seventy-four million living in conditions of extreme poverty ...is a reflection of the inequities that afflict many of our member states and our region and present a challenge to us all to strive for social justice, to ensure social inclusion, and to be proactive in addressing the needs of vulnerable and marginalised peoples."

She posited that her vision of the Americas is one of "societies free of inequality, where people have access to healthy social determinants and environments that allow them to live long, dignified, healthy, and productive lives. This includes access to universal health services without fear of being impoverished."

Dr. Etienne further emphasised that “If we are to achieve our health goals at the local, national, and regional levels, we must work together in the spirit of solidarity that so characterises our Region, sharing our knowledge with one another, and using our resources to serve those who need our help the most.”



UWI GRADUATE WITH HIGH PRAISE FOR THE UWI

UWI Open Campus Graduate, Ms. Sonjah Smith, was called to the British Virgin Islands’s (BVI) Legal Bar on November 14, 2012. She visited the BVI Centre to express her appreciation for her UWI education and the true Caribbean experience she

encountered as a student. Ms. Smith indicated that her time at the UWI had caused her to appreciate herself as a black Caribbean woman in the professional world.

Ms Smith attained a Bachelor of Laws Degree in July 2010 from the University of the West Indies and followed this with a Legal Education Certificate from the Council of Legal Education received in September 2012. After taking her oath, Ms. Smith gave a speech in which she humbly accepted her role as an attorney promising to uphold the integrity of the profession while accepting a higher level of social responsibility.



EMBRACING THE UWI OPEN CAMPUS CHALLENGE

The saying that ‘the journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step’ aptly describes the academic sojourn of Sylvannus Horne, a member of staff at the University of the West Indies Open Campus,

formerly the School of Continuing Studies, for over fourteen (14) years. Mr. Horne joined the University of the West Indies St. Vincent site on the April 15, 1998.

Since then, he has been an important link between the institution and the wider Vincentian public, endearing himself to many UWI alumni in various government and private sector departments and potential UWI students. Though Mr. Horne’s main duties are carried out through his substantive position as Office attendant, in many ways, he is a *de facto* marketing agent evidenced by his record ticket sales for events put on by the site, and for using every opportunity to share vital information about the University with so many individuals whom he has encountered over the years. His story is a mix of challenges and sweet reward which stretches just over a decade.

Mr. Horne noted that he had always wanted to study at a higher level, but never knew how and when to start. However, shortly after joining the UWI School of Continuing Studies, he was encouraged to enroll in the Certificate in Public Administration (CPA) programme, which he pursued between 2001 and 2006. After taking a short

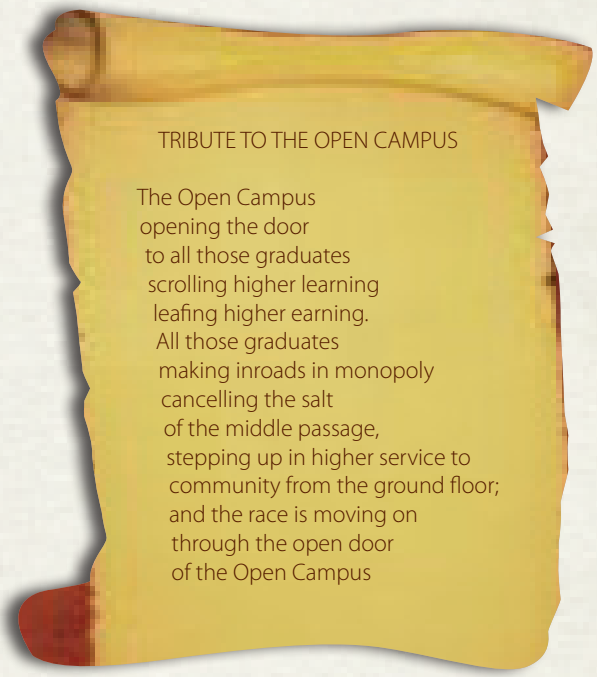
break, he enrolled and pursued the BSc. Management Studies Programme. Earlier this year, Mr. Horne received his letter of completion from the University of the West Indies having fulfilled all the requirements to be admitted to the Bachelor of Science degree in Management Studies.

He describes the experience as, ‘challenging but rewarding.’ For him one of the greatest challenges was striking a balance between family commitments, study and work. It was stressful at times, he recounted, having to forgo important family and personal commitments in order to meet deadlines and to prepare for final exams. For him, this exposure of work and study has broadened his perspective on life and has made him a more confident and better equipped individual, ready and well prepared for the demands and challenges of life in the twenty-first century.

Mr. Horne expressed thanks to his wife and two daughters for their support and acknowledged the guidance and support provided by the staff - past and present - of the Open Campus St. Vincent and the Grenadines, especially the former Head, Dr. Adrian Fraser. Mr. Horne is grateful to and publicly thanks the University of the West Indies, Open Campus for providing the opportunity for study at this level. He encourages young people to follow their dreams, believe in themselves, work hard and they would achieve their goals in the end.

ODE TO THE OC BY PROFESSOR SIR HOWARD FERGUS

Professor Sir Howard Fergus, a former Resident Tutor and Head of the former School of Continuing Studies in Montserrat, and a Professor of Eastern Caribbean Studies for over 30 years, has published widely in the fields of history and education and is also an established poet. Now retired, he enjoys receiving the Open Letter to read about the developments and the people of the UWI Open Campus and wrote the following poem in celebration of our evolution:



TRIBUTE TO THE OPEN CAMPUS

The Open Campus
opening the door
to all those graduates
scrolling higher learning
leafing higher earning.
All those graduates
making inroads in monopoly
cancelling the salt
of the middle passage,
stepping up in higher service to
community from the ground floor;
and the race is moving on
through the open door
of the Open Campus

CHILD RIGHTS TRAINING PROJECT FOR JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES IN JAMAICA

The Caribbean Child Development Centre (CCDC) of the UWI Open Campus, with support from the UNICEF Jamaica Office, recently completed the Child Rights Training Sustainability Initiative (CRTSI). This special project was implemented in association with the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) in Jamaica under the Ministry of National Security. Coordinated by Ms. Heather Gallimore, Child Rights Associate of CCDC, the project aim was building staff capacity to infuse child rights into multi-level training programmes and rehabilitation programming in DCS Juvenile Services.

Over the past three years, UNICEF has provided funding and technical assistance for CCDC's Child Rights Education Project. The CRTSI project, which ran from November 2011 through August 2012, built on the recent training of 21 DCS personnel in CCDC's Child Rights and Responsibilities Course. Ms. Gallimore, who also served as the Master Trainer, consulted DCS staff and wards to ensure the training content was contextually relevant. Seventeen DCS staff members were trained to serve as Departmental Child Rights Trainers focused on respecting, protecting and fulfilling child rights in DCS Juvenile Services.



CRTSI first DCS staff group at CCDC

In addition, the project team, including four dedicated DCS Lead Child Rights Trainers, delivered training to 149 recruits of the 71st Intake at Carl Rattray Staff College; 198 staff members of Metcalfe Street Secure Juvenile Centre; 27 staff members of Fort Augusta Female Correctional Centre (which housed approximately 80 girls); 172 boys at Metcalfe Street Secure Juvenile Centre; and 30 girls at Fort Augusta Female Correctional Centre.

The staff workshops included 18 girls and boys, aged from 13 to 17 years, who served as panelists. The interactive training sessions with all groups were characterised by high levels of participation, interest, openness, acceptance of concepts, rich exchanges and learning, several admissions and confessions, and identification of issues to be addressed. Other project outcomes included:

- Presentations at the 2012 Pre-Caribbean Child Research Conference workshop co-hosted by CCDC and the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies (SALISES). Heather Gallimore delivered the child rights education session, and Joan Thomas, Research Fellow at CCDC delivered the session on

research methodologies. Twenty-seven teachers and 42 students representing 24 Secondary Schools participated in the workshop which was delivered via teleconference through the UWI Open Campus sites in Mona, Montego Bay and Port Antonio in Jamaica.

- Training Guidelines were developed for the DCS to help ensure child rights training is sustained within the Department.
- A donation of 45 books was presented to three juvenile correctional facilities (Metcalfe Street, Fort Augusta and Rio Cobre) as a token of appreciation for the contribution of wards of the state to the project.

Close to 700 persons benefitted from the CRTSI as they gained practical knowledge of child rights and responsibilities and acquired useful tools for implementation. Senior DCS representatives have since indicated the training significantly impacted operations as there has been a reduction in the number of incidents between staff and wards. The DCS is expected to sustain the child rights training programme, to strengthen its rehabilitation efforts for wards and thus reduce the number of violations that occur within its facilities. As a part of the CCDC's efforts to sustain child rights education and training in the UWI Open Campus, Ms. Gallimore recently developed the "Child Rights and Protection Issues" course for the new Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood Development and Family Studies Programme being offered by UWI Open Campus. More information on the CCDC's current and past outreach and research projects may be sourced at www.open.uwi.edu/ccdc.



Lincoln Williams



COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PROGRAMME (CYP) RECOGNISES THE OC'S MR. LINCOLN WILLIAMS

Head of the Social Welfare Training Centre, UWI Open Campus and Director of the Consortium for Social Development and Research (CSDR), UWI, Open Campus, Mr. Lincoln Williams, was recognised by the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) for his contributions to Caribbean youth development during the month of September when they were celebrating Youth Month.

Mr. Lincoln Williams started out as a footballer who left school without any significant academic qualifications and became one of the pillars of continuing education, research and youth development in the Caribbean. Over the years he has held a number of positions in youth development agencies and networks, starting in the United Kingdom. "I left university in 1976. I was a footballer at first then I went back to school because I had no academic qualifications after I left school so I know it's really necessary to have second chances... My first real job was as a teacher. Being a footballer, I also did sporting activities with the young people which gave me another way of making contact, particularly with boys, through sport."

Mr. Williams also worked as a youth officer with Inner London Education before serving as a senior youth officer with the borough of Hammersmith and Fulham in West London. After the borough was disbanded, he became the Director for Community Education in Southwark which covered a range of services – voluntary, adult and youth services within that borough. After living in the UK, Lincoln returned to his homeland Jamaica in 1993 to head the Social Welfare Training Centre, University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona Campus. “I did a Post Grad Degree in Youth and Education, equivalent to a Masters, so when I came back, I was surprised that UWI, one of the major tertiary institutions in the Region, did not offer any course in youth work. I really could not understand it. Most of the countries in the region had a very youthful population and were having problems in terms of crime and violence, especially young men. That’s why I was very pleased to work with CYP to develop the Diploma and Degree programmes in Youth Development Work”.

In 1994, he partnered with the delivery of the Youth Work Diploma supported by distance learning. Mr. Williams piloted the course for UWI at the Social Welfare Training Centre for the next five years across 13 countries for 180 students. He recalls, “when we developed that course one of the concerns was how prepared our students were for independent study. They were not; they still wanted a teacher in front of them teaching. We developed the exercises for them to work on their own but we had to change the course to develop more tutorials for students.” Mr. Williams noted it was a worthwhile initiative and a learning experience. The course was evaluated by Dr. Dennis H. Irvine, (former Vice-Chancellor, University of Guyana and former senior staff member, The Commonwealth of Learning).

With a successful Diploma course in tow, the Open Campus, with start-up funds from CYP, is now offering an undergraduate degree in Youth Development Work online. Students are supported by teachers in the online environment. Mr. Williams added that “all those students who did the Diploma have the opportunity to do the Degree. They don’t have to leave the region if they want to do a degree in youth development work.”

Mr. Williams was also a member of the CARICOM Youth Commission which produced the groundbreaking report in 2010 –Eye on The Future. With an impressive portfolio of papers and publications under his belt, he emphasises the importance of research, especially in his homeland Jamaica. He noted that the Commonwealth Youth Programme – Caribbean Centre will be looking at the effectiveness of the Commonwealth Youth programme and collecting baseline data with over six instruments. This will be followed by a longitudinal study over the next two years looking at those youth versus a control group who did not do the programme.

With regard to CYP’s recent development of Competency Standards for Youth Development Work in the Caribbean (2012), Mr. Williams hopes the regional framework which was endorsed by CARICOM’s Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD) in February 2012, is used to regulate the youth development profession within the region. Mr. Williams served as a member of the Lead Group which developed the Standards. CYP has also been leading the charge in getting the public service commissions to recognize youth work as a discrete profession. Mr. Williams also opined that “there is no point producing persons with a youth work degree and they can’t find a job. It’s actually a practice discipline like social work.” He

further noted that governments are the major employers of youth workers and they should facilitate the professionalisation of youth development work noting that “we need a professional cadre of youth development workers to spearhead and manage youth work in the region.” In terms of future plans, Mr. Williams would like to see a Master’s Degree and a PhD in Youth Work offered by the UWI. He also spoke of the need to change the negative perception society often holds where its youth are concerned. “Overall in terms of writing and research, it is trying to shift the discourse in the region around young men as ‘folk devils’. We project an image, we see men as folk devils and we need to change the negative image. Society has to shift that negative image, especially in the Caribbean.”

He also opined that, “Young people are far too conformist. It is the job of the young people to challenge. We are a very conservative society but we need to recognise that in the last few decades, mostly young people have put the Caribbean on the world stage. The young people have really made the nation feel proud of itself.” In the long term, Mr. Williams would like to see UWI collaborating with all regional organisations involved in youth and really contribute to the overall youth development agenda in the region. He believes that is the role of the University – making contributions and doing research that will guide policy-makers, who in turn, will provide an evidence-based approach to the allocation of resources. Mr. Williams strongly believes that “If you invest in young people, that is one of the best ways to invest in the future of the region.”



VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AT HM PRISON IN CAYMAN

Seventeen officers of the HM Prison (Northward) in Cayman attended a training course for vocational instructors over two weeks from November 19 through to November 30 at the University of the West Indies, Open Campus Cayman.

The course was geared to prepare vocational instructors for delivery of a variety of courses at the new facility at the prison in a move to provide opportunities for rehabilitation. It covered basic IT preparation, as well as an underpinning of educational themes which will help the instructors organise and prepare to deliver quality courses. The instructors, all of whom have been assigned to the rehabilitation initiative demonstrated in a range of areas from agriculture, cosmetology, auto mechanics, instrumentation, IT, physical education, carpentry among others.